

AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY COUNCIL LTD

# annual report

JULY 2010-JUNE 2011



## **Australian Pharmacy Council Ltd**

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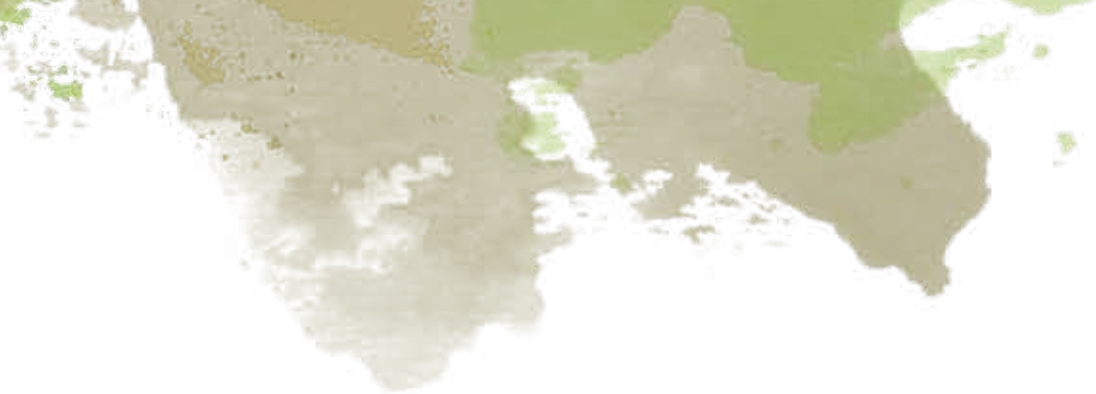
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# annual report

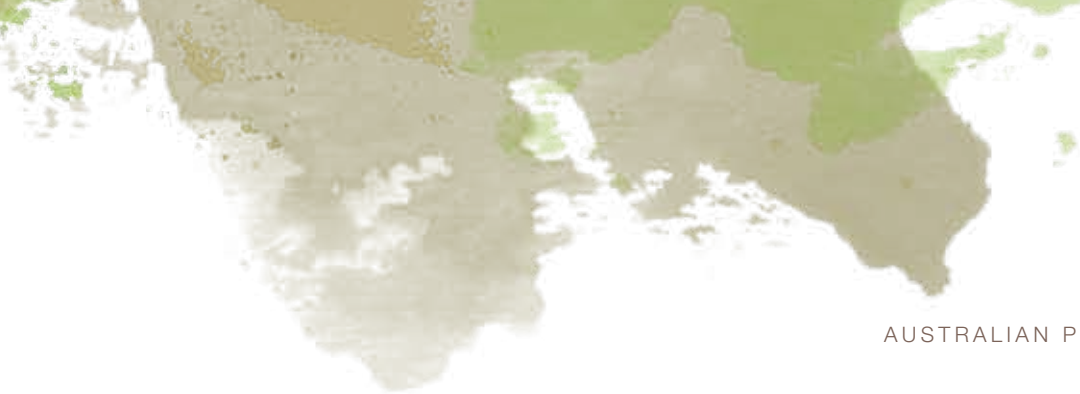
JULY 2010-JUNE 2011





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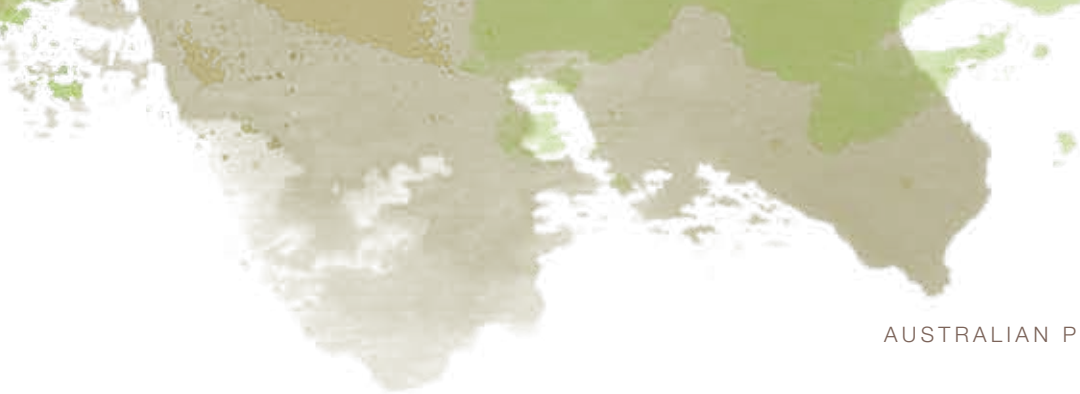
AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY COUNCIL LTD

## Introduction

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) was established in 2002 to enable a national approach to pharmacy regulation and accreditation, thus supporting its primary goal of protecting the public.

On 1 July 2010, the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law) came into effect. This law means that for the first time in Australia the health professions are regulated by nationally consistent legislation. There were 10 professions included in the initial tranche. The Council of Australian Governments implemented a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and established the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency that provides support to the national boards responsible for registration and accreditation of each of the 10 professions (in the case of pharmacy this is the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA)). Under this Scheme, the APC has been assigned the functions of accrediting education providers and programs of study for the pharmacy profession, and for assessing overseas trained pharmacists. The PBA has also appointed the APC as the responsible body for delivering the written competency examination for interns.

