

7 April 2006

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The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) has a significant and ongoing interest in health workforce issues, especially those that relate to the Allied Health professions and the provision of education and training for these professions.

We welcome the opportunity to have input into the review of the mechanisms for the engagement of the new Workforce Principal Committee (WPC) with stakeholders, and would like to make the following comments on the Consultation Document.

1. Any mechanism to facilitate feedback and input into health workforce planning should reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of the provision of modern health care, i.e. the silo approach to determining workforce need and supply by individual professions should not be continued.
2. In recognition of the importance of principle 7 of the National Health Workforce Strategic Framework, that the education and training institutions responsible for the training of the health workforce (including the VET sector) be included. To achieve this, representatives from the key national organisations representing the health professional education sector should be included, i.e. ACDHS, Council of Deans of Australian Medical Schools (CDAMS), and Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM).
3. If the proposed Reference Group includes the current AMWAC and AHWAC members, then it is inappropriate for the AV-CC to continue to represent the interests of any of the peak training and education bodies of the health professions, i.e. CDAMS, ACDHS or CDNM.
4. If a Reference Group is established, there should be mechanisms for formally engaging with other representative organizations as the specific need arises. Whilst this may include specific sub-groups of the Reference Group, it will be important that any recommendations to the WPC reflect the consensus view of the broader Reference Group.
5. With regard to the Chair of the proposed Reference Group, we believe that a new Chair should be appointed.
6. We believe that it will be important for the Reference Group to meet face-to-face annually.

ACDHS RESPONSE TO AHMAC REVIEW OF COMMITTEES: WORKFORCE PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE

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