



# Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Communiqué

## Model Standards and Procedures for Training Site Accreditation

March 2026

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM, the College) is progressing work on implementation of the Australian Medical Council's (AMC) model standards and procedures for training site accreditation. This communiqué is intended to keep training sites and other stakeholders informed of developments in the project. The College extends its appreciation for your ongoing commitment to supporting and delivering high-quality training for trainees.

### What are the model standards and procedures?

The FACEM Training Program must be delivered at ACEM accredited training sites in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Training site accreditation is currently completed in line with the ACEM Accreditation Requirements.

As part of national reforms to strengthen transparency, consistency and collaboration in medical education, ACEM is working with the AMC, Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa (Medical Council of New Zealand), health departments and other specialist medical colleges to implement revised accreditation standards and procedures for training settings over the coming years.

ACEM aims to fully implement model standards and procedures by February 2027.

Read more about model standards and procedures [here](#).

### Why is this changing?

Model standards and procedures are being introduced to:

- Develop a consistent accreditation approach across all specialist medical colleges;
- Create greater transparency regarding expectations around accreditation;
- Foster collaboration between specialist medical colleges and health services; and
- Facilitate better data and reporting about accreditation.

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## What has ACEM done to date?

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The Accreditation Model Standards Working Group (AMS WG) is guiding the implementation of the AMC model accreditation standards and procedures within the College. Its responsibilities include overseeing incorporation of the model standards into the College's accreditation framework, developing College-specific requirements to ensure standards align with the College's training and accreditation needs, and supporting progress through the College's governance processes.

### **Strengthened procedural fairness**

The revised procedural fairness process underwent a successful trial in November 2025. This process allows sites an opportunity to respond to a draft accreditation decision before it has been finalised. This includes:

- The ability to submit factual corrections;
- The option to provide additional, directly relevant evidence that may impact an accreditation decision; and
- The opportunity to participate in a scheduled verbal discussion with the inspection panel.

The process is now fully embedded within accreditation procedures and represents an important enhancement to fairness, transparency and consistency in decision-making.

### **Developed draft College-specific requirements**

The AMS WG has developed draft college-specific requirements (CSRs), which are currently progressing through an extended period of internal and external consultation and review. These CSRs articulate requirements unique to the College that are not explicitly addressed within the model standards.

Due to delays in external consultation processes, the anticipated timeframe has been revised, with approval and publication of the complete ACEM standards with CSRs now targeted for August 2026.

## What will ACEM do next?

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### **Adopting risk-based accreditation decision-making**

A risk-based framework for making accreditation decisions will be adopted from April 2026. It involves the use of a matrix and supporting tools developed by the AMC, to address the relative severity of a risk that may arise if standards are not met.

For sites, this means accreditation decisions will be more transparent, consistent and proportionate to the level of risk identified. It will help set clearer expectations about what is required and how areas of concern will be managed. The framework also supports procedural fairness by ensuring that decisions are not influenced by differing individual interpretations, but instead are based on a structured and consistent approach.

Importantly, this approach is designed to support health services to continue delivering care, while ensuring that any identified risks are appropriately addressed and managed.

### **Adopting common terminology**

Terminology to describe accreditation decisions will be standardised and used by all colleges from April 2026. Accreditation decisions will follow a structure outlining a site's attainment of each accreditation standard as being met, substantially met, or not met.

For sites, this means greater clarity about how performance against each standard is judged and what the outcome means in practical terms. This shift will provide greater consistency in how standards are assessed and communicated, making accreditation outcomes easier to understand across colleges.

### **Publication of the updated accreditation standards**

Following relevant internal and external approval processes, the College aims to finalise and publish its updated accreditation standards by August 2026.

The standards will be accompanied by an embedded set of CSRs that are specific and vital for meeting outcomes of the FACEM Training Program.

### **Site support mechanisms**

To support sites in transitioning to the new accreditation framework, the College will also be developing and updating a suite of resources to guide the application and interpretation of the model standards and associated procedures. These resources will also provide examples that demonstrate how a site can meet each standard. It is anticipated that these supporting materials will be released progressively throughout 2026 to ensure sites are able to prepare for accreditation cycle renewals.

## **Contact**

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The College will continue to provide regular updates to sites and stakeholders as this project progresses. For further information, please visit the ACEM website [here](#) or contact Michael Mihatsch – Project Lead, Accreditation at [michael.mihatsch@acem.org.au](mailto:michael.mihatsch@acem.org.au).



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