

Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards 2024 (ASWEAS)

The Australian Social Work Education & Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS 2024) comes into full effect for all Higher Education Providers from 1 January 2026. Accreditation standards are concerned with the quality of social work education programs in the interests of public safety.

The **ASWEAS 2024** represents a transformation, positioning social work education within an outcome-based framework. This shift in focus raises the capability of all graduates ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attributes needed and will reassure the public they are fit for safe, effective, and ethical practice as entry-level practitioners.

Transition arrangements will be in place to support Higher Education Providers as they continue to move through their accreditation cycle over 2025 & 2026, with all Providers required to be utilising the ASWEAS 2024 from 1 January 2026 for all accreditation applications.

Applications up to 1st January 2026.

The AASW acknowledge that any HE Provider will need time to align with the ASWEAS 2024 and approvals through internal committees may be required, therefore during the transition period being November 2024 to 1 January 2026, the AASW will accept applications in the following manner.

Accreditation Assessment	Application alignment with ASWEAS Version
*Accreditation assessments up until December 2025 for existing Providers	ASWEAS 2020 or ASWEAS 2024
Accreditation assessments for new Providers from 1 Jan 2025 onwards (<i>unless discussed and agreed with the AASW</i>)	ASWEAS 2024
Accreditation assessments for all Providers from 1 Jan 2026 and onwards	ASWEAS 2024

** Note if an existing HE Provider is due for accreditation assessment in the second half of 2025, they may choose to align with the ASWEAS 2024.*

From 1 January 2026, all accreditations must align with ASWEAS 2024. In 2025, Higher Education Providers undergoing accreditation utilising ASWEAS 2020 are required to include a plan in their application outlining how they will transition to the ASWEAS 2024 during their accreditation cycle.

Providers not undergoing an accreditation process in 2025 should submit their transition plan with their 2025 Annual Report. A Transition Plan template is available on the AASW website on the ASWEAS 2024 page.

Where a Provider is accredited under the existing ASWEAS 2020, all elements of the Standards must be met as articulated, and conditions may still be applied if compliance is not demonstrated. Providers cannot selectively combine elements of ASWEAS 2020 and ASWEAS 2024 in their application or compliance process.

The Accreditation Assessment Panel maintains the authority and expertise to assess compliance and will exercise reasonable and practicable principles when identifying whether adequate evidence has been provided and in forming their recommendations. Where the Panel determines that a criterion has not been sufficiently demonstrated, they may recommend additional resources or improvements to ensure students are not disadvantaged.

The AASW Accreditation team will continue to work with each Provider to ensure that their social work programs meet the transition requirements and that their accreditation assessment process remains on schedule and meets the relevant Standards.

If you have any queries regarding your accreditation, please contact the AASW Accreditation team on education@asw.asn.au.

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