



## Accreditation of Architecture Programs

### Stakeholder Update Report March 2018

#### Launch of the Revised Procedure

After an extensive period of review and initial launch in December 2017, in January 2018 the [Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure in Australia and New Zealand](#) was released in an interactive format. The revised Procedure provides a robust system of evaluation of architecture programs at the Master of Architecture level and complements institution-level government regulation as detailed in the Higher Education Standards Framework.

Due to the importance of professional education on the pathway to registration as an architect, accredited architecture programs must be designed to enable a graduate to achieve the required 37 performance criteria of the [National Standard of Competency for Architects](#).

The Procedure has also taken note of the Principles of Professional Accreditation, as prepared by [Professions Australia](#) and [Universities Australia](#).

Key transition guidance can be found here in the [Transition Guidance for the Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure 2018](#).

#### Accreditation Management Committee

The Accreditation Management Committee ([see here for TOR](#)) was established in late 2017, and met in November 2017 and March 2018. The Committee is comprised of representatives of the five primary stakeholders, and has responsibility for policy advice and overall quality assurance of the Procedure. The membership of the Committee is:

- Mr Dean Wood (Chairperson) – nominee of the [Australian Institute of Architects](#)
- Dr Michael Jasper – nominee of the [Australian Deans of the Built Environment and Design](#)
- Professor Sandra Kaji-O’Grady – nominee of the [Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia](#)
- Ms Rebecca Naughtin – nominee of the [Australian State and Territory Architect Registration Boards](#)
- Mr Stephen Ward – nominee of the [Architects Accreditation Council of Australia](#).

#### Use of the revised Accreditation Procedure in New Zealand

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board and the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia are in the process of finalising licensing arrangements for the use of the revised Accreditation Procedure in New Zealand.

#### Accreditation Fee Schedule

The Accreditation Procedure uses a financial model that divides the costs of the Procedure equitably across the regulators and the providers of accredited programs in architecture. Fees for all activities are based on a fee-for-service model. A fee schedule will be published in coming months.

#### Accreditation Standing Panel

- Nominations to join the Accreditation Standing Panel will be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 March 2018.

- The Secretariat will refer all nominations to the relevant stakeholder organisation/s for endorsement in April 2018.
- During April / May / June, the Secretariat will make contact with all nominees regarding participation in briefing sessions on the revised Procedure, and the formation of required Accreditation Review Panels in 2018.

### **Discussion Forums to support and inform implementation**

AACA has hosted two recent discussion forums.

- Following suggestion by AASA to have representatives contribute to further discussion on implementation issues relating to the Provider Accreditation Submission, Digital Evidence Portfolio, mapping guidance and Student Exhibition, AACA hosted a discussion forum on 17 January 2018. A total of 4 provider representatives participated.
- AACA hosted a discussion forum on 9 February 2018 focussed on details of the Provider Accreditation Submission, the Accreditation Review Panel, and the Accreditation Site Visit. 12 representatives from 4 Providers with Accreditation Review Panels scheduled for late 2018 or early 2019 participated in the discussion session.

### **Update on Training and Briefing sessions**

A common set of briefing materials will be published by end of April. 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 in each respective year will participate in a briefing at the beginning of the year of their Site Visit.
- Accreditation Review Panel members selected for site visits in each respective year will be trained prior to their participation in a site visit.

### **Clarifications to the published procedure**

- Based on feedback from the Discussion Forums held 17 January 2018 and 9 February 2018, a number of matters were referred to the Accreditation Management Committee for consideration. The Committee has made the following recommendations:
  - Removal of Part IV - Digital Evidence Portfolio of student work from the Provider Accreditation Submission, with evidence of student achievement of the required competencies to be provided as part of the Accreditation Site Visit.
  - Further development of guidance on the Student Exhibition; clarification on the role of the Knowledge Domains from within the National Standard of Competency for Architects, use of the term 'threshold', and role of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 9 criteria within the Accreditation Procedure should be available by the beginning of May 2018.
- The Secretariat is in the process of implementing these recommendations, and updates will be provided to all Stakeholders.

### **Benchmarking**

Professions Australia has requested that the AACA allow the *Architecture Program Accreditation Procedure in Australia and New Zealand* be included in Professions Australia's collection of best practice examples of professional accreditation.

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