

Communiqué

December 2019

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee meeting – October and December 2019

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee (the Committee) undertakes accreditation functions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice in the national scheme regulating health practitioners.

The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Board of Australia (the Board) [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Accreditation Committee activities

The 33rd meeting of the Committee was held on 17 October 2019 in Melbourne. At the October meeting, the Committee:

- agreed on the approach to the implementation of the published 2019 accreditation standards
- provided feedback on the draft multi-profession guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs document for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice programs
- provided feedback on the professional capabilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice
- made determinations on four approved programs of study, and
- made determinations on three education providers' 2019 routine annual monitoring responses.

The 34th meeting of the Committee was held on 10 December 2019 in Melbourne. At the December meeting, the Committee:

- made determinations on two approved programs of study, and
- made determinations on twelve education providers' 2019 routine annual monitoring responses.

The Committee has confirmed its 2020 schedule of meetings, being:

- 12 May 2020
- 1 September 2020, and
- 10 November 2020

Accreditation Committee members

- Elaine Duffy
Chair and educationalist member
- Norma Solomon
Practitioner member
- Sharon Wallace
Practitioner member
- Elizabeth Shuttle
Educationalist member

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) provides the operational, advisory and secretariat functions for the Committee via its Program Accreditation Team (PAT).

Accreditation standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice

The Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing the accreditation standards. The Board is responsible for approving and publishing the accreditation standards. Education providers and their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice programs of study are assessed against these standards when applying for accreditation under the National Law.

The 2019 accreditation standards will replace the current (2013) accreditation standards and continue to provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise in a competent and ethical manner qualify for registration in the profession.

The 2019 accreditation standards are published on the [Board's accreditation webpage](#). These take effect on 1 June 2020, and the Committee will disseminate relevant communications to all education providers regarding implementation of the 2019 accreditation standards in early 2020. Education providers should start to familiarise themselves with the 2019 accreditation standards and the changes from the 2013 accreditation standards.

Professional Capabilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice

Professional capabilities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice (the professional capabilities) are a new concept for the profession. The capabilities document sits separately to the accreditation standards and, will apply to all registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. The approved and published 2019 accreditation standards refer to the professional capabilities document.

As part of its development of the professional capabilities, the Committee undertook an extensive period of preliminary (25 March – 20 May 2019) and public (15 July – 9 September 2019) consultation.

On 14 November 2019, the Committee agreed to approve the Professional Capabilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice to the Board. The Board considered the Professional Capabilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice at its December 2019 meeting for their approval. It is likely the professional capabilities will take effect at the same time as the 2019 accreditation standards, from 1 June 2020. More information is expected soon on the Board's December 2019 decision on approval of the professional capabilities.

Contact information

For any queries related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice program accreditation, please contact the Program Accreditation Team via email at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation](#) webpage.

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