



Communiqué

3 September 2015

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 21 August 2015 in Melbourne.

Farewell to outgoing Board members

Four inaugural members of the Board completed their terms of appointment on 30 August 2015. The Board recognised the past contributions of Mr Stephen Marty (outgoing Chair), Mr Ian Huett, Mr Gerard McInerney and Mr John Finlay to the Board and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) during their two terms as members of the Board.

In particular, members expressed their appreciation of Mr Marty's significant contribution to the Board and the National Scheme and wished him well in his retirement. Mr Marty is widely known by stakeholders, government, the profession and the public for his significant contributions over many years and in particular, during the past six years as the inaugural Chair of the Board.

Commencing their appointments from 31 August 2015, newly appointed members of the Board are Ms Joy Hewitt (practitioner member from Victoria), Mr Mark Kirschbaum (practitioner member from Tasmania), Mr Michael Piu (community member) and Mr Laurence (Ben) Wilkins (practitioner member from New South Wales). On behalf of the Board, I extend a warm welcome to our new board members.

Board notes Ministers' response to NRAS review report

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions in the public interest.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally. A copy of COAG Health Council communiqué about the review can be accessed on the [COAG Health Council](#) website

AHPRA and the National Boards' joint submission to the review is published on the [Corporate publications page](#) of the AHPRA website. More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website or on [AHPRA's](#) website.

Approval of supervised practice

Intern pharmacists must undertake a total of 1824 hours of Board approved supervised practice in accordance with the Board's *Supervised practice arrangements registration standard* (the Standard).

Over the 12 months ending 30th June 2015, the Registration and Examinations Committee of the Pharmacy Board dealt with 16 general registration applicants from intern pharmacists who did not seek the Board's approval of their supervised practice hours prior to commencement and therefore had not complied with the Standard. This put them at risk of not meeting the requirements for general registration.

Information about supervised practice is also outlined in the preceptor and intern guides available on the Board's [website](#).

Pharmacy graduates must hold provisional registration and obtain the Board's approval of their supervised practice arrangements before commencing their internships and enrolling in an intern training program.

The role of the preceptor is set out in the *Preceptor guide* which states that an “approved supervised practice position must be secured (by the graduate) before enrolling in an Intern Training Program”.

Preceptors need to ensure that an intern pharmacist holds provisional registration and has obtained prior approval from the Board for the proposed supervision arrangements. This can be confirmed by searching the online [national register of practitioners](#).

In addition preceptors need to be willing to commit themselves to fulfilling the role requirements set out in the *Guide* as part of their professional responsibilities and duty of care to the intern pharmacists they supervise.

Quarterly registration data

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia’s pharmacy workforce.

At June 2015, there were a total of 29,014 registered pharmacists comprising the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 26,179 – general registration
- 1,815 – provisional registration
- 14 – limited registration
- 1,006 – non-practising registration

The quarterly registration data at June 2015 for the pharmacy profession are published on the Board’s website under [About>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for pharmacists on its website at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme also refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

William Kelly
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
3 September 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.*