

## Communiqué

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**27 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 Law<sup>1</sup> 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.

### **Pharmacist prescribing discussion paper**

On 4 March 2019, the Board published a discussion paper that posed a range of questions about the potential role for pharmacists in prescribing. This followed the Pharmacist Prescribing Forum in June 2018 which was hosted by the Board to help participants consider and discuss the need and opportunities for expanding pharmacist involvement in prescribing.

The discussion paper was intended to facilitate the profession, stakeholders and the public to explore opportunities for pharmacist prescribing, through one or more of the models of non-medical prescribing outlined in the Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway 2013.

The Board is currently reviewing the feedback and will publish a report to inform all interested parties about the views articulated in the broad range of submissions. A publication date for the report has not yet been set and further updates will be provided by the Board in due course.

The Board has now published the individual submissions received on the [Past Consultations page](#) of the Board website.

The Board encourages interested pharmacists, stakeholders and members of the public to review the submissions. Any further comments can be provided by email to [PharmBAfeedback@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:PharmBAfeedback@ahpra.gov.au).

### **New accreditation agreement signed**

The Board, the Australian Pharmacy Council (the APC) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have signed a new five-year accreditation agreement starting 1 July 2019.

The APC plays a crucial role in protecting the public through their job of accrediting programs of study against the accreditation standards approved by the Board. The new accreditation agreement will provide the public with greater transparency and accountability and will enable us to improve public protection.

The Board is thankful for the strong partnership we have with the APC and are grateful for their determined effort that has enabled us to complete this important piece of work. We look forward to working closely together over the five-year term.

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

The accreditation agreement, part of the National Scheme, is a contemporary framework designed to address key accreditation issues including cultural safety, safety and quality, reducing regulatory burden, multi-profession collaboration to meet evolving healthcare needs, and strengthen accountability and transparency.

The agreement also includes principles for funding and fee setting and new key performance indicators to track progress on priority issues.

### **New video gives a practitioner's experience of a notification**

AHPRA and the Board know that making or being the subject of a notification can be confusing and stressful. We are working to support health consumers and practitioners by improving the way we communicate about notifications.

As part of this work, AHPRA and National Boards released the latest video in our '[Let's talk about it](#)' series. It tells one practitioner's experience of the process, aiming to help other practitioners who have a notification made about them.

AHPRA has gathered feedback from notifiers and practitioners on their experience of the notifications process. After over 80 interviews and more than 5,000 survey responses, a small number of consistent themes have emerged. These themes are informing the content of our video series.

This latest video, *A notification was made about me: A practitioner's experience*, is a powerful first-hand account of a practitioner's experience engaging with AHPRA and a National Board. It contains a clear messages for other health practitioners about seeking support early in the notification process.

Registered health practitioners and their support networks will be encouraged to use this new resource when they are involved in the notifications process.

Pharmacists can view the video on the [AHPRA website](#), where practitioners can find additional information on understanding the notifications experience, and on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo channels](#).

Read the full media release on the [AHPRA website](#).

### **Further information**

The Board publishes a range of information for pharmacists on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://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](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) or send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Brett Simmonds  
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
27 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.*