

Media release

3 December 2010

Board and AHPRA act on pharmacy intern registration

The Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have agreed on initiatives to support the efficient registration of pharmacy interns.

Pharmacy Board of Australia Chair, Mr Stephen Marty and AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher met today to discuss registration issues facing pharmacy interns and develop solutions.

“The Board and AHPRA recognise this is an anxious time for pharmacy interns as they work to secure a role in a competitive employment market,” Mr Marty said.

“We have today identified a range of initiatives that AHPRA can put in place to make the registration process as efficient as possible,” he said.

From today, AHPRA is boosting its enquiry response capacity. Having analysed common issues with intern registration, AHPRA will also realign some of the application forms so information is clearer and more accessible to interns.

Mr Marty urged interns seeking general registration to review their applications carefully to ensure all required information was provided.

“To fast track the application process interns should use the checklist in section I of the general registration [application form](#) (AGEN07) and make sure all the required information is accurate and complete. They should also make sure they meet the Board’s [proof of identity and certifying documents](#) requirements,” he said.

“A significant proportion of applications are incomplete and this is the single most common reason for processing delays,” Mr Marty said.

On average, intern applications are currently taking two to three weeks to process – but complete applications are processed more swiftly.

Mr Marty reminded the profession that the national registration and accreditation scheme, introduced in July 2010, was designed to protect the public and that Australia’s Health Ministers had approved new [registration standards](#) that all pharmacists must meet before they are registered to practise.

“These standards include criminal history checks which are conducted by an external agency – so there are some things about registration since July 2010 that are different from the requirements of previous state and territory pharmacy boards and processing applications necessarily takes more time,” he said.

Mr Marty encouraged interns seeking information about their application to use AHPRA’s [online enquiry form](#) as the most efficient source of information.

“This is AHPRA’s peak registration season with 140,000 registration renewals and 30,000 graduation registration applications now being processed,” Mr Fletcher said.

“There is pressure on our telephone enquiry capacity but we are committed to responding to web enquiries within 48 hours,” Mr Fletcher said.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200