



Communiqué

3 August 2012

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 27 July 2012 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Health Ministers announce new appointments and reappointments

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) announced in its communiqué dated 30 July 2012, the new appointments and reappointments of Chairs, practitioner and community members to fill vacancies arising across ten National Boards for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). The vacancies arose primarily as a result of the expiry of 105 terms of the inaugural appointments to these national boards (as made by the Ministerial Council in 2009).

Appointments made to the Pharmacy Board of Australia by resolution of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 June 2012 under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory were:

Mr Stephen Marty	Reappointed as Chair and a practitioner member from Victoria
Mr Brett Simmonds	Appointed as a practitioner member from Queensland
Mrs Rachel Carr	Reappointed as a practitioner member from Western Australia
Mr Trevor Draysey	Reappointed as a practitioner member from South Australia
Mr Gerard McInerney	Reappointed as a practitioner member from New South Wales
Mr William Kelly	Reappointed as a practitioner member from the Australian Capital Territory
Ms Bhavini Patel	Reappointed as a practitioner member from the Northern Territory
Mr Ian Huett	Reappointed as a practitioner member from Tasmania
Ms Karen O'Keefe	Reappointed as a community member
Mr John Finlay	Reappointed as a community member
Ms Katherine (Katie) Sloper	Appointed as a community member

Note: Dr R Wellard was appointed as a community member on the Pharmacy Board of Australia via an earlier appointment round in 2011.

Terms start 30 August 2012 for 3 years unless otherwise indicated.

The Board noted that Mr Tim Logan, practitioner member from Queensland did not seek reappointment. It congratulated Mr Logan and Ms Hakanssen-Ware for their contributions and service as Board members for the past three years.

Notification Committee membership – Expressions of interest

The Board is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced pharmacists to be appointed as a member of the Pharmacy Board of Australia National Notifications Committee under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The

Notifications Committee considers notifications from all jurisdictions with the exception of NSW.¹ The expression of interest process is therefore open to pharmacists in all other states and territories.

The expression of interest process has commenced and will be managed by AHPRA. Current committee members and pharmacists who have a good knowledge of the National Law, local drugs and poisons legislation, professional practice standards and Pharmacy Board Guidelines are encouraged to lodge an expression of interest. The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 10 August 2012. The jurisdictional members contribute to the work of the Committee through their local knowledge and current practice experience within their jurisdiction. Further information is published on the Board's website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News.aspx).

Code of conduct

The Board consulted on a minor amendment to the *Code of conduct for registered health practitioners*, which applies to pharmacists. The consultation was limited to the addition of a paragraph concerning codes of ethics and did not extend to the remaining content of the Code of conduct. The Board thanks all stakeholders who provided feedback during the consultation process. All submissions can be accessed on the Board's website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx.

The Board's Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee considered feedback from the submissions received before finalising its recommendations to the Board. The Board agreed to the insertion of the following paragraph into the Code of conduct:

Codes of Ethics

The Pharmacy Board of Australia advises pharmacists to also be guided by a code of ethics relevant to ethics relevant to their practice. The Board endorses the [Codes of Ethics for Pharmacists 2011](#) published by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Ltd and the [Code of Ethics-February 2012](#) published by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Given the definition of practice as it applies to pharmacy, other codes of ethics may also be applicable to pharmacists' practice. Pharmacists are advised to ensure that in addition to complying with the Code of conduct for registered health practitioners that they be guided by the code(s) of ethics relevant to their practice.

The Board agreed to include hyperlinks to the websites where both codes of ethics are published rather than including the codes of ethics as appendices to the Code of conduct. No other amendments have been made to the code. The next scheduled review of the code of conduct is due to commence by 30 June 2013.

Practitioner audit pilot

The first phase of an audit pilot of pharmacy practitioners was recently completed. The audit pilot, conducted with a group of randomly selected pharmacy practitioners, was designed to determine the frequency, size and types of audits required and establish a robust audit methodology that can eventually be applied across all the professions in the National Scheme.

The report on the outcomes of the first phase is the final stages of production and will soon be made available on the AHPRA website. The second phase, which will involve similar pilots across the pharmacy, optometry and chiropractic professions, will begin in October 2012 and run for approximately 3 months.

Practitioners will be randomly selected across these three professions when they apply to renew their registration for the 2012-13 period. This will apply to both paper and online renewal applications. They will be audited for compliance against their board's registration standards: criminal history check, professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice and continuing professional development.

Using the lessons learned from the first phase of the pilot, further work in conjunction with the relevant National Boards will be undertaken to refine the audit framework in preparation for a profession wide application. Further information will be made available on each of the participating board's websites in the lead up to the commencement of the second phase.

Stephen Marty
Chair
3 August 2012

¹ NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction under the National Law, where the Pharmacy Council of NSW has responsibility for considering notifications