



## Communiqué

### Tenth Meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia 30 July 2010

The tenth meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Australia was held on 30 July 2010 in Melbourne.

#### Commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

On 1 July 2010, the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme commenced. All jurisdictions joined the scheme with the exception of Western Australia which is expected to join the scheme later in 2010. Until then, pharmacists registered in Western Australia seeking to practise in other jurisdictions may only do so if they held registration in other jurisdictions on 30 June 2010 and they transitioned to the national scheme on 1 July 2010, or if an application for registration is lodged with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in order to become registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia. Further information is available on the Board and AHPRA websites.

#### Board Committees

##### Policies, Codes and Guidelines Committee

Before the national scheme began, the committee was actively developing guidelines for consultation, consideration of submissions and preparation of final guidelines for adoption by the Board. Guidelines on continuing professional development were previously adopted and published by the Board on its website ([www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au)). The committee will prepare further information to publish on the Board's website to assist pharmacists understand how to meet their CPD obligations.

The committee presented feedback to the Board on the wide ranging consultation on three sets of guidelines (Guidelines on dispensing medicines, specialised supply arrangements, and practice specific issues). The Board resolved to make an out of session decision on the finalisation for publication of these guidelines, taking into consideration recommendations of the committee based on the feedback from stakeholders. The Board resolved to publish the guidelines on its website by mid August. Pharmacists are advised to familiarise themselves with the guidelines, many of which are based on guidelines previously in place in jurisdictions before the national scheme was introduced.

The committee will shortly begin work to develop new guidelines on the responsibilities of practising pharmacists who are also owners of pharmacy businesses. The Board had previously advised the profession of its policy decision that *prima facie*, a pharmacist who owns a pharmacy is practising pharmacy, given that ownership of a pharmacy business is a role that impacts on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and involves use of professional skills. In addition to meeting the Board's registration standards to maintain general registration including the requirements for professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice and continuing professional development, proprietor pharmacists will be obliged to meet guidelines which will be open for consultation before being finalised by the Board.

## **Registration and Notifications Committee**

During July, the Board's Registration and Notifications Committee conducted its first meeting during which it finalised the administrative process for dealing with registration and notifications (complaints) under the National Law. The committee will consider open cases previously dealt with (but not finalised) by State and Territory Boards.

The Board noted with great sadness, the passing of Ms Judy Liauw, an appointed jurisdictional member from Tasmania. The Board is seeking to appoint a Tasmanian representative to replace the skill and experience that Ms Liauw had brought to the committee.

## **Examinations Committee**

The Examinations Committee of the Board convened a meeting of its Examinations Working Group to review the oral examination formats used by State and Territory Pharmacy Boards before the commencement of the national scheme. These individual formats will be maintained in each jurisdiction during 2010. The Working Group included pharmacists experienced in developing and conducting examinations. Members of the Working Group reviewed the various formats of oral examinations and advised the Examinations Committee, so it could make recommendations to the Board about a format for a national oral examination to be conducted from 1 January 2011 in all State and Territory capital cities.

The Board agreed to an oral examination format which will include four scenario based questions. The examination will be 45-50 minutes duration and each candidate will be examined by two examiners. Parts of the examination will be closed-book, part will be open-book and candidates will be permitted to bring references of their choosing to use during specified parts of the examination. The four parts to the examination involve a patient medication profile, a primary health care scenario, a legal and ethical practice scenario and a communication and problem solving scenario. The scenarios presented will involve role-play with patients and/or agents and prescribers, discussion with examiners and will require candidates to demonstrate knowledge, provide advice, problem solve on a variety of issues and ensure that satisfactory outcomes are achieved and communicated as would be expected in the daily practice of pharmacy.

Full details of the examination and examination processes will be provided to 2011 candidates in the form of a candidate guide which will be published on the Board's website by January 2011. Staff of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will conduct oral examinations every four months on behalf of the Board (February/March, June/July and October/November). As previously notified by the Board, the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) will administer the written examination, the prerequisite for entry into the oral examination. A written examination schedule will also be published on the Board and APC websites.

## **Panels**

The Board appointed individuals to a list of persons approved to be appointed as members of panels. The Board will establish health panels to consider matters arising from notifications or for any other reason about pharmacists or students and performance and professional standards panels to consider matters arising from notifications or for any other reason about pharmacists. The individuals appointed have previously served in a similar capacity or have served on past State and Territory Pharmacy Boards and bring a wealth of experience which will serve the Board and the public well.

## **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

The Board published Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements standard for pharmacists on its website. The standard specifies the minimum level of cover required by pharmacists in addition to the need for run-off cover. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has also released a communiqué on PII on its website (<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/en/News.aspx>) which provides

further detail which may guide pharmacists about the different types of insurance policies available. Pharmacists seeking to identify a type of policy which will meet their needs and comply with the Board's requirements may find the information in the communiqué helpful.

#### **Fees and application forms**

The Board published its schedule of fees on its website. Application forms for registration, including registration under mutual recognition for pharmacists registered in Western Australia who wish to practise in other jurisdictions are also available on the website at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au).

Stephen Marty  
Chair  
12 August 2010