



Australian
Medical Council Limited

Technical Advisory Group

Graduate Outcomes for Cosmetic Surgery Programs of Study

Terms of reference, membership, and operations

October 2022

PO Box 4810, Kingston ACT 2604
Telephone (02) 6270 9777
Facsimile (02) 6270 9799

Email amc@amc.org.au
Website www.amc.org.au
ABN 97 131 796 980

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) as the accreditation authority for the medical profession under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law), is responsible for the development of accreditation standards and the accreditation of programs of study leading to registration in the medical profession. The AMC's assessments of programs and accreditation decisions assure the Medical Board of Australia (the Medical Board) that the accredited programs are producing graduates who have the knowledge, skills, and professional qualities necessary to practise medicine in Australia.

On 30 November 2021, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the Medical Board announced the establishment of an independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery. The Report of the Review was released in September 2022. The Medical Board and Ahpra have accepted all the recommendations. The report found that one of the most consistent themes to arise during this review was the issue of the education, training and qualifications of practitioners undertaking cosmetic surgery, or more specifically, the absence of any minimum standards about these matters. It recommended that cosmetic surgery be endorsed as an area of practice. An endorsement recognises that a person has an extended scope of practice in a particular area because they have obtained a specific qualification in that area that has been approved by the Medical Board. This recommendation will allow the Medical Board to recognise specific qualifications in cosmetic surgery, publish the recognised qualifications, and establish a register of doctors who hold qualifications that lead to their endorsement in the area of practice.

Implementing this recommendation means developing accreditation standards for programs of study and their providers in the area of practice, cosmetic surgery, and implementing processes for assessment and accreditation of the programs of study.

The report indicates that one benefit of endorsement is that it would set a clear minimum standard of training for practitioners providing cosmetic surgery. An accreditation standard for the program of study could be set at a sufficiently high level to ensure a program enables medical practitioners to have the necessary knowledge and skills to practise competently and safely. Only those training programs that are assessed as meeting the accreditation standards would be approved for the purposes of endorsement.

Deliverables

The AMC plans to deliver:

Stage 1

A structure for advising on and developing accreditation standards and related documents

Consultation with potential providers of programs of study, the profession and other stakeholders is essential to enable efficient implementation of accreditation standards and procedures.

Structure in place October 2022.

Consultation commences in November, and will be iterative until standards, graduate outcome statements and procedures are finalised.

Draft accreditation standards for programs of study for endorsement for cosmetic surgery

The National Law defines an accreditation standard as 'a standard used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, provide persons who complete the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession in Australia.'

A consultation version of the standards will be developed by November 2022.

Stage 2: Graduate outcome statements

Graduate outcome statements.

The graduate outcome statements set out, at a high level, the skills, knowledge, and professional attributes required of graduates of accredited programs of study. They also form part of the accreditation standards.

First draft December 2022.

Stage 3: Implementation of the accreditation standards and procedures

Approval of accreditation standards, with graduate outcome statements through AMC governance processes and to the Medical Board of Australia.

Development of procedures for accreditation of cosmetic surgery programs of study, and templates for providers to apply for accreditation.

AMC will have standards and processes for accreditation developed by February 2023.

MANAGEMENT OF THIS PROJECT

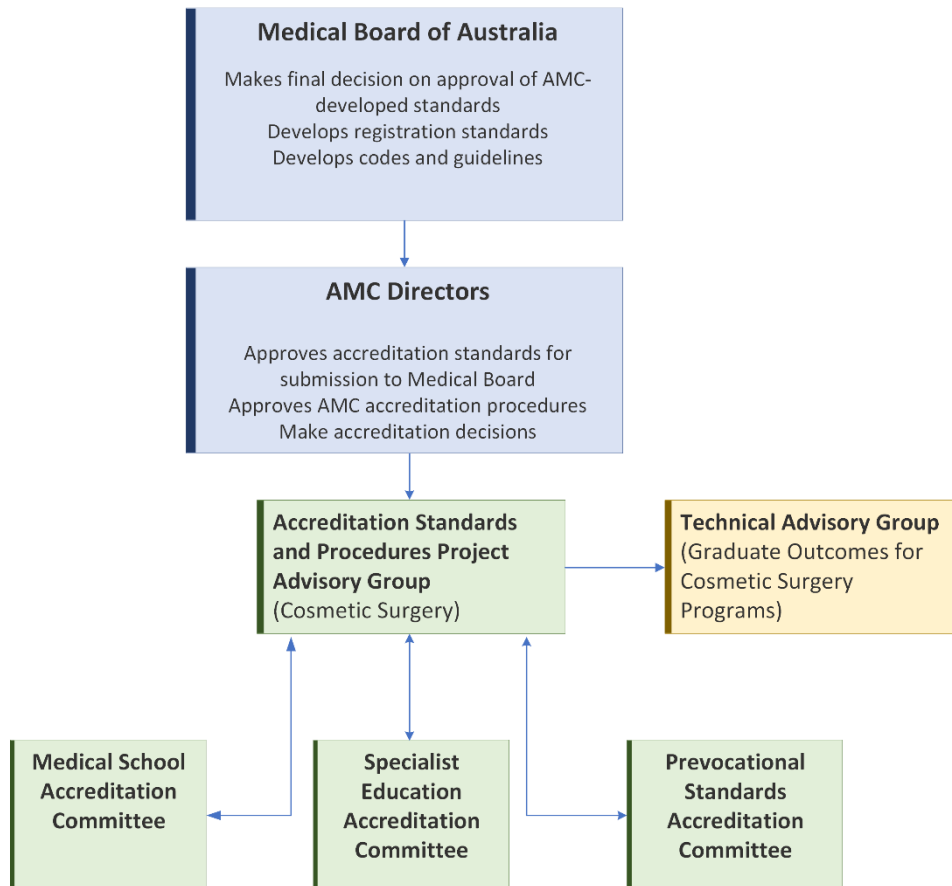
AMC staff work on this project will be supported by:

