



Influencing the direction of the Accreditation Systems Review

We're getting to the pointy end now of the Federal Government's review of accreditation systems in Australia's health workforce.

Consultations on the 32 recommendations to emerge from the final report of the Accreditation Systems Review have now come to an end. We would like to thank our stakeholders in pharmacy education and the pharmacy profession, and our colleagues in the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPAC Forum) who made submissions on this important piece of work, that examined the costs, benefits and risks of implementing the recommendations and the proposed governance models. Recommendations will be presented back to the COAG Health Council later in 2019.

While we accepted many of the Review's recommendations that will improve efficiency and effectiveness within the Scheme across multiple professions, (of which work on many of these is already well advanced) we have concerns about the proposed governance changes for profession-specific areas. Our main concern being that it could separate the nexus between registration and accreditation.

In the cross-profession area, HPAC Forum of which our CEO, Bronwyn Clark is the Chair, has achieved in the following outcomes:

- Set a Strategic Plan with four key objectives:
 - Public Safety
 - Governance
 - Growth and;
 - Innovation and Efficiency

IN THIS ISSUE

Accreditation Systems Review	1	Strengthening our international links with the US and Canada	5
Vaccination Standards Review	1	Global School Partners Donation	6
Have your say on Accreditation Standards	2	TMI - Team Day	6
Colloquium 2019	3		
Our "Close the Gap" strategy - Cultural Safety			
Training	4		

- Implemented projects on the following:
 - Setting guidance on Safe Use of Medicines and Prescribing for all registered health professions
 - how accreditation can improve health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (a multi-faceted project)
 - Developing consensus Interprofessional Education guidance for all programs
 - Endorsement of common terminology of accreditation
 - Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) to share information and reduce duplication
- Met regularly with key stakeholders including TEQSA, AHPRA and Universities Australia
- Worked with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) on agreed Key Performance Indicators for accreditation authorities post-July 2019

Given we will be the accreditation agency for pharmacy until 2024, we look forward to continuing to deliver best-practice accreditation within the National Scheme in

partnership with our stakeholders, education providers and pharmacists.

Vaccination Standards Review

The APC has recently reviewed and updated the *Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to Support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccinations* to reflect the

National Immunisation Framework specifically in two areas:

- recognising the training of students enrolled in an accredited pharmacy education program; and
- expecting training providers to be accredited as a higher education provider or registered training organisation with AQSA.

This now means that accredited higher education providers are able to deliver vaccination training to pharmacy students in accordance with the APC Standards and respective state and territory legislation.

The APC is appreciative of the many stakeholders who provided feedback to our proposed changes during the consultation phase and is pleased that the revised standards reflect this feedback and align with the *National Framework*.

Still time to have your say on the Accreditation Standards!

Our [review of the Accreditation Standards](#) has progressed significantly with the release of the draft Standards last month.

Response from stakeholders and interested people and organisations is sought to ensure the final version of the Standards adequately reflects the evolving nature of pharmacy practice to ensure the provision of safe and effective pharmacy services to the public.

In the first round of consultations

we received 50 submissions, which is indicative of the interest our stakeholders have in this work to ensure the Standards reflect contemporary pharmacy practice. As we move to the second round, we are seeking input from interested parties on the new elements that are proposed be introduced, which are:

- A single set of standards to cover both degree and intern training programs
- A social accountability principle that underpins the standards so pharmacists can contribute to the ongoing improvement of individual and societal health;
- Strengthening the focus of education on the health disparities and inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori peoples, and highlight the importance of providing a culturally safe environment for their care;
- A focus on a broader understanding of culture which incorporates the concepts of social determinants of health and the needs of diverse groups within society;
- Performance outcomes that articulate the milestones for the end of both the degree and intern training programs;
- Adapting the five-domain accreditation standard model adopted by other health professions to reflect the specific requirements of pharmacy to harmonise with the other professions;
- Minimising overlap and improving the streamlining of accreditation by clarifying the different requirements of professional accreditation and those of other accreditation and quality assurance processes undertaken by authorities such as Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA); and
- Increasing the understanding that health care is most effectively provided through a collaborative interprofessional health care team.

Two face to face consultation sessions will be held during the consultation phase and details can be found [here](#).

