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FACT SHEET NO. 1*The facts about****The Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy*****History**

The Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Pty Ltd (AACP) was established to develop a national approach to the practice of 'consultant' pharmacy as an expansion of the professional health role of pharmacy in Australia. The AACP is jointly owned by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (the Guild).

The AACP promotes and seeks recognition for the practice of consultant pharmacy and the provision of value-added, professional services in Australia.

Objectives

The AACP's primary role is to define and develop new professional or 'consultant' services and accredit pharmacists to provide them. These services will range from medication review and management of the frail aged living in residential care or at home, through to specific services provided by community pharmacists (for instance in areas such as asthma, diabetes, wound care, smoking cessation, methadone, etc). To achieve this, the AACP will:

- Identify specific 'consultant' services
- Establish practice standards for these services
- Identify education and training requirements
- Establish accreditation procedures
- Negotiate with the Commonwealth and other funders on remuneration for these services.

Mission

AACP's mission is to provide transparent and accountable processes for assessment and accreditation procedures.

The main tasks of the AACP are to develop and administer the accreditation procedures for pharmacists wishing to provide professional pharmacy services, and to provide access to the specialized training.

Governance

The AACP is managed by a Board comprising four nominees from each of the Shareholder companies (i.e. PSA and the Guild). The Board is responsible for the policy operation of AACP. The Chair of the Board is rotated every two-years between the Shareholders' organisations. The Chair does not have a casting vote.

Values

The AACP pursues excellence in:

- Innovation in identifying and enabling the values of professional pharmacy services
- Effectiveness in transforming ideas into strategies and valued programs
- Responsiveness to affiliates' product and service needs
- Collaboration with those responsible for defined areas of pharmacy and other health services
- Integrity in ensuring the quality of accredited pharmacist services.

Board of Directors

The AACP holds stewardship over specific areas of Pharmacy in which key customers have an interest and, sometimes, specific expectations. In order to balance the interests of the Shareholders, key stakeholder interests, expectations of affiliates and the independence of the advice provided by AACP staff, a reporting and meeting structure is maintained.

Committees

A National Advisory Group (NAG) has been established, and its *Terms of Reference* include:

1. Annually review the current accreditation systems and recommend changes if required for consideration of the Board
2. Annually review the current Reaccreditation systems and recommend changes if required for consideration of the Board
3. Identify and review credentialing and accrediting procedures and recommend changes for consideration by the Board.
4. Identify appropriate education and training for accredited pharmacists, including Stage One training for pharmacists and communicate the training requirements of this group of pharmacists to education providers
5. Advise the Board on specific matters referred to it by the Board.
6. Identify and scope new credentialing opportunities and refer them to the Board

Current Accreditation

The AACP offers accreditation in the area of Medication Management Reviews (MMRs) and reviews conducted for Veterans in the community.

The process consists of both initial and on-going accreditation. The initial accreditation is designated to identify pharmacists with the required competency to provide a particular professional service to the required level.

Reaccreditation

Accredited pharmacists are required to reaccredit annually to demonstrate that they have maintained currency.

See *AACP Fact Sheet No. 5*.