

Communiqué

11 June 2019

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.

May Board meeting and stakeholder engagement

The Board held a two-day meeting in Canberra on 23 and 24 May 2019 which included a schedule of stakeholder meetings with:

- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
- ACT Health
- The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
- The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- The Australian Pharmacy Council, and
- The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The meetings were a valuable opportunity for the Board to discuss topics of mutual interest together with stakeholders.

To coincide with the meeting the Board also held a function with ACT pharmacists and stakeholders. More than 70 guests attended the evening which included an opportunity to talk to Board members and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) staff.

The evening included a panel discussion on 'Emerging areas of pharmacy practice' which was facilitated by Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom. The panelists were Brett Simmonds, Board Chair, Richard Thorpe, pharmacist, Goodwin Aged Care, Vivian Bevan, Chief Pharmacist, ACT and Emma Ellett, pharmacist.

The Board welcomed the opportunity to discuss issues of interest with attendees including inter-professional collaboration in healthcare delivery and the options for possible future prescribing by pharmacists.

Quarterly registration data

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

At March 2019, there were a total of 31,785 registered pharmacists comprising the following number of registrants according to registration type:

- 28,820 – general registration
- 1,854 – provisional registration

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

- 16 – limited registration, and
- 1,095 – non-practising registration.

The quarterly registration data at March 2019 for the pharmacy profession are published on the Board's website under [About>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns that may be of interest to the pharmacy profession.

Information Publications Scheme – promoting accessibility of our information

From 1 June 2019, AHPRA and National Boards are required to comply with the Information Publication Scheme (IPS) established under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth). The IPS promotes openness and transparency and aims to reduce the number of Freedom of Information applications through the proactive publication of information. This requires that certain information and documents be made publicly available.

AHPRA and National Boards have worked together to implement the IPS and information has been recently published about it on the [AHPRA 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 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
11 June 2019

[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.*