



AUSTRALIAN  
PHYSIOTHERAPY  
ASSOCIATION

# National Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (AMP) Physiotherapy Framework

Background to AMP

August 2019

# Why is the APA developing a National Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (AMP) Physiotherapy Framework?

To enhance **safe and effective** care for **patients** receiving Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice Physiotherapy.

## **THROUGH:**

Creating a recognisable, reproducible and nationally transferable training and assessment framework for AMP credentialing.

Simply put, just as you are comfortable a registered physiotherapist has met the APC standards of practice, we hope, if a physio has completed the APA National AMP Competency Pathway, you will feel confident they have met the minimum performance standard of AMP in their clinical setting.

## But, what is advanced musculoskeletal physiotherapy practice?

“ A role that is within the currently recognised scope of practice for that profession, but that through custom and practice has been performed by other professions.

The advanced role may require additional training, as well as significant professional experience and competency development.\* ”

! AKA: expanded scope roles, extended scope roles, emergency physiotherapy practitioners

\*Australian Physiotherapy Association. Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) Scope of Practice [Position Statement]. Melbourne; 2009.  
[http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/DocumentsFolder/Advocacy\\_Position\\_Scope\\_of\\_Practice\\_2009.pdf](http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/DocumentsFolder/Advocacy_Position_Scope_of_Practice_2009.pdf).

# What does advanced musculoskeletal practice look like?

AMP physiotherapists work in a variety of clinical settings and may perform tasks such as:

- Fast track patients for surgery in orthopaedics or neurosurgical clinics
- Remove patients from surgical waiting lists
- Order and interpret medical imaging tests
- Refer directly to specialist medical practitioners
- Relocate dislocations and fractures in emergency
- Order and interpret pathology tests
- Perform post-surgical follow-up
- Provide a consultant level opinion to referring medical practitioners

However, it is the advanced **clinical reasoning** underpinning these tasks and the autonomy that they may be performed that represents **advanced practice**.

# What does a National framework mean for the workforce?



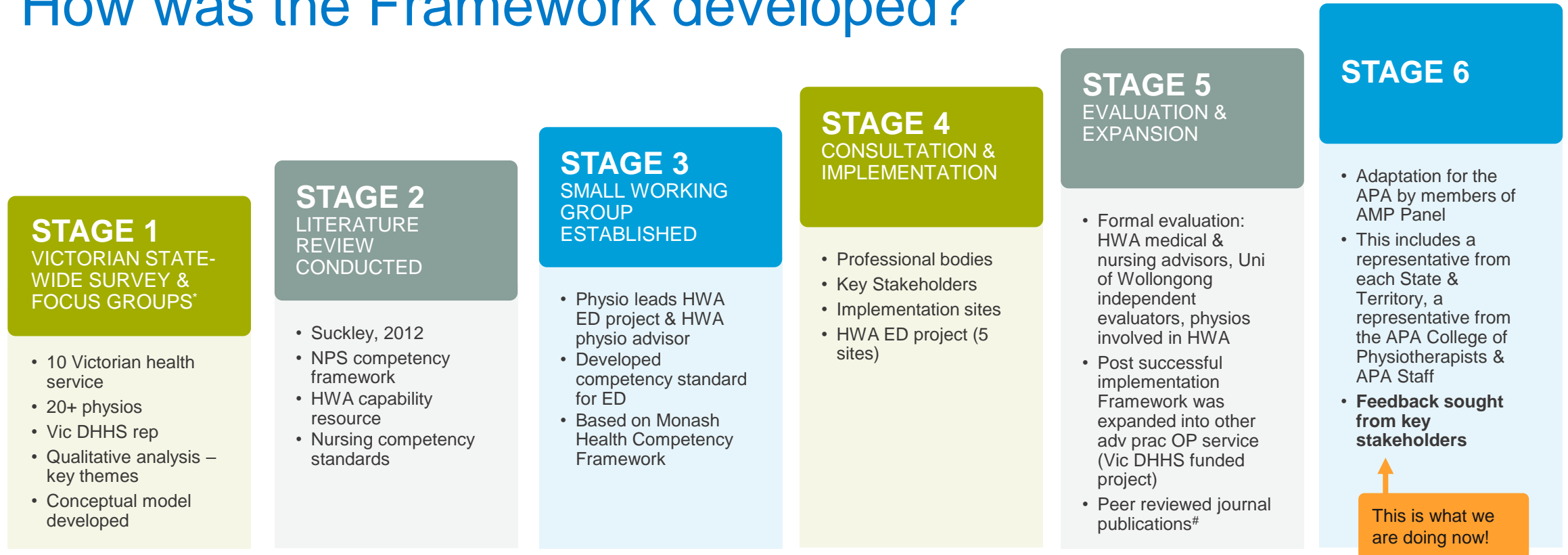
**Patients and Healthcare providers in both places can be confident they are receiving safe and effective care**

## How was the framework developed?

The APA framework was adapted from that developed by the Victorian DHHS and endorsed by Health Workforce Australia.



# How was the Framework developed?



\*ethics approval granted

DHHS = Department of health & human services, ED=Emergency Department, HWA = Health Workforce Australia, NPS=National Prescribing Service, OP=outpatients  
#Harding, P et al (2015). Advanced musculoskeletal physiotherapy clinical education framework supporting an emerging new workforce. *Australian Health Review*, 39(3), 271-282.

