



## BOARD WELCOMES PROGRESS ON ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

APAC received in April from the Psychology Board of Australia a response to its revised Standards for Accreditation, after submission to the Board in September of last year.

In its response the PsyBA listed a number of concerns and requests for amendment.

On 19 May a group of APAC Directors and staff met with Psychology Board Chair, Professor Brin Grenyer, and other representatives from the Psychology Board.

We were very pleased with the outcomes of the meeting, and believe we have reached a mutually satisfactory way forward on outstanding issues.

In particular, we have formulated ways in which we might delineate clearly between the requirements of accreditation and registration within the AHPRA system, while at the same time ensuring that providers are clear about both sets of requirements, in order to ensure that students and graduates are able to meet Registration Board standards at the appropriate time.

We have also reached agreement on how and where specific inputs might be included in the Standards, such that our aim of moving to an outcomes-focused process might be achieved. We recognise that it is not possible to phrase all standards in terms of outcomes so a mix of inputs and outcomes will always result. On the other hand, we want to express inputs so as to indicate generally-accepted benchmarks, while not stifling innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

After this fruitful meeting with the PsyBA, we are confident that with some additional work we will be able to finalise the Standards in approximately two months' time. The APAC Board has approved a work plan that will require it to sign off on a final submission in early August, for submission to the PsyBA thereafter.

However, as already advised to providers, the anticipated approval of the new standards in 2017 will mean that implementation cannot begin until 2019, given 2018 cycle providers have already begun preparation for accreditation next year.