



Communiqué

31 May 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.

Meetings in Darwin

The Board held a meet and greet event with local pharmacists and stakeholders on Thursday 17 May 2018 to coincide with its Board meeting in Darwin. This provided an opportunity for the Board to give an update on its recent activities and areas of focus, and for discussion on a range of matters of mutual interest.

Board members were invited to visit the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC) in Darwin, a key component of the Australian Government's disaster and emergency response to incidents in the region of national and international significance. Pharmacist Melanie Morrow delivered a presentation on the centre's activities, with a particular focus on the medical and self-sufficiency equipment that is stored and managed at the centre, ready for a disaster response. The NCCTRC coordinates on behalf of the Australian Government, the deployment of the Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMAT).

The most recent responses by AUSMAT include the deployment of a 15-person specialist cell to Papua New Guinea in March this year for 14 days in the aftermath of an earthquake in the region, and a needs assessment scope to Tonga following Tropical Cyclone Gita in February.

The Board was also invited to a presentation by Shannon Daly and Don Christopherson from the Royal Darwin Hospital on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and the importance of cultural responsiveness. This has relevance to the commitment of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), the National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations to an [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy](#) with the vision: *Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.*

Pharmacist prescribing forum

Preparations are underway for the pharmacist prescribing forum to be hosted by the Board in Melbourne on Tuesday 26 June 2018. The forum will bring stakeholders together to explore the need and opportunities for expanding pharmacist involvement in prescribing in Australia. Outcomes of the forum may include agreement about prescribing models for further exploration, and the next steps required to develop proposals for further consultation.

The Board encourages those invited to take part in the event to RSVP by the closing date Monday 11 June 2018.

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

Testimonials in health advertising – a tool to help get it right now available

Advertising about a regulated health service is in breach of the National Law if it includes a testimonial (review, experience, comment and/or statement) that mentions a **clinical aspect**. A new tool to help practitioners and advertisers understand their obligations about using testimonials and reviews to advertise regulated health services is now available.

The testimonial tool is the latest in a series of [resources and support materials](#) developed by AHPRA and National Boards to help health practitioners, healthcare providers and other advertisers of regulated health services check and correct their advertising so it complies with the National Law.

The tool includes information and flow charts to help practitioners and advertisers understand why testimonials are not allowed and which reviews or feedback can be used in advertising.

The testimonial tool is now available in the *Advertising resources* section of 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

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William Kelly
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
31 May 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.*