

22 October 2013

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

criminalhistoryconsult@ahpra.gov.au

Dear AHPRA

Re: Public consultation paper on international criminal history checks

SHPA is the national professional organisation for more than 3,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia's health system. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with a core base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other health service facilities. These pharmacists work within health care teams with a focus on supporting the safe and effective use of medicines as their core business.

SHPA agrees that AHPRA needs to balance the requirements for public protection with the need for responsive and timely application and assessment processes for those seeking registration as a healthcare professional in Australia. In principle we support the newly described option; Option 5: External provider conducts international criminal history checks.

SHPA believes that the 'six months or more' time period for living in a country outside of Australia would be an appropriate trigger for requiring an international criminal history check.

If you would like to discuss the issues raised in this submission or require further information please contact [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



Helen Dowling
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(BPharm, DipHospPharmAdmin, GDipQIHCare, FSHP, AICD)

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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