



## Accreditation of Architecture Programs Stakeholder Update Report – June 2019

### Accreditation Management Committee

The Accreditation Management Committee continues to meet regularly in their role of *‘overseeing the implementation of the Procedure and providing advice to the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia Board in order to implement a transparent, fair and effective Procedure’* (see Page 14 of the [Accreditation Procedure](#)). Their full Terms of Reference can be read [here](#). A membership listing is maintained on the [Accreditation of Architecture Programs](#) page on the AACCA website. The Committee continues to consider the following priority matters:

- Review of operations and feedback, and where necessary development of clarifications to the published procedural documents and templates
- How different delivery models and the assessment of multiple programs should be managed within the Procedure.

### The Accreditation Procedure

Whilst work continues regarding the incorporation of a variety of clarifications into the Procedure, there will be no material change to the underpinning focus of the 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. The intent of the Procedure is not to assess pedagogical approaches and/or scaffolding learning. Program structure and design to meet the requirements of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 9 qualification remains the responsibility of each Provider as the experts in education.

### Secretariat Support to Providers in the lead-up to Accreditation Review Panels

A key aspect of the role of the Secretariat is to provide support to Providers regarding their preparation for and conduct of Accreditation Review Panels. Formal communication will normally commence between 12-15 months before the anticipated scheduling of the Accreditation Review Panel and the associated three-day site visit. Providers may seek procedural clarifications from the Secretariat at any time. An important activity offered to all Providers by the Secretariat is a teleconference Q&A session with Provider staff.

### Australian Accreditation Standing Panel

Following an annual round of review of nominations to join the Standing Panel, nominations are currently with Stakeholder organisations for endorsement and an updated listing is due to be published in July. This should see the panel grow in numbers from 63 to just over 80 Australian based members, supplemented by 11 members from New Zealand. It remains 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.

### Provider Annual Reporting

This reporting – introduced for the first time in 2019 – acts as a mechanism to give regular and consistent visibility to each accrediting authority on Provider work to ensure that their accredited

architecture programs continue to be designed to enable graduates to achieve the required 37 performance criteria of the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA). Provider Annual Reports submitted to the Secretariat in April 2019 have been reviewed by the Accreditation Management Committee and referred on to the relevant Architect Registration Board. The Secretariat will await reports back from each Architect Registration Board before contacting each Provider with feedback. The key area reviewed by the Management Committee was the status of Action Items that Providers are reporting against, noting many of the Action Items were written under the previous iteration of the Procedure and are either no longer relevant or impossible to be completed in the form in which they were written. Each Provider will receive clarification on the status (open/closed) of all Action Items. As this is the first year of this particular process, it is expected that the guidance and template will be reviewed and republished before the end of 2019.

### **Annual Report on Accredited Architecture Programs in Australia**

Work continues on the compilation of an Annual Report on Accredited Architecture Programs in Australia. It is anticipated that the Annual Report will include sections as follows: listing of accredited architecture programs; student data; de-identified summary data regarding student data trends (enrolments / graduations), industry connections and changes to accredited programs; and a financial report. This should be published in coming months.

### **Research Project: Architectural Education Study**

Work continues on this important AACA project, under the direction of the Expert Reference Group that was formed during 2018. Managing the high volume of data collected is a focus, as is exploring mechanisms to ensure this data is made available to all participating stakeholders. The Research Report should be published late August 2019.

### **Current work plan**

- Support to Accreditation Review Panel scheduled in Semester 2, 2019 (Jun-Oct 2019)
- Updated Accreditation Standing Panel membership listing published (Jul 2019)
- 2019 Provider Annual Reports: Feedback due to each Provider (Aug 2019)
- Collation of inaugural Annual Report on Accredited Architecture Programs (Jul-Sep 2019)
- Review of the Accreditation Funding Model and structure of Provider Fees; publish updated Fee Schedule (Sep 2019)
- Monitoring of the Accreditation Procedure after first year of implementation: clarifications for incorporation into the Procedure and Guidance document; and development of further resources to support Providers and Panels. (Aim to have clarifications and new resources published by Sep 2019)
- Panel formation and liaison with Providers to organise Accreditation Review Panels due to be conducted in Semester 2, 2020 (Sep-Nov 2019).

### **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 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*