



Communiqué

Ninth Meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia 25 June 2010

The ninth meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 25 June 2010 in Melbourne. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

As in previous meetings, in its ninth meeting the Board focused on the issues to support the smooth introduction of the national registration and accreditation scheme on 1 July 2010.

Transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

At the time of the Board's June meeting, all jurisdictions except for South Australia and Western Australia had passed legislation to join the national scheme. The Board continued to focus on a range of transitional issues at its final meeting prior to commencement of the national scheme noting that contingencies were in place by AHPRA in the event that one or more jurisdictions did not join the scheme by 1 July 2010.

The Board advises that pharmacists (including proprietor pharmacists) holding registration in multiple jurisdictions should note that if a jurisdiction is not a participant in the National Registration Scheme on 1 July 2010, registration must be maintained with the National Board and in non-participating jurisdictions if practising and/or owning a pharmacy business in multiple jurisdictions. If a pharmacist's registration in a non-participating jurisdiction has lapsed on 1 July 2010 on the assumption that all jurisdictions would be participants in the national scheme, immediate action would be required to register if continuing to practise or own a pharmacy business in that jurisdiction.

The Board finalised its Registration Transition Plan which will be published on its website. This outlines how registration types in each State and Territory convert to the new registration types and endorsements under the national scheme.

Provisional registration and approval of supervised practice

All interns must have provisional registration from 1 July 2010 to undertake supervised practice for general registration. Interns in NSW, Northern Territory, Victoria, and South Australia will transition to provisional registration under the National Law on 1 July 2010 (or from the date of participation in the National Registration Scheme) and are not required to make further application until their existing provisional registration expires. All interns in the ACT, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, where provisional registration did not exist will need to make an application for provisional registration under the National Law from 1 July 2010 (or from the date of participation in the National Registration Scheme). New graduates commencing internships from 1 July in jurisdictions participating in the national scheme will be required to lodge an application for provisional registration. The 'Application – Provisional Registration as a Pharmacist' form will be available on the Board's website by 1 July 2010. To help interns meet this requirement, the Pharmacy Board of Australia will give interns until 30 July 2010 to submit an application for provisional registration.

Supervised practice commenced prior to 1 July 2010 is approved by the Board for general registration. From 1 July 2010, any new supervised practice arrangements entered into must be approved by the

Board. Interns commencing new placements must complete and submit an 'Application - Approval of Supervised Practice as a pharmacist' form, available on the Board's website.

Board Committees

The Board held a training day for members of its Registration or Notifications Committee in June. From 1 July 2010, the core committee members (four National Board members) will meet with each pair of jurisdictional members appointed to the committee to consider the registration matters and notifications arising in their jurisdiction in accordance with the National Law. Through its Registration or Notifications Committee, the Board will continue to consider open cases previously dealt with (but not finalised) by State and Territory Boards and new matters arising from 1 July 2010.

The Board finalised terms of reference for its Immediate Action Committee which will be formed to exercise the Board's powers to take immediate action in relation to registered pharmacists and students under s156 of the National Law. The committee will comprise two pharmacist members of the Board and one community member of the Board.

Guidelines

After a valuable consultation process, the Board is now finalising the following Guidelines which will be published on the Board's website in July 2010:

- Guidelines on dispensing medicines
- Guidelines on specialised supply arrangements
- Guidelines on practice specific issues

The Board thanks individuals and organisations for providing valuable feedback on a range of issues and proposed to finalise and publish a number of these guidelines on its website in July. The Board will further consider feedback on remaining guidelines prior to finalising and publishing these on its website.

All National Boards also considered the following common guidelines which will be published on websites in July:

- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on mandatory notification.

Health profession agreement

The Board finalised its health profession agreement that details how AHPRA will support the Board and enable the Board to fulfill its primary role to protect the public which includes details of fees set by the Board including fees for registrants in New South Wales where a co-regulatory model exists. The fees set by the Board will be published on the Board's website by 1 July 2010.

Accreditation arrangements

AHPRA and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) are now finalising an agreement for APC to accredit programs of study for approval by the Board. Approved courses suitable for registration will be published on the Board's website.

Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangement Standard

The Board's revised proposal for its professional indemnity insurance arrangement standard was approved by Ministerial Council and is now available on the Board's website. The standard accommodates pharmacists in all practice settings, including pharmacists who practise exclusively in an employed position who would meet the standard by being indemnified by their employers whose policies meet the level of cover specified in the standard. PII arrangements separate to employer's arrangements are required in cases where pharmacists practise in locations other than their principal place of employment. Pharmacists who provide advice about medicines in situations not related to their employment arrangements must be indemnified and may require additional coverage to ensure compliance with the standard and the National Law.

Approaching 1 July 2010 and commencement of the National Scheme

The Board congratulates the AHPRA staff and National Registration and Implementation Project team for their efforts in achieving readiness for implementation of the national scheme by 1 July 2010.

With the finalisation of many important documents, guidelines and policies, the Board's website will undergo significant change to coincide with the commencement of the national scheme. Pharmacists are encouraged to visit the Board's website from 1 July 2010 at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Stephen Marty
Chair
6 July 2010