

Interested in Becoming an Accreditation Surveyor?

Are you passionate about prevocational medical education? Ever wondered what the standards were that health services must abide by to have interns? Do you want to see behind the scenes of how prevocational medical education works in our health services?

BECOME an Accreditation Surveyor

An Accreditation Surveyor is a volunteer who works with the Postgraduate Medical Council of WA (PMCWA) to conduct Accreditation Surveys of health services who have interns and residents. The key part of the role is to be on a survey team (consisting of 2-3 surveyors) that interviews key personnel who are involved in prevocational medical education at that health service.

Why do we conduct Accreditation Surveys?

Health services who have interns and residents are required to demonstrate they can offer sufficient experience, education, training, supervision, assessment, evaluation, support, and a safe working environment to enable prevocational doctors to meet the objectives of their training program.

Accreditation Surveys are formal evaluations that assess the health sites against set standards to confirm they are offering all this to our interns and residents.

Who can be an Accreditation Surveyor?

Any medical practitioner, health professional or education professional who has experience in clinical practice and/or medical education in the health system can register to become a PMCWA Accreditation Surveyor.

What role does a new Surveyor have on the Survey Team?

New surveyors start as a 'Trainee' Surveyor. Survey teams will also include more experienced surveyors 'Support' and 'Lead' surveyors.

The 'Trainee' role is to simply watch and learn and become gradually more involved in asking questions as part of the interviews and contributing to the report writing. This will be done under the direction and support of the Lead Surveyor as you become more familiar and competent with the process.



How much time does the process take out of my day?

The length of a survey will depend on the nature and/or number of units being reviewed.

Your first step as a new Trainee Surveyor will be to become familiar with the Accreditation Standards that you will be assessing health services against. Once this task is done, each survey will involve you completing the following tasks:

1. Prepare for the survey by reading the material that PMCWA will provide you before the visit
2. Participate in the survey interviews
3. Contribute to the writing of the reports.

The time to complete each of these tasks will depend on the complexity of the issues identified at the health service/unit being assessed and the type of survey being conducted.

Do I receive any financial compensation?

Working as a PMCWA surveyor is not a paid position. All PMCWA surveyors participate out of interest and goodwill, to contribute to safe and appropriate training for junior medical officers in WA.

Surveyors either volunteer in their own time or are released by their employer from normal duties to undertake surveys. If required, the PMCWA Chair can provide a letter of support to your employer.

Can I list an accreditation survey as PD?

Yes. If you wish to take PD leave to participate in a survey, you may request PMCWA provide you with a PD leave support letter as evidence.

Several colleges have confirmed that participating in Accreditation Surveys may be counted towards CPD hours. However, specific information pertaining to each college will need to be sourced individually regarding what activities are accepted and what evidence is required. Surveyors, that are Medical Officers under the AMA(WA) Agreement, may wish to use "Office Bearers" leave to attend a PMCWA accreditation survey. This has been supported by the AMA (WA).

How do I apply to be a surveyor?

Email PMCWA.Accreditation@health.wa.gov.au to express your interest in becoming a surveyor, include information on your current role and any previous experience you have had in accreditation programs or prevocational medical education.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

