



Communiqué

Eleventh Meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia 27 August 2010

The eleventh meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 27 August 2010 at Aitken Hill conference centre near Melbourne, the site of the inaugural meeting in September 2009. The Board also participated in a joint meeting of all National Boards and the Agency Management Committee on the following day which included reviewing the progress over the past year and planning the priorities and needs under the National Scheme for the future. Board members were also provided with a Board Member's Manual and were provided with the results of a Board member survey on Board performance.

A presentation by Mr Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of the UK Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence provided an informative insight into measuring and reporting on professional regulation and the lessons to be learned from the regulatory reform steps undertaken in the UK.

Provisional Registration and Approval of Supervised Practice

The Board previously advised interns of the transition provisions for provisional registration and approval of supervised practice under the National Scheme from 1 July 2010. Interns not holding provisional registration on 30 June 2010 were advised to lodge an application by 31 July 2010. The Board was concerned to receive information which indicated that some interns in a particular jurisdiction had failed to apply for provisional registration approval of supervised practice. Noting that this would be in breach of the National Law, the Board resolved that if applications for provisional registration and approval of supervised practice were not received at AHPRA by 30 September 2010, then the intern training period does not commence until both applications are received. This has the potential to delay an approval of an intern's application for general registration as supervised practice hours which are not undertaken in accordance with the conditions outlined in the 'Supervised Practice Arrangements Registration Standard' (i.e. not approved before commencement) will not be accepted. Enquiries were made of the State Manager of the jurisdiction and detailed numbers provided which indicated that almost all interns had met the requirement.

Return to Practice

One of the functions of the Board's Registration and Notifications Committee is to consider applications for general registration from applicants who do not meet the requirements of the Board's 'Recency of Practice Registration Standard.' To meet the standard, pharmacists must have practised at least 450 hours of practice within the previous three years. Where an applicant wishes to return to practice, the Board will determine a period of supervised practice, education program and assessment and/or examination to be undertaken by the applicant on an individual basis depending on:

- a) when the applicant last practised in Australia
- b) the nature of their practice as a pharmacist in another jurisdiction
- c) activities undertaken during the period since the applicant last practised as a pharmacist in Australia.

The Board's Registration and Notifications Committee is developing a UK protocol for consistent consideration of applications for return to practice.

Guidelines

Since a review at the July meeting, the Board has finalised and published 'Guidelines for Dispensing Of Medicines,' 'Guidelines on Practice-Specific Issues' and 'Guidelines on Specialised Supply Arrangements' on its website. The Board considered feedback received through its consultation with stake holders and the public. The Polices, Codes and Guidelines Committee has also developed a guideline for consultation on responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors. The guideline provides that a proprietor must maintain an awareness of the manner in which their pharmacy is being conducted and where necessary, intervention to ensure that the pharmacy is properly conducted. It also outlines that proprietors must have an understanding of the range of pharmacy and non-pharmacy goods sold, and services provided at the pharmacy (and the liability associated with providing such services), e.g. teeth whitening products and pathology collection services. The guideline will be published for consultation on the Board's website shortly. Stake holders and members of the public will be invited to make a submission.

Student Registration

Under the National Law, the Board may register students undertaking approved courses to undertake clinical training, and students not enrolled in approved courses (e.g. overseas students) undertaking clinical training arranged by local education providers. The Board will develop information to guide pharmacists about dealing with requests from people for whom there are no provisions under the National Law to gain student registration and who wish to undertake the equivalent of clinical training.

Fees

The Board finalised business rules which apply to fees for registration. The registration period for pharmacists begins on 1 December and ends on 30 November annually. Applicants for general and non-practising registration will be required to pay the full fee unless applying during the last two months prior to the renewal date (during October and November) in which case the full fee paid will provide registration for the following 12 month period as well.

Panels

The Board appointed a list of persons eligible to sit as panel members. AHPRA has also developed processes for the recruitment of additional individuals for appointment by the Board as panel members to meet the Board's future needs.

Stephen Marty
Chair
7 September 2010