



Independent Hospital Pricing Authority Classification System for Teaching, Training and Research

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The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the national association of the dietetics profession with over 5800 members. DAA is a leader in nutrition and advocates for food and nutrition for healthier people and healthier nations. DAA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Classification System for Teaching, Training and Research by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority.

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DAA interest in this consultation

DAA is supportive of developing an Activity Based Funding system for teaching, training and research to support high quality, evidence based and efficient teaching and training across the healthcare setting.

Discussion

DAA has provided a response to the questions posed by IHPA.

1. Does your profession require clinical placements in hospitals in order for practitioners to obtain their professional qualification? If so, what length of time is required for the clinical placement?

Yes, all dietetics students are required to complete a minimum of 100 days of clinical placement to meet the National Competency Standards¹ and obtain their professional qualification. Recently the accreditation standards around clinical placements has shifted to an outcomes-focused model. DAA no longer mandates the minimum number of days that each student must complete within a hospital environment. Instead, Universities are required to demonstrate evidence that all students are provided appropriate depth and breadth of experience to acquire and demonstrate competence across the spectrum of dietetic practice.² This includes sufficient experience in acute-care settings.

2. Does your profession require internships in hospitals in order for practitioners to obtain their professional qualification? If so, what length of time is required for the clinical placement?

There is no internship requirement in addition to the 100 days of clinical placement required for dietetics students.

3. Does your profession require registration?

Dietetics is a self-regulated profession and is a member of the National Agency of Self Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP) which benchmark against the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) requirements. DAA administers the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) program, the credentialing program for dietitians in Australia. Registration is not required to practise as a dietitian in Australia, however APD is the only credential recognised by the Australian government for Medicare and Department of Veterans' Affairs purposes. Many employers of dietitians require employees to either hold or be eligible to hold the APD credential.

4. Does your profession require post-registration residencies or equivalent?

No, dietetics does not require post-registration residencies or equivalent.

5. Are there any differences in the implementation of these requirements between states and territories?

There are no differences in the requirements for dietitians between states and territories.

References

1. Dietitians Association of Australia, National Competency Standards for Dietitians in Australia. 2015. (Available from <http://daa.asn.au/ncs/>)
2. Dietitians Association of Australia, Accreditation Standards for Dietetics Education Programs. 2017. (Available from <https://daa.asn.au/becoming-a-dietitian-in-australia/accreditation-of-dietetics-education-programs/accreditation-standards-and-processes/>)