

## Communiqué

### Seventh Meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia 30 April 2010

The seventh meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 30 April 2010 in Melbourne.

As in previous meetings, the Board focused on the matters still to be resolved before the commencement of the national registration and accreditation scheme on 1 July 2010.

#### Registration standards

The Ministerial Council approved the following registration standards which will apply from 1 July 2010 when the national registration and accreditation scheme begins. The standards are published on the Board's website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au):

- criminal history registration standard
- English language requirements registration standard
- continuing professional development registration standard
- recency of practice registration standard.

Ministerial Council requested that the Board review its proposed Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) registration standard, which proposed that pharmacists were individually named on PII policies. Ministerial Council noted that this was not consistent with the PII standard of other National Boards. The Board is having further communication regarding this matter.

#### Implementation of the English Language Skills Registration Standard

With the implementation of new English language skills standard for applicants for general registration from 1 July 2010, the Board considered how this could impact on interns currently undertaking supervised practice. The Board has now published on its website a policy on the implementation of the standard, which outlines cases for exemptions to the particular requirements of the standard.

#### Guidelines Consultation

The consultation period on the Board's codes and guidelines concluded on 7 April 2010. The Board considered feedback provided through the consultation process at its April meeting and will use this to finalise the following guidelines that will be published in June 2010:

- Guidelines on advertising
- Guidelines on mandatory notification
- Code of conduct
- Guidelines on continuing professional development

The Board committed to reconsidering all comments made during the consultation process that have not been incorporated in the current version of the guidelines, when they are next reviewed.

The Board's Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee is currently finalising additional guidelines on pharmacy practice related matters and the Board will consult on these in May 2010. The Board encourages stakeholders to monitor the website for the release of the draft guidelines and to participate in the consultation about them. Given the 1 July start date for the implementation of the national scheme, the consultation period will be limited and no late submissions will be able to be considered. The Board will alert as many stakeholders as possible to the release of the guidelines.

## **Board Committees**

The Board will extend invitations to external people nominated by current State and Territory Boards to serve on its Registration and Notifications Committee. The Committee will meet monthly from July 2010 when the national scheme begins. Meetings will involve Committee members appointed from each jurisdiction meeting by teleconference with core Committee members to consider registration matters and notifications arising in each jurisdiction. Given the co-regulatory model for dealing with notifications in New South Wales, the Committee in that state will consider registration matters only.

The Board will also invite people nominated to join the Board's Examinations Working Group to progress the development of the Board's national registration examination, which will commence from 1 January 2011.

## **Transition information**

By mid May, all registered pharmacists will have received a letter from the Pharmacy Board of Australia about their transition into the national scheme. The letter explains each practitioner's current registration type and details the information that will appear on the online national Register of Pharmacists from 1 July 2010. All registrants should carefully check the registration type allocated to them in the letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if there are any errors. The Board is urging all pharmacists to make sure the contact details held by their current State or Territory Board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010.

## **Accreditation arrangements**

The Board continued to progress the agreement with its accrediting body, the Pharmacy Council of Australia (APC). Courses accredited by APC which are suitable for registration of pharmacists will be published on the Board's website on 1 July 2010.

## **Health profession agreement**

The Board and AHPRA are currently developing a health profession agreement which will outline the services provided to the Board by AHPRA, based on the fees payable by pharmacists under the National law and the Board's annual budget. The Board will finalise its agreement with AHPRA and publish national fees in June 2010.

## **Application forms and certificates of registration**

The Board continued to review the application forms for registration to be available to new registrants and renewing registrants after the introduction of the national scheme. It has now finalised the detail that will appear on registration certificates. Certificates will be provided electronically at renewal of registration and in hardcopy upon request. The online Register will be the primary tool used by the profession, the community and employers to confirm up-to-date registration information about a registered pharmacist.

## Conditions, undertakings and reprimands on the Register

The National Law requires the Board to publish conditions imposed and undertakings accepted from pharmacists on the Register of Pharmacists. It also allows the Board to decide to not record a condition imposed or an undertaking accepted when the practitioner has an impairment, if it is necessary to protect the practitioner's privacy and there is not an overriding public interest for the condition or the details of the undertaking to be recorded. The Board has adopted a policy approach to this issue, consistent with the National Law. If a pharmacist has health conditions recorded on their registration, the following wording will appear: "This practitioner's registration is subject to conditions that relate to his/her personal health. These conditions are not publicly available due to privacy considerations."

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
14 May 2010