



Communiqué

7 November 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.

Farewell to outgoing Board members

The COAG Health Council has [announced](#) new appointments and reappointments to the Pharmacy Board of Australia and other National Boards.

Five inaugural members of the Board completed their third and final terms of appointment (nine years in total) on 2 October 2018. The Board recognised the past contributions to the Board and the National Scheme of Mr William Kelly (outgoing Chair), Ms Rachel Carr, Mr Trevor Draysey, Ms Karen O'Keefe and Ms Bhavini Patel. The Board also recognised other departing Board members, Dr Katie Sloper who served two terms on the Board (six years) and Mr Michael Piu who served one term (three years).

Beginning their appointments on 2 October 2018, newly appointed members of the Board are Mrs Elise Apolloni (practitioner member from the Australian Capital Territory), Ms Melissa Cadzow (community member), Dr Alice Gilbert (practitioner member from the Northern Territory), Mrs Hannah Mann (practitioner member from Western Australia), Mr Cameron Phillips (practitioner member from South Australia), Dr Suzanne Martin (community member) and Mr Rodney Wellington (community member). On behalf of the Board, I extend a warm welcome to our new board members. We congratulate all the new appointees.

Re-appointed members are Mr Brett Simmonds (Chair and practitioner member from Queensland), Ms Joy Hewitt (practitioner member from Victoria), Mr Mark Kirschbaum (practitioner member from Tasmania) and Mr Ben Wilkins (practitioner member from New South Wales). Dr Rod Wellard continues as a Board member (community member) having been re-appointed before the most recent appointments were made.

New results format for OET English language test; registration standards remain unchanged

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Board have started accepting an updated format of test results for the Occupational English Test (OET).

All National Boards have a registration standard for English language skills, which require applicants for initial registration to demonstrate English language skills to be suitable for registration. The OET is one of the English language skills tests accepted by the Board.

The English language level being tested by OET remains the same. Test takers are not being measured differently, with the only change being the way the OET scores are described. As such, the National Boards' [English language skills registration standards](#) referring to OET have not changed. Rather, updates have been made to internal systems and relevant application forms to accommodate and reflect the new numerical scale. [More information](#) is available on the AHPRA website.

Pharmacists are reminded to renew registration by 30 November

Pharmacists have until 30 November 2018 to renew their registration on time. The quickest and easiest way to renew is [online](#).

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

Practitioners whose application is received on time or during the following one-month late period can continue practising while their application is processed. Applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Practitioners who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2018 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the national register and will not be able to practise in Australia.

More information about renewal of registration is available on the [Board's website](#).

Pharmacy Board support more public information on register

Changes to the national [Register of practitioners](#) will make it easier to access public information about health practitioners across Australia.

The online *Register of practitioners* has accurate, up-to-date information about the registration status of all registered health practitioners in Australia including pharmacists. As decisions are made about a pharmacist's registration renewal or disciplinary proceedings, the register is updated to inform the public about the current status of individual pharmacists and any restrictions placed upon their practice.

The Board has decided to introduce links to public tribunal decisions when serious allegations have been proven, in the interests of transparency and on the recommendation of the [Independent review of the use of chaperones to protect patients in Australia](#).

No information about the notifications received by the Boards and AHPRA will be published. The change is simply helping to make already publicly available information easier to find.

Further information is available on the [Board's website](#).

AHPRA to conduct pilot audit on advertising compliance in early 2019

A pilot audit to check health practitioner compliance with advertising requirements will be conducted by the AHPRA in early 2019.

Random audits of advertising compliance will advance a risk-based approach to enforcing the National Law's advertising requirements and facilitate compliance by all registered health practitioners who advertise their services.

The National Boards for chiropractic and dental are taking part in the pilot audit.

The pilot audit has been modelled on the well-established approach to auditing compliance with core registration standards and involves adding an extra declaration about advertising compliance when chiropractors and dental practitioners apply for renewal of registration in 2018 (the National Law enables a National Board to require any other reasonable information² to be included with a renewal application.)

The pilot will not delay a decision on the application for renewal.

The audit will be carried out by AHPRA's Advertising Compliance Team from January 2019 and will involve a random sample of chiropractors and dental practitioners who renewed their registration in 2018.

One of the audit's main objectives is to analyse the rate of advertising compliance for those health practitioners who advertise and who have not been the subject of an advertising complaint in the past 12 months.

A pilot audit report including data analysis and recommendations will be prepared for National Boards to consider the pilot outcomes and implications for future compliance work.

For information about your advertising obligations see the [advertising resources](#) on the AHPRA website.

AHPRA and National Boards welcome release of the Accreditation Systems Review final report

AHPRA and National Boards have welcomed the publication of the Independent Accreditation Systems Review final report.

² Section 107(4)(e) of the National Law

The Independent Accreditation Systems Review's (the Review) [final report](#) makes significant, far reaching recommendations to reform the accreditation system for regulated health professions in Australia. It proposes recommendations which range from relatively uncontentious and which the National Scheme bodies generally support, to those which are significantly more complex and contentious.

Health Ministers commissioned the Review following a [review of the National Scheme](#) as a whole.

For more information read the [statement](#) on the AHPRA website.

Quarterly registration data

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

At September 2018, there were a total of 31,212 registered pharmacists comprising the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 28,375 – general registration
- 1,682 – provisional registration
- 16 – limited registration, and
- 1,139 – non-practising registration.

The quarterly registration data at September 2018 for the pharmacy profession are published on the Board's website under [About>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns.

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.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



Brett Simmonds
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
7 November 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 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.*