

Communiqué

9 March 2016

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function under the National Law¹ and within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the National Scheme. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

Tribunal reprimands former pharmacist

A former pharmacist found to have engaged in unprofessional conduct has been reprimanded by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

The tribunal found he engaged in unprofessional conduct for inappropriately dispensing pseudoephedrine (PSE), a drug which is well known to pharmacists for its potential for misuse and abuse.

The Board referred Mr Robert Donald Louis, a formerly registered pharmacist, to QCAT regarding concerns about his practice between March 2009 and May 2011.

More information and a link to the tribunal's full decision is available in a [news item](#) on the Board's website.

Pharmacy Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will publish in late March a report of its work in the regulation of the pharmacy profession under the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for the pharmacy profession in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme.

Local data summaries from a National Scheme

The National Boards and AHPRA have published [reports for each state and territory](#) on the National Scheme. They are for the 2014/15 year of the scheme.

The reports provide a unique insight on local outcomes within a scheme for which the core focus is protection of the public. They include local data on registration types, notifications (complaints) and mandatory notifications for the regulated health professions, for each state and territory.

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)

National awareness campaign

You may have seen the beginning of the AHPRA national awareness campaign. **Know your obligations**, the first of three phases, directed at employers of health practitioners, launched at the close of last year. The message has been shared over social media through targeted ads resulting in a doubling of our online community.

The next phase of the campaign is targeted at practitioners. Under the headline of **The not-so-small print**, practitioners are encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners. Advertisements will be rolled out later this month across a mix of social media, industry publications and newsletters.

The final phase will be directed at the public to increase awareness of the [national register of practitioners](#).

Further consultation on guidance: Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines

Consultation on the *Expiry of compounded parenteral medicines* section of the Board's *Guidelines on compounding of medicines* (the guidelines) is underway and will close on 30 March 2016.

The consultation paper and response form are available from the Board's [Current Consultations page](#) on its website. Given the Board's previous consultation on the complete compounding guidelines, other sections of the guidelines are not part of this public consultation.

The Board invites submissions from the community, stakeholders, pharmacists and other health practitioners which must be sent no later than 30 March 2016.

Pharmacy Board newsletter

Later this month, an electronic newsletter providing an update on a range of Board activities and practice-related issues will be emailed to all registered pharmacists and published on the Board's website. Pharmacists who have not provided an email address can do so through the [online services for practitioners](#)

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
9 March 2016

[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.*