



Communiqué

4 November 2013

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 18 October 2013 in Sydney.

Meetings in Sydney

The Board conducted its October meeting in Sydney. This provided the opportunity to meet with local pharmacists and stakeholders. The Chair provided attendees with an update on the Board's activities and the progress of the national registration and accreditation scheme.

The Board also met with the Pharmacy Council of New South Wales (PCNSW). Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), New South Wales is a co-regulatory jurisdiction¹. The PCNSW and the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) work together to assess and manage complaints about practitioners' conduct, health and performance for behaviour that occurred in NSW. The PCNSW also manages the regulation of pharmacy businesses in NSW.

The joint meeting of the Board and the PCNSW allowed for discussion on practice issues that have emerged since the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). Both entities have agreed to co-operate on matters of shared interest and relevance and will meet on a regular basis as required.

Annual report

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the 14 National Boards has been published on the [AHPRA website](#).

Each year, AHPRA and the National Boards report to the Ministerial Council on activities and performance. The annual report provides a national snapshot of the work and finances of the National Scheme and is tabled in the parliaments of each of state and territory and the Commonwealth.

Audit of registration standards

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards have developed a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards. Audits are an important part of the way National Boards and AHPRA can better protect the public. They help to ensure that practitioners are meeting the mandatory registration standards and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Pharmacists were advised in the previous Board communiqué to note that auditing may occur at any time i.e. not as part of the renewal process; and to ensure evidence (records of activities which meet the requirements of the standard) are retained for three years. Pharmacists are randomly selected for audit. Selected pharmacists will receive an audit

¹ **co-regulatory jurisdiction** means a participating jurisdiction in which the Act applying this Law declares that the jurisdiction is not participating in the health, performance and conduct process provided by Divisions 3 to 12 of Part 8

notice in the mail from AHPRA advising them what they must do including the information they must submit to AHPRA. Further information is available on the Board's [website](#).

Review of English language skills and criminal history registration standards

National Boards asking the community, stakeholders and health practitioners to have their say on the standards registered health practitioners must meet for English language skills and criminal history.

Under the National Law, the 14 National Boards in the National Scheme set registration standards that all registered health practitioners must meet. This consultation is part of a scheduled review of the registration standards, after three years experience with the National Scheme. Further information is available on the Board's [website](#). The closing date for submissions is 23 December 2013.

Final-year students urged to apply for registration now

As outlined on the Board's [website](#), students of an approved program leading to registration as a pharmacist can go online now to apply for provisional registration before they graduate. The online application for provisional registration requires applicants to return some supporting documents to AHPRA by mail to complete the application. An application for approval of supervised practice must also be sent to AHPRA before supervised practice may be commenced. The graduate application process is accessible on the AHPRA [website](#).

Registration renewal

The 2013 on-line renewal of registration function for pharmacists is now available on the Board's [website](#).

Pharmacists with general or non-practising registration who wish to renew their registration must do so by 30 November, the registration renewal date for pharmacists. Applicants who lodge applications during the later period (from 1 – 31 December) will be required to pay an additional late fee. After receiving your reminder to renew, go to the [AHPRA login page](#).

Last year over 90 per cent of all health practitioner registration renewals due by 30 November were submitted online which shows how easy on-line renewal is.

You can check your registration details and expiry date on the [national registers of practitioners](#).

Make sure your contact details provided to AHPRA, including email, are current as you will be sent reminders when your registration is due.

To update contact details using AHPRA's secure online services, pharmacists can visit www.ahpra.gov.au:

- go to the bottom of the home page
- click on *Update Contact Details* under Services for Practitioners
- use their user ID and secure password, and
- follow the prompts.

The following pages on the Pharmacy Board website contain useful information for pharmacists:

- [Registration standards](#)
- [Registration renewal](#)
- [FAQ for pharmacists](#)

Important registration renewal dates

30 November: Expiry of your registration.

1 December: Start of late period (late payment fee plus registration renewal fee if unpaid).

1 January: Registration lapses (your name is removed from the national register if still unpaid).

For more information

- Visit www.pharmacyboard.gov.au
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)

Stephen Marty
Chair
4 November 2013