



## Communiqué

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**3 May 2018**

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 Law<sup>1</sup> 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.

### April stakeholder meetings

As part of the Board's stakeholder engagement, the president and the executive officer of the Pharmacy Council of NSW attended the Board meeting. This was an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest including the management of notifications about pharmacists under the National Scheme and in NSW which is a co-regulatory jurisdiction<sup>2</sup>.

The Board also met with the president and CEO of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). APC is the accreditation authority responsible for accrediting education providers and programs of study for the pharmacy profession. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss APC's six-monthly report to the Board covering examinations, accreditation and other work.

The Board was also briefed by the Australian Digital Health Agency on developments in My Health Record.

### Pharmacist prescribing forum

The Board is hosting a national forum on pharmacist prescribing in Melbourne on 26 June 2018. The forum will bring stakeholders together to explore pharmacist prescribing as a means of improving access to medicines to meet public need.

Invitations have been issued to stakeholders and the program is currently being developed. The forum will enable participants to hear about work completed to date and to explore and discuss public need and public safety issues, legislative considerations, stakeholder engagement and education and training.

Outcomes of the forum may include agreement about prescribing models that should be further explored and the next steps required to develop proposals for further consultation.

### Quarterly registration data released

The Board released its quarterly registration data in April showing a total of 30,984 pharmacists were registered across Australia on 31 March 2018. Go to our [Statistics webpage](#) to learn more.

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

<sup>2</sup> Health professional councils work with the Health Care Complaints Commission to assess and manage concerns about NSW practitioners' conduct, health and performance. NSW does not participate in the health, performance and conduct process provided by the National Law, but is involved in other parts of the National Scheme.

## National Pharmacy Internship Experience Survey

The Board would like to thank recent interns and preceptors who completed the Pharmacy Internship Experience Survey (PIES).

The Board announced the start of the survey in its [news item](#) on 19 March 2018, when recent interns and preceptors were emailed an invitation to participate.

The national survey PIES gave interns and preceptors the chance to give feedback on their own experiences, so the Board can continue to improve the supervised practice process for future interns and preceptors.

The survey data is currently being analysed.

## Public consultation on review of accreditation arrangements – assignment of accreditation functions

National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are consulting on future accreditation arrangements from mid-2019, when the current term of assignment of accreditation functions ends.

Public consultation has started and will close at **12pm on Monday 14 May 2018**.

The National Law sets out the accreditation functions in the National Scheme; these include developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against approved accreditation standards and assessing overseas-qualified practitioners.

It is each National Board's decision as to whether the accreditation functions for the profession it regulates will be carried out by an external accreditation body or a committee established by the Board. If the National Board decides on an external organisation, AHPRA enters into a contract with them which specifies the scope of accreditation functions and sets out associated reporting requirements and funding arrangements. If the National Board decides on a committee, these matters are specified in terms of reference.

National Boards will take feedback into account when making decisions about the assignment of accreditation functions from mid-2019. Feedback will also be considered in the next phase of the review, which will involve establishing new agreements with external accreditation authorities and terms of reference for accreditation committees.

The consultation paper is available under [Consultations](#), on the AHPRA website, along with information about the publishing of submissions to the consultation. The National Boards and AHPRA invite feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community.

You can provide feedback using **one** of the following options:

- Complete the [survey](#) by **12pm on 14 May 2018** OR
- Email a submission marked 'Scheduled review of accreditation assignments' to [accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au) by **12pm on 14 May 2018**.

## Consultation paper on the draft guideline for informing a National Board about where pharmacists practise

AHPRA and the National Boards have published a consultation paper on the draft guideline for informing a National Board about where pharmacists practise.

Public consultation has started and will close on **25 May 2018**.

In September 2017, the Queensland Parliament passed the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017*. The Bill contained a set of amendments to the

National Law, except Western Australia. Corresponding legislation has also been passed in Western Australia.

These amendments include changes to the information a registered health practitioner is required to provide about their practice arrangements when requested by the National Board (referred to as 'practice information'). The draft guideline has been developed to help registered health practitioners to provide practice information in a way that meets their obligation under the National Law.

The consultation paper is available under [Consultations](#) on the AHPRA website and the Boards invite feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community. Submissions to this consultation may be published on the AHPRA website. More about this is included with information on the consultation paper.

Please provide any written submissions by email, marked, 'Draft guidelines: Informing a National Board about where you practise' to [nationallawamendments@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:nationallawamendments@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business on 25 May 2018. Submissions by post should be addressed to the Executive Officer, NRAS Review, AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne VIC 3001.

### **Vexing not vexatious: Report finds more risk in not reporting**

New independent research commissioned by AHPRA takes a first international look at vexatious complaints, finding there is more risk from people not reporting concerns than from making dubious complaints.

It also found that while being on the receiving end of a complaint is tough – the complaint is much more likely to be vexing than vexatious.

The report will be used to inform best practice for reducing, identifying, and managing vexatious complaints and helps to identify opportunities to work with others to help reduce their frequency and adverse consequences.

For further information read the research summary report [Reducing, identifying and managing vexatious complaints](#) on the AHPRA website.

### **Read about progress on the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy**

The health strategy group charged with developing the National Scheme's first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy has held its first meeting for 2018 and will publish its latest communiqué soon.

AHPRA, the 15 National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy with the vision of: 'Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.'

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting, and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, are co-Chairs of the health strategy group. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group publish communiqués of its work. These are available on the [Advisory group page](#) of the AHPRA website.

This work is happening in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA.

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group is scheduled for July 2018.

## Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for pharmacists on its website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://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](http://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  
3 May 2018

*[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.*