

Communiqué

December 2019

Paramedicine Accreditation Committee - September and December 2019 meetings

Introduction

On 1 December 2018, paramedicine became a regulated profession within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) determined that the accreditation functions for the paramedicine profession would be exercised by a committee established by the Board. In March 2019, the Board established the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee (the Committee) under the National Law.

The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

About the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee

The Committee has met four times since April 2019. Its functions include:

- Development of accreditation standards to the Board for approval.
- Assessment and accrediting of programs of study and education providers against the accreditation standards.
- Monitoring approved programs of study.
- Providing advice to the board on issues in paramedicine education and clinical training.

Committee members

Eileen Willis
Chair and educationalist member

William Lord
Co-Deputy Chair and practitioner member

Alan Morrison
Co-Deputy Chair and practitioner member

Anthony Hucker ASM
Practitioner member

Richard Larsen ASM
Practitioner member

Martin Nichols
Practitioner member

Helen Webb
Practitioner member

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

Committee meetings held in 2019

The Committee met for the first time in April 2019. To date, it has had four meetings in 2019:

- 30 April 2019 (Inaugural)
- 20 June 2019
- 5 September 2019, and
- 5 December 2019.

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

- 6 February 2020
- 9 April 2020
- 16 July 2020
- 6 October 2020, and
- 17 December 2020.

2019/20 Accreditation Committee activities

The first half of 2019 has been a busy time for the Committee, and 2020 will continue to be, with work progressing on the development of accreditation standards; accreditation processes; and evaluation of the routine annual monitoring submissions from education providers. These topics are covered more thoroughly below.

Accreditation standards development

Since the [August 2019 communique](#), work on the development of the paramedicine accreditation standards has continued to progress.

The Committee commenced a round of targeted preliminary consultation in August 2019, and this closed in early October 2019. Feedback was received from stakeholders and analysed by AHPRA's appointed project team. The Expert Reference Group met in early December to consider the feedback and the updated draft of the accreditation standards.

The Committee has confirmed the consultation package for release to a wide-ranging public consultation, which will commence in late-December 2019, and is expected to run until mid-March 2020. Please check the [accreditation consultation](#) page of the accreditation pages on the Board's website.

Based on progress to date, the Committee still anticipates that the draft accreditation standards will be presented to the Board for approval in mid-2020, with implementation anticipated for late 2020/early-2021.

Development of accreditation processes for paramedicine

At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed to adopt draft multi-professional guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs. The guidelines are being developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice and Podiatry Accreditation Committees.

The guidelines will be released for a targeted consultation, anticipated for late 2019/early 2020. It is expected the guidelines will be published in the first half of 2020.

Routine annual monitoring

As per its approach to monitoring, agreed upon at its April 2019 meeting, the Committee is currently undertaking its inaugural round of routine annual monitoring of all 27 paramedicine programs approved by the Board under section 310 of the National Law.

At its September and December 2019 meetings, the Committee agreed on its approach to monitor approved programs of study through a routine annual monitoring package (form and data collection tables).

Education Providers have started to receive their routine annual monitoring packages for 2019/20. The Committee will evaluate routine annual monitoring submissions from education providers at its meetings throughout 2020, and education providers and the Board will be advised of the outcomes of the Committee's evaluations.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team on behalf of the Committee continues to engage with education providers through correspondence via email; phone calls; and communiques. The Committee will continue to seek stakeholder input on various consultations in 2020, including the draft accreditation standards for paramedicine.

Paramedicine accreditation information sessions

At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed to host a series of information sessions for relevant stakeholders across Australia, in February 2020, during public consultation of the draft accreditation standards for paramedicine.

The sessions will introduce the Committee to stakeholders, and provide information on its role to undertake paramedicine accreditation functions under the National Law, and also introduce the draft accreditation standards. There will be plenty of opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions in relation to either the Committee's role in the National Scheme, or the draft accreditation standards. At least one member of the Committee will be in attendance at each information session.

Depending on the level of interest in attending, the sessions will be held in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth with invitations being sent in mid-December 2019. The location and dates are:

- Melbourne, Wednesday 5 February 2020
- Brisbane, Monday 17 February 2020
- Sydney, Tuesday 18 February 2020
- Adelaide, Monday 24 February 2020
- Perth, Tuesday 25 February 2020

For those attendees who are interested in attending but are unable to attend one of the planned sessions above, there will be the option of an online information session.

If you are interested in attending an information or online session, please rsvp to accreditationstandards.review@ahpra.gov.au by **COB on Monday, 13 January 2020**.

Contact information

For any queries related to paramedicine program accreditation, please contact the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team via email at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on paramedicine accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Further information will be added to the website as the Committee's accreditation functions progress.

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