

Media release

1 November 2013

2012/13 National Scheme Annual Report published

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published.

The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme over the 12 months to 30 June 2013.

There are now more than 590,000 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia – an increase in all professions and more than ever before – with one in 20 working Australians a registered health practitioner.

‘The National Scheme has a significant impact on the lives of many Australians – directly on all health practitioners who are registered to practise, and indirectly through our work to protect public safety and maintain professional standards,’ AHPRA Agency Management Committee Chair Peter Allen said.

‘The ongoing, effective functioning of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is a reflection of the partnership and collaboration between AHPRA and the National Boards.’

For the pharmacy profession the report reveals that:

- 27,339 pharmacists were registered at the end of June 2013, an increase of 5.4 per cent since national registration data was first published in June 2011
- 429 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about pharmacists and of these 246 were lodged outside of NSW which has a co-regulatory system¹
- 396 notifications were closed by the end of June 2013, including 227 managed outside of NSW
- of the 227 cases closed under the National Scheme, the Pharmacy Board of Australia determined:
 - to take no further action or that the case was to be retained and managed by the health complaints entity in the relevant state or territory or be referred to another body in 130 cases
 - to suspend one practitioner’s registration
 - to accept the surrender of registration from two practitioners
 - that a caution should be issued in 77 cases
 - that five practitioners be reprimanded
 - to impose conditions on the registration of nine practitioners, and
 - to accept an undertaking from three practitioners.

¹ NSW is part of the National Scheme but notifications about practitioners’ health, performance and conduct are handled by the [HCCC](#) and the NSW health professional councils supported by the [HPCA](#).

- the Board participated in a second pilot audit of pharmacists' compliance with the registration standards for the profession, and
- the Board established a Compounding Working Party to progress a review of its guidelines on extemporaneous dispensing (compounding).

Pharmacy Board of Australia Chair, Adjunct Associate Professor Stephen Marty, said effective and proportionate regulation was the constant goal of all National Boards.

'Every decision National Boards make consciously focuses on striking the right balance between public safety and facilitating access to health services,' he said.

'This report explains the work we do, and accounts to the community and the health professions about how we do it.'

The annual report is published on the [AHPRA website](#) under *Legislation and publications*.

It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

For more information

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