



Communiqué

1 June 2012

The Pharmacy Board of Australia met on 25 May 2012 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

Health profession agreement

The Board has finalised its budget for 2012-13 and is in the process of finalising the health profession agreement (HPA) with AHPRA for the same period. The HPA will outline how AHPRA will support the Board and enable the Board to fulfil its functions under the National Law and its primary role to protect the public. The HPA will also include details of fees set by the Board including fees for registrants. The fees set by the Board will be published on the Board's website prior to their date of effect, 1 July 2012.

Quarterly registered health practitioner data

Earlier this month, the Board published the first quarterly report profiling Australia's pharmacy workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants. The [data](#) is available on the Board's website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx).

English language skills registration standard

The Pharmacy Board along with other National Boards have committed to reviewing their registration standards at least every three years. By mid 2013, the National Scheme will be three years old, which will trigger a review of the standards that have been in place since the start of the scheme. In preparation, National Boards and AHPRA have commissioned research on English language skills testing, including the scope of exemptions from testing requirements. This research will inform the review of English Language Skills Registration Standards in 2013. The research evidence and other information from the review will be shared with the four professions joining the Scheme on 1 July 2012 so that they can consider any implications for their registration standards. The existing standard was based on the approach of state and territory registration boards before July 2010, and informed by the consultation process that supported its development. The National Boards will consult on any changes to the English language skills registration standard in 2013.

Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners

As advised in the April communiqué, the Board is conducting a consultation on a minor amendment to the current *Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners*. The consultation paper is published on the Board's website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx).

The Board invites interested stakeholders to provide their written comments on the draft amendment.

Your feedback can be emailed or posted to:

The Executive Officer
Pharmacy Board of Australia
E-mail: pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au
Post: GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Due date: Close of business **Friday 22 June 2012**.

William Kelly
Acting Chair
1 June 2012