



Accreditation of Architecture Programs Stakeholder Update Report – July 2021

This Stakeholder Update Report contains the following information

1. Review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects
2. Managing the impact of COVID-19 on the accreditation of architecture programs
3. Provider Annual Reporting
4. Updates to the Australian Accreditation Standing Panel
5. Review of Accreditation Fee Schedule and Fee Arrangements
6. Links to key information on the Accreditation of Architecture Programs

1. Review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA)

The review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects commenced in January 2020 and was completed in June 2021 with the publishing of a new 2021 Standard on 1st July 2021. See the release details [here](#) and access the AACAA NSCA webpage [here](#) for further information.

The 2021 NSCA will be implemented progressively during 2022 and 2023 across each of the national assessment programs managed by the AACAA. Incorporation of the 2021 Standard into the Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure is anticipated to occur in updates to the Procedure to be published in 2022, for inclusion as the basis for Accreditation Review Panels from 1st January 2023. Detailed planning for transition and implementation and the development of associated guidance for the new Standard continues. It is anticipated that further guidance regarding transition will be released by the end of September 2021, and supported by a detailed document mapping the 2015 performance criteria to the 2021 performance criteria. A briefing will be provided as part of the upcoming AASA AGM in September.

The AACAA acknowledges that the 2021 NSCA includes an increase to the volume of Performance Criteria that must be demonstrated by accredited architecture programs. The AACAA is working to further investigate the resourcing impacts for Providers and consideration of when Providers could reasonably be expected to demonstrate incorporation of these new competencies in their architecture programs.

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

The AACAA continues to manage the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the completion of Accreditation Review Panels and associated three-day Site Visits scheduled in 2021 and 2022 through a COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Strategy. Any changes are aimed at ensuring the assessment is considered fair and valid, whilst ensuring that panellists are not put an undue risk due to non-essential travel. Adjustments made to the conduct of Accreditation Review Panels and the associated three-day Site Visit as the result of COVID-19 are not considered permanent changes to the Procedure.

3. Provider Annual Reporting

2021 Provider Annual Reports have been reviewed by the Secretariat and the Accreditation Management Committee and referred to the respective Architect Registration Board for review and noting. Following direction from each Architect Registration Board, Secretariat will work to contact all Providers before the

end of August regarding clarification of the status of Action Items and any other matters raised through the Provider Annual Reporting process.

The AACA has commenced analysis of the general data collected through the Provider Annual Reporting process. This analysis will focus on student enrolment and graduate data. The data and analysis will be included in the *Annual Report on 2020 Accredited Architecture Programs in Australia*, due to be published in coming months. The objective remains to report national data with appropriate comparative analysis to previous years (where data is available). State based analysis for QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and WA will also be possible ¹.

A revised Provider Annual Report Template is due to be published in early 2022, with 2022 Provider Annual Reports due for submission to the Secretariat by no later than 15th April 2022.

4. Updates to the Australian Accreditation Standing Panel

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. This activity has just been completed for 2021, and seven new members are welcomed to the Panel. See the current membership listing [here](#).

For nominations to be considered in the next annual round of review (April to June 2022), nomination documents must be received by the Secretariat no later than 31st March 2022. Nominees do not need to seek pre-endorsement from their preferred stakeholder organisation – endorsement by stakeholder organisations is coordinated by the Secretariat in April to June. If you would like to join the Standing Panel:

- Ensure you are familiar with the [Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure](#)
- 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 2022.

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.

5. Review of Accreditation Fee Schedule and Fee Arrangements

The Accreditation Fee Schedule for the 2022 Financial Year (July 2021 to June 2022) has been published and incorporates a modest CPI increase, backdated to Financial Year 2019. The Fee Schedule can be accessed directly from the AACA Publications page (see [here](#)). Details of the increase and plans to review the Accreditation services provided and the cost recovery model for a fair distribution of actual costs have been communicated to all Providers of accredited programs.

6. 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

Any inquiries should be sent to AACA C/- Accreditation@aca.org.au

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