

Accreditation

Accreditation is a process whereby a practice is assessed to ensure services are meeting a high standard of safety and quality. This is critical for high performance primary care.

Benefits of accreditation include:

- Quality and safe service provision
- Patient confidence
- Reduced business risk
- Eligibility for PIP and other schemes
- Quality improvement (QI) and CPD points
- Maintained regulatory requirements and national standards

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) does not provide direct support for accreditation. For general practice, we endorse the use of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) [Standards for general practices \(5th Edition\)](#), which are available, along with many complimentary resources, on the [website](#).

General practices can achieve accreditation against these Standards from an independent accreditation agency. For more information, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality Health Care administer the [National General Practice Accreditation Scheme](#) which supports the consistent assessment of Australian General Practices against the standards.

Australia's general practice accreditation bodies are:

- [AGPAL](#)
- [Quality Practice Accreditation](#)
- [Global Mark](#)
- [The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards](#)

Other Australian primary care accreditation bodies include:

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee](#)
- [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority](#)
- [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council](#)
- [Australian Pharmacy Council](#)



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.





When should you apply for accreditation?

Accreditation works on a three-year cycle, meaning your practice will require an onsite assessment once every three years, unless an issue is identified, or you relocate.

It's important that you register for accreditation 12 months prior to your current accreditation expiring. New practices have one year to obtain accreditation after their registration date.

Who carries out the accreditation visit?

The accreditation visit is carried out by at least two qualified health workers, as part of a peer review process.

What happens if my clinic is found non-compliant?

If your clinic fails to meet a standard, you will have a chance to carry out improvement activities. There are a large range of possible non-compliances such as poor medical records, poor maintenance, poor storage, poor handover processes, missing documentation, or expired products.