



# FACT SHEET

## APC's Accreditation Standards and Processes

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) undertook a full review of its degree program *Accreditation Standards 2009* commencing in February 2009 and concluding in December 2009. The application of the Standards commenced in 2010.

During the review process all stakeholders *inter alia* pharmacy and other professional organisations, universities, government bodies, New Zealand and pharmacy regulatory authorities were involved and consulted throughout the year.

In developing drafts of the Standards the APC benchmarked against international pharmacy accreditation authorities standards and criteria. The APC also used *inter alia* the following documents in establishing the APC Accreditation Standards framework:

- World Federation for Medical Education (2003). *Basic Medical Education WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement*;
- Professions Australia (June 2008). *Standards for Professional Accreditation Processes*;
- World Health Organisation and World Federation for Medical Education (2005) *WHO/WFME Guidelines for Accreditation of Basic Medical Education*; and,
- Forum of Australian Health Professions Councils (2010). *Good Practice in Accreditation of Health Profession Education Programs*.

The indicative curriculum was mapped against the pharmacy programs delivered in Canada, USA, UK and South Africa. It was noted at the time that the curriculum in the UK was under review and discussions took place with representatives of the APC and the (then) Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain regarding UK indicators and directions for change.

The *Guidelines* that accompany the Standards are a clear and transparent record of the processes used by the APC in applying the Standards for its accreditation purposes. The process is fair and equitable, allows for natural justice principles, and once again is benchmarked against like international and national organisations. The APC is confident that its accreditation process uses best practice principles.

Since the implementation of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme the APC has ensured that its Standards and Guidelines meet all the requirements of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, and the more recently developed *draft Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function*.

The APC's Accreditation Standards have been signed off by the state, territory and Commonwealth health ministers (under COAG) and their application has been assigned to the APC. The APC has entered a legally binding service agreement to accredit programs that meet the Standards. The APC cannot alter, amend or refuse to apply the Standards without the express consent of COAG.

Both the APC and the Pharmacy Board of Australia perform their functions as directed and outlined under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*. Neither body has the discretion to choose which parts of the Act they will apply and which they will not.