



## Accreditation of Architecture Programs Stakeholder Update Report – June 2020

### **COVID-19 Impacts: a national position on changes to the accreditation of architecture programs**

The seven Architect Registration Boards that are the accrediting bodies for the 20 accredited architecture programs have all agreed to a 12 month “pause” of key accreditation activities and the application of a 12 month extension to all accredited programs in their respective jurisdictions. The “pause” to accreditation activities incorporates a one year deferment of all Accreditation Review Panels for accredited programs (and an associated extension to the period of accreditation of each program by one year) and adjustments to Provider Annual Reporting in 2020. New programs scheduled for an Accreditation Review Panel will be considered on a case by case basis. The changes have been communicated individually to Providers with accredited programs.

These changes take into consideration that Providers must continue to address their ongoing responsibilities in ensuring the delivery of quality education and supporting student achievement of the required professional outcomes as outlined in the Accreditation Procedure and the National Standard or Competency for Architects. This position is supported by the Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

The principles in which AACCA reviewed the impact of COVID 19 disruptions on the accreditation of architecture programs and made recommendations to the Architect Registration Boards were:

- transparency, consistency, and efficiency (3 of the guiding principles underpinning the Accreditation Procedure)
- ensuring integrity of the Accreditation Procedure
- risk mitigation.

The changes approved by the Architect Registration Boards:

- acknowledge the significant disruption to normal Provider operations and program delivery being experienced during 2020, inclusive of significant increased pressures on academic staff
- are equitable and fair for all Providers
- ensure the integrity of the accreditation procedure is maintained
- reflect consistent intra-state and national approach
- provide ongoing risk mitigation for the Boards.

### **2020 Provider Annual Reporting – reduced reporting due 30th June 2020**

Provider Annual Reporting represents an important monitoring and quality assurance activity within the Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure. Due to the COVID-19 impacts, submission of Provider Annual Reports for 2020 has been deferred from 15th April to 30th June, and to reduce the reporting burden for 2020 a simplified template has been published (download [here](#)) and emailed directly to all Providers in May 2020.

### **Australian 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. Recent nominations to join the Standing Panel are currently being considered by stakeholder organisations, and the membership listing ([see here](#)) is due to be updated during July 2020. 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 30th March 2021.

### **Accreditation Management Committee**

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. Current committee membership is:

- Mr Dean Wood – nominee of the Australian Institute of Architects
- Professor Michael Jasper – nominee of the Australian Deans of the Built Environment and Design
- Ms Rebecca Naughtin – nominee of the Australian State and Territory Architect Registration Boards
- Professor 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.

As the standard three year term for all current appointments will end in December 2020, the AACA will be commencing communication with all stakeholder groups in order to seek nominations in October 2020 from suitably qualified individuals prepared to join the Committee from January 2021. The AACA Board will formally approve all Committee appointments with the aspiration that where possible, appointments to the Committee reflect Australia’s geographic, ethnic and gender diversity. Full details on the role of the Committee and nomination requirements can be found in the Terms of Reference ([see here](#)).

### **Review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects**

The review of the National Standard of Competency for Architects commenced in January 2020. The project Terms of Reference, timeframes and other information can be found on the NSCA Review webpage ([see here](#)). An Issues Paper was released on 1st June and can be accessed [here](#). Read more about the release of the Issues Paper [here](#). Submissions on the issues and recommendations described in the Issues Paper may be made to the AACA up to 31st July 2020. Submissions will be analysed during August and October, in conjunction with the formulation of proposed revisions to the Standard. The review is due to be completed in early 2021. Any changes to the Standard and related impact on the accreditation of architecture programs and the Procedure will be fully considered in due course, after the completion of the review of the Standard.

### **Key information on the Accreditation of Architecture Programs can be found on the following pages:**

- [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.

Any inquiries should be sent to AACA C/- [Accreditation@aaca.org.au](mailto:Accreditation@aaca.org.au)