

AOAC 2017-2018 Strategic Plan

The Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC) is an independent not for profit organisation which has been assigned by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency to undertake the accreditation functions as detailed in section 42 of the *National Health Practitioner Regulation Law (2009)*.

The AOAC mission is to protect and promote the health and safety of the Australian community by ensuring quality standards of education and accreditation of osteopathy.

Aims

The aims of AOAC are to:

- Create a policy framework that helps ensure that equivalency, as encompassed in the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement, is maintained.
- Assess for the purpose of granting accreditation to programs leading to the eligibility of people for registration as an osteopath in Australia.
- Advise and make recommendations to the osteopathic regulatory authorities relating to the accredited status to be granted to an osteopathic program.
- Advise and make recommendations to the osteopathic regulatory authorities (or successor body(s)) and other relevant interest groups on matters concerning the registration of osteopaths.
- Develop, review and maintain accreditation standards and processes to assess osteopathic programs.
- Assess the suitability of overseas-trained osteopaths to practice in Australia.
- Provide information and advice to government bodies concerning the adequacy of a person's skills in the field of Osteopathy for the purposes of migration to Australia.
- Establish and maintain relationships with bodies or organisations having objects and functions in whole or in part similar to the objects and functions of AOAC.

What AOAC does within a sound governance framework:

- Influence, shape and develop standards for the purposes of accreditation and assessment to ensure standards of osteopathy in Australia;
- Accredite and monitor programs of study against these standards and monitor education providers;

- Assess skills and qualifications of overseas trained osteopaths and others referred by the Osteopathy Board of Australia and advise government organisations as to their suitability for registration and for migration;
- Support equivalence under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement;
- Assess overseas regulatory authorities for the purposes of recognition as a competent authority;
- Maintain relationships with other organisations with similar objectives to the AOAC and with stakeholder organisations
- Remain responsive/adaptive/flexible to support innovation for osteopathy providers

What differentiates AOAC within osteopathy:

AOAC is an independent organisation with extensive knowledge and skills in the accreditation of programs of study in osteopathy and assessment of skills of osteopaths. AOAC has extensive networks within the Australian osteopathy profession and wider health and education sectors, as well as with international osteopathic educational and accrediting organisations.

Strategic objectives:

AOAC's long-term objectives are built on five key strategic themes:

1. Support the objectives of the National Law through:
 - i. The facilitation of a high quality standard of osteopathic education; and
 - ii. rigorous and responsive assessment of overseas qualified osteopaths and others referred for assessment; through long-term professional development, workforce planning and innovation in osteopathic practice;
2. Demonstrate sound governance;
3. Ensure sustainability and maintain a sound financial position;
4. Maintain engaged stakeholders; and
5. Remain adaptable and responsive to ongoing developments of the Australian health workforce.

The Strategic Plan for 2017-2018 is outlined below.

Strategic Plan 2017-2018

Strategic Objective	Initiative
<p>Support the objectives of the National Law through the facilitation of a high quality of osteopathic education and rigorous and responsive assessment of overseas qualified osteopaths and others referred for assessment</p>	<p>Support and encourage the exchange of expertise and information relating to accreditation and assessment with other Australian accrediting authorities and within Osteopathic education and accreditation nationally and internationally</p>
	<p>Ensure that Osteopathic education programs meet accreditation standards and procedures</p>
	<p>Review of accreditation processes to ensure submissions, reports, deliverables and time-lines meet requirements of accreditation standards and procedures</p>
	<p>Review and implement major recommendations from the Standard Pathway Assessment (SPA)</p>
	<p>Review Open Book Exam questions and complete statistical review</p>
<p>Sound governance</p>	<p>Review and make appropriate Board and committee appointments</p>
	<p>Constitutional and governance review</p>
<p>Sustainability and sound financial position</p>	<p>Analysis of changes to systems and processes to support improved efficiency</p>
<p>Engaged stakeholders</p>	<p>Review communication stakeholder engagement strategy</p>
<p>Remain adaptable and responsive to ongoing developments of the Australian health workforce relating to osteopathy accreditation and assessment</p>	<p>Ongoing engagement with the NRAS review</p>