

Communiqué

6 May 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.

April Board meeting

The Board held a stakeholder meet and greet event in Hobart on Thursday 21 April 2016, before the Board meeting on Friday 22 April 2016.

The Board welcomed over 50 attendees, including students, registered local community and hospital-based pharmacists and key pharmacy stakeholders from around Tasmania.

Those in attendance received a presentation from Northern Territory practitioner Board member Bhavini Patel on continuing professional development (CPD), focusing on lifelong learning for pharmacists, and the need for pharmacists to plan their CPD and reflect upon CPD activities completed.

During the visit to Hobart, the Board also visited the University of Tasmania where members were able to view a simulation teaching laboratory and innovative pharmacy practice simulation tools for students. Board representatives also met with representatives from the Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority and spent time at the Hobart office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The Board holds two interstate meetings per year to provide an opportunity for the Board to meet with local pharmacists and stakeholders.

During its meeting on 22 April 2016, the Board received reports from and progressed matters raised through its committees. It also addressed a number of AHPRA and National Scheme-related matters, including further work to develop its budget for 2016-17.

PowerPoint for students

The path from study to a career in pharmacy and the requirements for registration are now explained in a PowerPoint, published on the Board's website.

The PowerPoint outlines what the Board does, what registration means and how the profession is regulated under the National Scheme. Information about Board guidance for safe and effective practice and the role of AHPRA is also explained.

It's important that a graduate clearly understands what it means to be registered and what their obligations are when seeking initial registration and throughout their career as a pharmacist.

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

The PowerPoint is published on the [Student registration](#) section of the Board's website.

Infographic – pharmacists' obligations

An infographic showing the obligations of a registered pharmacist has been published on the Board's website.

Pharmacists who are registered with the Board under the National Scheme must meet the Board's standards and expectations of the profession.

The simple infographic highlights what a pharmacist's obligations are under the National Law and will help pharmacists ensure they do the right thing as one of the 14 regulated health professions.

Obligations of all health practitioners registered under the National Scheme include carrying out and recording continuing professional development (CPD), and maintaining recency of practice to stay registered.

Other obligations include notifying the Board in writing within seven days if charged with or convicted of an offence punishable by 12 months jail or more. The Board also needs to be told within 30 days if a pharmacist has changed their principal place of practice, name or address.

The infographic clearly shows the obligations of a registered pharmacist under the National Law and what they must do in order to stay registered and keep practising.

The infographic is published on the [Registration](#) page of the Board's website.

The objectives of the National Scheme and the actions that support them are shown in an infographic published in the *About* section of AHPRA's [website](#).

Quarterly registration data

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

At December 2015, there were a total of 29,751 registered pharmacists comprising the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 26,905 – general registration
- 1,751 – provisional registration
- 13 – limited registration, and
- 1,082 – non-practising registration.

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

Pharmacy regulation at work in Australia, 2014/15

The Board has released its report for 2014/15.

In 2014/15, the Board reviewed a number of registration standards and consulted on and finalised guidelines on compounding of medicines and a professional practice profile for pharmacists undertaking complex compounding. The Board analysed feedback received following consultation on guidelines on dispensing of medicines, practice-specific issues, specialised supply arrangements, and the responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors. The Board also engaged with the public, pharmacy stakeholders and governments on the opportunities for pharmacists to administer vaccines to the public.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the Board's [website](#).

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
5 May 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.*