The APC is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001 reporting to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. It is funded by grants and fees from its accreditation, assessment and examination services.



AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY COUNCIL LTD

## The APC's Mission

The APC assists in protecting the public by the performance of accreditation and assessment activities that result in the optimisation of health outcomes and contribute to confidence in the delivery of competent pharmacy services.

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme the APC has legislative authority to:

- accredit pharmacy schools and programs, intern training programs and continuing professional development activities
- assess qualifications and skills of pharmacists who have trained overseas, and pharmacy graduates who are international students, towards Australian registration
- develop and administer examinations to assess clinical knowledge and competency.

## The APC's Values

In all of its activities the APC strives to maintain:

- high ethical standards
- honesty and transparency in everything that it does
- accountability to clients and stakeholders
- evidence-based decision making and benchmarking
- high quality business processes and outcomes
- continuous improvement
- collaborative models of leadership

The APC is fortunate to have acquired the skills and commitment of the 10 Councillors appointed by the previous Council.



**Mr John Low**  
President

## President's Message

As of 1 July 2010 the APC changed from its existing structure as an incorporated association to a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with new ownership arrangements, resulting from the decommissioning of State and Territory Boards as an outcome of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). This also required a new constitution to be adopted by the incoming Council. I would like to recognise the work done by the previous Council to ensure a smooth transition to the new Council operating under its new constitution.

This has proved to be an extremely challenging year for the new Council. Both the implementation of the NRAS on 1 July 2010, and the removal of the occupations of 'hospital pharmacist' and 'retail pharmacist' from the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) for the purposes of independent migration had significant impacts on the day-to-day operations of the APC.

Re-structuring of the organisation resulting from the removal of pharmacists from the SOL, and the extensive negotiations with both the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Council of Pharmacy Schools regarding fee structures relating to accreditation activities could not have been successfully concluded without goodwill and understanding from all concerned.

The APC is fortunate to have acquired the skills and commitment of the 10 Councillors appointed by the previous Council. I would like to thank all new Councillors for their support. The Council is extremely fortunate to have retained Debra Rowett as Chair of the Accreditation Committee and Professor Emeritus Lloyd Sansom, AO as Chair of the Examining Committee, and I thank them both, not only for their continuing involvement in the important work of the Council, but also for the wisdom and skill they bring to their respective tasks.

At the end of the financial period 2010-2011 the APC made an overall surplus of approximately \$175,000. This was largely due to the extensive downscaling of the office staffing and resources, but also in no small part due to the large amount of pro bono work undertaken by the Council, particularly the Committee Chairs.

This has been a busy year for the Accreditation Committee with the finalisation of Standards and accompanying guidelines, not only relating to university programs but also intern training programs and continuing professional development accreditors. The universities continue to develop innovative programs that challenge the Committee to ensure the Standards are met.

While this year could be seen as a year of consolidation for the Examining Committee with the removal of pharmacists from the SOL, the news that pharmacists will be returning to the SOL as of 1 July 2011 means that once again the Committee will face the myriad of challenges posed by graduates from the varying forms of pharmacy programs in different countries.

The Council is also forging stronger links with the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand and to that end has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with that organisation which formalises and builds on the close links that have been established over the years.

Finally, I sincerely thank the CEO, Lyn LeBlanc and her staff for their assistance, guidance and support over the last year. Significant changes have been forced upon the organisation by changes in the regulatory landscape. Lyn has carried out the sometimes difficult task with dedication and in the best interests of the organisation and its staff.



**Mr John Low**  
President

The work of the APC could not be undertaken without the advice, support and expertise of the Council and its committees, or the dedication and hard work of the skilled APC staff.



**Ms Lyn LeBlanc**  
Chief Executive Officer

## CEO's Report

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) was implemented on 1 July 2010. The Council and staff had instigated changes in the previous year to prepare the organisation for its new primary role as an accreditation authority for pharmacy. One of these was to ensure the continuation of five Councillors under a new constitution and election of another five to make up the new Council.

The new Council has been busy negotiating the service agreement with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, which is the contracting arm of the NRAS. Accreditation functions are prescribed under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* and the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) has responsibility for pharmacy registration and accreditation.

Apart from the accreditation functions assigned to the APC, the PBA has also assigned the development and delivery of the written competency examination which is undertaken by all pharmacy interns. The APC has determined that the examination will be delivered by computer rather than pencil and paper and this has enabled greater security of the materials and speedier issuing of results to candidates. A review is conducted after each examination to continuously improve the process.

The APC undertakes accreditation functions for the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (PCNZ) and works closely with the PCNZ to ensure assessment standards and intern training standards are consistent. A New Zealand representative is appointed to Council and a representative also sits on each of the two major operational committees of the APC (i.e. the Accreditation Committee and the Examining Committee). The relationship between the APC and the PCNZ was formalised in a ceremony held on 30 June 2011 in New Zealand where a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed. We look forward to many more years of collaborative work with our New Zealand colleagues.

Throughout the year the APC has been pleased to accredit another three organisations to undertake assessment of continuing professional development on behalf of the APC. There are now four organisations accredited. These are the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Australian College of Pharmacy, and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. A working party has been set up to review the accreditation of continuing professional education and standards are being developed that must be applied to the assessment of each activity.

