Western Sydney University welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions. Our submission incorporates a consolidation of comments from our Health Deans in relation to the issues listed in the discussion paper.

Currently the different accreditation standards and processes across the health disciplines (regulated under the National Scheme) has inefficiencies at an institutional level. It would be advantageous to develop a consistent component or baseline content of university level attributes in relation to issues relating to governance (academic and operational), student support, facilities etc. Those elements would then not need to be independently assessed across each discipline.

The development of a consistent framework and, where possible, terminology would also be advantageous and provide the potential to align existing data collection and reporting requirements. Consistent terminology and requirements within accreditation standards would also be advantageous in relation to inter-professional collaboration, learning and practice. However, profession and discipline specific content should continue to dominate.

The introduction of online reporting capabilities would be of benefit in terms of improving efficiency.

The nature of academic work particularly in profession specific domains means that there are experts engaging in ongoing professional practice and related research which actively informs curriculum development within a university environment. This in conjunction with the formal and informal partnership with the health system informs the structure of academic programs and clinical experiences and ensures that graduates are well prepared to move onto the next phases of their clinical practice/training.