# What does the APA AMP Standard look like?

## THERE ARE TWO PARTS OF THE STANDARD

Core components which are common to all areas of AMP

Professional behaviours

Lifelong learning

Communication

Provision and coordination of care

And five elective components that address specific areas of practice

EMERGENCY

SPINAL

ORTHOPAEDICS

POST-SURGICAL

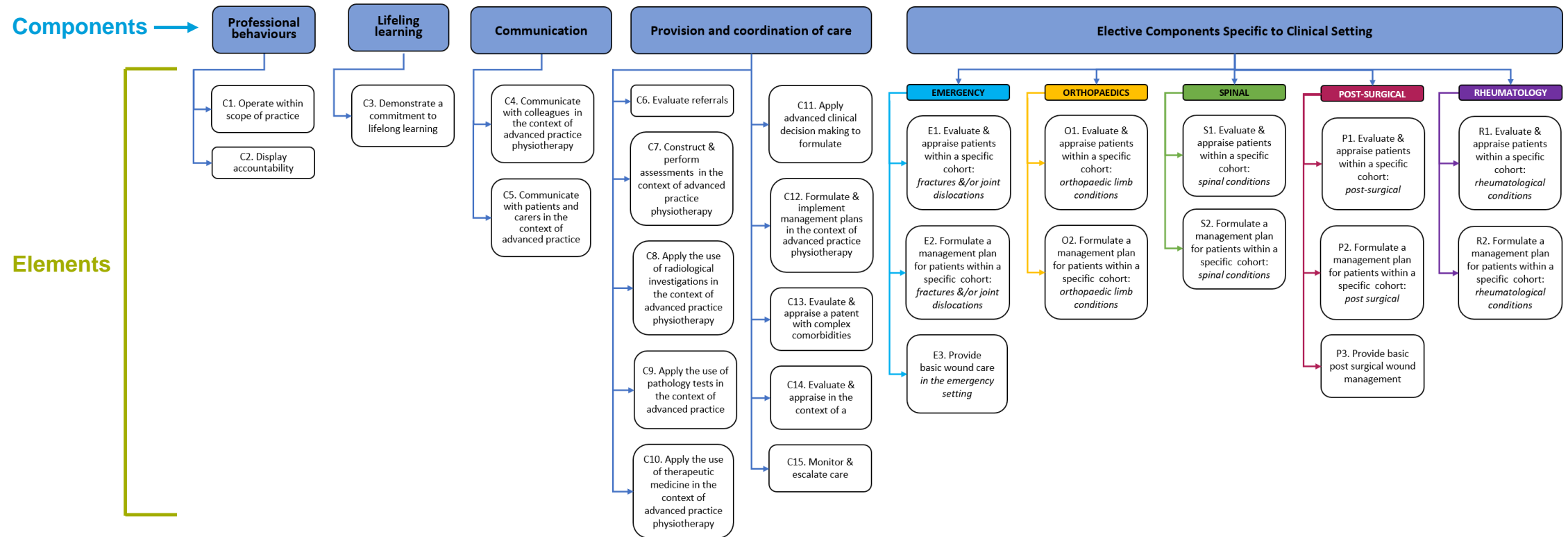
RHEUMATOLOGY

It is important to note the APA AMP Standard does not replace the APC standards of practice, instead, it supplements them and describes specific standards for Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice



# The Standard

Each component has a number of **elements** of practice underpinning it.



# How the elements appear in the standard

<b>ELEMENT</b> Elements describe the essential outcome of the competency standard	<b>PERFORMANCE CRITERIA</b> The performance criteria specify the level of the performance required to demonstrate achievement of the element	Related APA coding	<b>PERFORMANCE CUES</b> Performance cues provide practical examples of what an independent performer may look like in action
C1. Operate within scope of practice	C1.1 Identify and act within own knowledge base and scope of practice	1.1 3.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confer with expert colleagues for a second opinion when unsure or exposed to uncommon presentations</li> <li>Refrain from assessment, decision making, treatment and procedures outside scope</li> </ul>
C2. Display accountability	C1.3. Demonstrate responsibility for own actions, as it applies to the practice context	7.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the additional responsibilities resulting from working in advanced practice roles</li> <li>Identify the impact own decision making has on patient outcomes and act to minimise risks</li> </ul>

Professional behaviours

**Elements** are the overarching, essential skills required of an AMP Physios

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C2. Display accountability	C1.2 Work towards the full extent of the role	1.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the additional responsibilities resulting from working in advanced practice roles</li> <li>• Identify the impact own decision making has on patient outcomes and act to minimise risks</li> </ul>
	C1.3. Demonstrate responsibility for own actions, as it applies to the practice context	7.2.1	

**Performance criteria** specify the expected level of performance required under each element. These are set standards common to all roles.

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**Performance cues** are examples of what behaviours of a candidate in your setting that demonstrates performance against the criteria. They can be populated by a facility to meet the needs of their organisation.

Performance cues are what performance criteria “look like” in your work setting.

## What is next for the Framework?

We are now asking you to review the Standard document and provide feedback.

We welcome your feedback as it will help build support, interest and inform the AMP plans for **future engagement** around **implementing** the Standard of competency within a practice Framework.



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