



## Accreditation of Architecture Programs Stakeholder Update Report December 2018

### Governance and management of the Accreditation Procedure

The Board of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACAA), on behalf of the architect registration boards is responsible for the governance of the Procedure and the Secretariat, with referral of matters back to the relevant State or Territory Architect Registration Board as required. Certain governance functions are separately delegated to the Accreditation Management Committee. You can read the full Terms of Reference for the Committee [here](#).

The AACAA maintains the list of accredited architecture programs in Australia and New Zealand. It can be found [here](#) on the AACAA website. During 2018 AACAA has continued to work with stakeholders to improve the operation and delivery of the Accreditation Procedure.

### Key achievements in 2018 – Year in Review

2018 saw the implementation of the revised Accreditation Procedure, guided by the Accreditation Management Committee and supported by the Accreditation Secretariat provided by AACAA. Four Accreditation Review Panels were successfully completed in accordance with the Procedure. This resulted in accreditation being renewed for three Providers, and one Provider having their architecture program accredited for the first time.

2018 was marked by a number of 'firsts' for architecture program accreditation:

- All supporting procedural documents, report templates, resources, fee schedule ([see here](#)), and membership of the Accreditation Standing Panel ([see here](#)) have been published on the AACAA [Publications page](#) and are openly accessible to all stakeholders.
- A [Code of Conduct](#) was published and all Accreditation Standing Panel and Accreditation Management Committee members have made a commitment to abide by the Code.
- Accreditation Standing Panel members appointed to 2018 Accreditation Review Panels participated in panel member training workshops and received consistent remuneration for their commitment to respective Accreditation Review Panels
- Formal collection of feedback from participants in accreditation activities via on-line surveys and other mechanisms will inform ongoing review and improvements to the Procedure
- Assessment of an architecture program delivered through Online Universities Australia.

### Australian Accreditation Standing Panel

As noted in the relevant [Guidance](#), nominations to join the Australian Accreditation Standing Panel may be submitted to the Secretariat at any time. The [Nomination Form](#) is available from the Publications Page of the AACAA website. Nominations will be considered by the Accreditation Management Committee and referred to stakeholder organisations for endorsement on an annual basis between April and June.

It is important that the Accreditation Standing Panel is further expanded in numbers in order to cater for a high number of Accreditation Review Panels anticipated during 2020 and 2021.

Providers are encouraged to support academic staff members from their accredited Masters programs joining the Accreditation Standing Panel in order to bring appropriate academic experience to the Accreditation Standing Panel, as well as acting as a learning opportunity to understand the Accreditation Procedure.

## Research Project: Architectural Education Study

AACA is leading a major study of *Architectural Education and the Profession in Australia and New Zealand* with the support of all architectural stakeholder organisations. It is the first time all stakeholders have joined forces in such a significant piece of research. Scheduled for completion in mid-2019, the aim of the research is to support greater connections between schools of architecture and the architectural profession.

The Study will look at how both the architectural practice environment and the university teaching environment have evolved in recent years, and how the two sectors can best work together to offer meaningful education and career pathways. Surveys of academics (both ongoing and sessional) and practitioners across all levels of experience in practice were conducted in November and December 2018 to collect feedback; and interviews and focus groups teasing out findings of the surveys will follow early in 2019. For further details on the Study [see here](#), or contact the Research Director at [aepstudy@aaca.org.au](mailto:aepstudy@aaca.org.au).

## The Work Plan for 2019

The Work Plan for the Secretariat and Accreditation Management Committee in 2019 includes:

- Further minor amendments to the Procedure and additional resources are due to be published by the end of the first quarter of 2019. (This is based on analysis of feedback collected following the completion of 2018 Accreditation Review Panels)
- Support to two planned Accreditation Review Panels
- Coordination of the first round of Provider Annual Report submissions, and release of the inaugural Report on Architecture Programs in Australia and New Zealand
- Engagement with stakeholders to seek further nominations to the Accreditation Standing Panel to support Accreditation Review Panel numbers in 2020 and 2021
- Development of the 'Program Advice' that can be sought from Providers developing architecture programs
- Consideration of how different delivery models and the assessment of multiple programs should be managed within the Procedure.

## Provider Annual Report

The Provider Annual Reporting activity represents an important monitoring and quality assurance activity within the Accreditation Procedure. The purpose of the Provider Annual Report is described in the Guidance [here](#), and is designed with three key objectives:

1. Collect general Provider data that is not available through other sources (for review, de-identification and then publishing in an Annual Report)
2. Track Provider progress against Action Items related to the Provider's most recent accreditation assessment
3. Mechanism for Providers to Report substantive changes in accredited programs.

Compliance with the Annual Reporting schedule is required to ensure ongoing accreditation. The first Provider Annual Report is due for submission from all Providers to the Secretariat by 15 April 2019. The Provider Annual Report word template can be downloaded [from this link](#). Provider Annual Reports will be reviewed by the Accreditation Management Committee before being referred to the respective architect registration board.

## Where to find information on the Accreditation of Architecture Programs

All key information can be found on the AACA website in these locations:

- [Accreditation of Architecture Programs - overview](#) Overview information
- [FAQs page](#) – see first section titled 'Architecture Program Accreditation'
- [Publications page](#) – see second section titled 'Accreditation of Architecture Programs'

*This document was prepared by the Accreditation Secretariat and released by AACA.*