



Accreditation of Architecture Programs Stakeholder Update Report – January 2020

This Stakeholder Update Report contains the following information

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1. Updates to the Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure – published December 2020

Following the introduction of a number of clarifications and amendments to the Procedure published in December 2019, a small number of corrections and clarifications have been incorporated and updated Procedural documents published in December 2020 (see [here](#)). There has been no material change to the underpinning focus of the Accreditation Procedure, which is to assess that architecture programs are designed to enable a graduate to achieve the required 37 Performance Criteria of the National Standard of Competency for Architects. Access the complete 58 page document [here](#).

2. Managing the impact of COVID-19 on the accreditation of architecture programs

Following on from the 12 month “pause” to key accreditation activities and the application of a 12 month extension to all accredited programs by Architect Registration Boards in their respective jurisdictions in mid 2020, 2021 will see a return to planned scheduling arrangements for Accreditation Review Panels, albeit supported by a detailed COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Strategy. The Strategy was developed during 2020 and enables for the planning and completion of Accreditation Review Panels and the associated three-day Site Visit in all but the most extreme of circumstances. The Strategy primarily caters for the possibility of state border closures impacting on the travel of interstate panellists. The key procedural adjustments required whilst the COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Strategy is in place are:

- An additional panellist appointed from the local jurisdiction to support the other two local panellists.
- Should interstate border closures prohibit the normal four interstate panellists from travelling to the Site Visit, they will complete their role in the Site Visit via remote log-in to meetings and remote review of evidence.

These procedural adjustments are not considered permanent changes to the Procedure.

3. 2021 Provider Annual Reporting – submit by 15th April 2021

As part of the procedural requirements, Providers of accredited architecture programs are obliged to submit Annual Reports to the Secretariat by no later than 15th April annually. Provider Annual Reporting represents an important monitoring and quality assurance activity within the Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure. In addition to general program details and data, Providers must advise of progress to address Action Items describing program deficiencies, and describe any implemented or proposed changes that may impact on the program's ability to support student achievement of the required performance criteria from the National Standard of Competency for architects.

2021 Provider Annual Reports are required to be submitted to the Secretariat by no later than 15th April 2021. Provider Annual Reports are reviewed by the Secretariat for completeness before being analysed by the Accreditation Management Committee and referred to the respective Architect Registration Board. Due to the follow-on review activities that are scheduled following the submission date, extensions to the submission date of 15th April are not possible.

The 2021 template is being reviewed to ensure appropriate guidance for the collection of enrolment and graduate data. The template will be finalised in February, and a link set to all Providers.

4. Accreditation Management Committee update

The Accreditation Management Committee was established in late 2017 and continues to be responsible for providing advice on the management and implementation of the Procedure and providing strategic, high quality advice to the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia Board in order to implement a transparent and fair Procedure in Australia. Full details on the role of the Committee can be found in the Terms of Reference ([see here](#)).

Having completed a full three year term on the Committee, AACA acknowledges the contributions of Ms Rebecca Naughtin, Prof Michael Jasper and Mr Dean Wood.

The three new members of the Committee from January 2021 are: Dr Lara Mackintosh, Dr Kirsten Orr, and Mr Paul Boyce. AACA would also like to thank all individuals who nominated to join the Committee during the recent nomination process, noting that not all nominees could be accommodated within the Committee membership.

The Committee membership from January 2021 is:

- Dr Lara Mackintosh – nominee of the [Australian Institute of Architects](#)
- Dr Kirsten Orr – nominee of the [Australian State and Territory Architect Registration Boards](#)
- Mr Paul Boyce – nominee of the [Australian State and Territory Architect Registration Boards](#)
- Prof Sandra Kaji-O'Grady – nominee of the [Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia](#)
- Mr Stephen Ward (Chairperson) – nominee of the [Architects Accreditation Council of Australia](#).

The Committee membership is normally comprised of a representative from each of the five stakeholder organisations noted in the Procedure. At the end of 2020 the Australian Deans of the Built Environment and Design (ADBED) were not able to provide a nomination for the Committee for 2021-2023. To fill the vacancy the AACA Board approved the appointment of a second nominee from the Architect Registration Boards to the Committee.