The Assessments Section of the APC was considerably scaled down when the occupations of hospital and retail pharmacist were removed from the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) for independent migration on 1 July 2010. The number of applications to work in Australia received from overseas trained pharmacists dropped to less than one third the number of previous years. The numbers will be closely monitored now that these occupations are to be restored to the SOL on 1 July 2011 and staff and resources may once again have to be allocated to this work.

The Accreditation Section has been challenged by the complexity of university programs that have offshore shared components or unique structures. An Accreditation Framework has been developed to assist the Accreditation Committee to navigate its way through these applications for accreditation and to maintain consistency in its approach.

Intern training programs are now accredited and the national standard ensures quality and consistency. The APC has accredited six programs in Australia delivered by a variety of providers and one in New Zealand. The number of programs being offered continues to increase.

The APC has developed and implemented a monitoring framework that is applied to all accreditation activities. It consists of scheduled and random audits, collection of objective and subjective data, monitoring of websites and advertising, and ongoing interaction with accredited bodies.

The work of the APC could not be undertaken without the advice, support and expertise of the Council and its committees, or the dedication and hard work of the skilled APC staff. I would like to thank them all and in particular John Low, the President, who unstintingly makes himself available to meet the many demands of the organisation.



**Ms Lyn LeBlanc**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Strategic Directions

The APC has been extensively involved with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), the 10 national boards and the other nine accreditation Councils in the development of the following documents:

- Quality framework for accreditation functions
- Procedures for the development of accreditation standards
- Draft template agreement for accreditation functions

The quality framework has eight domains that will be used to assess the performance of each accreditation Council after 30 June 2013. The domains are:

1. **Governance** - the accreditation authority effectively governs itself and demonstrates competence and professionalism in the performance of its accreditation role.
2. **Independence** – the accreditation authority carries out its accreditation operations independently.
3. **Operational management** - the accreditation authority effectively and efficiently manages its resources to carry out its accreditation function.

4. **Accreditation standards** - the accreditation authority applies the approved accreditation standards, which have been set in advance of the assessment of programs of study and providers.
5. **Processes for accreditation of education providers and programs of study** - the accreditation authority has rigorous, fair and consistent processes for accrediting programs of study and their education providers.
6. **Assessing authorities in other countries** (where this function is exercised by the accreditation authority) - the accreditation authority has defined its standards and procedures to assess examining and/or accrediting authorities in other countries.
7. **Assessing overseas qualified practitioners** (where this function is exercised by the accreditation authority) - the authority has processes to assess and/or oversee the assessment of the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes of overseas qualified practitioners who are seeking registration in the profession under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (the National Law) and whose qualifications are not approved qualifications under the National Law for the profession.
8. **Stakeholder collaboration** - the accreditation authority demonstrates stakeholder support and collaborates with other national, international and/or professional accreditation authorities.

The domains were incorporated into the strategic priorities for the organisation and the governance reporting tool *Balanced Scorecard* was used to identify four strategic areas.

In undertaking future directions planning the APC actively monitors the political and professional environment in which it operates. To assist with this, the President and CEO are the APC representatives on the Forum of Australian Health Professions Councils (FAHPC) which is a coalition of the health professions involved with the first tranche of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The President and CEO are also the APC representatives on the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum, for which the APC provides the secretariat.

The CEO is the APC representative on the Professions Reference Group which has been activated by AHPRA to provide general advice on issues of client services.

# Strategic Priorities 2011 – 2014

## 1. Services and Responsiveness

- a. Accreditation activities are conducted independently and without undue influence from any party e.g. government, higher education institutions, business, industry or professional associations
- b. Accreditation processes (education providers, programs of study, intern training programs) are fair, consistent, high quality and transparent
- c. Assessing authorities in other countries are recognised via standards and procedures and there is a cyclical assessment process to ensure they continue to meet the standards
- d. Documented processes and standards are applied to assess the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes of internationally qualified practitioners seeking registration in Australia
- e. APC accredited organisations assess continuing professional development activities using documented standards
- f. Continuing excellence in the development, conduct and marking of the national competency written examination

## 2. Internal Processes and Performance

- a. There are clear procedures for identifying and managing conflict of interest
- b. Effective governance and demonstrated competence and professionalism
- c. Transparency in selection of the governing body and committee members

- d. Accreditation processes are monitored and improved
- e. Accreditation Standards and processes, and complaints, review and appeals processes are on the APC website
- f. Standards developed use the AHPRA *Procedures for development of accreditation standards*, meet relevant benchmarks, are evidence based using available research, and reviewed regularly
- g. Policies, training and performance evaluation exist for Site Evaluation Team members
- h. Promotion of staff development and well being
- i. Recruitment and selection of staff to align with APC corporate goals and values

### 3. Stakeholders and Relationships

- a. Increased recognition of the APC by governments, the pharmacy profession, allied health professions and the community through effective and ongoing communication, and the delivery of high quality accreditation services
- b. Independence of accreditation decisions is demonstrated to stakeholders
- c. Governance arrangements provide for input from stakeholders including input from the community, education providers and the profession/s
- d. Development of standards involves wide ranging consultation
- e. Processes are in place for engaging stakeholders e.g. governments, education institutions, health professional organisations, health providers, Pharmacy Board of Australia and consumers

