



Chair, Recognition of Medical Specialties Sub-Committee

AMC's purpose

The Australian Medical Council Limited is a national standards body for medical education and training. Its purpose is to ensure that standards of education, training and assessment of the medical profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community.

AMC roles related to recognition of medical specialties

From 2002 to 2010, on behalf of the Australian Government Minister for Health, the AMC managed a process for recognition of medical specialties. The implementation of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law in 2010, introduced new requirements concerning the recognition of specialties. Under the National Law, Medical Board of Australia may seek advice from the AMC, as the accreditation authority for medicine, in making recommendations to the COAG Health Council (Health Ministers) on the recognition of medical specialties.

The AMC has worked with the Medical Board of Australia to develop new Guidelines for the Recognition of Medical Specialties and Fields of Specialty Practice under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. These respond to advice from Health Ministers on the matters that a National Board should address in a submission concerning recognition of a specialty or approval of a specialist title.

The AMC:

- has an advisory not a decision making role in the process for recognition of specialties
- provides advice to the Medical Board of Australia on any proposal for recognition of a medical specialty at various stages of the agreed assessment process. For any proposal that the Medical Board of Australia agrees to assess, the AMC completes the assessment and prepares a report against criteria determined by the Medical Board of Australia and according to an assessment program agreed by the Medical Board of Australia and preparing a report on its assessment for the Medical Board.

The AMC is establishing a Recognition of Medical Specialties Advisory Committee to oversee the AMC's advisory role in this process.

As the accreditation authority for the medical profession under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, the AMC accredits programs and/or providers in all stages of medical education. On behalf of the Medical Board of Australia it develops accreditation standards, accredits programs and providers that meet those standards, and monitors accredited programs and providers (through regular reports). The Specialist Education Accreditation Committee (SEAC), chaired by Professor Kate Leslie AO, oversees the accreditation of specialist medical programs and their providers. The Recognition of Medical Specialties Sub-Committee reports to SEAC.

Attributes of the Chair of the Recognition of Medical Specialties Sub-Committee

The Chair of the Recognition of Medical Specialties Sub-Committee will be a medical practitioner with significant standing in the profession, a record of achievement in policy development relating to

medical education and practice, and an understanding of the professional structure of the medical profession especially specialist practice. Appropriate experience for chairing this committee includes: chairing other major committees, development and implementation of standards, accreditation of programs and/or institutions, and strong stakeholder relationships in medical education and/or health services.

Time commitment to the Australian Medical Council (two roles)

As chair of the Sub-Committee

As this is a new Sub-Committee, the AMC is unable to indicate the workload but it can provide estimates based on its experience. The AMC will work with the Chair to prioritise and manage the work of the Sub-Committee.

The work of the Chair will include attending meetings with AMC staff and AHPRA staff concerning the management of the recognition process, contributing to stakeholder workshops and meetings, leading or contributing to teleconference meetings with stakeholders (for example the Medical Board of Australia) or applicants, and reviewing draft correspondence and submissions on complex and non-routine matters.

The Chair will work closely with the AMC staff who manage the AMC's contribution to the recognition process and the reporting between the Sub-Committee and other committees and stakeholders. Staff provide a regular email briefing on the ongoing work program.

The AMC envisages that the Sub-Committee will meet two to three times a year in its initial phases, and then as required by the workload. The Chair will contribute to pre-meeting agenda discussions with AMC staff.

As a member of the Specialist Education Accreditation Committee

The Specialist Education Accreditation Committee meets three to four times per year in Melbourne.

The Committee's business includes considering reports from AMC teams set up to assess specialist training programs; appointing assessment teams; considering the outcomes of monitoring of accredited programs and providers; and reviewing policy and procedures. Agendas contain considerable reading matter.

Arrangement by the AMC to support committee chairs

The AMC:

- provides support, induction and training for committee members;
- pays a fee to members (and a higher fee to chairs) for participation in meetings of committees;
- pays superannuation for individuals as required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation;
- arranges and meets the cost of necessary accommodation and travel; and
- meets the cost of meals and incidental expenditure, such as taxi fares.

The AMC does not pay committee members or chairs for time for reading and reviewing committee papers or for responding to correspondence (e.g. emails) from AMC staff.

Australian Medical Council

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