

Communiqué

September 2019

July 2019 inaugural Podiatry Accreditation Committee meeting

Introduction

On 1 July 2018, the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) determined that the accreditation functions for the podiatry profession would be exercised by a committee established by the Board. In July 2019, the Podiatry Accreditation Committee (the Accreditation Committee) commenced accreditation functions under the National Law.

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

About the Podiatry Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee met for the first time in July 2019. The Accreditation Committee:

- Develops and recommends accreditation standards to the Board for approval.
- Assesses and accredits programs of study and education providers against the accreditation standards.
- Monitors approved programs of study.
- Provides advice to the board on issues in podiatry education and clinical training.

Committee members

- Meeuwis Boelen
Chair and educationalist member
- Mark Gilheany
Deputy Chair and practitioner member
- Alison Bell
Educationalist member
- Vivienne Chuter
Practitioner member
- Sara Jones
Practitioner member
- Lloyd Reed
Practitioner member

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

Accreditation standards development

The Accreditation Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing, and the Board is responsible for approving and publishing the accreditation standards against which education providers and their implementation of podiatry programs of study (programs) are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law.

At its inaugural meeting in July 2019, the Accreditation Committee reviewed the current accreditation standards for podiatry and decided to seek the Board's agreement for the Accreditation Committee to commence a review of the accreditation standards and professional competencies for podiatry. The Accreditation Committee will agree on a project plan for the review of its accreditation standards at its September 2019 meeting before providing this to the Board for its approval.

Any review will include a comprehensive period of preliminary and public consultation. It is anticipated that revised accreditation standards would be ready for implementation in early 2021.

Monitoring approved programs of study

At its July 2019 meeting, the Accreditation Committee agreed on its approach to monitor the approved programs of study. The Accreditation Committee's agreed approach will include routine annual monitoring that requires education providers to submit information about the approved programs of study they offer. The Accreditation Committee will confirm its schedule for routine annual monitoring for education providers, who will receive their routine annual monitoring form and data collection tables from late 2019.

Contact information

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

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

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