

## Media release

---

18 May 2011

### WA Pharmacists: Check your registration expiry date and renew on time

The Pharmacy Board of Australia today encouraged pharmacists in Western Australia to check their registration expiry date and to renew on time, particularly if due to renew registration by 30 June 2011 – their first time under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Pharmacists can check their registration expiry date on the National Register of Pharmacists, published online at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au). The best way to search the Register is by name and profession.

Board Chair Stephen Marty encouraged pharmacists whose registration expires on 30 June to renew on time and online.

“In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Pharmacy Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,” Mr Marty said.

He said AHPRA was implementing an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process. This will include sending several reminder emails and letters to individual pharmacists.

Mr Marty encouraged pharmacists to provide AHPRA with their email address to allow for easy and efficient direct communication with them.

Pharmacists whose registration expires on 30 June will renew for five months and their registration will be valid until 30 November 2011. From 2012, the renewal date for all pharmacists in Australia will be aligned and registration renewal will be due by 30 November each year.

Mr Marty reminded the profession that there were significant consequences for individual pharmacists who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, pharmacists who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Pharmacists.

Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise pharmacy in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew on time and online,” Mr Marty said.

## Background

There are some simple steps pharmacists can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure your contact details supplied to AHPRA, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Register of Pharmacists, accessible at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au) and enter their last name and profession to search
3. **Watch for the notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (user ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner about eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique contact number (user ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Pharmacists who do not have their unique contact number can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting “User ID” as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495. Pharmacists can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958 in their capital city.

Pharmacists can check that their application has been received at the Board’s website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au). Pharmacists whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed. The listing on the National Register of Pharmacists is evidence for employers that a pharmacist is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

WA pharmacists who forget to renew their registration by 30 June 2011, or within the one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. They are not able to practise in the profession until their registration application has been granted.

## Renew online – Register on time

### *For more information*

- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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