

## Media release

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November 2011

### First national pharmacy data released

**The first ever national data on pharmacy is now available with the release of Pharmacy Board of Australia's information in the AHPRA and National Boards' annual report**

Pharmacy has the largest proportion of young practitioners, with the typical pharmacist being female, aged 25 to 29 years and practising in New South Wales.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners, the report provides the first national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by National Boards to protect public safety.

Chair of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, Mr Stephen Marty said the annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the National Boards about their work in regulating the profession and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the National Scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the National Boards," Mr Marty said.

"There is now clear evidence that the National Scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Important information for the pharmacy profession in the report includes:

- There are 25,944 pharmacists registered to practise in Australia, representing almost 5% of the total group of registered health practitioners. 8,110 of these practitioners nominated NSW as their principal place of practice
- The largest group of registered pharmacists was aged 25 to 29 years (5,518 pharmacists or more than 21% of the profession), followed by practitioners aged 30 to 34 years (4,137 pharmacists) and those aged 35 to 39 years (2,740 pharmacists). There were 230 pharmacists aged 80-plus years
- There were more female than male pharmacists (14,612 or more than 56%), in all states and territories
- There were 7,627 pharmacy students registered from April 2011, representing almost 8% of all registered students

- There were 8,139 notifications received about health practitioners in 2010-11, 419 on them relating to pharmacy. This means that 1.4% of pharmacists were subject to a notification, consistent with a national proportion across professions of 1.3%.
- The Board considered taking immediate action against 18 pharmacists, four in NSW. Of the 14 cases outside NSW\*, one resulted in no further action taken, two resulted in acceptance of undertaking on registration, six resulted in conditions imposed on registration and five resulted in suspension of registration.
- There were 15 mandatory notifications made about pharmacists in 2010-11. This represented 3.5% of all mandatory notifications received across the 10 professions and represented a rate of 5.8 mandatory notifications per 10,000 pharmacists

The annual report is an important source of information about the Board's activities in 2010-11. Achievements for the Pharmacy Board of Australia during the year included; introduction of a national oral examination to assess the competence of intern pharmacists; consultation on dispensing of medicines, practice-specific issues and specialised supply arrangements; and consultation and publication of guidelines on responsibilities of pharmacists when practising as proprietors.

Mr Marty encouraged health practitioners, patients, employers, educators and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

### More information about the National Scheme

More summaries of annual report data are published on the AHPRA website:

- [registrations](#)
- [criminal records checks](#)
- [notifications](#)
- [state and territory roundup: breakdown by profession and](#)
- [national information about other regulated health practitioner professions.](#)

#### *For more information*

- Refer to the [AHPRA Annual Report](#)
- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

*\*AHPRA and the National Boards are responsible for the management of notifications against practitioners across Australia, except in NSW, where the Health Professional Councils, supported by the Health Professions Council Authority (HPCA), are responsible.*