

30 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

Response to the National Safety and Quality Accreditation Standards Discussion Paper

The Australian Association for Exercise and Sports Science (AAESS) was pleased to be involved in consultation in relation to the Discussion Paper on the National Safety and Quality Accreditation Standards. AAESS would like to provide a response to the discussion paper to be utilised by ACSQHC in formulating the final paper for the Australian Health Ministers Conference.

AAESS believe the most important question that needs to be addressed in deciding who needs to be accredited is "what are health care settings?" Obviously there are health care settings that have a higher risk for patient care, and these settings should be addressed first.

The discussion paper addresses issues such as developing standards and the individual accreditation system, training assessors, site visits (both scheduled and unscheduled) and the administration of the accreditation system. AAESS is supportive of an accreditation that addresses safety and quality standards, however we would find it difficult as a small association of allied health professionals to fund the implementation of mandatory accreditation. We would need to cover all costs via the accreditation application fees. Large proportions of our members run their own small clinic/centres/mobile business and do not have the administrative support behind them as in hospitals. Thus we would need to have an accreditation process that was not too expensive or encompassing, taking them away from what they do – service clients with chronic and complex medical conditions.

We also believe that there has been a lack of consultation and integration with the current review of the National registration process. With organisations possibility having to undergo both processes, consultation by the two agencies across the areas could ensure effective and efficient implementation of both systems.

AAESS is happy for you to have further discussions on the requirement of the accreditation with our affiliated group the Allied Health Professional Australia (AHPA).

Yours sincerely



Anita Hobson-Powell
Executive Officer

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AAESS secretariat
PO Box 123
Red Hill Qld 4059

T: 07 3856 5622
F: 07 3856 5688
E: aaess@aaess.com.au
www.aaess.com.au
ABN 14 053 849 460