- An Accreditation Standards and Procedures Project Advisory Group (Project Advisory Group or PAG) to steer and inform the development of accreditation standards and procedures by AMC staff. The Project Advisory Group will also be a consultative forum. The members will be drawn from stakeholders of cosmetic surgery education and training, including accreditation and regulation experts.
- A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to act as expert advisors on the development of the statement of graduate outcomes for cosmetic surgery programs of study and related documents.

Neither of these advisory groups are decision-making bodies.

The relation of these advisory groups to the broader governance of the accreditation of medical programs is shown below:

AMC Project Governance



THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

The TAG consists of members appointed by the AMC who will provide independent advice and critical review to support the development of clear plain language graduate outcomes that will link to learning, teaching and assessment requirements for programs of study, and a framework that sets out how the graduate outcomes can be put into practice by education providers.

It is expected that the TAG members will contribute to the following:

- Inform the development of graduate outcome statements with technical, educational, and clinical aspects related to cosmetic surgery
- Review AMC draft framework and supporting resource documents
- Review stakeholder consultation feedback and AMC proposals to address feedback
- Give advice and assist staff to solve problems.

Membership

The AMC is selecting individual members of the TAG based on their expertise in one or more of the following:

- Medical education, including curriculum design and development
- Surgical education, training, and practice, including cosmetic surgery

- Education and training in related disciplines such as nursing, general practice, anaesthetics, dermatology, and ophthalmology.

The AMC will appoint a lead medical educationalist to head the development of the graduate outcomes statements and supporting documents, who will run meetings of the Technical Advisory Group and work with the Group. The lead educationalist will be a member of the Accreditation Standards and Procedures Project Advisory Group.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP OPERATIONS

The AMC plans that the TAG will meet over the life of the project as graduate outcome statements and linked resource documents are developed, refined through consultation, and then evaluated.

The AMC project team will set dates for TAG meetings in consultation with group members and based on the project work program. Meetings are likely every 4 to 6 weeks for the life of the project.

TAG meetings will be held online but may also include a limited number of face-to-face or hybrid meetings.

The AMC will decide if additional meetings are necessary or alter the format of the scheduled meetings (i.e. zoom to face-to-face) if required to ensure timely discussion.

Papers will be distributed electronically by the AMC's portal for distribution of papers.

A member who wishes to have a matter discussed at a TAG meeting should advise AMC staff ten days before the meeting (the deadline for agenda items). Sufficient background information must be provided to allow for adequate discussion.

AMC staff will produce action lists from meetings.

The AMC will select a staff member to support the TAG, who will be the contact point for members of the group. This AMC staff member will: organise meetings; provide meeting papers and reports including access to meeting portals and online meeting access.

REACHING AGREEMENT ON PROPOSALS

As the TAG is not a decision making group, the advice of members will inform the development of AMC documents. The TAG's recommendations will be considered by the Accreditation Standards and Procedures Project Advisory Group and the AMC Directors will make decisions on approval of standards, including the graduate outcome statements.

When voting on a recommendation is required, decisions will be based on a simple majority of members present with abstentions not counted in the total number of votes. Voting will be by show of hands, with alternate provisions for members participating online.

Items dealt with out of session by circular resolution: If the TAG needs to reach agreement on proposals outside a regular meeting, AMC staff will circulate the background papers to members. A deadline for response will be provided. Where there is no response by the deadline, and no indication that the member is unavailable to respond, it will be assumed the member supports the proposal.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members of the TAG must complete the AMC's standing notices of interest and keep their declaration form up to date.

AMC staff will make declarations of interest available at each meeting and will list in the agenda conflicts identified.

The agendas for TAG meetings will begin with a 'declaration of interests', in which members are requested to declare any additional personal or professional interests which might, or might be perceived to, influence their capacity to undertake impartially their roles as members of the TAG.

Members will not vote on matters on which they have a declared personal or professional interest. The AMC will provide guidelines on the management of other common interests (e.g. faculty member or fellow of an accredited education provider). The AMC will decide how each member's interest in a particular item will be managed, for example by exclusion from the meeting or from discussion of the relevant item, within AMC guidelines. All declared interests will be recorded in the TAG meeting outcomes, as will the decision in relation to the interest.