- f. Collaboration occurs with other national and international accreditation organisations
- g. Satisfaction with the quality and value of the APC's services
- h. Recognition of national and Australasian consistency in the standards for pharmacy practice
- i. Influencing national policy and regulatory arrangements affecting pharmacy and related areas
- j. National and international leadership in accreditation and related areas

### 4. Resources (People and Finances)

- a. Identification of strategic opportunities and innovations in practice, accreditation and related areas
- b. Development of new business and business capabilities and investment of reserves as required
- c. Maintenance of financial viability and continued transition to a stable business model consistent with the new operating environment
- d. Setting of fee structures balances the requirements of the principles of the National Law and efficient business processes i.e. commensurate with the cost of the service delivery plus relative quality improvement
- e. Effective and efficient management of resources (including investments)
- f. Risk management and information and record management incorporate sound practices
- g. Responsible financial and business management backed by capable systems and processes

# Australian Pharmacy Council Report

## Councillors

Councillor	Qualifications	Date of Appointment and Cessation
Mr John Low (President)	PhC, MSHP	1 July 2010 - present
Mr John Jackson	BPharm, GradDipHosPharm MPH, FSHP, MPS	1 July 2010 - present
Ms Mary Edwards	BA, GradDipAppEcon, AFAIM, MIPAA	25 May 2009 – present
Dr Ian Coombes	BPharm(Hons), MSc, PhD	1 July 2010 - present
Ms Lenette Mullen	FPS, GAICD	1 July 2010 – present
Ms Judith Dikstein	LLB, BSW, GDLP	25 May 2009 - present
Mr Mark Bedford	DipPharm, RegPharmNZ, AFNZIM	2 March 2011 - present
Professor Emeritus Lloyd Sansom, AO	PhC, BSc.PhD(Adel), FPS, Hon.DHlth(N'cle), Hon DSc(Qld), DUniv(Griff)	26 March 2009 – present
Debra Rowett	BPharm, CGP	26 March 2009 – present
Professor Nick Shaw	BSc(Hons), PhD, MPS, CSci, CChem, FRSC, FRPharms	1 July 2010 – present
Ms Carolyn Oakley-Brown	BPharm, MNZCP, RegPharmNZ	17 November 2009 - 6 September 2010
Dr Andrew Bary	PhD, BPharm(Hons), FNZCP, MPS, RegPharmNZ	7 September 2010 - 1 March 2011



**Front Row:** Debra Rowett, Judith Dikstein, John Low, Mary Edwards, Ian Coombes  
**Back Row:** Nick Shaw, Lenette Mullen, John Jackson, Lloyd Sansom, Mark Bedford

## Council meetings and attendance

Councillor	Eligible to Attend	Attendance
Mr John Low	6	6
Mr John Jackson	6	6
Ms Mary Edwards	6	5
Dr Ian Coombes	5	4
Ms Lenette Mullen	6	6
Ms Judith Dikstein	6	6
Mr Mark Bedford	2	2
Professor Emeritus Lloyd Sansom, AO	6	5
Debra Rowett	6	6
Professor Nick Shaw	6	6
Ms Carolyn Oakley-Brown	1	1
Dr Andrew Bary	3	3
Mr Mark Bedford	2	2

## Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the APC and PCNZ

At the 9th Life Long Learning in Pharmacy Conference held recently in Rotorua, New Zealand the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) took the opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with its close colleague the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (PCNZ).

The MOC was signed at a ceremony held on 30 June 2011 that was attended by representatives of the APC and the PCNZ.



*From left to right:*

**Front row:** Mr John Low, President APC; Ms Carolyn Oakley-Brown, Chair PCNZ

**Back row:** Ms Lyn LeBlanc, CEO APC; Ms Bronwyn Clark, Chief Executive and Registrar, PCNZ



Members of the APC and PCNZ in attendance at the ceremony.

## Committees of Council

### Examining Committee



**Professor Emeritus Lloyd  
Sansom, AO**  
Chair, Examining Committee

The year 2010/2011 has seen significant changes to the work of the Examining Committee due to a number of external factors.

With the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) on 1 July 2010, the APC ceased to provide the Australian Pharmacy Competency Assessment Tool (APCAT) examination and the National Forensics, Ethics and Calculations Examination (NFECE) on behalf of individual state and territory registering authorities. Instead the APC became responsible for providing and delivering a national combined competency written examination on behalf of the new Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA). This examination has become part of the assessment process for all interns to determine their eligibility to undertake the final oral examination to ascertain their competency to practise in Australia.

The Examining Committee has worked to develop an examination that appropriately assesses candidates, and continuously reviews and validates the content, application and methodology of the examination.

Concurrently, the APC has moved to a computer registration and delivery method for the written

examination. The first computer delivered examinations were conducted in August 2010 and since that time the APC has worked to improve and refine the delivery process. This method has enabled the APC to deliver a record number of examinations (when compared to the APCAT and NFECE) by offering six examination sessions per year in nine locations across Australia. It has also enabled the APC to release results to candidates earlier, have a more sophisticated identity verification process, and greater security of examination materials.

