



AUSTRALIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

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Dear Colleague

### **APA Support for Physiotherapy Practice Accreditation**

I commend your commitment to physiotherapy practice accreditation and hope you will continue to be a leader in the field.

#### **APA Support for Practice Accreditation**

The APA is a strong supporter of practice accreditation because it sends important messages to the community, clients, peers, medical colleagues, third party purchasers and key decision makers in the Australian health care system that physiotherapists are seriously committed to excellence in primary health care.

The APA is taking an active stance on private health insurance reform and is arguing for the staged implementation of accreditation requirements so that neither physiotherapists nor physiotherapy consumers are disadvantaged.

The APA is also taking an active role in the important review of national safety and quality accreditation standards, which is currently being undertaken by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare.

In addition, the APA Board has approved some special initiatives to recognise the efforts of physiotherapy practices in achieving accredited status:

- **APA Quality Innovation Awards** – all participating practices will be eligible to nominate for either a \$5000 Award (metropolitan practices) or a \$5000 Award (rural and remote practices) to recognise an outstanding innovation made by the practice in the domain of safety and/or quality. Nominations will be evaluated by an APA committee which will include a member of the QIP Board and an accreditation surveyor.
- **Continuing Professional Development Points** – for participating practices, principals will earn 25 CPD points per year for a three year accreditation cycle and all other APA members working in the practice will earn 15 CPD points per year for a three year accreditation cycle.
- **Quality in Practice (QIP) Branding in APA Directories** – participating practices will be highlighted with the QIP accredited practice logo in all APA Referrers' Directories.
- **QIP Branding on APA website** – participating practices will be highlighted with the QIP accredited practice logo on the Find-a-Physio section of the APA website.

- **APA Policy Commitment** – the APA will actively support the provision of ‘broader health cover’ products by health funds and the staged implementation of practice accreditation as a prerequisite for ‘broader health cover’ services.

### **QIP Support for Practice Accreditation**

The APA’s industry partner, Quality in Practice Pty Limited (QIP), is fully committed to helping physiotherapy practices prepare for accreditation.

QIP has been working closely with the APA to prepare a range of tools such as template policies and procedures to help accredited practices comply with the APA Standards. QIP has recently finalised an electronic self assessment system, AccreditationPro, to guide a physiotherapy practice through the accreditation process. Live links will provide the practice with access to supporting resources.

In addition, QIP is developing a comprehensive training program for physiotherapist surveyors.

### **APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices (8<sup>th</sup> edition)**

The APA’s 8<sup>th</sup> edition Standards for Physiotherapy Practices were developed by physiotherapists for physiotherapists and are owned by the Association. The Standards are accessible on the research and quality section of the APA website ([www.physiotherapy.asn.au](http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au)).

There are five categories of Standards which cover:

- rights and needs of clients
- practice services
- practice management
- physical environment
- quality physiotherapy.

Each category contains guidance material to help practices understand the Standards, as well as resource material to assist practices in complying with each set of mandatory assessment indicators.

### **Further Information**

Queries about the APA Standards for Physiotherapy Practices should be directed to the APA’s General Manager (Victoria and Quality Practice), Jennifer Lake ([jennifer.lake@physiotherapy.asn.au](mailto:jennifer.lake@physiotherapy.asn.au)).

Queries about the accreditation process, including AccreditationPro and requesting a survey visit, should be directed to the QIP Team on 1300 888 329 or [info@qip.com.au](mailto:info@qip.com.au).

The APA Board of Directors acknowledges the effort that is required to attain and maintain accredited status and appreciates your demonstrable commitment to excellence in primary health care. This commitment is a great credit to you and your practice.

Kind regards



Peter Fazey FACP  
National President