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Australian Medical Council accreditation standards and process internationally recognised

Australia's system for accreditation of medical school programs has been internationally recognised by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), and found to be of a rigorous standard, meeting international best practice. The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is the eighth accreditation authority in the world to complete WFME's comprehensive recognition review process.

The AMC is the accreditation authority for medical programs in Australia. It accredits 126 primary and specialist programs and 57 accredited providers in Australia and New Zealand. It also helps to develop standards and to evaluate medical programs in the region, as the Secretariat for the Western Pacific Association for Medical Education.

AMC President Associate Professor Jillian Sewell AM said: "The AMC is very pleased with this international validation of the strengths of our accreditation process. The outcome demonstrates the success of the accreditation as a peer review process, and the rigorous approach by AMC staff and the many experts who contribute to setting standards, assessing programs against standards and monitoring accredited programs."

In the last five years, the AMC has participated in three international reviews of its accreditation processes and standards, all of which have found AMC accreditation processes and standards to meet international standards. The WFME review is the most recent of these international reviews.

To prepare for the WFME review, the AMC wrote a submission addressing internationally agreed recognition criteria. A visiting WFME team then observed AMC accreditation activities and prepared a report on its findings. WFME has found that the AMC meets all the recognition criteria, granted recognition for 10 years, and placed no conditions on the AMC's recognition status.

The WFME review occurred at the same time as a Health Ministers-commissioned review of national accreditation system for health professions programs of study, which provides the legal framework for the AMC's accreditation functions.

Professor Sewell said, "The AMC takes seriously its responsibilities to ensure that standards of medical education and training promote and protect the health of the Australia community. Regular review is a necessary part of ensuring we remain at the standard of international best practice. The recognition of our expertise is particularly pleasing given the current national scrutiny of the effectiveness and efficiency of the system for accreditation of programs for regulated health professions, including medicine."

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