

Media release

23 July 2012

Board kicks off 2012 renewal campaign

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) has launched its 2012 registration renewal campaign by reminding medical practitioners to update their contact details and make sure they renew online, on time.

More than 80,000 medical practitioners with general and/or specialist or non-practising registration are due to renew their registration by 30 September 2012. Practitioners should look out for reminders to renew from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as confirmation that online renewal is open.

Board chair Dr Joanna Flynn AM encouraged medical practitioners whose registration expires on 30 September to act swiftly to renew after they receive their reminders and renew online, on time.

'The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online, with 96% of medical practitioners using this secure service last year,' Dr Flynn said.

She said AHPRA would stop sending reminder emails to each practitioner when it had received their application to renew. A new online facility to 'opt out' of renewing registration also puts a stop to renewal reminders.

'Medical practitioners who do not want to renew their registration can simply ignore the reminders or go online to 'opt out' of renewing,' Dr Flynn said.

This new online facility would provide the Board and AHPRA with better data on the number of medical practitioners who choose to opt out, to distinguish them from individuals who intend to renew, but do not do so on time.

This year, AHPRA has also tried to make it clear that practitioners who have recently renewed can ignore their reminder email.

'We are trying to strike the right balance between irritating practitioners with too many reminders, and not sending enough reminders so practitioners face the very significant consequences of not renewing their registration on time,' Dr Flynn said.

Dr Flynn reminded the profession they risked not being able to work if they did not renew on time in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

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

The Board recently announced a registration renewal fee of \$680, which is less than the national annual consumer price index (CPI) rate of 1.6% and covers the registration period of most practitioners from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013.

For more information

- Visit www.medicalboard.gov.au for FAQs on renewal
- Visit 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