

## Framework

The Framework provides an enhanced accreditation system incorporating key points within the program accreditation process whilst maintaining the AASW commitment to a collegial and collaborative engagement with Higher Education Providers and stakeholders. The Framework will focus on

- Ensuring transparency and consistency in approach, scope, focus and reporting across panels while reducing room for personal bias, undue influence and excessive demands of individual members
- Introducing an AASW Accreditation Council with overarching responsibilities
- Streamlining the process of accreditation and reduce the time and cost of accreditation on HEPs
- Making the HEP annual reports transparent and central to the process of accreditation in the form of self-assessment of progress
- Giving more explicit emphasis to the importance of standards for the benefit of the profession as opposed to focusing on inputs as compliance requirements.



### AASW Board

- Maintains oversight of Accreditation Framework and program standards and manage the risk with respect to final decision making.
- Approves Accreditation Council Membership and Terms of Reference
  - Receives notification from Accreditation Council on final accreditation decisions
  - Where the Accreditation Council have recommended the revoking of a HEPs program accreditation, the Board in making their final decision to endorse or not, would ensure due process was correctly followed throughout the Accreditation process by all stakeholders.



### AASW CEO

- Oversees risk on behalf of the Board
- Operational responsibility for Accreditation Council and Accreditation Framework
- Maintains overall integrity of the accreditation process
- Manages dispute resolution pathways and appeals process
- Facilitates communication between the HEP, the review panel and the AASW
- Mediates decisions between Council and Board.



### Accreditation Council

- Comprised of skilled based experts of national standing to act in an independent capacity with a clear remit to
- Review accreditation reports tabled from AASW Review Panels against the ASWEAS
  - Formally decide accreditation status of social work education programs
  - Report accreditation decisions to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
  - Make recommendations to the AASW Board on matters outside its remit such as revoking the accreditation of a program
  - Establish and maintain a "Register of Approved Accreditation Review Panel Members."



### AASW Secretariat

- Which will include the Accreditation team who will become more active and involved in screening applications, responding to requests, early identification of potential non-compliance issues and provide continued support to stakeholders throughout the process.
- Liaises directly with HEP appointed staff as the AASW point of contact
  - Provides training and advice to HEPs from initial contact to conclusion of the accreditation
  - Develops guidelines and training manuals
  - Facilitates document management and reporting process
  - Supports Council, Review Panels and Chairs
  - Provides ongoing training and induction for Panel Members
  - Coordinates Review Panel site visits with HEP.

**Annual Report** to be a mandatory requirement provided annually and have a cumulative role of self-assessment which will increase the usefulness of the exercise for all participants.

**Higher Education Provider Accreditation Application** submitted by the Provider outlining that their student cohort within their social work designed and delivered programs have achieved the professional competencies and learning outcomes identified as necessary for entry into professional practice by the ASWEAS.

**Accreditation Assessment Panels** will continue to review and assess a Higher Education Providers practices and processes against the ASWEAS, ensuring that social work graduates are competent against the graduate attributes and confident to join the social work sector. The Assessment Panel will provide an Accreditation Assessment Report to the Accreditation Council which will provide recommendations on the Providers accreditation.

**Training and Induction** to ensure confidence in the Accreditation Assessment Panels and their decision making is essential. The AASW will provide a systematic approach to induction and training of Panel members regarding their roles and responsibilities to ensure consistency in their approach, scope and focus.