

Australian Psychology  
Accreditation Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2014

Australian Psychology Accreditation Council Limited | ABN 26 117 279 857

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# Overview of 2014 Operations

## Re-assignment of Accreditation Functions to APAC

On 29 May 2014 a new APAC Constitution was adopted, with a revised membership structure and a Board of 12 Directors. APAC's member structure now comprises one individual and two organisations, Ms Kaye Frankcom, The Australian Psychological Society, The Heads of Schools and Departments of Psychology Association. The 12-member Board consists of four Directors appointed by each of the three Members.

The restructured APAC now meets the governance and independence requirements of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Accordingly, the Psychology Board of Australia has appointed APAC to exercise the accreditation function for the four year period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018.

## Review of Accreditation Standards

The major review of accreditation standards for the psychology profession which commenced in June 2012 continued during 2014. In parallel with the development of the core Standards, APAC continued work on the drafting of a second set of new standards, intended to apply to programs of study supporting entry to an Area of Practice Endorsement Registrar Program. The development of these new Standards is expected to continue throughout 2015. APAC attended the 49th APS Annual Conference as an exhibitor to promote stakeholder engagement concerning the development of the new Standards for the profession being undertaken.

## Accreditation Services and Engagement

During 2014, APAC staff handled close to 4000 enquiries and other communications from a wide range of stakeholders including education providers, students, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), numerous other government agencies, the Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology (HODSPA), the Health Professions Accreditation Councils Forum, placement providers, employers, and others.

The approaching 1 January 2015 deadline for education providers to ensure all of their programs were compliant with the latest version of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) generated a significant increase both in requests for assistance and advice regarding modifications to existing programs, as well as assessment applications. APAC also provided support and advisory services, to the PsyBA and AHPRA, and participated in numerous other consultations, conferences and meetings around Australia and overseas.

APAC responded to a 46 requests for historical course information from the public and 150 historical course verifications for AHPRA staff during 2014. APAC staff continued to provide pro bono logistical and administrative support for the APS's College Course Approval processes, as well as providing expert advisory services to APS staff regarding the assessment of psychology qualifications and other matters.

APAC also appointed and managed some 13 APAC assessment teams and commissioned assessments of 67 undergraduate and 38 postgraduate programs of education, including 1 offshore assessment.

## Development of APAC's Accreditation Database

In July 2014, APAC received the second tranche of funding from AHPRA for the development of an independent accreditation database. While this project commenced in early 2013, allocation of this tranche had been delayed until APAC satisfied the independence requirements of the NRAS and secured the accreditation function from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018. The project is ongoing and due to be completed by June 2015, after which APAC anticipates that it will be able to comply fully with the agreed accreditation data reporting format to AHPRA.

## Charitable Status of the Company

During 2014 the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) conducted an audit of APAC. As a consequence APAC was required to pay income tax for the years 2009-2013. Following changes made to the APAC Constitution, APAC successfully applied to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) for registration as a charity effective from 3 December 2012. The Company received a refund of income tax and penalties paid for the years for which the Company is now registered as a charity.

## Funding Contract

APAC's funding and service contract with AHPRA on behalf of the PsyBA for the July 2014 – June 2015 period was renewed in June 2014.

## APAC CEO

The CEO and company secretary, Dr Nicholas Voudouris resigned with effect from 10 November 2014. The Board appointed Ms Helena Gillies as acting CEO and company secretary until the commencement of a permanent replacement for Dr Voudouris.



Ms Helena Gillies

**Acting Chief Executive Officer**

## Directors' Report

The Directors present their report on the results of Australian Psychology Accreditation Council Limited ABN 26 117 279 857 (APAC) for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2014 and the state of affairs of the Company at that date. The following persons were directors of the Company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

