



## PHARMACY BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008

### MEET THE BOARD

Ms Bhavini Patel	Chair
Ms Shelley Crowther	Member
Mr Andrew Tooms	Member
Mr Terry Battalis	Member
Ms Judith Dikstein	Public Member

### BOARD SUPPORT

Ms Jill Huck	Registrar
Ms Vicki Skopellos	Policy & Research
Ms Sharon Krause	Complaints Manager
Ms Julie Burrows	Registrations

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2008 has been another exciting year so far with many changes and challenges on the horizon, which I look forward to. The Board has continued to work towards providing guidance to the Pharmacists in the interest of ensuring maintenance of quality health care in the Northern Territory.

A big welcome to Mr Andrew Tooms who was appointed as a practitioner member to the Board in late 2007. Mr Tooms currently works as a Senior Pharmacist at Robertson Barracks Medical Centre. He has significant experience in hospital and retail pharmacy in both England and Australia as well as experience in military pharmacy in the Northern Territory.

I would like to thank Mr Lachlin Miller who resigned as Public Member from the Board and Mr Peter Clarke whose term of appointment on the Board expired on 19 September 2008. Both Mr Miller and Mr Clarke have been valuable members of the Board for many years and will be missed.

I strongly encourage all Pharmacists to develop an understanding of the *Health Practitioners Act* and familiarise themselves with the Board's policies and guidelines.

I hope this Newsletter provides assistance and guidance in your day-to-day practice as well as an understanding of the current and potential changes in regulation of Pharmacists in Australia. Please contact the Board if you have items of interest you would like the Board to address in Newsletters.

Best Wishes  
Bhavini Patel (Chair)

### FAILED TO RENEW YOUR REGISTRATION FOR 2008/2009

If you are a pharmacist and failed to renew your Northern Territory registration by 30 September 2008 and you wish to practice in the Northern Territory, you need to apply to have your name restored to the Register as soon as possible.

Applications for restoration of registration must be made on the approved form, be accompanied by the correct fee (for pharmacists this consists of the \$130 renewal fee plus \$25 restoration fee) and be lodged with the Health Professions Licensing Authority (HPLA) by **COB 31 October 2008**.

Applications for restoration can be obtained by:

- attending the HPLA office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Harbour View Plaza Cnr McMinn & Bennett Street;
- emailing HPLA on [renewalhpla.ths@nt.gov](mailto:renewalhpla.ths@nt.gov); and
- downloading the form from the HPLA website: [www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards](http://www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards)

### STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER SCHEDULE 8

The Pharmacy Board has developed a number of standards under Schedule 8 of the Health Practitioners Act. The standards are attached for your information and relate to:

- Direct Supervision
- Dispensing Guidelines
- Display of Names
- Tobacco and Alcohol
- Requirements for Pharmacy Business
- Ownership and Notification of Change of Ownership

The standards can be accessed on the HPLA website:

[www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards](http://www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards)

In September 2008, the Board wrote to all pharmacy owners requesting information on ownership interests and details of persons pharmacist-in-charge in accordance with the standard 'Ownership and Notification of Change of Ownership.' Owners were requested to fill out a notification of pharmacy ownership form and return the form to the Board by 30 October 2008. Please contact the

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Board if you require further information about this process.

**SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING DATES**

Please note that applications for registration and other information that is to be considered at a Board meeting must be received no less than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

The Board cannot guarantee that documents received after this date will be addressed at the next scheduled meeting. Late documents will be assessed for the level of urgency. Should your matter be urgent please contact the Board as soon as possible. The next meeting date for 2008 is scheduled on 11 December.

**COAG - NATIONAL REGISTRATION & ACCREDITATION**

Notification has been received from the Commonwealth regarding the signing of Intergovernmental Agreement that establishes the national registration and accreditation scheme for the health professions, which is to commence on 1 July 2010.

As previously advised the new arrangements will achieve national regulation and accreditation of the following nine professional groups:

Optometrist; Chiropractors; Dental (Dentists, Dental Specialists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Prosthetists); Medical Practitioners; Nurses & Midwives; Osteopaths; Pharmacists; Physiotherapists, and Psychologists.

At this point in time it is projected that Occupational Therapists, Aboriginal Health Workers and Radiographers will continue to be regulated under current Northern Territory legislation.

Each of the health professions, which will be included in the scheme, are using the opportunity to develop both the broad scope and finer details of the scheme. Dr Louise Morauta has been appointed the project manager to implement the scheme. Since her appointment, she has been meeting and talking with key stakeholders and establishing a national and jurisdictional consultation process.

The Board awaits further information from COAG in relation to the national scheme.

**WEBSITE**

The Pharmacy Board website at [www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards](http://www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards) has undergone a recent facelift. The Pharmacy Code, Pharmacy Register and Pharmacy Forms can all be accessed on this site.

**PHARMACY BOARD EDUCATION OFFICER**

Charles Darwin University (CDU) will be commencing the pharmacy Intern Training program for the first time in the Northern Territory in 2009. This is an exciting time for pharmacy students, graduates, pharmacists and CDU.