The commencement of the NRAS has also led to the cessation of the APC's responsibility for monitoring and supporting the internship of overseas trained pharmacists. The responsibility for the internship process has now been assumed by the PBA, and the management of interns aligns with that of Australian graduates.

The APC maintains responsibility for the initial assessment (qualifications, education and experience) and secondary assessment (examination of pharmaceutical sciences) of overseas trained pharmacists and international students graduating from an Australian program, and continues to operate under the formal delegation from the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship. It is through this role as an assessing authority that the APC has experienced the greatest changes, the most notable of which was the removal of retail and hospital pharmacists from the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) for independent migration on 1 July 2010 and the subsequent notification on 6 June 2011 that those classes of pharmacists would be restored to the SOL from 1 July 2011. Removal from the SOL resulted in a substantial reduction in assessments over the past 12 months, and has had a flow on effect by reducing the number of secondary assessment examinations conducted.

The Examining Committee has also been working to maintain and update the banks of examination questions utilised by the APC. A project is underway to upgrade the technology used to maintain the questions. This upgrade will more easily facilitate future maintenance and improvements and so is a vital first step for any further development work.

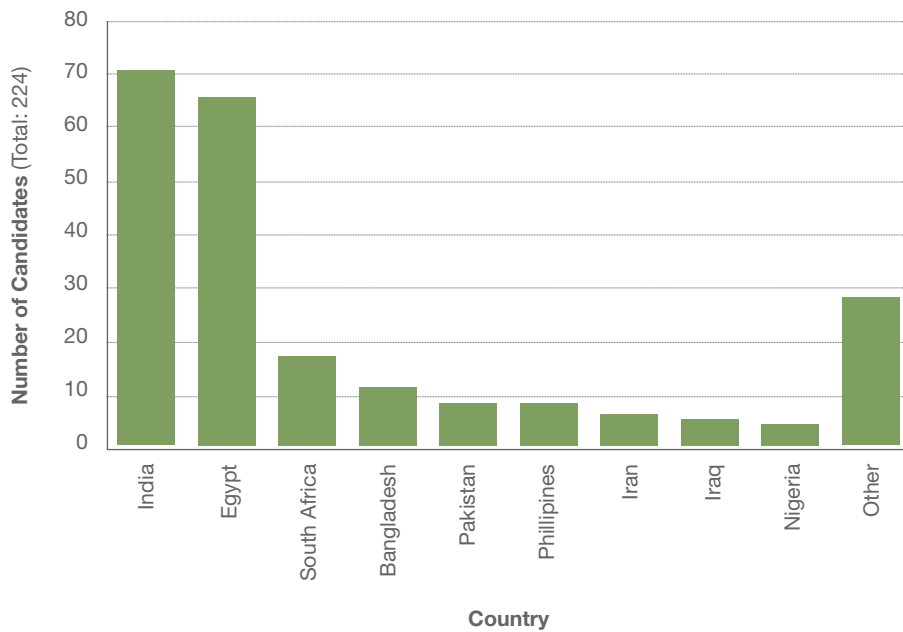
Work has also been done to increase the size of the bank of examination questions. The APC follows a standard psychometric approach to the development of examination questions. As part of this approach, potential examination questions are trialled (validated) by engaging a statistically significant number of registered pharmacists or pharmacy interns (depending upon the type of examination questions) to determine if the questions are valid, unambiguous, appropriate and reflect contemporary pharmacy practice. The APC accepts a minimum of 40 people for validation of each question.

In this financial year six validation sessions were held across Australia. All intern training program providers were contacted by the APC with the request to conduct a one-hour validation session during their contact days with interns and as a result five sessions were conducted, which validated pharmaceutical science questions.

The final session was held for registered pharmacists validating competency questions. This was an intensive full-day workshop which was classified as a Group 2 activity for continuing professional development (CPD), enabling 12 credits to be contributed towards participants' PBA CPD requirements. All participants in the validation sessions were provided with new technology in the form of individual keypads which submitted answers to a central computer. This enabled instant data collection and simplified analysis of the results. The success of these validation sessions has resulted in more being planned for the coming financial year.

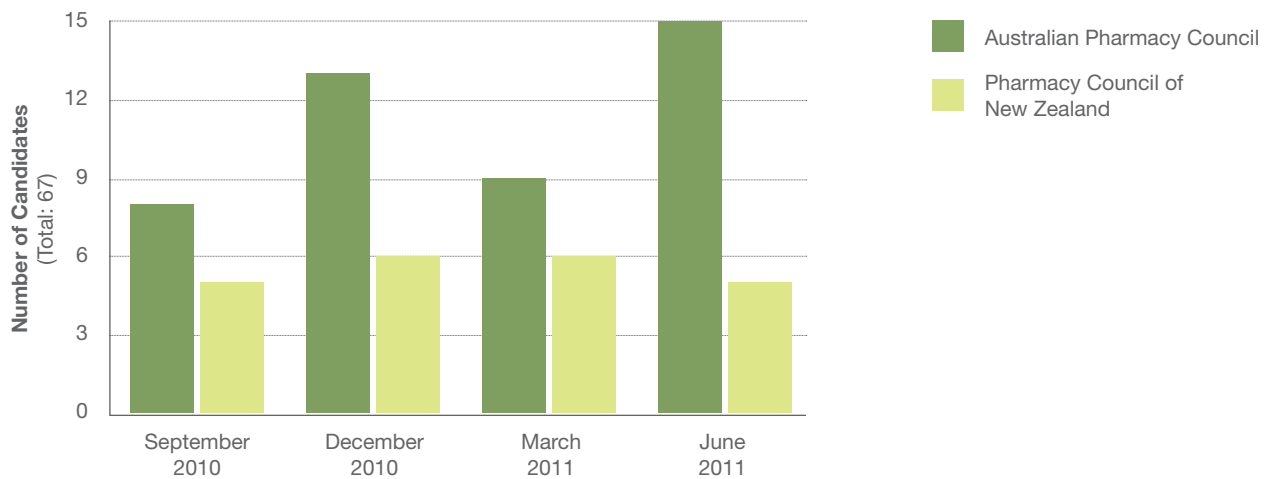
### Number of Candidates that Attempted the Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences (KAPS) Examination in 2010/2011 - Country of Training

