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National Board members from left to right: Mr William Kelly – practitioner member from the Australian Capital Territory; Dr Rodney Wellard – community member from Victoria; Mrs Rachel Carr – practitioner member from Western Australia; Mr John Finlay – community member from Western Australia; Ms Karen O’Keefe – community member from South Australia; Mr Gerard McInerney – practitioner member from New South Wales; Mr Stephen Marty – Chair and practitioner member from Victoria; Dr Katherine Sloper – community member from Queensland; Mr Trevor Draysey – practitioner member from South Australia; Mr Ian Huett – practitioner member from Tasmania; Mr Brett Simmonds – practitioner member from Queensland; Ms Bhavini Patel – practitioner member from the Northern Territory.

## Privacy Act changes

Amendments to the *Privacy Act 1988* took effect 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 is available on the [website](#) of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have jointly prepared resources to assist 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](#).

## Reappointment of Dr Rodney Wellard to the Board

The Board congratulates Dr Rodney Wellard on his reappointment to the Board for a second term as a community member. The appointment was made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and announced in the [recent communiqué](#).

## Meetings in Darwin

The Board held a meeting with local pharmacists and stakeholders to coincide with its Board meeting in Darwin. This gave Board members an opportunity to discuss issues related to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) and local practice.

## Royal Darwin Hospital

Board members were invited to a presentation at the Royal Darwin Hospital on its electronic medication management system. Members gained valuable insight into the benefits of the system and how hospital staff – including members of the pharmacy department – are managing patient medication records effectively.

## National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre

Board members were welcomed by Dr Nicholas Coatsworth, Director Disaster Preparedness and Response at the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC). The NCCTRC is focused on enhancing Australia's capacity to provide clinical and academic leadership in disaster and trauma care. Its location in northern Australia ensures that it is prepared to respond to major onshore and offshore incidents in Australia and South East Asia.

In 2013, Dr Coatsworth led the second Australian Medical Assistance Team that responded to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, which included the provision of pharmacy services. Dr Coatsworth and Mr Arrulan Naidoo (pharmacist, NT Department of Health) gave presentations on the recent delivery of services in the Philippines. Pharmacists who are interested in the services delivered by the NCCTRC can access further information on its [website](#).

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## Pharmacy audit – reminder

Audits of random samples of practitioners from all health professions within the National Scheme are continuing.

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.

Audits have been uncoupled from the registration renewal cycle, meaning that pharmacists can receive an audit notice at any time of the year.

If you receive a notice letting you know you have been selected for audit, make sure you respond to it by the deadline and include all of the required supporting information.

The [audit page](#) on the website provides more information.

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## Current consultations – we invite your feedback

### Compounding of medicines

Public consultation is now open on the *Guidelines on compounding of medicines* for pharmacists. You can access the consultation paper and response form on the [Current Consultations page](#) on the Board's website.

The guidelines will provide guidance to pharmacists who extemporaneously prepare medicines, including 'simple compounding' and 'complex compounding' (as defined in the draft guidelines).

Consultation on the guidelines will close on **30 June 2014** and the community, stakeholders, pharmacists and other health practitioners are welcome to make a submission.

The Board is also conducting a separate consultation on a draft *Professional practice profile for pharmacists undertaking complex compounding* (practice profile). The practice profile is referenced in the compounding guidelines. The practice profile is a tool intended to assist pharmacists to understand the performance expected of them when undertaking complex compounding.

The consultation paper is also published on the Board's [Current Consultations page](#). Consultation on the practice profile will close on **30 June 2014**.

### Registration standards and related guidelines

The Board is consulting on a review of the following registration standards:

- *Professional indemnity insurance*
- *Continuing professional development (and associated guidelines)*
- *Recency of practice*
- *Supervised practice arrangements, and*
- *Examinations for eligibility for general registration.*

The Board began its review of these documents within three years of implementation of the current registration standards and related guidelines in 2010. The consultation process to date has included research and preliminary consultation with stakeholders.

You can access the public consultation paper and response form on the [Current Consultations page](#) on the Board's website. Consultation will close on **30 June 2014** and the community, stakeholders, pharmacists and other health practitioners are welcome to make a submission.

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## Advertising guidelines have been updated to make them clearer

The Pharmacy Board and the other National Boards have acted on the feedback they received about the [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#) (*Advertising guidelines*) that were released in March 2014 and have published an update.

Anyone who advertises a regulated health service must meet the requirements of the National Law. This includes registered health practitioners, individuals who are not health practitioners and businesses.

No requirements have been added from the previous version, and the update came in to effect on 20 May.

