

Communiqué

12 November 2020

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.

Pharmacists are reminded to renew registration by 30 November

Pharmacists have until 30 November 2020 to renew their general registration or non-practising registration on time. By now, pharmacists have received an email reminding them to renew their registration. The quickest and easiest way to renew is [online](#).

Pharmacists whose application for general registration is received on time or during the following one-month late period can continue practising while their application is processed. Applications received in December will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Pharmacists who do not apply to renew their general registration by 31 December 2020 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the national register and will not be able to practise in Australia.

What if pharmacists can't meet the recency of practice or continuing professional development requirements for this registration period because of COVID-19?

Pharmacists are strongly encouraged to meet the recency of practice and continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. If a pharmacist is unable to meet these requirements due to COVID-19, the Board will not take action. Recency of practice and CPD requirements will need to be met when applying for renewal in 2021. More information is published on the COVID-19 updates [All profession information webpage](#).

Pharmacists are expected to comply with their professional obligations including to recognise and work within the limits of their competence and scope of practice and to maintain adequate knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care.

More information on 2020 renewal arrangements

More information about renewal of registration and how the Board is supporting health practitioners during COVID-19, including through the financial hardship payment plan, is available in the [Board's news item](#).

Collaboration across professions

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

The latest episode of the [‘Taking care’](#) podcast highlights the importance of the role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner profession in working with other professions to deliver holistic care.

The Board met with Renee Owen, Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia, and Aboriginal Health Programs Manager at University Hospital Geelong, at its October meeting. The Board welcomed the opportunity to discuss inter-professional collaboration in healthcare delivery and the importance of cultural safety.

Certifying photographic identity documents for applications for registration

Ahpra is reminding graduates that there are specific requirements for how photographic identity documents need to be certified. Authorised officers must write or stamp:

‘I certify that this is a true copy of the original and the photograph is a true likeness of the person presenting the document as sighted by me.’

The wording is different to the wording usually used by an authorised officer when certifying copies of an original, especially Justices of the Peace. To help with this, Ahpra has a guide which graduates can take with them to assist the authorised officer understand what is required. The guide is available on the Ahpra [website](#) and applicants are advised to download or print the guide [‘Certifying Documents: Instructions for applicants and authorised officers’](#).

Quarterly registration data

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia’s pharmacy workforce.

At 30 September 2020, there were a total of 34,580 registered pharmacists in Australia. Of these, 31,794 had general registration, 1,801 had provisional registration and 970 had non-practising registration. The 1,952 pharmacists that are part of the short-term pandemic response sub-register are included in the number of pharmacists holding general registration.

For more data, including registrant numbers by age, gender and principal place of practice, visit the Board’s [Statistics page](#).

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.



Brett Simmonds
Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
12 November 2020

[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.*