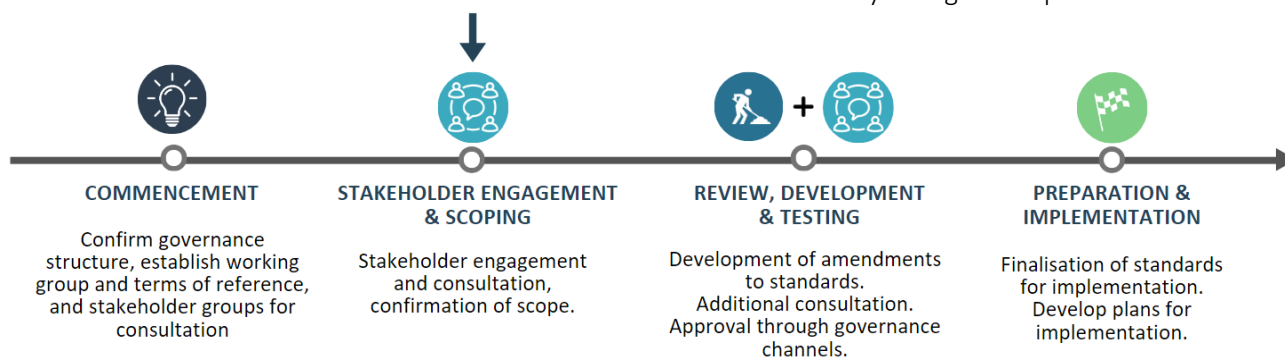


The Standards for Specialist Medical Programs are under review

Review background and process

In 2024, the AMC has commenced a review of the Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs. These standards relate to specialist medical programs that are delivered binationally, across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as those programs delivered only in Australia. Details about the governance of the review can be accessed on the AMC website [here](#).

The indicative timeline for the Review is outlined below. This timeline may change in response to consultation.



In accordance with the AMC's published [accreditation procedures](#), the AMC has constituted a Standards Review Working Group, chaired by Professor Alison Jones to lead the scoping, review and development work.

How does this relate to the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman (NHPO) report and the Independent Review of Australia's Regulatory Settings Relating to Overseas Health Practitioners?



For more information on the joint project click [here](#).

In 2022 and 2023, the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman (NHPO) undertook a review of specialist medical college policies, procedures, and practices for accreditation of specialist training sites. In November 2023, the Ombudsman published a report setting out recommendations for colleges and the AMC, [Part one: A roadmap for greater transparency and accountability in specialist medical training site accreditation](#). Health Ministers received this report in late 2023 and agreed with the recommendations. Health Ministers have directed the AMC and the Health Workforce Taskforce to work with colleges on the implementation of the recommendations.

Colleges and the AMC have progressed this work, working collaboratively to agree the [Communication Protocol](#) approved by Ministers in 2023. The protocol sets out the roles and responsibilities and expectations about communication regarding accreditation of training sites/posts in Australian public hospitals and health facilities. The protocol is now operational.









The response to the NHPO recommendations is being managed as an operational improvement project and the AMC has engaged the Miller Blue Group consultancy to support the AMC and colleges in the work, so

progress can be made in a timely way. The AMC liaises with the Health Workforce Taskforce, the Medical Board of Australia, and Ahpra to report progress.

In December 2023, the National Cabinet endorsed the final report on the [Independent Review of Australia's Regulatory Settings Relating to Overseas Health Practitioners](#) by Ms Robyn Kruk AO, which recommended broad reform to streamline regulatory settings for international health practitioners seeking to work in Australia. The report contains 28 recommendations for broad reform to streamline regulatory settings for international health practitioners seeking to work in Australia. The recommendations in the report will inform the scoping work for standards relating to assessment of specialist international medical graduates.

What are the key areas of focus for the review?

