

Media Release

40,000 doctors urged to renew online

23 August 2010

The Medical Board of Australia is this week mailing 40,000 medical practitioners reminding them to renew their medical registration by 30 September 2010.

This represents about half the doctors who are now registered to practise across Australia (except in Western Australia, which is expected to join the national registration and accreditation scheme later in 2010).

Most doctors sent a renewal notice will be able to renew their medical registration online. They will receive a user ID and password to access the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) online service centre.

So far more than 18,000 practitioners from most of the 10 registered health professions have renewed online since 1 July 2010.

The Board is now sending registration renewal notices to doctors with general, specialist, limited or non-practising registration in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Most Queensland doctors renewed their registration with the Medical Board of Queensland by 30 June 2010 and are now registered until 30 June 2011. Registration renewal for many doctors in NSW is linked to the practitioner's birthdate and these renewal reminders will be sent out progressively as they are due.

Western Australia (WA) has not yet joined the national scheme, so practitioners registered in WA will renew this year with the Medical Board of Western Australia and are expected to transition to national registration later in 2010.

The registration renewal period for doctors with Limited Registration is linked to the anniversary of their initial registration and therefore varies throughout the year.

Medical Board of Australia Chair, Dr Joanna Flynn, encouraged doctors with general or specialist registration to take advantage of AHPRA's online renewal capacity.

Dr Flynn reminded doctors that under the National Scheme they must now meet five registration standards related to English language skills, Professional Indemnity Insurance, Recency of Practice, Continuing Professional Development and Criminal History and make a range of declarations of compliance with these standards.

"For this group of doctors, renewing online will be fast and efficient as the process is automated," she said.

"The Board has published detailed information on its website at www.medicalboard.gov.au about the registration standards, the transition to national registration and what doctors must now do to register to practise," Dr Flynn said.

Media Release

As well as urging doctors to visit the Board's website for up to date information, she encouraged doctors to provide AHPRA with their email address and mobile phone number, so the Board and AHPRA can contact the profession with important updates and information.

"I know all doctors are busy people and don't need junk-mail clogging up their inbox. The Board will use email communication sparingly but there are times when direct email contact with all registered doctors will be very helpful," Dr Flynn said.

She said AHPRA also planned to use SMS in future to send registration renewal reminders.

The online renewal capacity is now available to most doctors whose renewal is due on 30 September. Only medical practitioners with limited or non-practising registration cannot renew online.

Media Enquiries:

Nicole Newton 0407 998 611