



National Prescribing Service Limited

26 November 2009

Attention: Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia
natboards@dhs.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Marty

Re: Consultation paper on registration standards and related matters

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Pharmacy Board of Australia's *Consultation paper on registration standards and related matters*.

We provide the following comments for your consideration.

English language skills

High level English communication skills are critical for effective professional practice in pharmacy in Australia. English proficiency is also important to maximise the benefits of the intern training period. NPS supports the requirement for the highest possible achievement level in the IELTS academic test at entry and therefore supports the proposal for a minimum rating of 7.5, in line with the requirements for medically trained interns.

In relation to the proposed exemptions, consideration should also be given to broadening (a) to encompass international schools where teaching is conducted in English.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Supervised practice

NPS supports the principle of accreditation of preceptors. Preceptors should be required to have attended preceptor training and be subject to revalidation of their competency on a regular basis. We question the need for experienced preceptors to undertake repeated training on a regular basis, but support the principle of re-accreditation.

NPS is an independent, non-profit organisation for Quality Use of Medicines,
funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

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Examinations for general registration

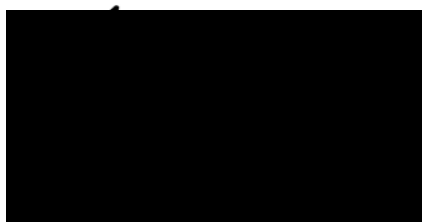
We suggest that as a matter of principle, examinations should not be set and conducted by the same agency that delivered the training program.

General comments

The National Registration process for all health professionals should support national strategic directions for health care delivery and facilitate safe and effective multi-disciplinary professional activity across health care settings, as recommended by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission.

NPS is well placed and willing to help support the development of competency criteria in relation to quality use of medicines and medication management to assist the National Registration processes and to provide relevant resource and educational materials wherever appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive Officer

About the National Prescribing Service Limited

National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that identifies and resolves challenges around medicines, bringing to life the goals of Australia's National Medicines Policy in the area of 'Quality Use of Medicines'. We create and deliver evidence-based information, services and systems that enable consumers and health professionals make the best decisions about whether or not to use a medicine to get better health outcomes.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, we undertake a range of activities and research to better understand and communicate the best use of medicines and to evaluate the impact of our programs. Further information on our programs and services is available at www.nps.org.au.

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