



# Communiqué

**9 August 2011**

## **Meeting 21 of the Pharmacy Board of Australia**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 29 July 2011 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

## **Consultation paper on the Definition of Practice**

Seven of the ten National boards have agreed to progress to a consultation paper on the common definition of “practice” but the Board decided not to do so. The Board was of the opinion that the professions are different, that the current definition of practice suits the pharmacy profession and accordingly, there is no reason for consultation.

## **Compounding Working Party**

The Compounding Working Party reported on the development of an early draft of a possible expansion to the Board’s current guideline on Extemporaneous Dispensing (Compounding) to take into account ‘complex’ compounding, emphasising the need for further work to be undertaken and with wide stakeholder consultation.

## **Pharmacy Board of Australia website**

The Board continues to publish important information on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au) and, in partnership with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the nine other boards in the National Scheme, have updated their websites to make it easier to navigate and find important information.

The Board’s website features clearer menus and intuitive architecture, better access to online services and more information tailored to the pharmacy profession. Information about the National Scheme and links to AHPRA are also accessible.

## **Receiving important information by email**

The Board encourages all pharmacists to provide AHPRA with a current email contact address by updating their contact details through [online services](#). This enables AHPRA to contact pharmacists about important registration information.

## **Anniversary of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme**

1 July 2011 marked the first anniversary of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) which transformed the way health professionals are regulated in Australia. The implementation of the NRAS has not been without its challenges and difficulties and the report of the Senate and Finance Public Administration Committee into the administration of health practitioner regulation made several recommendations.

The Committee's report, terms of reference, submissions and transcripts of its hearings and the Government Senators' minority report can be found at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa\\_ctte/health\\_practitioner\\_registration/report/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_ctte/health_practitioner_registration/report/index.htm).

One of the recommendations was that the Professions Reference Group be reformed and the issues for discussion are to include the recommendations of the senate enquiry, implementation and operational issues, and improvement of AHPRA's business processes.

The Board acknowledges the significant work which has been done by AHPRA and which will continue to be done to improve service delivery to registrants. The Board will work with AHPRA to ensure that AHPRA's systems are progressively strengthened and improved and that the regulation of pharmacists is equal to or better than international best practice regulatory standards.

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
9 August 2011