The data represents the countries of training of overseas trained pharmacists attempting the KAPS examination.



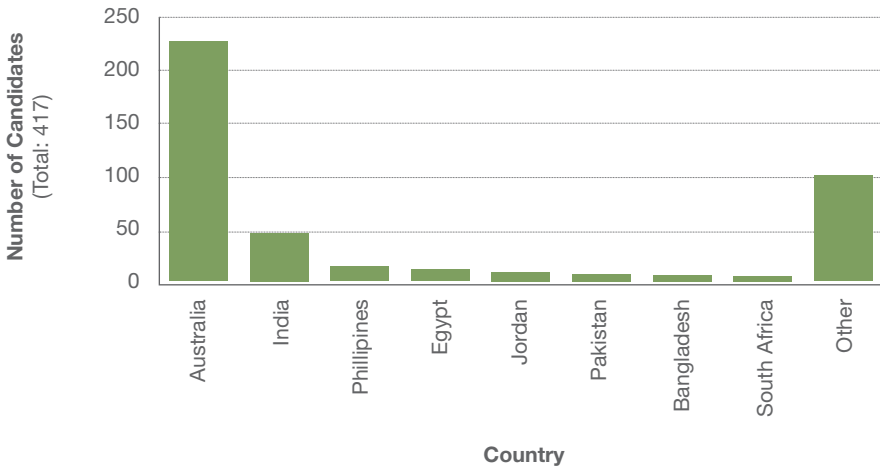
### Number of Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists (CAOP) Candidates 2010/2011

The data represents the total number of candidates that attempted the CAOP examination for the APC or the PCNZ.



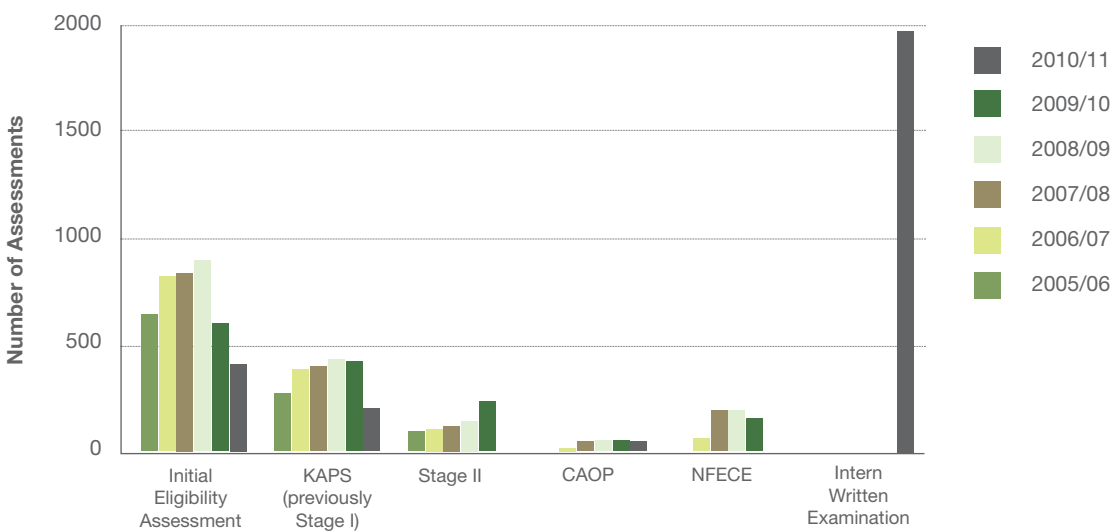
### Number of Eligibility Assessments Conducted 2010/2011 (Country of Training)

The data represents the countries of training of candidates who applied for an initial eligibility assessment.



