



APAC Board Communique

June 2017

BOARD WELCOMES PROGRESS ON ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

The APAC Board met on 29 May.

The main business of the meeting, apart from our ongoing primary role of making accreditation determinations, was a discussion of recent progress in our current review of the accreditation standards.

On 19 May a group of APAC Directors and staff met with Psychology Board Chair, Professor Brin Grenyer, and other representatives from the Psychology Board. We were very pleased with the outcomes of the meeting, and believe we have reached a mutually satisfactory way forward on outstanding issues.

In particular, we have formulated ways in which we might delineate clearly between the requirements of accreditation and registration within the AHPRA system, while at the same time ensuring that providers are clear about both sets of requirements, in order to ensure that students and graduates are able to meet Registration Board standards at the appropriate time.

We have also reached agreement on how and where specific inputs might be included in the Standards, such that our aim of moving to an outcomes-focused process might be achieved, albeit we recognise that it is not possible to phrase all standards in terms of outcomes so a mix of the two will always result. On the other hand, inputs must be expressed so as to indicate generally-accepted benchmarks, while not stifling innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

After this fruitful meeting with the PsyBA, we are confident that with some additional work we will be able to finalise the Standards in approximately two months' time. The Board has approved a work plan that will require it to sign off on a final submission in early August, for submission to the PsyBA thereafter.

However, as already advised to providers, the anticipated approval of the new standards in 2017 will mean that implementation cannot begin until 2019, given 2018 cycle providers have already begun preparation for accreditation next year.

Other matters covered at the Board included a briefing on the AQF system and its significance in higher education in Australia and indeed internationally.

Finally, we farewelled outgoing directors Professor Shirley Morrissey and Professor John Dunn. Both have been valuable contributors to APAC in its new form, and John in particular has our gratitude for his leadership as the inaugural Chair after the reform of the APAC Constitution.

Professor Simon Crowe HonFAPS

Chair