

Communiqué

25 November 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.

2015/16 National Scheme annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2015/16 annual report on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2016.

During the reporting period, the Board published revised [registration standards](#) on professional indemnity insurance arrangements, continuing professional development and related guidelines, recency of practice, supervised practice arrangements, and examinations for general registration. The Board also published revised [guidelines](#) for pharmacists on a wide range of practice matters.

After the publication of its guidelines on compounding medicines, the Board welcomed further feedback from the profession, and collaborated with the Therapeutic Goods Administration to refine proposals. The Board held two forums, and gave pharmacists the opportunity to comment on the consultation paper published on its website. Consultation and collaboration between stakeholders is paramount to forming relevant guidelines and keeping the public safe.

The Board also contributed to the revision of the competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia.

For detailed data and information relating to the Pharmacy Board of Australia in 2015/16, please see the [2015/16 annual report](#). The report provides a nationwide snapshot of the work of AHPRA and the Boards and highlights a multi profession approach to risk-based regulation with a clear focus on ensuring that Australians have a safe and competent health workforce.

Supplementary tables that break down data across categories such as registrations, notifications, statutory offences, tribunals and appeals, and monitoring and compliance can also be found on the annual report website.

In the coming months, AHPRA and the National Boards will also publish summaries of our work regulating health practitioners in every state and territory, which will be released in late 2016. Expanded, profession-specific summaries will also be released and progressively published from early 2017.

Reminder: renewal of registration for 2016/17

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

Pharmacists have until 30 November to renew their registration on time.

More than 28,100 pharmacists hold general or non-practising registration with the Board.

There are only 6 days left to renew registration on time. To date, 60 per cent of pharmacists due to renew have applied [online](#).

Renewal applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. This is outlined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)). A [fees schedule](#) is published on the Board's website.

Pharmacists, whose application for general registration is received on time or during the following one month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2016 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [Register of Pharmacists](#) and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia.

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
25 November 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.*