



## Communiqué

**25 September 2012**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 14 September 2012 in Melbourne, during the 2012 National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) combined meeting.

### **National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting**

All 14 National Boards in the National Scheme held their meetings on 14 September to coincide with the National Scheme combined meeting. The AHPRA Agency Management Committee, AHPRA leadership teams, representatives of NSW Councils, accreditation authorities, Health Workforce Australia and regulatory colleagues from New Zealand joined Board members for a series of presentations and workshops. The purpose of this annual meeting was to take stock, share ideas and innovations, identify future challenges and identify actions to continue making improvements to the implementation of the national scheme.

### **Appointment of new Board members**

The Board welcomed two newly appointed members to their first Board meeting in September. Dr Katherine (Katie) Sloper (community member) from Queensland and Mr Brett Simmonds (practitioner member) also from Queensland bring a broad range of skills and experience to the Board. The Chair announced Dr Sloper's appointment to the Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee and Mr Simmonds' appointment to the Notifications Committee of the Board. The Board looks forward to their valued contributions to the Board and its Committees.

### **Review of accreditation arrangements**

The National Boards for the first 10 professions to enter the National Scheme are currently reviewing their accreditation arrangements.

Health Ministers assigned accreditation functions for these National Boards to external accreditation authorities. The Australian Pharmacy Council was assigned the accreditation functions for the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The National Law requires the National Boards to review the arrangements for the exercise of accreditation functions by June 2013. The review must include wide-ranging public consultation.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia, together with the Chiropractic, Medical, Optometry, Osteopathy, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, and Psychology Boards of Australia has commenced public consultation on the accreditation review.

The Board's consultation paper and a report from The Australian Pharmacy Council are published on the Board's website under current consultations.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback in the public consultation process by close of business, Friday 2 November 2012.

### **Standards compliance audit**

All health practitioners registered under the National Law are required to comply with a range of registration standards (that are developed after wide-ranging consultation and approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council).

AHPRA is currently developing an auditing framework to test compliance with standards through a practitioner audit project. A second phase of the audit pilot is being run at registration renewal this year with the chiropractic, optometry, and pharmacy professions.

This second phase will begin in October 2012 and run for approximately three months. Pharmacists will be randomly selected when they apply to renew their registration for the 2012-13 period. This will apply to both paper and online renewal applications.

There will be an information pack sent to those selected for the audit with additional information available on the AHPRA website [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Registration*.

### Registration renewals

Pharmacists across Australia are reminded that their registration is due for renewal on 30 November.

The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online.

AHPRA is sending a series of emails to pharmacists, for whom an email address is known, reminding them to renew their registration. Pharmacists should check that their contact email details are up to date so they receive renewal reminders from AHPRA. These reminders are confirmation that online renewal is open.

Contact details can be updated by going online at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au), following the 'online services' link and using your unique contact number (User ID). If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form or call 1300 419 495.

Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. There is no discretion for either the Board or AHPRA in this, so practitioners must renew on time.

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
25 September 2012