The consultation period will conclude 26 April after which the Stakeholder Reference Group and the Project Governance Group will review the submissions for additions or amendments to the draft Standards.



Colloquium 2019 - Our flagship education event is interprofessional this year!

'Together we can do more - *Educating for social accountability across the health professions: An interprofessional symposium*'

[Register here.](#)

This year's Colloquium will explore interprofessional learning and how we improve Indigenous health outcomes, engage and support people with mental illness and develop empathy in health professional students and practitioners.

Leveraging off our partnership with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC), our program is designed to educate how the health professions can learn, teach and practise together.

"As health professionals, we have a responsibility to be accountable not only for our actions and clinical decisions, but to ensure we integrate our health services as best they can in a dynamic and multicultural society," APC CEO Bronwyn Clark said.

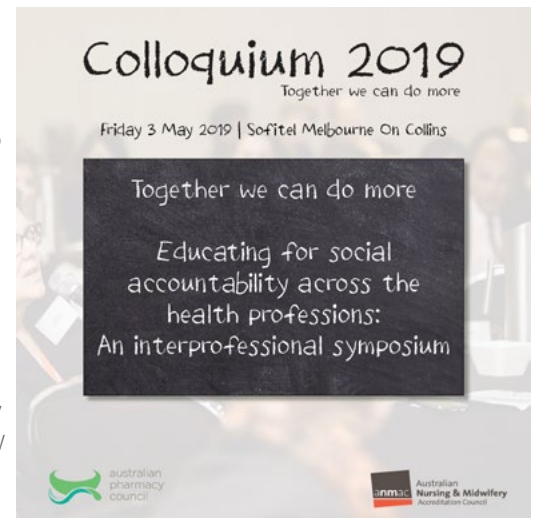
"Cultural sensitivities and socio-economic needs and differences cannot be ignored in a socially accountable system and APC, along with ANMAC, is keen to find out where this complex part of health service delivery lands.

We have an outstanding and dynamic line up of speakers from pharmacy, nursing, and mental health partnering together to present innovative and emerging research:

- Leanne Te Karu – Prescribing Pharmacist/Associate Dean, Otago University, New Zealand
- Janine Mohammed – Chief Executive Officer, The Lowitja Institute
- Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson – Associate Dean, The University of Queensland
- Associate Professor Neil Cottrell – Director of Interprofessional learning, The University of Queensland
- Dr Norman NG – Lecturer, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences and Course Coordinator, The University of Queensland
- Dr Marion Tower – Director, Undergraduate & Pre-registration Nursing & Midwifery programs, The University of Queensland
- Suzanne Caliph – Lecturer, Pharmacist, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University
- Dr Sarah Rotstein – Women's Mental Health Registrar - Clinical and Research, Medical Student Psychiatry Teaching Coordinator, Monash Alfred Psychiatric Research Centre (MAPrc), Alfred Health, Monash University
- Laura Dean – Course Director, Experiential Development and Graduate Education, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University
- Anna Barwick – Pharmacy Lecturer, School of Rural Medicine, University of New England
- Dr Alice Gilbert – Policy Maker and Strategist, Medicines Management Unit, Northern Territory Government
- Professor Wendy Cross – Mental Health Commissioner and Dean, School of Nursing and Healthcare Professions, Federation University Australia
- Alison Menzies – Credentialed Diabetes Educator, Diabetes WA
- Dr Lisa Nissen - Professor (Head), School of Clinical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology

Colloquium 2019 is for those interested in education for the health professions, including academics, teacher-practitioners, practising professionals, students, interns and policy-makers across the health sectors.

Registrations are open up until the day, 3 May 2019.



Our “Close the Gap” Strategy - Cultural Safety Training

As the accreditation authority for pharmacy education, the APC promotes pharmacy as a socially accountable profession, and is committed to the ‘Close the gap’ strategy. The ‘Close the gap’ strategy aims for equity in health status and life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. Despite 10 years of commitment, the gap remains: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population have, on average, 2.3 times the disease burden of non-Indigenous people (AIHW 2016).

Our strategy is being enacted through four active initiatives;

- publicly committing to a Statement of Intent with other health professions within the National Scheme
- participating in a cross-profession survey of regulated health professions education providers
- training all our people in cultural safety, and;
- reviewing pharmacy education standards with an emphasis on social accountability



John Briggs, JB Consultancy

Very soon we will be forming an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Advisory group, which will advise and keep us on track with this important work.

