

# Fellow of the Dietitians Association of Australia (FDAA)

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This policy outlines the management of the FDAA credential and application process.

## BACKGROUND

A FDAA is a high profile and proactive leader who uses high level nutrition and dietetic skills and influence to significantly enhance the health of the community.

APDs will be awarded the recognition of FDAA by demonstrating the attributes of an Advanced Practitioner at a broader and higher level. They will be recognised as an expert nationally and internationally and have clearly made an outstanding contribution to nutrition and dietetics in Australian, the wider community and to the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

The FDAA credential is considered an honour by the Association. Once achieved, FDAA status is continuous – no further application renewal or evidence is required.

FDAA sits in the Awards Hierarchy as an Honour of the Association.

While an FDAA is maintaining their APD status, they must abide by the requirements of the APD program. These include completing annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and online logging, and adherence to the Code of Professional Conduct and Statement of Ethical Practice. They are subject to annual 5% random audit of APDs and they can be subject to Complaints and Disciplinary procedures if warranted.

When an FDAA retires and chooses not to retain their APD status, they are still able to participate in activities that require APD status for the immediate five years post retirement.

The requirements of FDAAs are outlined in the below table:

Requirements:	Retired Fellow with APD Status	Retired Fellow without APD status	Fellow (not retired, working)
Membership category	Full Member	Retired Member	Full Member
Fee required	Retired member fee	Retired member fee	Full member fees
Annual CPD requirement (30 hours)	Yes	No	Yes
Declare Recency of Practice annually	Yes	No	Yes
Eligible for:			
• Mentoring	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Committees (where APD mandated)	Yes	Yes	Yes

• DAA representation (where APD mandated)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Assessment of AdvAPD / FDAA applications	Yes	Yes	Yes
	If meeting APD requirements, there is no time limit on the above	The above can only be done for up to 5 years from retirement	Ongoing as per usual APD program requirements

## ELIGIBILITY FOR FDAA

To be eligible, it is essential that applicants must:

- Currently have full APD status
- Have made an outstanding contribution to nutrition and dietetics in Australian and wider community and to DAA and provide statement of this as part of their application
- Complete a portfolio of evidence (see template) demonstrating competence
- Provide a current CV
- Provide two professional referee reports (at least one an APD, preferably an AdvAPD/Fellow)

### Desirable criteria:

It is strongly recommended that applicants have been working as a dietitian for a minimum of 10 years and it is highly desirable that they are an Advanced APD first – this is the preferred option for application to FDAA.

An assessor can recommend the applicant to Advanced APD if they have not met FDAA standard and the applicant would need to re-apply for Advanced APD in the next intake round. It is strongly encouraged that an applicant has a Fellow as a mentor through the process of Fellow application.

## PRESENTATION OF THE HONOUR

The recipient is presented with a certificate and they are invited to present a 2-minute speech at the Awards, Prizes, Honours and Scholarships Ceremony at the DA Conference. The recipient will be profiled in the Annual Report.

## ACHIEVING FDAA STATUS

The professional recognition program uses a competency-based assessment process and is managed via the independent Dietetic Credentialing Council (DCC). The program is evidence-based, with applicants required to meet established criteria in the form of the competency standards. Responses to the competency standards must demonstrate an overarching theme of leadership and be underpinned by eight performance criteria. The four competency standards include:

1. Pioneers and promotes **innovative** solutions
2. **Inspires**, motivates and invests in the development of others
3. Demonstrates broad **impact** on health and nutrition outcomes and/or services

#### 4. Exerts significant **influences** in the broader community

See Attachment 1 for the performance criteria. Further guidance regarding the application process can be found in the FDAA application guide.

To achieve the FDAA credential the APD submits a portfolio of evidence (following the template provided) to show how each competency standard and performance criteria are met.

To be successful in achieving the FDAA credential the APD must meet:

- 100% of the performance criteria for each competency standard

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- A desktop assessment will occur at DAA office to ensure completeness and eligibility.
- FDAA applications will be assessed by a committee convened by DCC which will include a current Fellow, a member of DCC and an additional invited external reviewer ensuring independence and transparency.
- Copies of the portfolios will be sent to each three reviewers who will independently rank them against the competencies and return completed assessments to the Executive Manager, Credentialing and Professional Services (EM-CaPS).
- Where the decision is clear with support for Fellow status, the DCC delegate will endorse the Fellow applicant on behalf of the entire DCC and DCC will support this endorsement. The applicant will be recommended to the Board at the August Board Meeting.
- In the event of an unsuccessful outcome, the applicant will be informed by DCC that they have been unsuccessful. The DCC Chair will oversee the feedback (in the correspondence and discussion if needed) and be the key advisor for DCC on aspects of the feedback.
- Where there is a divergence of views, a teleconference between the assessors will be organised to determine a resolution.
- The assessors may request further information from the applicant.
- If a consensus cannot be reached and the result is borderline, DCC reserve the right to engage another FDAA to act as an additional assessor.

*The Board's decision is final.*

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to send:

- Statement supporting their outstanding contribution to nutrition and dietetics in Australian and wider community and to DAA
- Portfolio of evidence (see template) demonstrating competence
- Current CV
- Two professional referee reports (at least one an APD, preferably an Advanced APD/Fellow)

Applicants must send a bookmarked PDF electronic copy of their application to the Credentialing Dietitian, either:

- via email to [credentialing@dietitiansaustralia.org.au](mailto:credentialing@dietitiansaustralia.org.au), OR
- on a USB/flash drive addressed to:  
Credentialing Dietitian,  
Dietitians Australia  
1/8 Phipps Close, Deakin ACT 2600  
by 31 March annually

All enquiries to:  
Credentialing Dietitian  
[credentialing@dietitiansaustralia.org.au](mailto:credentialing@dietitiansaustralia.org.au)  
or 02 6189 1210

## ATTACHMENTS

1. FDAA Competency Standards

## ATTACHMENT 1: COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR FELLOW (FDDA)

It is expected that Fellows would meet the performance criteria for Advanced Practitioner; therefore, the performance criteria presented here are the criteria that sets apart a Fellow.

There are eight performance criteria which underpin each of the four competency standards. Leadership should be demonstrated within each of the four competency standards.

<b>Fellow Competency Standards</b>	<b>Demonstrates Visionary and Strategic Leadership</b>			
	Pioneers and promotes <b>innovative</b> solutions	<b>Inspires,</b> motivates and invests in the development of others	Demonstrates broad <b>impact</b> on health and nutrition outcomes and/or services	Exerts significant <b>Influences</b> in the broader community
	<b>Performance Criteria for Fellow</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acts as a role model and advocates for the profession of nutrition and dietetics across a range of contexts</li> <li>2. Displays experience and professional expertise while supporting and mentoring colleagues to lead and grow in their own right</li> <li>3. Leads change to improve nutrition outcomes in communities and populations</li> <li>4. Contributes to and works with evidence in identifying and influencing strategic priorities and policies</li> <li>5. Inspires and promotes expertise in education and supervision</li> <li>6. Shares experience and expertise widely</li> <li>7. Manages complex problems effectively</li> <li>8. Utilises collaborative networks to build excellence and grow the profession</li> </ol>			
<b>Demonstrates Leadership</b>				
<b>AdvAPD Competency Standards</b>	Develops <b>innovative</b> methods and approaches	<b>Inspires</b> and motivates others	Demonstrates <b>impact</b> on health and nutrition outcomes and/or services	Exerts significant <b>influence</b>
<b>National Competency Standards for Dietitians</b>	Applies critical thinking and integrates evidence into practice	Practises professionally	Positively influences the health of individuals, groups and/or populations to achieve nutrition outcomes	Collaborates with clients and stakeholders