



# Revision of Accreditation Standards for Podiatry Programs for Australia and New Zealand

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who is ANZPAC?

The Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC) is the independent accrediting authority for the podiatry profession under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). ANZPAC commenced operations on 16 April 2008.

Under section 48 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law), an accreditation authority for a health profession may accredit a program of study if, after assessing the program, the authority is reasonably satisfied –

- a) The program of study, and the educational provider that provides the program of study, meet an approved accreditation standard for the profession; or
- b) The program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, substantially meet an approved accreditation standard for the profession and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time

The podiatry profession informs our work and ANZPAC's Board of Directors and its Accreditation and Qualifications and Skills Assessment Committees include members from a wide range of stakeholder organisations, enabling us to incorporate both expert and community views into our decision making.

### What is accreditation?

Accreditation recognises the achievement of podiatry programs of study to meet the requirements of the standards for podiatry programs for Australia and New Zealand.

Accreditation involves the assessment of program content, and if it is structured and delivered in a manner necessary to impart the requisite knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to apply for registration. Accreditation also involves assessment of whether a podiatry program of study has the human and physical resources and scholarly environment necessary to allow effective learning.

### Why have the accreditation standards been revised?

ANZPAC regularly reviews and improves the accreditation standards used to assess programs of study to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in contemporary education and health care environments.

There is a requirement under the *Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function* that:

- Standards meet relevant Australian, New Zealand and international benchmarks;
- Standards are based on the available research and evidence;
- Stakeholders are involved in the development and review of standards and there is wide ranging consultation; and
- The accreditation authority reviews the standards regularly.

ANZPAC adopted the original *Accreditation Standards for Podiatry Programs in Australia and New Zealand* in 2010 when the NRAS commenced on 1 July 2010.

The Podiatry Board of Australia approved the revised Accreditation Standards for Podiatry Programs for Australia and New Zealand on 22 April 2015.

### **What are the differences between the current and revised accreditation standards?**

Minor amendments were made to the revised accreditation standards to clarify language on the intention or utility of a standard and to add further suggestions or examples of evidence for demonstrating an accreditation standard is met. Additional differences include:

- Further adopting an outcomes based approach primarily achieved through reworking of the former 'accreditation standards' statements into discrete outcomes orientated 'accreditation criteria'
- Updating references to the *ANZPAC Podiatry Competency Standards* to stipulate the level within the competency standards to which key educational outcomes need to be demonstrated (i.e. specific elements or performance criteria of the competency standards must now be demonstrated where previously this was not stated)
- Contemporising, streamlining and harmonising the accreditation standards with incoming higher education standards. For example, in alignment with current practises of minimising prescription of curriculum content and reducing levels of details within the accreditation standards themselves, the suggested curriculum content from the former standards was shifted to a separate indicative curriculum table at the front of the revised accreditation standards. Several smaller changes were also made to reflect contemporary professional and educational developments such as specific reference to inter-professional education and use of technology in teaching and learning
- Incorporating a therapeutics curriculum and examples of evidence currently sitting within the *Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines (Part A) Accreditations Standards* into the indicative curriculum
- The additional of specific criteria to address issues such as inter-professional education, cultural competence and simulated learning (for example, C2.3, C2.4 and C4.2)
- Introducing a glossary of terms to operationalise key terms used within the document

### **Did ANZPAC undertake a consultation process during the revision of these accreditation standards?**

In developing an accreditation standard for a health profession, the law governing the NRAS requires accreditation authorities to undertake wide-ranging consultation on the content of accreditation standards.

ANZPAC undertook a three-stage consultation involving an initial consultation, preliminary (targeted) consultation and public consultation. The outcomes from the consultation were all considered and the majority incorporated into the revised accreditation standards.

## **Did ANZPAC seek advice from the Office of Best Practice Regulation during the revision of these accreditation standards?**

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) is a division within the Australian Government's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet but has independence from the Department in assessing and reporting on compliance with the best practice regulation requirements. The OPBR assesses whether Regulation Impact Statements (RIS) are required.

In preparing the revised accreditation standard, ANZPAC consulted with the OBPR and provided feedback to the Podiatry Board of Australia on the potential regulatory impacts (including advice on the assessment by the OBPR) provided in the consultation process and identified in developing the revised accreditation standards.

## **When do the accreditation standards come into effect?**

The revised *Accreditation Standards for Podiatry Programs in Australia and New Zealand* come into effect the day they are published on the Podiatry Board of Australia's website. The revised accreditation standards will apply to all programs that submit an application for accreditation or re-accreditation (by way of lodgement of a Self-Evaluation Report) from **1 October 2015**.

## **Are the current accreditation standards still valid?**

The existing accreditation standards will continue to apply to those programs currently being accredited or re-accredited, and will continue to be used to monitor programs that were accredited against this version of the standards.

## **What happens to the Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines accreditation standards?**

*Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines (ESM) Accreditation Standards (Part A Podiatric Therapeutics)* will continue to be used to assess stand-alone programs of study in podiatric therapeutics **only**.

For other podiatry programs of study the requirements of the *ESM Accreditation Standards (Part A Podiatric Therapeutics)* have been incorporated into the revised accreditation standards and the need to refer to a separate set of accreditation standards is no longer required.

*ESM Accreditation Standards (Part B Web Based Case Studies and Supervised Practice)* will be removed from the ANZPAC website as there is no approval pathway available to graduates of these programs of study. Education providers can have their web-based case studies assessed by ANZPAC who will recommend their approval to the Podiatry Board of Australia.

## **I am an education provider with an accredited program. What does the release of the revised accreditation standards mean for my organisation?**

Education providers who have a currently accredited podiatry program of study who are not seeking to their program following the release of the revised accreditation standards do not need to take any action. The current accreditation standards will continue to be used to monitor programs that were accredited against this version of the standards.

All future applications for accreditation will need to address the revised accreditation standards.

**When will the accreditation documentation be updated?**

Over the next few months, ANZPAC will be developing new documentation to sit alongside the revised accreditation standards. These revised documents will be made available to stakeholders as well as being published on ANZPAC's website from 1 October 2015.

**Where can I find further information?**

Further information can be obtained from the ANZPAC Executive Officer at [admin@anzpac.org.au](mailto:admin@anzpac.org.au)