

Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC)



AOAC helps protect the health and safety of the community by establishing high-quality standards of osteopathic education, training and assessment.

We are the:

- Independent accrediting authority Osteopathic education under Australia's National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.
- Skills assessing authority for Osteopaths wishing to migrate to Australia

Functions to meet the objectives of and in accordance with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council (AOAC) and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMAC)



ANMAC provides the secretarial and administrative support for AOAC

ANMAC is a leader in risk based approaches to accreditation

Both members of the Health Professionals Accreditation Collaborative Forum

Objective of the National Law

1. protecting the public through the registration of health practitioners who are **suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner**
2. Facilitating the provision of **high quality education and training** of health practitioners
3. **facilitating access to services** in accordance with the public interest;
4. enabling the continuous development of a **flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce** and
5. **enabling innovation in the education of, and service delivery** by, health practitioners.

NRAS and Risk

National Accreditation and Regulation Scheme Principles shapes thinking about regulatory decision-making. Designed to **encourage a responsive, risk-based approach** to regulation across all health professions.

NRAS Principle 5

In all areas of our work we:

- **identify the risks** that we are obliged to respond to
- **assess the likelihood and possible consequences** of the risks, and
- **respond in ways that are proportionate and manage risks** so we can adequately protect the public.

What is Right-touch regulation?

‘Right-touch regulation based on **proper evaluation of risk**, is proportionate and outcome focused; creates a framework where professionalism can flourish and organisations can be excellent’
(UK Professional Standard Authority, 2015).

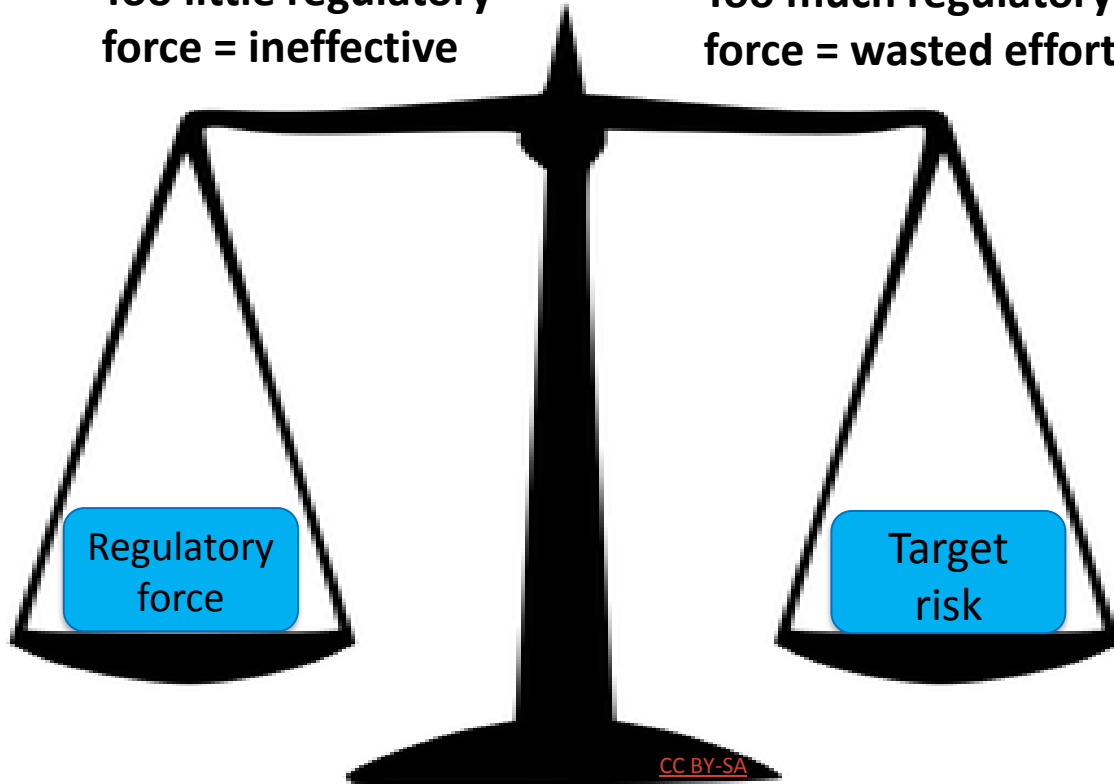
Commonly agreed **principles** of good regulation:

1. Proportionate
2. Consistent
3. Targeted
4. Transparent
5. Accountable
6. Agile

How to find Right-touch regulation?

