



## Policy on recognition and reaccreditation of vocational scopes and / or branch advisory bodies (BAB)

### Policy Statement

To be recognised or continue to be recognised as a vocational scope, the group must show that:

1. the scope is well defined and grounded in widely recognised medical and scientific concepts; and
2. The scope is demonstrably contributing to improvements in the quality and safety of health care:
  - The group must identify similar existing or overlapping scopes and justify why this scope should be considered a scope in its own right; and
3. the scope has a sustainable base in the medical profession as indicated by a sufficient number of practitioners; and

To be accredited or continue to be reaccredited as a BAB, the group must show:

4. it has appropriate structure, personnel and modus operandi to provide training, assessment, recertification and advice to Council on training, qualifications and experience relating to the scope; and
5. it has an existing training programme of proven standing:
  - that is consistent with medical and scientific concepts that define the scope (see 1 above)
  - includes the key competencies of the Council's *Domains of Competence* (or another internationally recognised framework)
  - on completion, has a single nationally recognisable qualification for inclusion in the medical register; and
6. it provides an existing recertification programme (see Council's policy on recertification programmes) that assists doctors working in the vocational scope to maintain their competence throughout their working lives; and
7. respect for cultural competence and identify formal components of the training and recertification programmes that contribute to the cultural competence of trainees,

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8. Criteria 1-3 relate to the formulation and definition of a scope of practice.
  9. Criteria 4-7 relate to the acceptability of the organisational structures and internal systems, including the training and recertification programmes, of a BAB.
  10. Vocational scope recognition will involve an initial recognition review. Accreditation of the BAB for the provision of training and recertification programmes will follow. There will be periodic (at least once every ten years) reaccreditation reviews by the Council.
  11. Whenever the Council makes additions to the criteria for BAB recognition, BABs will be advised and given appropriate time to implement the changes to their training and recertification programmes.
  12. The Council requires BABs to have a training programme for the vocational scope of practice as noted in the application document.
  13. While not a criterion for recognition, organisations applying for recognition as a BAB should be aware that they and their members are expected to assist the Council in its statutory responsibilities by carrying out the following functions:
    - be willing to enter into a collegial relationship with doctors registered in a similar general scope
    - have a process for assessing international medical graduates with qualification and experience relative to the BAB vocational scope
    - be willing to serve on Professional Conduct Committees (PCC), Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT), Performance Assessment Committees (PAC) or be expert advisers, education or clinical supervisors.
  14. Criteria 1-3 (of the Policy on recognition of vocational scopes and / or branch advisory bodies) will be removed from the reaccreditation reviews in the following circumstances:
    - the branch has been recognised as a vocational branch since the introduction of the HPCAA, or
    - the branch has been given full reaccreditation (ie for a maximum of 10 years – 6+4) since it was recognised, or
    - the branch is an Australasian branch undergoing joint AMC/MCNZ accreditation, subject to the outcome of an investigation by Council's registrar as to how a branch could be removed under the HPCAA without the assessment of criteria 1-3 during a reaccreditation review.
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