



Communiqué

4 February 2015

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 23 January 2015 in Melbourne.

Meeting with the Australian Pharmacy Council

The president and senior staff of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) met with the Board to discuss work carried out by APC on behalf of the Board.

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) which established the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the Board determined that the accreditation function for the pharmacy profession is to be exercised by APC. The accreditation agreement between the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and APC facilitates the collaboration between APC, AHPRA and the Board.

In addition to accrediting education providers and programs of study for the pharmacy profession, the APC also has other important functions such as the assessment of overseas qualified pharmacists seeking registration to practise in Australia and the administration of the written examination component of the Board's Registration Examination. Intern pharmacists sit this examination to compete the requirements for general registration.

The agreed work program being carried out by APC and the costs of delivering the accreditation function under the National Law were discussed by the Board and APC. As part of the Board's annual budget preparations, these discussions will assist the Board to determine the funding amount to be contributed to ensure successful delivery of the accreditation functions by APC under the National Scheme.

New approach to international criminal history checks

The Board noted a new procedure for checking international criminal history to provide greater public protection will be implemented by all National Boards and AHPRA from 4 February 2015.

This new approach requires [certain applicants and practitioners](#) to apply for an international criminal history check from an AHPRA approved supplier and was first announced in November last year. The supplier will provide the international criminal history check report to the applicant and directly to AHPRA.

The new process for checking international criminal history aims to strike a balance between public safety and regulatory burden for practitioners. More information is in the [media release](#) on the Board's website.

Strategic planning

The Board conducted a strategic planning workshop which enabled an assessment of its progress in the delivery of its work plan and to identify new priorities for work to be delivered during 2015-16. The Board will continue to develop a strategic plan for 2015-16. The Board's current strategic plan is published on its [website](#) (under 'About the Board').

Renewal of registration

Renewal of registration was due on 30 November 2014. Pharmacists who did not renew their registration by the due date could lodge a late application (and pay a late fee) to renew during December 2014. Those who did not lodge a renewal application during this time had their registration lapse and their names were removed from the online public register.

Anyone who didn't apply to renew registration by 31 December 2014 could lodge a fast track application during January 2015. The fast track application process is now closed. Consequently, anyone who was

registered with the Board in 2014 and wishes to practise is required to complete a new application for general registration which can be downloaded from the Registration section of www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Practice can only resume if the application for general registration has been processed by AHPRA, registration granted and if the applicant's name appears on the Register of Pharmacists. A pharmacist's registration status can be checked at the Registration section of www.ahpra.gov.au.

Stephen Marty
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
4 February 2015

[The Pharmacy Board of Australia](#) is the regulator of pharmacists in Australia and acts to protect the public by ensuring that suitably qualified and competent pharmacists are registered. The Board is responsible for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines for pharmacists and managing notifications (complaints) about pharmacists and pharmacy students. The Board does this through its powers under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The Board's work in regulating Australia's pharmacists in the public interest is underpinned by [regulatory principles](#), which encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation.*

**Except in NSW and QLD which have co-regulatory arrangements.*