To assist with the development and management of the program, a casual (10 hours per week) pharmacist position (professional level 3) has been advertised. Key responsibilities of the position include:

1. Provide support and guidance to graduates and preceptors during the intern period of supervised pharmacy practice.
2. Assist the Registrar and the Pharmacy Board in the preparation and development of position papers, bulletins and other reports as required.
3. Under the direction of the Registrar and Pharmacy Board, oversee, manage and develop the examination and review processes of graduates seeking full registration by the Pharmacy Board.
4. Manage the intern pharmacist training calendar.
5. Coordinate the production and distribution of the program handbook.
6. Organise and coordinate information sessions regarding the intern training program.
7. Other duties as determined by the Registrar and/or the Board.
8. Willingness to travel to all parts of the Northern Territory as required.

For further details regarding the position, please contact the Board on 8999 4167.

**REPEAT DISPENSING PRACTICES AT PHARMACIES**

The Board and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) believe that the simultaneous supply of multiple quantities e.g. supply of

multiple repeats at once, may not be in accordance with the prescriber's intention and is contrary to good pharmaceutical practice. The APC further believes that this practice is contrary to the National Medicines Policy and may deprive the consumer of regular review and provision of medicine information, which can assist in minimising medication misadventure.

The Pharmacy Board supports this view and encourages practitioners to review their procedures in relation to multiple dispensing practices.

### **OCULAR THERAPEUTICS**

The *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act* (PADDA) authorises optometrists to sell or supply Schedule 2, 3, or 4 ocular therapeutic substances. This enables the Optometrist Board to authorise and set conditions and restrictions for optometrists possessing, using, prescribing and selling substances for the treatment of eye conditions.

The Optometrist Board has approved an Ocular Therapeutic Formulary that consists of a list of commonly used diagnostic substances which all registered optometrists are authorised to hold and use and a restricted list which only therapeutically authorised practitioners can use.

There are currently 7 optometrists in the NT who are therapeutically authorised practitioners. Therapeutically authorised practitioners are required to maintain prescribing records and report their prescribing to the Optometrist Board quarterly. The reports are reviewed by a Therapeutics Advisory Committee, responsible for recommending to the Board any amendments to the formulary required by changes to standard treatment regimes.

A copy of the formulary is available on the web site under the Optometrist Board.

### **KNOW YOUR ACT**

Pharmacists and 9 other health profession groups are regulated under the *Health Practitioners Act* in the Northern Territory. The purpose of the Act is to ensure public protection.

### **Annual Practising Certificates (APC) 40(2)**

A practising certificate is evidence that until the due date, or the date determined by the Board (a) the health practitioner is authorised to practice in the Territory. **Most APC expire on 30 September each year.**

Always keep your APC in a secure place and check it for the following:

- date on which your APC expires;
- accuracy of information on your APC; and
- conditions (if applicable) listed on the APC.

Please contact the Board immediately if the details on your APC are incorrect.

Those practitioners with conditional registration must ensure they are compliant with the conditions, to do otherwise is a breach of the legislation and may lead to a review of registration pursuant to s30 of the *Health Practitioners Act*.

### **Practising Unlicensed**

Practising unlicensed is a breach of Section 101 (1)(b) of the *Health Practitioners Act* and is: a risk to patients and practitioners; may impact on entitlement to Medicare rebates; and may alter indemnification arrangements.

Should you find yourself in this situation, it is in the best interest of your patients, yourself and your employer to rectify the situation immediately.

Please note it is the practitioner's responsibility to ensure that they hold current registration the *Health Practitioners Act* does not have the capacity to provide registration retrospectively.

### **S46 Notice of change of name or address**

A health practitioner must, within 30 days of changing his or her name, personal address or business address, give the relevant Board notice in writing of the change and the new name or address, as the case may be.

Failing to update the Board with changes of name / address details means that you will not receive any correspondence from the Board. In effect this means you will miss the opportunity:

- keep up with changes to policy;
- receive newsletters; and

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- receive the application to renew your registration.

The Board seeks your assistance in ensuring that the name and contact details maintained on the database are current.

**S111 Unconscionable conduct**

A person must not, either directly or indirectly, attempt to influence, coerce or otherwise cause a health practitioner to conduct or provide a health service that does not comply with the standards contained in the code applying to the Pharmacists.

**S117 Employer Notice of Misconduct or Incompetence**

If a person who employs a health practitioner terminates or suspends the practitioner's employment because of alleged or actual misconduct or incompetence to practise, the person must provide a written report of the circumstances of the termination or suspension to the Board and to the practitioner.

**S118 Protection from Liability**

This section applies to a person who; makes a complaint; provides the Board with information; assists the Board with a preliminary investigation (including an assessment report or opinion); assists or provides information under Part 6; or assists or provides information to the Tribunal. This person is not civilly or criminally liable for an act done by the person in good faith in taking an action referred to above.

**Registration Statistics**

As at **30 June 2008** there were a total of 227 registrants.

**Contact Details**

Pharmacist Board of the Northern Territory  
GPO Box 4221  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Telephone +61 8 8999 4157  
Fax +61 8 8999 4196  
Email [healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au](mailto:healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au)  
Web: [www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards](http://www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards)