

## Communique

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### Fifth Meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia 26 February 2010

The fifth meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 26 February 2010 in Melbourne. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

As in previous meetings, in its fifth meeting the Board focused on the matters it had to resolve before the commencement of the national registration and accreditation scheme on 1 July 2010.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Board determined that members of the Pharmacy Board of Australia could not also be a Director of the Accrediting Body for pharmacy, given the conflict of interest when considering agreements between the two organisations.

#### **Transition Arrangements**

The Board gave careful consideration to transitional arrangements for provisional registrants, noting that interns are not currently registered in some jurisdictions. Work is to be undertaken to ensure that applications can be made for provisional registration in a timely manner in those jurisdictions, to ensure interns can continue their supervised practice without disruption.

The Board also considered arrangements for pharmacists whose registration is due for renewal on 1 July and agreed to work with existing State and Territory Boards to make the transition as simple as possible. Practitioners with registration renewal due around 1 July are encouraged to renew early. Detailed information on transition to the national scheme is being sent to practitioners towards the end of April. The Board also noted that given the wider definition of practice, some pharmacists currently holding non-practising registration may need to transfer to general registration and may need to discuss this with their current board prior to the implementation of the new scheme.

#### **Proposed Registration Standards, Codes and Guidelines**

The Board made a small number of amendments to the proposals to the Ministerial Council on Registration Standards.

It considered draft guidelines on mandatory notifications, advertising, code of conduct and continuing professional development (CPD). The Board has released a consultation paper that sets out all its proposed codes and guidelines early in March and welcomes feedback. These are published at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au).

#### **Issues for consultation:**

- A code of conduct for the pharmacy profession, addressing issues like providing good care, working with patients, effective communication, confidentiality and privacy, informed consent, patients with additional needs, adverse events and open disclosure, delegation referral and handover, teamwork, minimising risk, maintaining professional boundaries, health records, conflicts of interest, financial and commercial dealings

- Guidelines on mandatory reporting, explaining the situations when a health practitioner or their employer must notify the Board through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency about a registered health practitioner's misconduct. There are four types of misconduct: intoxication, sexual misconduct, impairment and significantly departing from accepted professional standards. These guidelines are expected to be common across all National Boards
- Guidelines on Advertising, including what is acceptable advertising, such as factual statements about the services a pharmacist provides. The Guidelines also define what is unacceptable, such as not disclosing risks associated with a treatment. The Guidelines clarify the acceptable use in advertising of titles, warning statements, advertising of therapeutic goods, advertising of price and how to complain about a breach of the Guidelines. These guidelines are likely to be common across all National Boards
- Guidelines on CPD, which support the proposed registration standard and which explain what activities count as CPD and how to keep records of CPD.

In considering the guidelines on CPD, the Board was assisted by a submission from the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum, including discussion on whether CPD should be accredited and for CPD points to be changed to Pharmacy Board Credits for meeting the requirements of the National Law.

### **Non-medical Prescribing**

The Board agreed that the Chair should meet with the Chairs of the Nursing and Midwifery, Optometrist and Podiatrist Boards to discuss membership and terms of reference for an advisory group to consider non-medical prescribing. The Board has decided not to proceed with endorsement of registration of pharmacists to prescribe prior to the commencement of the national scheme but will further consider this issue in due course.

### **Board Committees and Delegations**

The Board considered the operation of the Registration and Notifications Committee and determined delegations to AHPRA and to the Committee.

The Board noted that the Examinations Committee would consider a number of matters referred to it from the Board at its next meeting.

The Chair reported on participation in the Competency Standards Review Steering Committee and the QCP Standards Committee.

### **Registration Fees**

The Board will be setting the 2010 - 2011 registration fees at its meeting in March and this will be communicated to the profession in April. The Board will also consider a number of administrative and financial matters at the March meeting

### **Registration Transition Arrangements**

The Board considered its communication needs in the lead up to commencement of the national scheme. It will be working very closely with State and Territory Boards during this period. Every registrant will receive a letter from the Board towards the end of April, detailing the transition process, advising them of their personal registration status and outlining what is required of them to ensure a safe transition to the National Scheme. Individual registrants are also encouraged to make sure that their contact details are up to date with their existing registration board, as this information will be transferred to the national scheme.

Regular updates and FAQs will be published on the National Board website.

Stephen Marty  
Chair

19 March 2010