**Too little regulatory
force = ineffective**

**Too much regulatory
force = wasted effort**



What is Risk-based accreditation?

Process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation using:

- accreditation standards
- principles of Right-touch regulation
- a set of risk determinants
- measurable indicators

To assign a risk rating to an education program.

Risk Continuum

Regulatory force should be proportionate to risks

Continuum of risk



Least regulatory force
(for low-risk)

(for medium-risk)

Greatest regulatory force
(for high-risk)

Monitoring

- Monitoring and review processes should encompass all aspects of risk management:
 - Ensuring that controls are effective and efficient in both design and operation
 - Obtaining further information to improve risk assessment
 - Analysing and learning lessons from events (including near-misses), changes, trends, successes and failures
 - Detecting changes in external and internal context, including changes to risk criteria and the risk itself which can require revision of risk treatments and priorities
 - Identifying emerging risks.

Effective risk-based accreditation

Requires:

- cost of regulation to be worth the benefits
- continual improvement
- regular assessment of risk level
- improved transparency of regulation processes
- clear communication with the internal and external stakeholder

Principles of risk-based regulation (ISO)

- Creates value
- Integral part of organizational processes
- Part of decision making
- Explicitly addresses uncertainty
- Systemic, structured and timely
- Based on the best available information
- Tailored
- Takes human and cultural factors into account
- Transparent and inclusive
- Dynamic, iterative and responsive
- Facilitates continual improvement and enhances the organisation

Benefits of risk-based regulation (PSA)

- Outcomes are described in terms of the beneficiaries of regulation and policy development is devoted to achieving this aim
- It builds in the need for regular reviews to ensure that regulatory approaches and frameworks remain up to date and fit for purpose
- It provides a coherent framework for tackling a range of regulatory issues, such as managing new areas of practice and extending regulation to new groups
- Policy making is well informed, reflecting realities and wider context, building on evidence and risk assessment.

Agile, balanced, proportionate and responsive to ever-changing circumstances



Benefits of risk-based regulation (ANMAC)

- improving the ease of use and efficiency of the accreditation process for education providers demonstrating they have a low-risk program
- focusing resources on education providers and programs which present the most risk to students and/or the community (as per risk continuum)
- building collaborative relationships with education providers
- increasing capacity to identify and respond to risks
- increasing the transparency of processes and decisions
- improving accreditation processes so they are cost effective and efficient

ON THE HORIZON



Accreditation Review: draft report highlights

Goals of proposed reforms are to:

- align workforce requirements with broader health and social care policies
- improve responsiveness, consistency, transparency, accountability

Accreditation Review: draft report highlights

mechanisms proposed include:

- the government to regularly publish guidance in health workforce and systems priorities
- oversight and implementation by either:
 - An enhanced existing committee (HPACF or AHPRA Accreditation committee)
 - Enhance AHPRA Agency management committee
 - Create a central Health Education Accreditation Board
 - Accreditation Board will be comprised of experts in health education, health service provision and use appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

Accreditation Review: draft report highlights

mechanisms proposed include:

- the Accreditation Board will appoint Accreditation Committees (either of regulatory Boards or external) for 5 years
- the committees of existing accreditation councils could be utilised so long as their decisions are independent of the council they are part of
- Committee responsible for developing accreditation standards for approval by the accreditation board
- Committee responsible for accreditation of Australian courses; recognition of OS authorities and assessing skills of OS trained graduates

Accreditation Review: draft report highlights

- common frameworks of accreditation procedures, competency statements and assessment of overseas trained graduates; overseas accrediting authorities across professions
- inter-professional education and variety of locations of clinical training mandated outcome based accreditation
- establish a cross-professional pool of experts for use in assessment teams

Accreditation Review: draft report highlights

involve **consumers** in decision making:

- board
- Committee
- assessment teams

Input into:

- Development of standards and policies
- Accreditation
- Assessment process

Accreditation Review: draft report highlights

appoint a National Health Practitioner
Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner to
review grievance processes and decisions in
relation to both accreditation of programs and
assessment of skills

Accreditation Review: Draft report summary

- Government issues periodic Statements of expectation
- Governance: Central committee/board oversees policy review process to identify national health workforce priorities which align with broader health and social care policies and ensure continuous quality improvement
- Efficiency, consistency, fairness in processes
- establish a set of clear, consistent and holistic performance indicators against which accreditation functions are evaluated

References

Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care, Right-touch regulation revised October 2015

ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management Standard

AHMAC Australia's Health Workforce: strengthening the educational foundation. Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions – Draft report September 2017 available at:

<http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/>

Questions?