

## Media release

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6 September 2012

### Medical practitioners reminded to renew registration by 30 September

The Medical Board of Australia (the Board) today urged medical practitioners who are due to renew their registration by 30 September but have not yet done so, to renew online and on time.

Board chair Dr Joanna Flynn AM said the Board was pleased to see that most medical practitioners whose general and/or specialist or non-practising registration was due were using the online renewal service.

To date, 47% of the more than 80,000 medical practitioners due to renew their registration by 30 September 2012 have renewed online. This is in line with 2011 renewal trends for the medical profession.

Medical practitioners due to renew their registration by 30 September 2012 and who have identified their principal place of practice number 26,610 in New South Wales, 20,355 in Victoria, 15,860 in Queensland, 7,942 in Western Australia, 6,380 in South Australia, 1,820 in Tasmania, 1,590 in ACT and 790 in the Northern Territory.

'To ensure that everyone who wants to renew their registration does so, hard copy letters have been sent to medical practitioners who have already received email reminders but are yet to renew online,' Dr Flynn said.

'In the National Scheme, health practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,' she said.

When AHPRA receives a medical practitioner's registration renewal application, their name is removed from the list of practitioners sent renewal reminders. There is also a new online facility to 'opt out' of renewing registration.

'We have erred on the side of sending more renewal reminders not less, because the consequences of not renewing on time are serious,' Dr Flynn said.

'I urge anyone due to renew by 30 September who has not yet done so to act soon as applications received after the registration expiry date will incur a late payment fee.'

The late payment fee will apply to medical practitioners who apply to renew during the one month late period outlined in the National Law. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Under the National Law, medical 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 their profession in Australia until a new application is approved.

'Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear – renew on time. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online,' Dr Flynn said.

Medical practitioners can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

The listing on the National Register of Practitioners is evidence for employers that a health professional is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed. Alternatively, medical practitioners can print off a copy of their registration certificate using AHPRA's online services at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

*For more information*

- Visit [www.medicalboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalboard.gov.au) for FAQs on renewal
- 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