

30 July 2021

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Dear Susan

OCANZ Accreditation Standards Review

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of the OCANZ Accreditation Standards. It was a delight to read the discussion paper and your considerations for the next iteration of the Optometry Accreditation Standards.

Firstly, we fully support a new dedicated domain on cultural safety, similar to the approach used by the Australian Dental Council (ADC). This demonstrates your commitment to improving the health of First Nations peoples which should be emulated across all accreditation authorities. We strengthened our focus on cultural safety in our 2020 Accreditation Standards but expect we will also further emphasise this when we do our next review.

We note your intent to preserve uniformity of the structure of Accreditation Standards in accordance with Aphra's expressed desire and agree that the current structure of the OCANZ Accreditation Standards is fit for purpose. We would, however, support renaming of domain titles to better reflect an outcomes approach such as the adoption of "Program Outcomes" for Domain 5 as suggested in your discussion paper.

Thank you for acknowledging the Australian Pharmacy Council's (APC) adoption of social accountability. We introduced social accountability as the underpinning philosophy of our 2020 Accreditation Standards. We have heard from many of our programs about how this has changed their way of thinking in curriculum design and delivery. Although this is a new standard for pharmacy education, our providers are actively engaging in this concept to further advance the skills and competencies of graduates to effectively engage with their patients and the community.

Determining how to balance detail and convenience in presentation of the accreditation standards Evidence Guide is a challenge. In our consultation with stakeholders, we heard many times that the Evidence Guide was a critical support for the preparation of accreditation submissions. We, therefore, prepared our Evidence Guide to support providers address each criterion while balancing the need to avoid being prescriptive given the outcome focused nature of our standards.

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With regard to content, we note that the OCANZ Standards under review have a strong emphasis on interprofessional learning and we trust that this will be retained. There are opportunities for enhancing pharmacist and optometrist student education and training which have not yet been fully explored. We have no comment in relation to other feedback sought as we feel your education providers are better placed to respond to the matters raised.

Thank you for inviting APC to contribute to this review. We look forward to reading the final outcome.

Kind regards



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