
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS AUSTRALIA LTD

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The Peak Body Representing Allied Health in Australia

28 March 2007

Professor Diana Horvath AO
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission of Safety and Quality on Health Care
GPO Box 5480 Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Prof Horvath

Accreditation

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) has been pleased to be involved in various consultations in relation to the Discussion Paper produced by ACSQHC in relation to accreditation. However AHPA has some concerns in relation to particular issues.

At the forums, questions in relation to the basic aims/purposes of the proposed accreditation were not answered clearly. There is still some confusion about whether the major purpose is for patient safety or practitioner regulation. AHPA believes this needs to be clarified to ensure the proposals can meet their specific aims. Also, there did not appear to be clarity around how established accreditation processes and new proposals under COAG would be accommodated within the proposed scheme.

From the discussion there appeared to be a lack of connection with the proposed changes to private health insurance as well as with the proposed national registration and accreditation schemes. AHPA is concerned that lack of consultation across various agencies might result in a silo approach which would not maximise potential benefits of the proposed accreditation scheme.

AHPA is also interested to know how current public hospital accreditation schemes and ACHS activities would be incorporated into the accreditation proposals.

These issues are of concern given that many allied health professionals work across the private and public sectors and AHPA believes they need immediate attention.

AHPA would be happy to discuss these issues with you and looks forward to your early response to these concerns.

Yours sincerely



Prof Lyn Littlefield
Executive Officer

Cc David Kalisch and Terry Barnes

Comprising:

Allied Health Alliance WA, Audiological Society of Australia, Australasian Podiatry Council, Australian Association for Exercise and Sports Science, Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian Institute of Radiography, Australian Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Australian Psychological Society, Australian Sonographers Association, Dietitians Association of Australia, OT AUSTRALIA, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Speech Pathology Australia, The Orthoptic Association of Australia and incorporating AHPARR (AHPA Rural & Remote)
