



## **FOURTH MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2009 AND FIFTH MEETING 22 JANUARY 2010 OF THE PHARMACY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA**

The fourth meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 18 December 2009 at the Hilton Melbourne Airport. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

The Board noted progress with implementation of the new national scheme and that good progress is being made against its work plan.

The Board continued work to prepare for the scheme's commencement on 1 July 2010 including progress on the Board's budget for 2010 – 2011. The budget will be finalised after the registration migration process that will confirm final registrant numbers, and due diligence processes that will confirm reserves to be transferred from existing State and Territory boards.

The Board was pleased to receive 30 submissions on its consultation paper, and thanks stakeholders for their interest and valuable contributions. The submissions are available on the Board's website (except for confidential submissions).

The Board reviewed this feedback at the meeting and finalised its proposals for Ministerial Council approval, taking the submissions into account. The final proposals were published on the Board's website by 24 December 2009. Ministerial Council is expected to consider the proposals in early 2010, to enable the Board's standards and other requirements to be available well before commencement day on 1 July 2010.

The Board considered draft guidelines on mandatory notifications, which explain the requirements under the national law for health practitioners, employers and education providers to make compulsory notifications about health practitioners in certain circumstances. The Board also considered draft guidelines on the advertising of practitioner services and progressed a draft code of conduct for the profession. The Board agreed to further develop this work over January and February 2010, with a view to releasing draft guidelines and a draft code for public consultation on 5 March 2010.

The Board also considered additional codes and guidelines specific to the Board and, in particular, looked at the current standards developed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists. The Board considers it is very appropriate that professional practice standards continue to be developed by the profession rather than the Board. The Board would rather endorse or adopt standards developed by the profession to meet the requirements of sections 39-41 of the national law. For this purpose, the Board intends to adopt the current competency standards. The Board will do further work on codes and guidelines during January and February 2010 before releasing proposed guidelines for public consultation in early March 2010.

The Board considered student registration, and agreed that all students will be required to make individual application to the Board for registration at the commencement of their enrolment in a

program. Only students enrolled in accredited programs approved by the Board will be eligible for student registration.

The Board has received submissions from pharmacy organisations regarding pharmacist prescribing and will continue to collect information for further consideration. Any introduction of pharmacist prescribing would be implemented as the provision of an endorsement for scheduled medicines under section 94 of the *Health Practitioners Regulation National Law Act 2009* and would require the approval of Ministers. The Board has deferred further development on any proposals until after 1 July 2010 and intends to work closely with the profession in developing such proposals to ensure that they are workable and meet anticipated needs into the future.

The Board agreed that it is extremely important that current interns have reassurance that their current program will lead to registration and early confirmation about arrangements for examinations. It agreed that examinations will continue to be administered by the State and Territory offices of the Board by the current staff who transition into the Agency. There will be three sittings per year: February, May/June and November.

The Board had a significant discussion on accreditation matters and the content of a potential service agreement with the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) which has been appointed by the Ministerial Council to undertake accreditation functions for pharmacy. The Board has communicated its views to the APC and is engaged in further discussions with them.

The Board has called for nominations from current State and Territory Boards for two members from each jurisdiction for its Registration and Notification Committee and will announce the appointments to the Committee in March.

The Board once again acknowledged the continuing efforts of existing State and Territory Boards in preparing for implementation of the National Scheme, as well as the Australian Pharmacy Council, AHPRA and the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project team. The Board looks forward to continued joint effort in coming months. The Board recognised the particular contribution of Dr Louise Morauta and thanked her for her exceptional work in leading this project.

At its fifth meeting on 22 January 2010 held by teleconference the Board gave further consideration to accreditation arrangements including an initial draft service agreement with the APC. Work on terms of reference for Board committees and progress reports resulting from work undertaken by committees following the previous Board meeting were also considered.

The Board welcomed the appointment of Mr Joe Brizzi as Executive Officer to the Pharmacy and Optometry Boards and expressed its sincere gratitude to Ms Marion Clark from the Implementation Team for her valuable administrative support and advice provided for the first five meetings.

Stephen Marty  
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia

2 February 2010