

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION STANDING GROUP (HPESG)

January 2025

BACKGROUND

Universities Australia's (UA's) member universities play a major role in health workforce formation. They all offer multiple health professional courses through which they educate and train virtually all of our entry-level domestic health professionals as well as a number from overseas. They also provide opportunities for continuing and advanced health professional development and research. The health workforce is widespread, operating across health, aged care and disability services in metropolitan, regional and rural locations. Attaining the right health workforce skills mix, volume and distribution is important and UA takes a keen interest in this policy area. UA's key advocacy points include: health workforce planning and distribution; clinical education/placements; and professional accreditation. UA is assisted in this work by its Health Professions Education Standing Group (HPESG). HPESG represents all university health professional disciplines and jurisdictions.

PURPOSE AND UTILITY

HPESG provides a multidisciplinary forum in which cross-portfolio health professional education policy issues can be discussed and progressed. HPESG specifically:

- advises UA on matters affecting health professional education/training and workforce formation;
- provides information about the university sector's capacity to deliver quality, sustainable health professions education/training; and
- represents the sector's interests in educating Australia's future health workforce.

HPESG offers a valuable forum with which Government and others can engage regarding health professional education and workforce development in the health, aged care and disability sectors.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

HPESG's specific terms of reference are to:

- engage with government and other stakeholders to promote policy settings in which universities can most effectively support Australia's required health workforce development;
- promote understanding of universities' capacity to provide the quality education and training needed to develop sufficient, competent, skilled health professionals;
- operate as a collaborative, cross-discipline, sector-wide body to provide input to UA and the HPESG Chair on issues of systemic importance to the sector;
- provide input into UA's HPE work program targeting issues and priorities for the sector; and
- develop effective communication and engagement strategies across the sector and across member disciplines about health professions education and training.

MEMBERSHIP

HPESG comprises

- UA's Lead Vice Chancellor (VC) – Health
- Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (Allied Health - ACDHS)
- Australian Council of Dental Schools (ACODS)
- Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM)
- Council of Pharmacy Schools (Australia and New Zealand - CPSAZ)
- Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ)

as well as:

- up to two generalist Deputy (D) or Pro (P) VCs or equivalent
- up to three ex-officio expert members
- jurisdictional representatives where not otherwise represented by HPESG members
- non-voting observers, advisors and experts as agreed.

HPSEG's current membership is as follows:

HPESG role and affiliation		Representative
UA Lead VC, Health Professions Education and HPESG Chair	NSW	Professor S. Bruce Downton , VC Macquarie University
Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS)	Vic	Professor Terry Haines , Head of School, School of Primary and Allied Health Care, Monash University.
Australian Council of Dental Schools (ACODS)	NSW	Professor Heiko Spallek , Head of School, School of Dentistry, University of Sydney
Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM)	WA	Professor Karen Strickland , Executive Dean of the School of Nursing & Midwifery, Edith Cowan University
Council of Pharmacy Schools Australia and New Zealand (CPSANZ)	WA	Professor Joe Tucci , Pharmacy Discipline Lead, La Trobe University (Bendigo)
Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand	Qld	Professor Kirsty Forrest , Professor of Medical Education and Dean of Medicine, Bond University
DVC/PVC Representative	SA	Professor Chris Brebner , PVC (Curriculum Impact) Flinders University
DVC Medical and Health Development	Qld	Professor Ian Wronski , Board Chair, Tropical Australia Academic Health Centre, Townsville, Queensland
Indigenous representative		TBC
Jurisdictional representative: Tasmania	Tas	Professor Luke Bereznicki , Associate Dean Learning and Teaching Performance, University of Tasmania
Jurisdictional representative: ACT	ACT	Professor Rachel Gibson , Dean of Health, University of Canberra
Jurisdictional representative: NT	NT	Professor Dominic Upton , Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Health, Charles Darwin University
Ex Officio expert and Aphra Accreditation Committee representative	SA	Professor Esther May , Executive Dean Clinical Education & Equity (Health Sciences) University of South Australia
Ex Officio expert	SA	Professor Debra Rowett , Dean of Pharmacy, University of South Australia
Ex Officio expert	Qld	Distinguished Professor Patsy Yates , Executive Dean, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

HPSEG's work is led by Patrick Bailey, Director, Tertiary and Skills.

MEETING FREQUENCY

HPESG meets by videoconference every two months with an annual face-to face meeting.

CONTACTS

For further information about HPESG please contact:

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