



# APAC BOARD COMMUNIQUÉ

October 2024

The APAC Board met on 14 October 2024 in person

Our post-Board communiqué is designed to give stakeholders a greater insight into the workings of APAC Board meetings.

## Accreditation business

The Board noted that the AAC and the CEO had made determinations under powers delegated to them by the Board. All determinations are reported to the Psychology Board of Australia, which will then decide whether to approve each program for the purpose of registration.

### AAC determinations

Determination type	Providers (n)	Programs (n)
Initial accreditation	1	2
Re-accreditation	2	44
Program monitoring	6	158

### Administrative decisions

Decision type	Providers (n)	Programs (n)
Programs in teach out	2	6
Discontinued programs (completely taught out)	2	3
Addition of new program titles	2	6
Change of title	0	0



## Other business

### **PsyBA/Ahpra Accreditation Agreement 2024-2029**

Following a review of arrangements in 2023, the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) decided that APAC will exercise accreditation functions under the National Law from July 2024 to June 2029.

### **APAC Strategic Plan 2024-29**

The Board affirmed the following Values as the foundation for a positive organisational culture, guiding behaviour, decision-making and interactions within APAC and with external stakeholders.

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Respect
- Transparency.

Some key APAC initiatives for the next 12 months include:

- Ensuring that Accreditation Standards meet the new PsyBA competencies for general registration and the Psychology Board of Australia Code of Conduct
- Exploring the implications of phasing out APAC Levels 1-4
- Diversity, decolonisation and anti-racism
- Strengthening the Accreditation Framework.

### **Accreditation of three and four-year double degrees**

APAC will consult with HODSPA and providers to develop a mechanism that would make it unnecessary to accredit double degrees with accredited psychology sequences provided that:

- the psychology degree must be clearly listed on the transcript
- the title of the double degree will not appear on the Ahpra Approved Programs List; only the accredited and Board-approved psychology degree will be listed.
- the Approved Programs List is the primary reference point for Ahpra, PsyBA and APAC.

### **APAC Review of Fee Principles**

An internal review of APAC's fees was undertaken to ensure alignment with a risk-based approach and to meet legal obligations to achieve financial sustainability and continue as the accreditation authority for psychology programs.



To that end, a new fee schedule will be finalised for 2025 based on cost recovery of accreditation functions and align with Ahpra's fee-setting principles of consistency, transparency, reasonableness and proportionality.

### **Student-to-Staff Ratio (SSR) Calculator**

APAC recently collaborated with HODSPA to finalise the re-design of the SSR Calculator. The new SSR Calculator is now ready for providers to use.

### **Risk-based approach**

The Board noted that the APAC Risk Framework has been operationalised and four risk pilots have been undertaken to test the method. APAC is on track to implement the Risk-Based Approach more broadly in 2025.

### **Board review of operational efficiencies project**

The APAC Operational Efficiency Uplift Project (Phase 2) aims to strengthen accreditation assessment functions. These directly support the National Scheme. The project will improve efficiency, quality and team capability.

### **Board review of APAC information management system scoping and design**

The APAC Information Management System (AIMS) is earmarked for implementation in 2025. The current database was implemented in 2016 and does not support the operations of APAC's accreditation services or intuitive engagement with providers and assessors.

### **Accreditation site visit model**

APAC remains focused on efficiency and effectiveness in our accreditation work. The Board approved a new approach to pilot in 2025 to tailor APAC's site visit model to the type of assessment and its associated risk profile. Based on the type of accreditation activity and provider profile, site visits may be online, face-to-face or hybrid.

### **Interns**

The Board acknowledged the valuable work on the above projects by the following interns.

[Christine Huang](#), the University of Melbourne

[Ritu Devnani](#), the University of Melbourne

[Jackson Bishop](#), Monash University

[Linn Htut Oo](#), RMIT University

### **Adjunct Professor John Dunn**

Chair, APAC