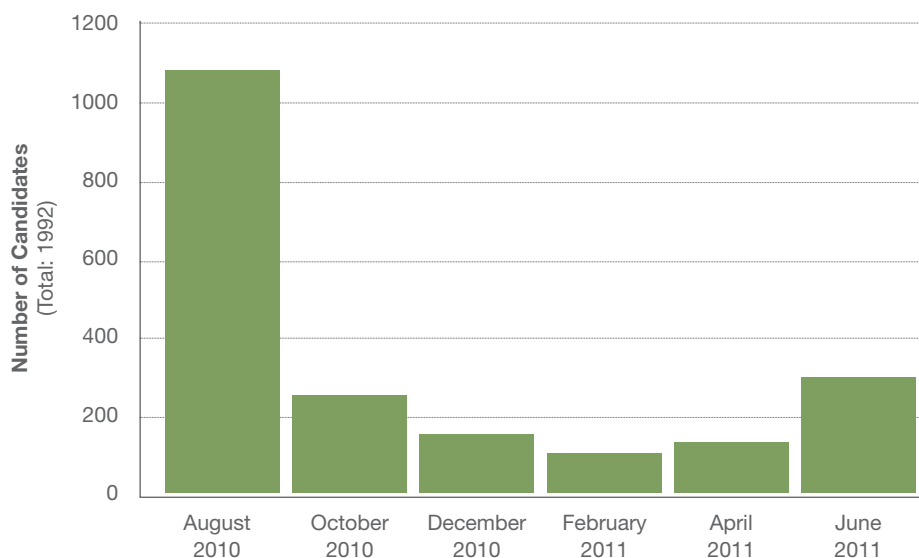
### Total Assessments and Examinations 2006-2011

The data represents the total number of candidates applying for an initial eligibility assessment, compared with the total number of attempts for each examination.



### Number of Candidates that Attempted the Intern Written Examination 2010/2011

The data represents the total number of attempts for the intern written examination.



Committee Member	Eligible to Attend	Attendance
Professor Emeritus Lloyd Sansom, AO (Chair)	3	3
Mrs Elizabeth Frost (Deputy Chair to October 2010)	1	1
Associate Professor Kay Stewart (Deputy Chair from October 2010)	3	2
Professor Jo-anne Brien	3	3
Dr Betty Chaar	3	2
Ms Bronwyn Clark	3	3
Mr Benjamin Gilbert	3	2
Mr Graeme Holloway	3	2
Mr Neil Keen	2	0
Ms Megan Middleton	1	1
Dr Rodney Wellard	2	2
Ms Dianne Wilkins	3	2

## Accreditation Committee



**Debra Rowett**  
Chair, Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee is a standing committee of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). The membership of the Committee comprises the following:

- two nominees of the Council of Pharmacy Schools;
- one nominee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia;
- one nominee of the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand;
- one nominee of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia;
- one nominee of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia;
- two academic pharmacists;
- two community members;
- one nominee from the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association
- any other person who may be appointed from time to time by the Council

The Accreditation Committee's functions include accreditation of pharmacy schools and programs; intern training programs (ITPs); and continuing professional development (CPD) program providers to accredit continuing professional development activities.

This annual report reflects the first year of the accreditation for Pharmacy Schools, ITPs and CPD accrediting organisations under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).

## Pharmacy schools and programs

A principal function of the Accreditation Committee is to develop and maintain an agreed set of standards for pharmacy education in Australia and New Zealand which comply with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Procedures for the Development of Accreditation Standards (16 November 2009 and updated 14 June 2011). These standards define the knowledge, skills and professional attributes required of graduates intended for entry into accredited ITPs. The APC recommends accreditation standards to the Pharmacy Board of Australia for approval.

The importance of establishing a national accreditation process was first discussed by the Committee of Heads of Pharmacy Schools of Australia and New Zealand (now the Council of Pharmacy Schools) at a meeting held in Melbourne in September 1994. This led to a process whereby programs were accredited against criteria, established by the New Zealand and Australian Pharmacy Schools Accreditation Committee (NAPSAC). These criteria were approved in principle at a meeting of the Association of Pharmacy Registering Authorities (APRA) in November 1997. NAPSAC was appointed as a standing committee of APRA in November of 1998 with responsibility for the accreditation of pharmacy programs in Australia and New Zealand. Accreditation under this process led to a program being designated an 'approved course of study'. The individual jurisdictions, of which there were nine, varied widely in the power provided to them by their various Acts and Regulations regarding the recognition of accredited programs of study for the purposes of registration.

In 2008 NAPSAC became the APC Accreditation Committee and a review of Accreditation Criteria and Guidelines was undertaken. This review included consideration of a number of international pharmacy accreditation standards and encompassed the accreditation criteria of relevant health professions in Australia. Wide stakeholder consultation was also undertaken at this time. Concurrent with this review was the development of the Guidelines and Procedures for Accreditation.

The APC process of accreditation currently uses the Accreditation Standards Version 1.0 (July 2009) to assess whether degree and graduate entry Masters programs achieve compliance with the Standards. Accreditation of a new pharmacy school involves three stages: Preliminary Accreditation, Provisional Accreditation and Full Accreditation.

APC processes acknowledge the balance between regulatory controls and voluntary action in achieving compliance with accreditation standards. The APC's approach values transparency and professionalism.

The process of accreditation includes site inspection and audit reports as well as ongoing monitoring of program performance to assess whether programs of study and education providers continue to meet accreditation standards.

During the 2010/2011 financial year the Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of South Australia was granted full re-accreditation following a site visit and consideration of the Site Evaluation Team (SET) report. In addition, the Bachelor of Pharmacy program at the RMIT University was granted Preliminary Accreditation.

