



Health Sciences Australia

Australian Council of Pro Vice -Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences

Submission to the Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee of the Health Workforce Principal Committee by the Australian Council of Pro Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences

The Australian Council of Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences (ACPDHS) is the peak representative body for those Australian universities that provide undergraduate education in allied health sciences. The Council is a forum for representation, coordination and information sharing with the aim of strengthening the training of allied health practitioners in Australia to meet the needs of communities. We welcome the opportunity to provide input into the consultation process around the IGA, particularly in relation to accreditation. Whilst we do not wish to comment on issues related to a particular profession, there are a number of broad principles that we believe should be considered by the Health Ministers. Our collective experience as participants in many different health professional course accreditations has helped to shape our view on ways to improve the accreditation process for health professional courses.

- **Membership of accreditation bodies**

Given that accreditation bodies may both develop standards and perform accreditation functions, we believe it is necessary that provision be made for involvement of accredited educational providers on those bodies. That may or may not be the case with the present bodies, but future developments should ensure that involvement, particularly with regard to the development of standards.

- **Interim arrangements**

We are concerned around the interim arrangements in those disciplines where existing arrangements have not been very disciplined or transparent to date, that existing problems will not be addressed in a timely fashion although some of these are long standing. In addition, there is an issue of consistency in verbal feedback from visiting accreditation committees and final written recommendations.

- **Common approaches to accreditation**

The system would benefit from having common guidelines for the accreditation of health professional degrees across the disciplines. At present, these vary greatly, and there is inconsistency between the disciplines in the application of existing frameworks. In addition, the cost of accreditation varies greatly between the disciplines, and consistency and balance in the cost of accreditation to institutions needs to be considered.



Professor Ian Wronski

Chair

Australian Council of Pro Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences