

Media statement

5 October 2012

Time is running out to renew medical registration

The vast majority of Australia's 88,000 medical practitioners who were due to renew their registration by 30 September have renewed on time, online.

By the due date for registration renewal, 96% of practitioners due to renew their registration had done so, more than 92% of them online. A further one percent of practitioners have used the new 'opt out' service, and advised the Medical Board of Australia that they did not intend to renew their registration.

Under the National Law, medical practitioners due to renew who missed the 30 September deadline have a one month 'late payment period' until the end of October to renew their registration. A late payment fee of \$170 (or \$149 in NSW) – in addition to the registration renewal fee – is due for renewal applications lodged this month.

If practitioners do not renew their registration within one month of their registration renewal due date, their registration lapses. These practitioners must lodge a new application for registration, providing new paperwork and meeting all the relevant standards.

AHPRA CEO, Martin Fletcher, said AHPRA would now seek to contact all practitioners who were due to renew by 30 September but had not done so.

"There are serious consequences for practitioners who let their registration lapse unintentionally and for their patients," Mr Fletcher said.

This year, Medicare Australia will send a letter to practitioners, concurrent with the renewal reminder from AHPRA.

"It is important that practitioners are aware of the implications for them and their patients of not renewing their registration on time," Mr Fletcher said.

Medical Board of Australia Chair, Dr Joanna Flynn AM, said the Board was pleased that the renewal process had gone smoothly for the profession.

"AHPRA and the Board have worked hard to make the renewal process as simple and easy to use as possible, but we remind practitioners who have not yet renewed to do so now if they want to continue to practise. The law leaves no room for complacency," Dr Flynn said.

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 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200