The updated *Advertising guidelines* were edited to make them clearer, particularly that:

- under the National Law, testimonials are not allowed when advertising a regulated health service
- the obligations of the National Law about advertising only apply when a regulated health service is being advertised, and
- the National Law is not intended to stop members of the community and patients from discussing their experiences online or in person.

We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the guidelines. Whenever possible, this feedback was taken into account and used to update the guidelines.

### For more information

- Read section 133 of the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#), as in force in each state and territory, which relates to advertising.
- Read [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) on the revised advertising guidelines](#).
- A [fact sheet on advertising](#) is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

## Keep in touch with the Board

- Visit [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au) for the mandatory registration standards, codes, guidelines and FAQ. Visiting the website regularly is the best way to stay in touch with news and updates from the Board.
- Lodge an enquiry form via the website by following the [Enquiries](#) link on every web page under Contact us.
- For registration enquiries, call 1300 419 495 (from within Australia) or +61 3 8708 9001 (for overseas callers).
- To update your contact details for important registration renewal emails and other Board updates, go to the AHPRA website: [Update contact details](#).
- Address mail correspondence to: Stephen Marty, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne, VIC 3001.

## Snapshot of the registered workforce

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's pharmacy workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants.

The Board's March 2014 data update, published in April, shows there are 28,188 registered pharmacists in Australia,

an increase of 628 practitioners since December 2013 (data published in our previous newsletter). Of these, 25,306 have general registration and 1,912 have provisional registration.

A total of 953 pharmacists are non-practising and 17 have some form of limited registration. See Table 1 for further details.

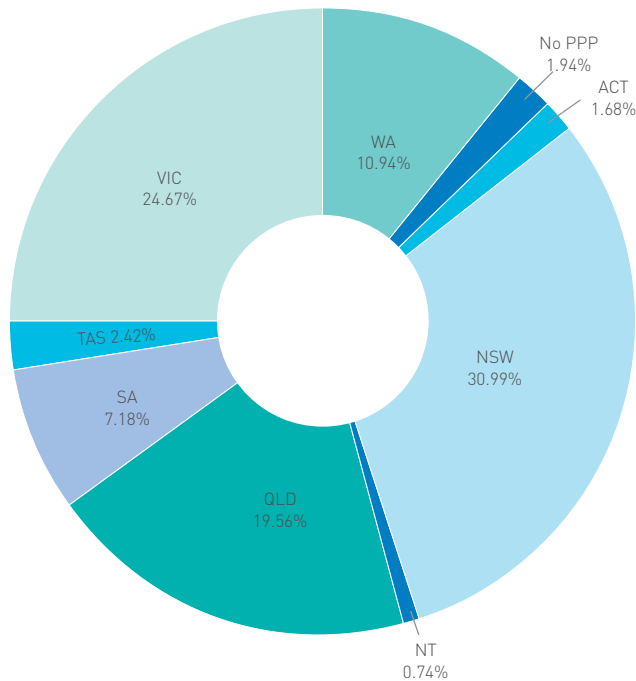
**Table 1 – Pharmacists: state and territory by registration type and subtype (March 2014)**

	General	Provisional	Limited (Total of Subtypes)	Postgraduate Training or Supervised Practice	Area of Need	Public Interest	Teaching or Research	Non-practising	Total
ACT	427	36	-	-	-	-	-	10	473
NSW	7,813	663	5	5	-	-	-	254	8,735
NT	186	20	-	-	-	-	-	4	210
QLD	4,969	444	4	4	-	-	-	97	5,514
SA	1,849	131	-	-	-	-	-	45	2,025
TAS	625	51	-	-	-	-	-	7	683
VIC	6,296	375	1	1	-	-	-	293	6,955
WA	2,794	190	5	5	-	-	-	57	3,046
No PPP	347	2	2	2	-	-	-	196	547
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,306</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>28,188</b>

\* No principal place of practice

The largest number of pharmacists is in NSW: 8,735 (30.99%); followed by Victoria with 6,955 (24.67%) and Queensland with 5,514 (19.56%). For further details, see the chart below.

**Chart 1 – Pharmacists by principal place of practice (March 2014)**



The current percentage of pharmacists by gender across Australia is 60.14 per cent female, 39.86 per cent male, with a state-by-state breakdown shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 – Pharmacists: percentage by gender (March 2014)**

	Female	Male
ACT	66.17%	33.83%
NSW	59.73%	40.27%
NT	62.86%	37.14%
QLD	60.48%	39.52%
SA	59.80%	40.20%
TAS	55.49%	44.51%
VIC	59.65%	40.35%
WA	61.42%	38.58%
No PPP	63.25%	36.75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60.14%</b>	<b>39.86%</b>

Visit the [About→Statistics](#) section of the Board’s website for further workforce details.

