



Communiqué

31 March 2014

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 21 March 2014 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Pharmacy Board of Australia Newsletter – March 2014

The Board published its March 2014 newsletter on its website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx

The newsletter was also e-mailed to all registered pharmacists who have provided an e-mail to AHPRA. Pharmacists who have not provided an e-mail address can do so by going to the AHPRA website at www.ahpra.gov.au and clicking on 'Your Account' in the top right-hand corner to access the online services portal.

APP2014

The Board participated in the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition 2014 (APP2014) during 14 - 16 March 2014. Board members and the Board's Executive Officer spoke with attendees at the Pharmacy Board of Australia stand. Pharmacists, interns and students raised a variety of queries which were clarified by the Board's representatives.

One of the common queries raised was in relation to the Board's revised compounding guidelines. The draft revised guidelines are in the process of being finalised for public consultation and will be published on the [current consultations](#) webpage on the Board's website in April 2014. Stakeholders and pharmacists are invited to make a submission.

A number of pharmacists requested clarification on various issues regarding ownership of pharmacies and were advised that approval and regulation of pharmacy premises are matters not covered by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The Board has provided contact details of the relevant entity responsible for such matters in each state and territory on its [website](#).

Privacy Act changes

Amendments to the *Privacy Act 1988* commenced on 12 March 2014. Pharmacists are obliged to ensure that information they collect and maintain is done so in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the amended Australian Privacy Principles. Further information can be located on the [website](#) of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The Board is aware that the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have jointly prepared resources for their members to meet the new privacy obligations.

The amendments to the Act and the Australian Privacy Principles also apply to the Board and AHPRA. An updated privacy policy ensuring the National Law is administered in accordance with those changes is available on the AHPRA [website](#).

Stephen Marty
Chair
31 March 2014