



Accreditation of Architecture Programs

Stakeholder Update Report June 2018

Accreditation Management Committee

Following establishment in late 2017, the Accreditation Management Committee has now met in November 2017, March 2018, and April 2018. You can read their full Terms of Reference [here](#). A membership listing is maintained on the [Accreditation of Architecture Programs](#) page on the AACAA website.

The Committee has been busy recently considering the following matters:

- Clarifications to the published procedural documents
- Formation of Accreditation Review Panels for 2018.

In coming months the Committee will consider the following matters:

- Training materials for Accreditation Standing Panel members
- Templates for Provider Annual Report and Accreditation Review Panel Report
- Formation of Accreditation Review Panels for 2019
- Consideration of how different delivery models and the assessment of multiple programs should be managed within the Procedure.

Clarifications to the procedure published in May 2018

- Further to the details in the March Update Report, a number of clarifications have been approved and incorporated into the published Procedure. A summary of the amendments can be read [here](#). The current Procedure (inclusive of all supporting Guidance documents) can be found on the [AACAA Publications web page](#).
- The key amendments incorporated are:
 - Removal of student work from the Part IV - Digital Evidence Portfolio of the [Provider Accreditation Submission](#) (with evidence of student achievement of the required competencies to be provided as part of the Accreditation Site Visit).
 - Publishing of [Guidance for the exhibition of student work](#).
- The role of the Knowledge Domains from within the National Standard of Competency for Architects (NSCA) and the use of the term 'threshold' have been clarified using 'Frequently Asked Questions': see the first section of AACAA's [FAQs page](#) titled 'Architecture Program Accreditation'.

Australian Accreditation Standing Panel

Noting revised operating requirements under the revised procedure including a more formal management of conflicts of interest and code of conduct, the Secretariat has received 76 nominations to the Australian Accreditation Standing Panel. All nominations have subsequently been endorsed by Stakeholder organisations. 65 nominations came from within Australia, and 11 nominations came from New Zealand. 24 nominations came from people who have never completed an accreditation panel. AACAA plans to publish the full listing of membership of the 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. Nominations will be considered by the Accreditation Management Committee and referred to stakeholder organisations for endorsement on an annual basis between April and June.

Formation of Accreditation Review Panels for 2018

During April the Accreditation Management Committee identified provisional Accreditation Review Panels for 2018. Accreditation Review Panels have been formed from the Accreditation Standing Panel and in accordance with [Guidance: Operation of the Accreditation Review Panel](#). A total of four panels of six people (including three academics and three practitioners) were required. A balance of gender, experience, and geographic spread was sought for each panel, as well as managing conflicts of interest. The Secretariat continues to progress communication with individual panel members, programs and respective Architect Registration Boards in order to confirm the 2018 panels.

The Accreditation Management Committee has also identified additional members of the Accreditation Standing Panel to act as 'reserve' panel members for each 2018 Accreditation Review Panel. Reserve members have not been used in the past. Use of 'reserve' panel members has been introduced due to learning from 2017, when two of the five 2017 panels had a panel member withdraw in the one to two week period before the conduct of the accreditation site visit with insufficient time to liaise with stakeholders and identify a replacement panel member. With the reduced panel size being used in 2018 under the revised procedure (six rather than nine members), it has been agreed that procedures to support the use of 'reserve' panel members should be established. The Secretariat continues to implement this new panel requirement.

Training and Briefing sessions

Training will be delivered to members of 2018 Accreditation Review Panels during one day training sessions in late July and early August. The training day is designed to be interactive and scenario based.

Work continues towards the preparation of a common set of briefing materials to underpin multiple training and briefing needs. Focussed briefing and training materials for regulators, providers and members of the Accreditation Standing Panel will be based upon these materials.

- Briefing of Architect Registration Boards will occur each October at the annual meeting of Architect Registration Boards.
- Providers with an Accreditation Review Panel will participate in a briefing as part of the preparatory phase in advance of their Accreditation Site Visit (generally 6 to 12 months before the site visit).
- Accreditation Standing Panel members selected for Accreditation Review Panels will be trained following their selection and prior to the commencement of their panel commitment (training will normally occur at least 10 weeks prior to the site visit).

Provider Annual Report

The Secretariat is currently preparing a Provider Annual Report template and will seek expert review in coming months before publishing the template to all Providers by the end of September 2018. The first Provider Annual Report will be due for submission by 15 April 2019.

Use of the revised Accreditation Procedure in New Zealand

Work continues between the New Zealand Registered Architects Board and the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia to finalise licensing arrangements for the use of the revised Accreditation Procedure in New Zealand.

Accreditation Fee Schedule

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia continues to work to prepare a fee schedule for publishing by the end of September 2018.

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