



## **Council of Ambulance Authorities GRADUATE PARAMEDIC RECRUITMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

The Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) represents the public ambulance services in Australia and New Zealand. These ten organisations are the major employers of qualified Paramedic professionals in the region.

The CAA has established a Paramedic Education Programs Accreditation Scheme (PEPAS) for entry-level, or entry to practice level, paramedic courses provided by the higher education sector.

Formal accreditation of tertiary programs under PEPAS is aimed at ensuring that the required workforce skills, professional practice behaviours and competencies are reflected in the programs provided by the higher education sector in Australia and New Zealand.

This accreditation scheme is an essential part of a quality assurance process. It ensures that required standards are met and that there is consistency in the core components of the education programs provided. This provides confidence to graduating Paramedics that the programs they have participated in have equipped them with the knowledge, skills and qualifications to be eligible to seek employment with public ambulance services in Australia and New Zealand.

The CAA member jurisdictions have agreed to give preference to employing students, on merit, who graduate from accredited Paramedicine programs over graduates from non-accredited programs.

The CAA maintains a list of accredited courses on its web site. The different levels listed reflect the length of time the course concerned has been part of the PEPAS process and are not a ranking in terms of merit or quality.

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