| Director  | Date of Appointment/Cessation              |
|---|--|
| Conjoint Professor Trevor Waring<br>(Chair to 28 July 2014) | Appointed 25/02/2008                       |
| Associate Professor Caroline Hunt                           | Appointed 14/10/2010                       |
| Professor Simon Crowe                                       | Appointed 18/10/2012                       |
| Associate Professor Mick Hunter                             | Appointed 08/11/2010 (Resigned 29/05/2014) |
| Professor Lyn Littlefield                                   | Appointed 24/11/2005                       |
| Ms Janne Mc Mahon   | Appointed 04/11/2008 (Resigned 04/02/2014) |
| Dr Iain Montgomery  | Appointed 04/12/2009 (Resigned 29/05/2014) |
| Associate Professor Jenny Thornton                          | Appointed 21/10/2010 (Resigned 29/05/2014) |
| Professor John Dunn (Chair from 28<br>July 2014)            | Appointed 06/06/2014                       |
| Professor Mary Katsikitis                                   | Appointed 05/06/2014                       |
| Associate Professor Shirley Morrissey                       | Appointed 14/06/2014                       |
| Ms Clare Thompson   | Appointed 20/06/2014                       |
| Associate Professor Lesley Bretherton                       | Appointed 10/06/2014                       |
| Ms Susan Carter   | Appointed 17/06/2014 (Resigned 24/8/2014)  |
| Ms Ann Doolette   | Appointed 09/06/2014                       |
| Professor Nancy Pachana                                     | Appointed 18/06/2014                       |
| Adjunct Professor Geoffrey George                           | Appointed 29/11/2014                       |

### Principal activities

The principal activities of APAC during the period were: to develop accreditation standards for the approval of the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA); assess programs of study and the education providers offering those programs against the approved standards; where appropriate grant accreditation to those providers and programs which meet the approved standards under sections 42-51 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009; monitor accredited education providers and their accredited programs to ensure continued compliance with the approved standards under section 50 of the National Law, and provide advice to the PsyBA, government, education providers and other stakeholders regarding the education and training of psychologists in Australia.

## Operating results

The net surplus of APAC for the period ended 31 December 2014 is \$478,746 (net surplus \$103,797 in 2013).

## Dividends and share options

The liability of members is limited and APAC does not have share capital. No portion of APAC's surplus in any year shall be paid to members by way of dividends, bonus or otherwise. No options for shares in the Company have been issued during the period and no options remain unexercised.

## Review of operations

The review of the operations of the APAC during the period and the results of those operations have been reported above.

## Directors' Meetings (01 Jan – 31 Dec)

| Director   | No of Meetings Held While in Office | No of Meetings Attended | Qualifications      |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Conjoint Professor Trevor Waring AM (Chair to 28/7/2014) | 9                                   | 8                       | MSc Hon FAPS        |
| Professor Simon Crowe                                    | 9                                   | 8                       | PhD FAPS FAICD      |
| Associate Professor Caroline Hunt                        | 9                                   | 9                       | PhD DipAICD         |
| Associate Professor Mick Hunter                          | 4                                   | 3                       | PhD MAPS            |
| Professor Lyn Littlefield OAM                            | 9                                   | 9                       | PhD FAPS FAICD FAIM |
| Ms Janne Mc Mahon OAM                                    | 0                                   | 0                       | Cert (Real Estate)  |
| Dr Iain Montgomery                                       | 4                                   | 4                       | PhD Hon FAPS        |
| Associate Professor Jenny Thornton                       | 4                                   | 2                       | PhD MAPS            |
| Professor John Dunn (Chair from 28/7/2014)               | 5                                   | 4                       | PhD                 |
| Professor Mary Katsikitis                                | 5                                   | 4                       | PhD FAPS            |
| Associate Professor Shirley Morrissey                    | 5                                   | 4                       | PhD FAPS            |
| Ms Clare Thompson  | 5                                   | 4                       | LLB LLM             |
| Associate Professor Lesley Bretherton                    | 5                                   | 4                       | PhD                 |
| Ms Susan Carter  | 2                                   | 0                       | MAppSc ACA FAICD    |
| Professor Nancy Pachana                                  | 5                                   | 5                       | PhD FAPS FASSA      |
| Adjunct Professor Geoffrey George                        | 1                                   | 1                       | MSocSc FCPA         |
| Ms Ann Doolette  | 5                                   | 5                       | MEd                 |



Professor John Dunn

**Chair**