



## Communiqué

**26 October 2012**

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) met on 18 October 2012 at the national office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in Melbourne.

### Pharmacy Australia Congress (PAC)

The Board participated at PAC12 during 19-21 October 2012 with a stand in the exhibition area attended by members of the Board and the Board's Executive Officer. This provided an opportunity for pharmacists to ask questions about the requirements under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) and the Board's registration standards, codes and guidelines and renewal of registration.

During the conference, it was noted that one of the changes since the commencement of the National Scheme was that some pharmacists remain unclear about the regulation of pharmacy premises in their jurisdiction. As outlined on the Board's [website](#), the approval and regulation of pharmacy premises are matters not covered by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) and are therefore not the responsibility of the Pharmacy Board of Australia. These matters are the responsibility of [pharmacy approval authorities](#) in each jurisdiction.

The Board will also participate in the forthcoming SHPA National Conference (Medicines Management 2012) in November 2012 and APP2013 in March 2013.

### Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released quarterly registration data. The data profiles Australia's pharmacy workforce, including information on types of registration held, principal place of practice, registrant age and gender. Publication of quarterly data that accurately reflects the number of registered health practitioners is one essential benefit of the National Scheme. The National Scheme requires that information about every registered health practitioner in Australia is published on a single national [register of practitioners](#), which is published online.

Visit the [Board website](#) to view the quarterly registration data.

### Annual Report

AHPRA and the National Boards submitted the 2012 Annual Report to Ministers by 30 September as required by the National Law. The report, expected to be publicly released on 1 November, details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The release will be supported by the publication of a special edition of AHPRA Report. The 2012 Annual Report and AHPRA Report will both be published online.

### Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The Pharmacy Board of Australia and the other National Boards that have been in the National Scheme since 2010 have begun preparations for reviewing the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the scheme commenced.

The National Boards that joined the National Scheme in 2012 will also be participating in the public consultations on common registration standards, codes and guidelines.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards to make providing feedback easier.

Consultation is expected to occur over several stages, starting in 2013. The consultations are being staged (rather than happening simultaneously) to give stakeholders a better opportunity to provide feedback. Information about the reviews will be included in forthcoming communiqués and on the website as they commence.

Work on the reviews will include public consultation on a proposed social media policy. Until then, practitioners can be guided by the principle that the same responsibilities apply to practitioners' behaviour online as they do to behaviour in person. In that context, the Board's *Code of conduct* and *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services* provide guidance about appropriate conduct and advertising, whether in person or online.

### Registration renewals

Pharmacists across Australia are reminded that their registration is due for renewal on 30 November.

The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online.

AHPRA has sent a series of emails to pharmacists, for whom an email address is known, reminding them to renew their registration. Pharmacists should check that their contact email details are up to date so they receive renewal reminders from AHPRA. These reminders are confirmation that online renewal is open.

Contact details can be updated by going online at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au), following the 'online services' link and using your unique contact number (User ID). If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form or call 1300 419 495.

Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. There is no discretion for either the Board or AHPRA in this, so practitioners must renew on time.

The standards compliance audit is included as part of the renewal process this year. Pharmacists who have been randomly selected for audit will be advised of this near the completion of the renewal process or by mail if renewing by mail.

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
26 October 2012