

Media release

18 May 2011

Most Queensland medical practitioners due to renew registration

The Medical Board of Australia today urged medical practitioners in Queensland with general and/or specialist registration due to expire on 30 June 2011 to renew online and on time.

Medical practitioners can check their registration expiry date on the National Register of Medical Practitioners, published online at www.medicalboard.gov.au. The best way to search the Register is by name and profession.

Board Chair Dr Joanna Flynn encouraged medical practitioners whose registration expires on 30 June 2011 to renew registration online.

“In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Medical Board of Australia – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,” Dr Flynn said.

She said AHPRA was implementing an intensive campaign to support the renewal process. This will include sending several reminder emails and letters to individual practitioners. She encouraged practitioners to provide AHPRA with their email address to allow for easy and efficient direct communication with them.

Queensland medical practitioners whose registration expires on 30 June 2011 will renew for 15 months and their registration will be valid until 30 September 2012. The renewal date for all medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration in Australia will then be aligned and registration renewal will be due by 30 September each year.

This year the renewal fee for Queensland medical practitioners is \$813. This is based on the national renewal fee of \$650 for all Australian medical practitioners with general and/or specialist registration in the National Scheme, varied pro-rata to cover the 15-month registration period.

Dr Flynn reminded the profession that there were significant consequences for individual medical practitioners who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, medical practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the Register of Medical Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise medicine in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew on time and online,” Dr Flynn said.

Background

There are some simple steps medical practitioners can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure your contact details supplied to AHPRA, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Register of Medical Practitioners, accessible at www.medicalboard.gov.au and enter their last name and profession to search
3. **Watch for the notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (user ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner up to eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most medical practitioners can renew registration online, using the unique contact number (user ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Medical practitioners who do not have their unique contact number can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495. Practitioners can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, in their capital city.

Queensland medical practitioners can check that their application has been received at the Board's website at www.medicalboard.gov.au. Practitioners whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed. The listing on the National Register of Medical Practitioners is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

Medical practitioners who forget to renew their registration by 30 June 2011, or within the one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. They are not able to practise in the profession until their registration application has been granted.

Renew online – Register on time

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200