



Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education

Report re: major stakeholder consultation in June–July 2025

A stakeholder survey was conducted to collect feedback on the draft *Australian Standards for Health Practitioner Pain Management Education*.

Survey content

Respondents to the survey were provided with access to the draft standards, including the overarching standard (or theme), the associated standards within the theme and the criteria for the standards both in the online survey and as a downloadable PDF. Information on how the standards were developed was also provided.

Demographic questions were mandatory, focusing on individual respondents and requesting basic organisational details where relevant. All other survey questions were optional.

For each of the six overarching standards, the survey presented three closed questions asking for a level of agreement on a five-point scale for the:

- overarching standard / theme,
- associated standards within that theme, and
- criteria within the standards in the theme.

Respondents who selected “disagree” or “strongly disagree” were prompted with an open-ended question to provide a rationale for disagreement (individuals who agreed were also able to complete the open-ended response question). Respondents were also asked to list any resources they would appreciate on the standards’ online hub or at a future stage and also describe how they might use the standards. Finally, respondents were invited to provide their contact details to receive information about the project results.

Survey accessibility

The online, free-access survey was open from Monday 23 June to Friday 18 July 2025. No login or authentication was required, enabling ease of access; while this approach did not prevent multiple submissions from a single individual, this was considered a low risk.

Invitations to complete the survey were emailed to key contacts within relevant organisations, individuals who had participated in the standards development (e.g. via the stakeholder consultation sessions) and/or had previously registered their interest. The survey was promoted via social media and conference presentations. Two follow-up reminders were sent – one at the midpoint of the survey and another in the final week.

Results of the consultation

This resulted in 164 organisations and individuals engaging with the survey, which was a very pleasing result.

Of the individual respondents, 53% were health practitioners, 16% identified as health consumers, 31% were educators and 7% indicated they worked in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. Many individual respondents also reported that they held secondary roles (e.g. health practitioner and educator). The types of organisations that responded to the survey included universities, medical colleges, professional associations, pain organisations and consumer advocacy groups.

The quantitative results from the survey indicated that:

- at least 94.7% agreed or strongly agreed (range: 94.7–99.2%) with the draft overarching standards (themes).
- at least 90.7% agreed or strongly agreed (range: 90.7–97.3%) with the associated standards within each theme.
- at least 84.8% agreed or strongly agreed (range: 84.8–93.6%) with the criteria for each standard.

As the level of detail in the content receiving feedback increased, the level of agreement with that content decreased. For those respondents indicating a disagreement, the “free text response” comments usually suggested that the disagreement was of a minor nature; for example, suggesting a slight re-phrasing of a criterion. The project team thoroughly considered all free text responses received via the survey and determined the changes needed to the draft standards. The results of the project team’s review were then considered by the project’s Governance Advisory Group at their August meeting.

Final project steps

The penultimate set of draft standards was then approved by the FPM Board in September and the final project report (including the final set of draft standards) was submitted to government on 13 October 2025. A final project update will be sent to all stakeholders in late October.

To maximise accessibility once the standards are formally endorsed by government, a dedicated “online hub” has been developed to house them. Developed by FPM staff in recent months, the hub also includes resources to support understanding and encourage uptake of the standards. All stakeholders will be informed once the standards are approved and the online hub is live.

If you have any questions regarding the standards, please contact [FPM](#).