

September 2020 Podiatry Accreditation Committee meeting

The Podiatry Accreditation Committee (the Committee) commenced undertaking accreditation functions for podiatry in the national scheme regulating health practitioners in July 2019.

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

Committee's response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released statements outlining its plans for its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2020, on the '[News and updates](#)' accreditation webpage. The Committee continues with its special COVID-19 monitoring of all its accredited and approved programs.

Accreditation Committee meeting

The seventh meeting of the Committee was held on 15 September 2020 via Zoom. The Committee has one remaining meeting scheduled in 2020 - in November.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's September 2020 meeting are outlined below.

Establishment of assessment teams for Podiatry programs

As part of its function to assess programs of study (and the education providers that provide the programs) the Committee agreed to confirm its approach to the establishment of assessment teams. The agreed approach will be published on the Committee's webpage in late 2020, and the Committee anticipates seeking expressions of interest from potential accreditation assessors in early-2021.

Accreditation fees for podiatry

The Committee continued its important discussion regarding its approach to accreditation fees for podiatry programs of study in 2021 and beyond. The Committee is considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education providers, and the transition to accreditation functions being undertaken by the Committee from July 2019, in its continued discussions. The Committee hopes to be able to provide more information on this important topic with its key stakeholders, education providers and the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans, later in 2020.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team on behalf of the Committee continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's [accreditation webpage](#) and through correspondence on email and phone contact, teleconferences with the chair, and communiques via the Program Accreditation Team. The Committee will seek stakeholder input on various consultations in late-2020/early-2021, including the public consultation phase of the draft accreditation standards and professional capabilities.

Monitoring approved programs of study

Under section 50 of the National Law, the Committee has a statutory responsibility to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them, to ensure the Committee continues to be satisfied the program and provider meet the approved accreditation standards.

At its September 2020 meeting the Committee continued with consideration of its inaugural routine annual monitoring, as part of its responsibility to monitor education providers and their programs in 2019/2020.

COVID-19 reporting

As forecast in its [11 May 2020 statement](#), the Committee is carrying out special COVID-19 monitoring of all approved podiatry programs of study.

In July 2020, the Committee agreed on its framework to collect information from education providers about changes impacting final year students in 2020, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee is considering education provider reports that were submitted in September 2020 and will provide advice to the National Board on changes made to education providers and their programs since March 2020 that may or may not impact on final year students achieving threshold capability prior to graduation. Outcomes of the Committee's COVID-19 monitoring will be communicated to education providers in due course.

The Committee will continue to provide advice to the Board on its monitoring of approved programs including the downstream impacts of COVID-19 on all students. The Committee is designing its framework for routine annual monitoring in 2021, which will include a range of reporting requirements for education providers on the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on their programs of study and students.

Contact information

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

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

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