



## Communiqué

**15 October 2014**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 18-19 September 2014 in Canberra.

### Stakeholder meeting in Canberra

The Board held a meeting with local pharmacists and stakeholders to coincide with its Board meeting in Canberra. This provided an opportunity for Board members to discuss issues regarding the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and local practice.

### Online renewal of registration is now open

Online renewal of registration to practise in Australia is now open for pharmacists holding general or non-practising registration.

About 26,400 pharmacists who are due to renew their registration with the Board by 30 November can submit an online application now. We encourage pharmacists to [renew online](#).

Under the National Law, all registered health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year. Last year 97.1 per cent of pharmacist renewals due by 30 November were submitted online.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to pharmacists with a registered email address by AHPRA on behalf of the Board. The reminders include a link to online renewal.

To ensure that future email and hard copy reminders to renew are received, AHPRA requires pharmacists' current contact information.

Pharmacists can check or update their contact details by using the [online services for practitioners](#). This requires a pharmacist's individual user ID and secure password. The user ID is not the pharmacist's registration number. To obtain their user ID, pharmacists can complete a [web enquiry form](#) and select 'Online Services - Practitioner' as the category type or call 1300 419 495.

Useful information for pharmacists is available on the Board's website:

[Registration standards](#)  
[Codes and guidelines](#)  
[Registration renewal](#)  
[Renewal FAQ](#)

### 2014/2015 Health Profession Agreement published

The Board and AHPRA have published the Health Profession Agreement that outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, including the services AHPRA will provide to the Board in 2014/2015.

The Board and AHPRA work together to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme), which regulates registered health practitioners in Australia in the public interest.

The guiding principles of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) require the National Scheme to operate in a 'transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way'; and for registration fees to be reasonable 'having regard to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme'.

One of the fundamental aspects of the National Scheme is that there is no cross-subsidisation between professions. This means that the regulation of each profession is entirely paid for by that profession's registration fees.

The 2014/15 Health Profession Agreement is published on the [Board's website](#).

### Online graduate application service

Final-year students who will soon complete a Board-approved program of study can go [online](#) to apply for registration before they graduate through AHPRA's online graduate application service. This service smooths the path from study to work by enabling final-year pharmacy students to apply for provisional registration four to six weeks before completing their course.

Graduates must make an application for provisional registration and are required to return some documents to AHPRA by mail to complete their application. An application for approval of supervised practice must also be sent to AHPRA.

Graduates and prospective preceptors are reminded that before supervised practice can commence, graduates must have been granted provisional registration with the Board, and had their supervised practice approved by the Board.

### Pharmacy Board of Australia Newsletter – October 2014

The Board is about to publish its October 2014 newsletter on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Newsletters.aspx). The newsletter will also be e-mailed to all registered pharmacists who have provided an e-mail address to AHPRA. Pharmacists who have not provided an e-mail address can do so through the [online services for practitioners](#).

Stephen Marty  
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
15 October 2014

*[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.*