

Communiqué

4 April 2017

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.

March Board meeting

The Board held a stakeholder meet and greet event in Adelaide on Thursday 23 March 2017, before the Board meeting on Friday 24 March 2017.

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

During the evening, a panel discussion on 'Emerging areas of pharmacy practice' was facilitated by Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom. The panelists were Adam Phillips, National Manager, Pharmacy Innovation and Quality, TerryWhite Chemmart, Peter Halstead, Pharmacy Regulation Authority SA, Steve Morris, Executive Director SA Pharmacy/Chief Pharmacist SA Health, Debra Rowett, Director, Drug and Therapeutics Information Service and William Kelly, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia.

Topics of interest raised during the discussion include the rapid transition of eHealth, better use of health data, adapting the pharmacy services provided to what consumers want and need and reducing fragmentation in the healthcare team.

New accreditation publications about costs and international accreditation systems

Two new papers have been published about key aspects of the accreditation functions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The papers provide a new analysis of accreditation costs and an international comparison of accreditation systems for registered health professions in comparable health systems.

To read more about the papers, visit the [news item](#) on the AHPRA website.

COAG Health Council Meeting Communiqué

The Federal and state and territory Health Ministers met in Melbourne on 24 March 2017 at the [COAG Health Council](#) to discuss a range of national health issues. The meeting was chaired by the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy. AHPRA CEO attended the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Council) meeting which brings together all Health Ministers throughout Australia to provide oversight for the work of the National Accreditation and Registration Scheme (the National Scheme). AHPRA and National Boards provide a regular update to the Council on our work.

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

This meeting had a particular focus on the progress of amendments to the National Law which among other things will pave the way for the registration of paramedics from 2018 and a call for expressions of interest and nominations for first appointments to the National Board prior to this. Ministers also discussed further amendments to the National Law to increase the penalties for people holding out as registered practitioners.

The Council produces a Communiqué from its meeting which can be accessed on [AHPRA'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.

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William Kelly
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
4 April 2017

[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.*