5. Annual Report on 2019 Accredited Architecture Programs in Australia

This annual report on accredited programs in Australia (see [here](#)) was released in December 2020. The Report provides a comprehensive summary of accredited architecture programs and accreditation related activity during the 2019 reporting period.

No summary enrolment or graduate data or analysis is included in this Annual Report. AACA commenced data collection in 2019 with the 2019 Provider Annual Reports that collected 2018 graduate data and 2019 enrolment data as at the relevant Semester 1 census date. This was followed by 2020 Provider Annual Reports that collected 2019 graduate data and 2020 enrolment data as at the relevant Semester 1 census date. When the AACA conducted a detailed review and analysis of the reported enrolment data in order to include in the 2019 Annual Report, significant inconsistencies were identified. Revised reporting requirements will be incorporated in the Provider Annual Reporting Template from 2021.

The objective remains to report national data with appropriate comparative analysis to previous years in the next 2020 Annual Report on Accredited Architecture Programs in Australia. State based analysis for QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and WA will also be possible ¹.

6. Updates to the listing of accredited architecture qualifications

The AACA is responsible for maintaining the listing of accredited architecture qualifications that provide entry to the Architectural Practice Examination. Only one change to the listing was made during 2020: Accreditation of the M Arch from the National University of Singapore was discontinued from August 2020. The listing can be accessed [here](#).

7. Nominations to join the Australian Accreditation Standing Panel – submit by 31st March 2021

Ongoing success of the Accreditation Procedure is largely dependent upon having a suitably experienced pool of architectural academics and architectural practitioners on the Accreditation Standing Panel. Nominations to join the Standing Panel may be submitted to the Secretariat at any time and are referred to stakeholder organisations for endorsement on an annual basis between April and June. For nominations to be considered in the next annual round of review, nomination documents must be received by the Secretariat no later than 31st March 2021. Nominees do not need to seek pre-endorsement from their preferred stakeholder organisation – endorsement by stakeholder organisations is coordinated by the Secretariat post the application date. See the current membership listing [here](#).

If you would like to join the Standing Panel:

- Read the relevant Procedural Guidance [here](#) for Selection Criteria and other important information
- Complete the [Nomination Form](#) and submit to the Secretariat by 31st March 2021.

Alternatively, you may be able to refer these details to a colleague in academia or practice that you think would bring appropriate experience and expertise to the panel.

¹ State / Territory based analysis for ACT, and Tas is not possible due to only a single provider operating in these jurisdictions.

8. Review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects

The review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects commenced in January 2020 and is now nearing completion. The project Terms of Reference, timeframes and other information can be found on the NSCA Review webpage ([see here](#)).

In mid-December 2020 the review moved into Stage 5 with the release of a revised draft of the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA) for consideration by Stakeholders. Written comment on the revised standard must be received by AACA at 2020ReviewNSCA@aaca.org.au by no later than 1st March 2021. Extensions to the submission date will not be possible.

- Background information can be read in the **Consultation Guidance** and accessed [here](#)
- The **Revised NSCA (Consultation draft)** can be accessed [here](#).

The review is due to be completed in mid 2021. Any changes to the National Standard and related impact on the accreditation of architecture programs and the Accreditation Procedure are being fully considered, with relevant details to be advised in an Implementation Strategy. The Implementation Strategy will be released in conjunction with the revised National Standard as part of the final stage of the review.

9. Leadership changes at AACA – Appointment of new CEO

Further to the planned leadership changes announced in October 2020 (see [here](#)), the AACA has recently announced Kathlyn Loseby as the incoming CEO with the appointment effective from 8th March 2021 (see [here](#)).

10. Recent AACA publications

- [Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure in Australia and New Zealand – Full document set](#) (Dec 2020)
- [Annual Report on 2019 Accredited Architecture Programs](#) (Dec 2020)
- [Accreditation Fee Schedule for FY2020/2021](#) (Nov 2020)

11. Links to key information on the Accreditation of Architecture Programs

- [Accreditation of Architecture Programs](#) – overview information
- [Publications page](#) – relevant documents and reports, including links to the Procedure, Guidance documents, and recent Stakeholder Reports
- [FAQs page](#) – for frequently asked questions and answers.

All inquiries should be sent to AACA C/- Accreditation@aaca.org.au