



Communiqué

25 January 2013

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 18 January 2013 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Renewal of registration update

Pharmacists holding general registration who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2012 or during the one month late period built into the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory are not able to practise pharmacy in Australia until a new application has been approved. Under the National Law, neither the Pharmacy Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this.

Individuals who missed these deadlines have until 31 January 2013 to make a [fast-track application](#) to gain their general registration. This is a new application for registration and will incur an application fee, a registration fee and a fast-track application fee. These individuals should note that they are not able to practise pharmacy until their fast-track registration application is approved. From 1 February 2013, a fresh application for general registration must be lodged for general registration.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released quarterly registration data. The data profiles Australia's pharmacy workforce, including information on types of registration held, principal place of practice, registrant age and gender. Publication of quarterly data that accurately reflects the number of registered health practitioners is one essential benefit of the National Scheme. The National Scheme requires that information about every registered health practitioner in Australia is published on a single national [register of practitioners](#), which is published online.

Visit the [Board website](#) to view the quarterly registration data.

Community Reference Group

AHPRA is establishing and currently recruiting for a Community Reference Group as part of the implementation of the National Boards' community engagement strategy. The Community Reference Group will complement the role of community members of National Boards by providing information and advice on strategies for building community knowledge and understanding of the National Scheme, and by providing consumer/community perspectives and advice to the National Boards and AHPRA.

The Community Reference Group will consist of 10 members. Applications for membership close at 9am on Monday 11 February. More information is available on the [AHPRA website](#).

Compounding Working Party

As part of the ongoing review of guidelines for compounding pharmacists, the Pharmacy Board of Australia's Compounding Working Party is liaising with officers from the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Manufacturing Authority.

The revised guidelines for complex compounding will be released for general consultation shortly. An indicative curriculum for compounding courses has been prepared and a consultant was engaged to map the National Competency Standards for Pharmacists against identified competencies for complex compounding.

Referral to Tribunal Hearings

The Board referred a small number of cases to jurisdictional tribunals where pharmacists were found to have breached legal and professional responsibilities relating to the possession and supply of Schedule 8 Poisons.

Meeting with Australian Pharmacy Council Ltd

The President, Committee Chairs and Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Pharmacy Council presented a report to the Board during the meeting, covering both examination and accreditation matters following the recent Board decision to extend the agreement for the APC to continue its accreditation role for a further five years.

Stephen Marty
Chair
25 January 2013