Earlier this year we held an initial day of Cultural Safety training for all our APC Board, staff, Accreditation Committee members and some accreditation evaluators. Over 30 people were involved in this interactive and informative session.

The day was led by John Briggs of JB Consultancy, an Aboriginal man who is passionate about Indigenous culture, inclusion, employment and engagement. John is an expert in creating culturally safe learning environments and establishing trust in workshops and the day included professional conversations that uncovered the idea behind ‘exclusion to inclusion’, deconstructing unconscious bias and evidence-based research, through conversation and interactive workshoping.

The evaluations of this day were overwhelmingly positive, with a measurable shift in peoples’ knowledge of Australian Indigenous cultural history post-workshop. APC is committed to making a meaningful contribution by working respectfully in partnership with our indigenous communities, and our health profession educators to enhance socially accountable pharmacy education to advance the health and wellbeing of *all* Australians.



Strengthening our international links with the US and Canada

Two of our key pillars within our [APC Strategic Intentions](#) are those of Position and Reputation. Our international links are key to us maintaining our vision to “Lead accreditation and assessment of education of the pharmacy sector nationally and internationally”.

This year has seen us actively collaborating with some of our key international partners from across the globe.

In January our CEO Bronwyn Clark met with our two sister organisations in the United States who undertake similar roles within accreditation to APC.

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is the national agency for accreditation in pharmacy education in the United States and U.S. territories. Since 2012 we have held a Memorandum of Understanding which recognises our relationship and facilitates the sharing and collaboration of pharmacy education accreditation resources between our two organisations. This recent meeting with ACPE continued our conversations of collaboration and sharing of resources.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NAPB) is the national association that assists its US state member pharmacy boards and jurisdictions for the purpose of protecting the public health. The NAPB develops and administers examinations for licensure of pharmacists across the US. Following our recent meeting we have agreed to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the sharing and collaboration on examination and assessment resources between our two organisations.

In February we hosted our sister accreditation organisation from Canada – the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). Dr Wayne Hindmarsh, the CCAPP Executive Director, spent a day with our staff discussing accreditation standards and processes, and following up from this we have exchanged material and policies on accreditation processes.

These international linkages are vital to our quality improvement and benchmarking activities for APC, and we are very thankful to our international colleagues for their openness in collaborating with us.



L to R: – Dr Pete Vlases, Executive Director, ACPE; Bronwyn Clark, CEO, APC; Mike Rouse, Assistant Executive Director, ACPE



L to R - Maureen Garrity, Competency Assessment Director, NAPB; Bronwyn Clark, CEO, APC; Carmen Catizone, Executive Director, NAPB

Global School Partners Donation

A single parent family in Kenya now has a cow, purchased following a donation provided by APC through [Global School Partners](#).

The charity, run by local pharmacist and APC contributor, Simon Carroll, and his wife Jann is committed to alleviating poverty through education. Last year, APC decided to design its Christmas card in-house so that the money saved could go towards Global School Partners. More information on these programs and projects can be found on the charity's [website](#).



“The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the next best time is today”

Source: Global Partners

TMI – Team Day

Working to become a better team was the main aim of an offsite team building exercise for our whole APC team earlier this year.

Prior to the day, all staff completed an online questionnaire on their preferred styles of work which were explored on the day through small group, team and APC-wide activities. By the end of the session, staff had a greater understanding of personal and team member differences, how to best work together and the function of diversity in creating high performing teams.

After lunch, staff workshopped value statement ideas for APC:

Respect *We treat all people with courtesy, compassion and understanding and all situations are handled in a timely manner*

Fair *We treat everyone in an impartial, equitable, ethical, sensitive and just manner.*

Transparent *We are open, honest and trustworthy in all we do. We take responsibility for our actions.*

Creative *We encourage originality, enquiry, risk taking, critical thinking and diversity. We are constantly striving for excellence.*

Supportive *We care about our fellow team members and stakeholders. We own and learn from our mistakes, build resilience and celebrate success.*

Life Long Learning *We encourage intellectual curiosity and ongoing personal and professional development.*

