



THIRD MEETING OF THE PHARMACY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA 20 NOVEMBER 2009

The third meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 20 November 2009 at the Hilton Melbourne Airport. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

The Board noted progress with implementation of the new national scheme. With respect to the legislative program the Board is pleased that:

- the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* ('Bill B') has been passed without amendment by the Queensland Parliament and is due to commence on 1 July 2010 (this also covers adoption of the National Law for Queensland)
- in NSW the National Law has passed both houses of Parliament without amendment
- in Victoria the National Law has also passed both houses of Parliament without amendment, and
- the Bill has also been introduced in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

As in previous meetings, in its third meeting the Board focused on the matters it had to resolve to enable the scheme to commence on 1 July 2010. The Board gave further consideration to budget matters in order that the Board's first Health Profession Agreement can be prepared. The Board approved a budget for 2009-10 so that the Agency can commence employing staff and leasing premises for the new State and Territory and national offices. The Board noted that recruitment to senior positions in the national Agency is progressing and remains on track.

The Board also considered its budget for 2010-11 and will give further consideration to this at future meetings, following the outcome of the registration migration process that will confirm final registrant numbers, and due diligence processes that will confirm reserves that will be transferred from existing State and Territory boards.

The Board discussed progress with the consultation on the Board's proposals for registration standards and other matters that were posted on the Agency's website (www.ahpra.gov.au) on 27 October 2009. The Board also considered the consultation papers from all other boards. The Board was interested to note that the nursing and midwifery, podiatry and optometry boards were all proposing endorsements for scheduled medicines. The Board noted trends in responses to the paper received so far.

Following the close of consultation on 24 November 2009, the Board will consider all feedback on the draft registration standards. At its December meeting, the Board will consider revised draft registration standards, and complete this work in order to submit the registration standards to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

The Board acknowledges the tight timetable for completion of the registration standards. The timetable is necessary so that all registrants can have advice ahead of commencement day on 1 July 2010 of the new registration standards and requirements.

The Board met with representatives of the Australian Pharmacy Council to discuss accreditation matters. As the Australian Pharmacy Council is a key stakeholder, the Board appreciated the opportunity to meet face-to-face and looks forward to working with them in the future.

The Board discussed a draft code of conduct for the profession, and considered a range of issues concerning its content and whether such a code might be developed to apply commonly to all or more than one regulated health professions. The Board will consider this again at its February meeting, with a view to releasing a draft code for public consultation.

The Board gave consideration to what other codes and guidelines might be needed for the profession, on commencement of the national scheme. The Board agreed to work with other boards on the development of guidelines covering mandatory reporting obligations under the National Law. The Board expects to give consideration to a draft of these guidelines at its December meeting. The Board agreed to consult on the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's competency standards, as required under the National Law, with a view to adopting them. The Board agreed that it would release its proposed draft codes and guidelines for public consultation on 5 March 2010.

The Board is interested in exploring the development of a proposal for pharmacists in relation to prescribing but agreed that this would need a longer timeframe and cannot be achieved by 1 July 2010.

The Board considered progress with the establishment of the Registration and Notification Management Information System, to support the Board's functions, as well as progress with the electronic document and management system, finance, human resources, electronic mail and Microsoft Office, and the web based online services.

The Board considered a number of other administrative and financial matters, including possible fees for those who undertake work as members of committees or panels of the Board. It established four board committees to assist the Board with its work:

- a Policy, Codes and Guidelines Committee
- a Finance and Governance Committee
- an Examinations Committee, and
- a Registration and Notifications Committee.

The Board acknowledged the continuing efforts of existing State and Territory boards in preparing for implementation of the national scheme, as well as accrediting authorities, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project team. The Board looks forward to continued joint effort in coming months.

Stephen Marty
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia

30 November 2009