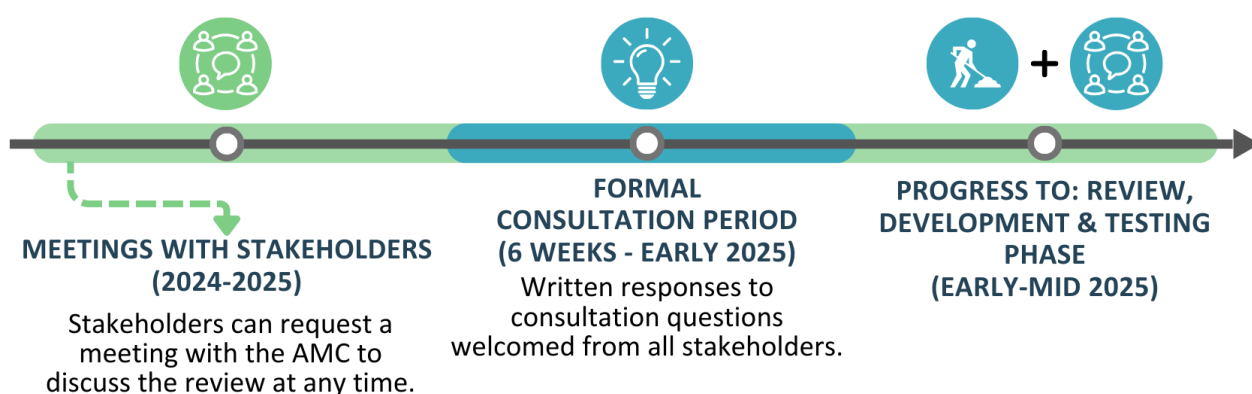
The following areas are emerging as priority areas for review across both Australia and New Zealand. In most cases, proposals for change are building on developments in the healthcare and education sector to ensure that the standards remain fit for purpose.

	College accreditation of training sites Informed by the work to address the NHPO report recommendations and the Communication Protocol .
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and Māori health equity and cultural safety Cultural safety for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and Māori doctors, patients, families and carers, and community. Development of standards in this area will be led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and Māori People.
	Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) Informed by the Independent Review of Australia's Regulatory Settings Relating to Overseas Health Practitioners by Ms. Robyn Kruk AO.
	Curriculum and reviewing requirement for graduate outcomes Reviewing the requirement for core capabilities across specialties, and ensuring curricula are responsive to the changing needs of the community.
	Assessment and progression Effective assessment for learning as part of a longitudinal training pathway.
	Governance Ensuring robust educational governance and decision making and meaningful representation.
	Alignment of training with community needs Ensuring training programs are designed to meet the current and future health needs of all communities across Australia and Aotearoa. Meaningful engagement and development of partnerships.
	Trainee wellbeing and training culture The role of specialist medical colleges in trainee and supervisor support and wellbeing, and the culture of specialist medical training.
	Recruitment, selection and retention How recruitment, selection and retention can support strategic priorities related to workforce needs in Australia and Aotearoa.
	Model and cycle of AMC accreditation of specialist training programs Reviewing the need to re-balance AMC monitoring and accreditation activities, while being mindful of costs.
	Additionally, other areas of focus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality and safety• Rural and regional training opportunities• Digital capability• Sustainability

What are the next steps?

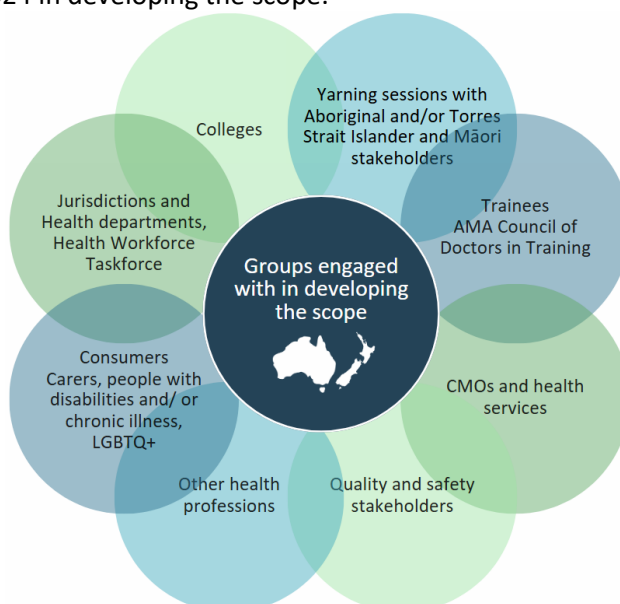
The public consultation on the scope of the review and direction for change is now scheduled to commence in **February-March 2025** and will run for approximately six weeks.

This timing allows proposals for the scope and direction of change to be informed by the AMC and specialist medical colleges joint project on processes for college accreditation of health services as training settings.



How can I engage in the review?

There will be a number of opportunities for stakeholder engagement in this review, including through national forums, formal consultation periods and in direct discussion with the AMC. The review team will be conducting in-person meetings with stakeholders in Aotearoa in early 2025. The AMC has spoken with a broad range of stakeholders throughout 2024 in developing the scope.



If you have any questions regarding the review or would like to request a meeting with the review team, please contact us at standardsreview@amc.org.au.

Find more information

The [AMC website](#) will be regularly updated as the review progresses.