



Communiqué

29 June 2018

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.

Meeting with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association

The Board met with National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) representatives.

The NAPSA representatives presented the results of the annual National Pharmacy Student Survey (NPSS), and discussed with the Board matters of importance to students, as identified through the survey. The Board values the opportunity to engage NAPSA and will continue to work closely on matters of mutual interest.

Pharmacist prescribing forum

A forum to consider the need and opportunities for expanding pharmacist involvement in prescribing was hosted in Melbourne this week by the Board.

The growing need worldwide to improve safe and timely access to medicines to ensure the most efficient use of healthcare resources has seen a broader range of health professions authorised through legislation to provide this healthcare service.

In Australia, non-medical prescribing has been successfully extended to dentists, nurse practitioners, midwives, podiatrists and optometrists applying different prescribing models. Prescribing by pharmacists is an established component of practice in a number of countries, including New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

The forum explored the potential expanded role of pharmacists in prescribing in order to contribute to supporting access to medicines in Australia, which aligns with the objectives of the National Scheme, including 'to enable the continuous development of a flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce and to enable innovation in the education of, and service delivery by, health practitioners.'

The day-long forum was an opportunity to explore, identify and articulate the roles of different stakeholders to successfully develop proposals about pharmacist prescribing that could be implemented and sustained as part of a broader range of health services to effectively meet the health needs of the community.

Stakeholders at the forum included hospital and community pharmacists, government health department representatives, professional association delegates, state and territory pharmacy authorities, consumer representatives, education providers, the Australian Pharmacy Council, New Zealand government advisers, pharmacists with firsthand experience as prescribers overseas, Pharmacy Board members and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) staff.

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

The Board's facilitation of the forum meant stakeholders could come together to share thoughts and opinions on the three models of non-medical prescribing proposed by the 2013 Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway Project — autonomous prescribing, prescribing under supervision or prescribing via a structured prescribing arrangement – in the context of pharmacy practice.

Under each model, the prescriber, no matter their profession, must recognise and prescribe according to their competence for their scope of practice, in accordance with legislative authorisation and with a collective approach to patient care.

Key presenters, small discussion groups and the use of voting technology meant all attendees were able to increase their awareness of other stakeholder viewpoints and of the issues involved in implementing either one of the three proposed models to enable pharmacist prescribing.

General opinion was that the forum had been worthwhile as it brought together stakeholders who would have a part to play in evolving pharmacy practice in order to further contribute to patient care through prescribing.

A report outlining discussions on the day and next steps will be published by the Board in coming weeks.

Next steps could include wider consultation on issues raised at the forum and how stakeholders could be involved to assist in progressing pharmacist prescribing.

Examples of this include exploring and defining what else pharmacists might do in practice that will better serve the public and identifying what legislative changes would be needed in the eight state and territories to allow pharmacists to prescribe under relevant models.

Competency standards implementation tools released

Following the release of the [National competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia 2016](#) (the framework), the Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC), on behalf of its member organisations², announced the release of tools to support the implementation of the framework for pharmacists.

The tools were developed with funding from the Board to help pharmacists in meeting the requirements outlined in the Board's [registration standard](#) and [guidelines](#) on continuing professional development (CPD).

The [Board-funded tools](#) include:

- a summary guide and implementation guide
- editable template tools for self-assessment and development of a learning plan
- case examples showing the use of the tools by pharmacists with different scopes of practice, and
- video presentation modules.

Pharmacists are encouraged to access these tools, or tools made available by PPDC member organisations, to help them to meet their annual CPD obligations. The next CPD period begins on 1 October 2018 and these tools will help pharmacists to plan their CPD for the proceeding 12 month period.

Intern year blueprint project concludes

The Board and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) are pleased to announce the successful completion of *The Intern Year Blueprint project*, which was started in 2016.

² Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee member organisations: Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy; Australian College of Pharmacy, Australian Pharmacy Council, Council of Pharmacy Schools: Australia and New Zealand Inc., National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Pharmacy Board of Australia, Professional Pharmacists Australia, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The Board-funded project has resulted in a new [blueprint](#) which will become the framework used to determine future options for assessing pharmacy interns against the newly-introduced competencies³ for pharmacists.

It took a collaborative effort by many stakeholders to guide the project consultants to enable the development of a meaningful blueprint for the three organisations involved in intern assessments – the APC, the Board and the Intern Training Program (ITP) providers.

The next steps in its implementation will be to develop a strategy to determine the most appropriate and effective type of assessment for each competency from the range of choices described in the blueprint and to identify the organisation with the prime responsibility to develop and administer the assessment. This work will be carried out by a joint working party between the Board and the APC with meetings to start mid-year.

The implementation strategy will forecast the time needed to complete the work and if changes to intern assessment are proposed, these changes will be announced well in advance. There is no change to the assessment process for current interns.

The Board and the APC would like to acknowledge and thank the significant contribution of the many stakeholders involved and look forward to ongoing collaboration as the implementation strategy is developed.

Please contact Glenys Wilkinson glenys.wilkinson@pharmacycouncil.org.au or Joe Brizzi joe.brizzi@ahpra.gov.au for further information.

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 Scheme also refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Are your contact details up to date?

It is important that your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board. You can check your details via the login icon at the top right of the AHPRA website. Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

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William Kelly
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
29 June 2018

[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*

³ National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016.

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.*