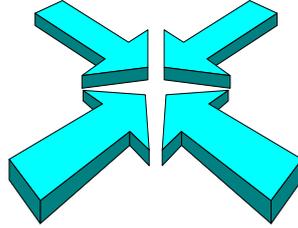


Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils



Statement on the Prevocational Medical Accreditation Framework (PMAF) as a national instrument for prevocational accreditation

All Postgraduate Medical Councils or equivalent bodies (PMCs) agreed in October 2009 to the Prevocational Medical Accreditation Framework (PMAF) as a trans-Tasman framework for accreditation standards, policies and practices in the prevocational medical education and training domain. All PMCs began to use the PMAF immediately to evaluate and review their accreditation standards and policies in Australia. In some instances, the PMAF became the vehicle to completely revise existing standards. The Education Committee of the New Zealand Medical Council also undertook a gap analysis on relevant aspects of the PMAF to review their standards and policies.

Currently there are ongoing discussions taking place about how the AMC might apply a national framework for intern accreditation to the current State-based accreditation processes of post-graduate medical councils to ensure that appropriate and consistent standards are in place for all jurisdictions. CPMEC would like to emphasise that through the PMAF, a national framework is already in place. The Prevocational Medical Accreditation Network (PMAN) of CPMEC met recently to emphasise the effectiveness of PMAF in achieving national consistency in prevocational medical accreditation practices in Australia and New Zealand.

In highlighting the practical usefulness of the PMAF as a national framework, CPMEC notes the fact that **all** PMCs are already using the PMAF to help develop new standards and policies, revise existing policies, and map their existing standards and policies and identify gaps. A recent survey of all PMCs undertaken by CPMEC has reinforced the value of PMAF as a unifying national framework to guide prevocational medical accreditation processes in future. Members have noted the following benefits accruing from the use of the PMAF as a national framework:

- PMAF is *de facto* already being used as a common national framework. Retaining PMAF as a central aspect of nationalised intern accreditation seems a logical use of this valuable tool, and would avoid the need for PMCs to restart what has been a time consuming but very worthwhile process of reviewing accreditation standards and policies. Use of the PMAF would

ensure that a national process would proceed smoothly. This would not be case if an alternative national structure was proposed.

- In the development and release of PMAF, a significant body of work and resource investment by CPMEC, PMC's, and the Department of Health Ageing (through project funding) has occurred. There was also an extensive consultation process with all key stakeholders in medical education and training that informed its development.
- PMAF has demonstrated its usefulness in comparing prevocational accreditation practices across states and this has been supported by active knowledge sharing amongst PMCs through the PMAN.
- PMAF has been used as a mapping tool by PMCs to assist in the development and/or modification of accreditation processes by identifying gaps in existing processes.
- PMAF is flexible enough to be adapted to specific jurisdictional settings and approaches.

CPMEC urges the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Medical Council to endorse the PMAF as the national framework to underpin prevocational medical accreditation. In this regard, CPMEC would like to emphasise that in the development of the PMAF, there was significant consideration given to AMC standards especially as they related to vocational training.

Enquiries

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Signed by: