

Communiqué

23 December 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.

Compliments of the season

On behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, I extend best wishes and compliments of the season to all pharmacists and our stakeholders.

A year in review

With the end of the year approaching, it is a good opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to look at what lies ahead.

The important work carried out by the Board during 2019 includes:

- seeking further feedback via a discussion paper and publishing a [position statement](#) on pharmacist prescribing
- approval of the *Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs in Australia and New Zealand 2020* developed by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) with funding from the Board
- an extensive program of stakeholder engagement in relation to the Board's work as a participant in the National Scheme including with:
 - pharmacists, students, consumers and stakeholders to coincide with Board meetings held in Canberra and Perth
 - pharmacy member organisations
 - health ministers, health departments and government agencies
 - pharmacy premises regulators
 - partners in the National Scheme including Ahpra, APC, Pharmacy Council of NSW
- publication of:
 - a pharmacy-specific statistical [summary](#) that covers the work of the Board over the 12 months to 30 June 2019
 - a summary of [tribunal decisions](#) and [case studies](#)
 - three [newsletters](#)
 - six [communiqués](#)

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

- news item on [World Pharmacists Day](#) recognising the role of pharmacists in ensuring safe use of medicines
- in collaboration with Ahpra, publication of:
 - a new [social media guide](#)
 - additional resources on [health advertising information](#) encouraging health practitioners to seek advice about their own health.

During 2020, the Board will continue to:

- engage with stakeholders on emerging issues including further exploration by stakeholders of options for pharmacist prescribing
- collaborate with APC on developing future intern assessment options to ensure that the public is served by suitably trained and qualified pharmacists to practise in a competent and ethical manner
- protect the public through the delivery of its regulatory functions and providing guidance to the profession in the public interest, and
- work with Ahpra to implement further improvements to the delivery of our core functions including the registration of interns and pharmacists and the management of notifications.

Registration renewal reminder

A reminder to pharmacists who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2019 that they are now in the late renewal period and have until 31 December to apply. Applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Pharmacists who have not renewed their registration by 31 December will no longer be registered. Their names are removed from the [national online register](#) and they will not be able to practise in Australia.

To gain registration after 1 January 2020, a 'fast-track' application can be made, and an applicant cannot practise until their application is processed and the national register is updated, which can take time.

Pharmacists who apply to renew during the late renewal period can still practise even if:

- we are still processing their application to renew, and/or
- the registration expiry date displayed on the register has passed.

Cultural safety definition announcement soon

In July 2018, Ahpra released the [Statement of Intent](#) publishing a [joint commitment](#) with the 15 National Boards, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations to make patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the norm.

The Statement of Intent recognises that cultural safety is patient safety and that cultural safety must be defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. A strategic priority of the Statement of Intent is to help embed cultural safety into the health system through consistent regulation with over 740,000 registered health practitioners across Australia.

Last April, Ahpra, National Boards and accreditation authorities partnered with the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group](#) and the National Health Leadership Forum to conduct a public consultation for feedback on a proposed definition of 'cultural safety'. The final definition is now finalised and endorsed as the minimum baseline cultural safety definition

for consistency across all functions of the National Scheme. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group will announce the final definition in a [communiqué](#) soon.

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
23 December 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.*