

Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC)

Review of the Osteopathic Accreditation Standards (Consultation paper 3)

Submission by OSTEOPATHY AUSTRALIA

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CONTACT

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INTRODUCTION

Osteopathy Australia thanks the AOAC for the opportunity to lodge a submission addressing the consultation paper *Review of the Osteopathic Accreditation Standards (Consultation Paper 3)*.

OSTEOPATHY AUSTRALIA

Osteopathy Australia is the professional association for the osteopathy industry in Australia. We act by representing the interests of osteopathy students, osteopaths, osteopathy as a profession, and consumer's rights to access osteopathic services.

We promote standards of professional behaviour over and above the requirements of AHPRA registration. A vast majority of osteopathy students and registered osteopaths are members of Osteopathy Australia.

Our core work is liaising with state and federal government, and all other statutory agencies, professional bodies, and private industry regarding professional, educational, legislative, and regulatory issues for the osteopathy profession. As such, we have close working relationships with the Osteopathy Board of Australia (OBA), the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and the AOAC, to which this submission is addressed. We also maintain strong working relationships with other professional health bodies through our collaborative work with Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) and specific working initiatives with individual allied health peak bodies.

As an organisation we establish diverse working groups, develop collaborative projects, and receive a vast amount of written and verbal feedback regarding the state of the osteopathy industry, its educational institutions and all manner of associated quality and governance issues. We receive this feedback from students, registered osteopaths, and osteopathy academic staff. We draw on our extensive experience in responding to the AOAC's timely inquiry.

REVIEW OF THE OSTEOPATHIC ACCREDITATION STANDARDS (CONSULTATION PAPER 3).

We want to commend AOAC for their open, transparent, and consultative processes, which has been informative, broad, and yet targeted to ensure core stakeholders understand and have considerable input in the development of the Accreditation Standards.

Certainly, in my discussions with universities, academics and the profession the vast majority consider the standards and supporting documents are best practice, reflect previous input and discussion from earlier consultation rounds and therefore there is little comment in regard to round 3 of the consultations.

We understand and support the streamlining of the document by ensuring any duplication in various sections are removed, or components merged in similar standards.

Finally we commend AOAC for the development of an evidence guide that will further assist universities for accreditation documentation clarity.