

Accreditation function

Overview of the role and responsibilities of each entity

This document aims to provide guidance on the functions and responsibilities of entities involved in the accreditation process of programs of study and education providers. For clarity purposes, this document only focuses on the entity's role in the accreditation function.



Roles and responsibilities under the National Law

Below are the key roles of each organisation involved in the accreditation process under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law):

Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd (OTC)

- Exercises accreditation functions and enters into a contract with AHPRA for the accreditation function
- Develops and/or reviews accreditation standards with wide-ranging consultation about the content
- Assesses programs of study and education providers against Board-approved accreditation standards and assesses whether the standards are met or substantially met
- Decides whether to:
 - accredit a program of study with or without conditions, or
 - refuse to accredit a program of study
- Provides accreditation reports on programs of study to the Board
- Manages any internal review of any OTC decision to refuse to accredit a program of study
- Monitors accredited and Board-approved programs of study and education providers to ensure that Board-approved accreditation standards continue to be met
- May decide to impose conditions on the accreditation of the program of study or revoke the accreditation
- Assesses applications of overseas-trained occupational therapists seeking to apply for registration and provides advice to the Board
- Provides advice and recommendations to the Board about accreditation matters

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (OTBA)

- Decides on the accreditation function to be exercised by an external accreditation authority – the OT
- Approves and publishes accreditation standards
- May receive direction from the Ministerial Council regarding accreditation standards
- Considers the OTC accreditation reports on programs of study and education providers
- Approves or refuses to approve the accredited programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration with the Board
- May approve an accredited program of study with conditions
- Considers the OTC advice/report on the monitoring reports of accredited and Board-approved programs of study and education providers
- May decide to impose conditions on the approval of the accredited program or cancel the approval and provide reasons to the OTC
- Considers advice from the OTC regarding the assessment
- Decides to grant registration, registration with conditions or refuse to grant registration
- Considers advice and recommendations from the OTC

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

- Enters into a contract with the OTC for the accreditation function
- Establishes procedures for the development and review of accreditation standards
- Publishes the list of the programs of study approved by the Board as providing a qualification for registration with the Board
- Ensures the list of the programs of study approved by the Board as providing a qualification for registration with the Board is up to date
- Manages the application and registration process
- Maintains the public register
- Provides support and advice to the Board for decision-making related to accreditation function as agreed under the Health Profession Agreement

Appendix A

Definitions under the National Law

Accreditation function: means –

(a) developing accreditation standards for approval by a National Board; or

(b) assessing programs of study, and the education providers that provide the programs of study, to determine whether the programs meet approved accreditation standards; or

(c) assessing authorities in other countries who conduct examinations for registration in a health profession, or accredit programs of study relevant to registration in a health profession, to decide whether persons who successfully complete the examinations or programs of study conducted or accredited by the authorities have the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession in Australia; or

(d) overseeing the assessment of the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes of overseas qualified health practitioners who are seeking registration in a health profession under this Law and whose qualifications are not approved qualifications for the health profession; or

(e) making recommendations and giving advice to a National Board about a matter referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d).

Accreditation standard for a health profession, means a standard used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, provides persons who complete the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession in Australia.

Approved qualification for a health profession, means a qualification obtained by completing an approved program of study for the profession

External accreditation entity means an entity, other than a committee established by a National Board, that exercises an accreditation function

Education provider means:

(a) a university;

(b) a tertiary education institution, or another institution or organisation, that provides vocational training; or

(c) a specialist medical college or other health profession college.

Health profession agreement

The Board and AHPRA must enter into an agreement that makes provisions for the following:

(a) the fees that will be payable under this Law by health practitioners and others in respect of the health profession for which the Board is established (including arrangements relating to refunds of fees, waivers of fees and additional fees for late payment);

(b) the annual budget of the National Board (including the funding arrangements for its committees and accreditation authorities);

(c) the services to be provided to the National Board by the National Agency to enable the National Board to carry out its functions under this Law.