

Communiqué

4 December 2017

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.

Board releases joint statement on compounding of medicines

This month the Board released a joint statement with the Medical Board of Australia describing good practice for practitioners when prescribing and dispensing compounded medicines.

The Boards issued the statement to remind pharmacists and medical practitioners of their respective responsibilities relating to compounded medicines which in turn will protect patients. Practitioners are being asked to review and understand the statement as both professions play an important role in the safe use of compounded medicines by patients.

Read the [news item](#) and review the [statement](#) published on our website.

Registration renewal reminder

Pharmacists who did not renew their registration by 30 November 2017 are now in the late renewal period and have until 31 December to apply. Applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee. Practitioners who apply after 1 January must lodge a new application for registration.

Anyone who does not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2017 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the [national register of practitioners](#) and they will not be able to practise in Australia. A 'fast-track' application can be made, but only in January 2018 and the pharmacist cannot practise until it is processed and the national register is updated, which can take time.

Pharmacists who apply to renew during the late renewal period you can still practise even if:

- we are still processing their application to renew, and/or
- the registration expiry date displayed on the register has passed.

AHPRA and National Board's release annual report

The Annual Report for AHPRA and National Boards reveals how the Board has worked to protect the public in 2016/17. The report is a comprehensive record of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) for the 12 months to 30 June 2017.

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

The pharmacy health workforce grew by 2.2% over the past year, to 30,360 total registrants, according to data released in the 2016/17 annual report published by AHPRA and the National Boards. While pharmacists constitute only 4.5% of the 678,983 registrants currently in the National Scheme, the profession continues to grow, with 7,540 students on the Student Register in 2016/17 (up 3.6% from 2015/16).

In the coming weeks, AHPRA and the Board will also publish a summary of our work regulating pharmacists.

For more information visit the [Annual Report microsite](#) on the AHPRA website.

Update on the Independent Accreditation Systems Review

In October 2016 health ministers commissioned Professor Michael Woods, former Productivity Commissioner, to carry out the Independent Accreditation Systems Review (the Review). Following public consultations Professor Woods has prepared [draft recommendations](#) for ministers. Many of the reforms in his draft report would, in their current form, require significant changes to our legislation and how we manage the accreditation of courses leading to registration as well as assessment of internationally-qualified practitioners.

In response to the draft recommendations, AHPRA and National Boards have published a joint submission to the Review on the [AHPRA website](#). The joint submission includes additional responses from four participating National Boards – Chiropractic, Medical, Optometry and Psychology. The Pharmacy Board made a separate [submission](#) which is published on our [website](#).

AHPRA and National Boards look forward to the Review's final report and health ministers' response in due course. A news item including a high level summary of key aspects of the joint submission has been published on the [AHPRA website](#).

New Zealand visit

The Chair and the Board's Executive Officer were warmly welcomed by the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (PCNZ) at their meeting held in their office in Wellington, New Zealand on 28 September 2017. The PCNZ is the pharmacy regulatory in New Zealand. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to share insights and discuss matters of common interest in relation to the regulation of pharmacists in our respective countries.

Board notes international research collaboration at seminar

AHPRA and the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#), the United Kingdom's multi-professional health and social care regulator, met for a Research Seminar in November to target the issue of patient safety in practitioner regulation.

This was the largest research collaboration of its kind, with data for over one million registered health practitioners across both countries, providing a foundation for a stronger focus on how regulators of health practitioners can keep patients safer.

The joint research seminar looked at how AHPRA and National Boards learn from data to improve regulatory effectiveness, patient safety and professional standards internationally. Through engaging and collaborating with other regulators we can learn more and translate what we find into real action that puts patient safety first.

About 150 people attended the seminar which showcased research updates in areas such as risk-based regulation to prevent harm and using behavioural insights in regulation. In attendance were international researchers, regulators, accreditation authorities and

practitioners, all looking at ways in which research can help shape AHPRA and HCPC's regulatory policies, decision-making and compliance activities.

For more information

Interviews with those who attended the seminar, including HCPC CEO Marc Seale and AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher, are on the AHPRA [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Powerful partnership to tackle improper PED prescriptions

AHPRA and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) have announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to enhance cooperation in investigative activities.

While ASADA's role is to protect clean sport and AHPRA's role is to protect the Australian public when receiving care from registered health professionals, their purposes align when performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) are provided by registered health practitioners without genuine therapeutic need, causing a risk to public health and safety.

The MOU follows recent liaison between the agencies and will enable closer cooperation in relation to investigations involving registered health practitioners providing PEDs without therapeutic need.

Read more in the [news item](#) on the AHPRA website.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board released its quarterly registration data in November showing a total of 30,458 pharmacists were registered across Australia on 30 September 2017. Go to our [Statistics webpage](#) to learn more.

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

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



William Kelly
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
4 December 2017

[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.*