A SET visit to consider Full Accreditation of the Murdoch University Master of Pharmacy was undertaken in May 2010 and the SET report considered by the Committee in September 2010. However, in light of information regarding closure of the School of Pharmacy at Murdoch University, the Committee did not

approve Full Accreditation. Instead the program was granted an extension of Provisional Accreditation until December 2012.

The University of Queensland (UQ) and the University of Otago respective Bachelor of Pharmacy (2+2 International Medical University (IMU)) programs were granted Preliminary Accreditation in September 2010 conditional upon an Articulation Site Evaluation Team (ASET) visit being conducted by March 2011. The ASET visit of the IMU (Malaysia) has been conducted, with the report from that visit to be considered by the Committee in September 2011.

### Intern training programs and continuing professional development (CPD) program providers

Following a rigorous process of development and wide stakeholder consultation at a jurisdictional level and public consultation in 2009/2010, the APC accepted applications for accreditation from Australian and New Zealand ITP providers.

The APC has continued to undertake work regarding the accreditation of organisations to accredit continuing professional development (CPD) during 2010/2011. In addition to the accreditation of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in 2009, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian College of Pharmacy were accredited to accredit CPD during 2010/2011.

As part of ongoing quality improvement of these processes, the APC has established a working party in collaboration with stakeholders to review the accreditation of CPD and the processes by which organisations are accredited to accredit CPD. This working party have provided valued guidance and input to these processes and it is anticipated will complete their review in late 2011.

The Accreditation Committee thanked two retiring members, Dr Rodney Wellard (Community Representative) and Ms Alexandra Phillips (NAPSA Representative), for their contributions. Two new members were appointed: Dr Charles Mitchell (Community Representative) and Ms Sarah Sinclair (NAPSA Representative).

### Summary of Accreditation Committee Activities

There are 20 accredited pharmacy schools delivering Bachelor and/or Master of Pharmacy programs throughout Australia and New Zealand. The APC has accredited six ITP providers in Australia, and one in New Zealand. There are now four organisations that are accredited to accredit CPD.

Accreditation applications and outcomes for the period are listed below.

#### Completed Accreditation Applications 1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011

University Programs	Pharmacy School/ Program	Accreditation status achieved	Date of notification
University of South Australia	BPharm	Re-accreditation	June 2010

### Intern Training Programs

ITP Provider	Date of notification
Monash University	September 2010
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia	September 2010
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia	September 2010
University of South Australia	September 2010
The University of Sydney	September 2010
The University of Western Australia	March 2011
Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand	March 2011

### CPD Accrediting Organisations

Organisation	Date of notification
Australian College of Pharmacy	March 2011
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia	September 2010
Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia	March 2011

### Accreditation Applications in process at June 30, 2010

Pharmacy School/Program	Accreditation status seeking	Status
University of Tasmania BPharm	Re-accreditation	Submitted
University of Otago BPharm (2+2 IMU)	Provisional	Submitted
University of Queensland BPharm (2+2 IMU)	Provisional	Submitted
University of New England	Provisional	Submitted
University of Technology Sydney	Preliminary	Submitted

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Committee members for their significant contributions throughout the year.

### Accreditation Committee meetings and attendance

Committee Member	Eligible to Attend	Attendance
Debra Rowett (Chair)	3	3
Professor Gabrielle Cooper	3	2
Professor Colin Chapman	3	2
Professor Nerida Smith	3	3
Ms Sue Kirska	3	2
Mr Andrew Matthews	3	3
Mr John Jackson	3	3
Professor Nick Shaw	3	3
Ms Bronwyn Clark	3	3
Dr Rod Wellard (retiring member)	2	2
Ms Judith Dikstein	3	2
Ms Alexandra Phillips (retiring member)	2	1
Ms Sarah Sinclair	1	0



**Ms Gayle Ginnane**  
Chair, FARM Committee

## Finance Audit and Risk Monitoring Committee

The Finance Audit and Risk Monitoring (FARM) Committee has been established by the APC to monitor the APC's budget, financial and compliance risks.

Following the implementation of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010, new FARM Committee members were appointed. The members of the FARM Committee are:

- Ms Gayle Ginnane – Chair and independent representative
- Mr John Jackson – APC Vice-President
- Ms Mary Edwards – APC Councillor

The APC monitors the following:

- Relevant Policies for investments and finance
- Risk Management Plan
- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan
- 2010/2011 Budget
- 2010/2011 Financial Reporting

The FARM Committee developed a new Assets Policy concerned with depreciation and replacements and also updated or amended the following:

- Investment Policy
- Tendering Policy
- Delegation of Authority Policy
- APC Meeting Remuneration Policy

### FARM Committee meetings and attendance

Committee Member	Eligible to Attend	Attendance
Ms Gayle Ginnane – Chair	2	2
Mr John Jackson	2	1
Ms Mary Edwards	2	2

## Other Australian Pharmacy Council Activities

### Clearing House

The Clearing House administers professional examinations both in Australia and overseas on behalf of nine professions.

The 2010/2011 year has seen a slight decrease in the total number of examination papers administered by the Clearing House due to the reduced number of overseas trained pharmacists sitting the APC examinations in the September 2010 and March 2011 sessions. While dentistry remains the profession that dominates in terms of candidate numbers, the past year has seen an increase in the number of physiotherapy candidates.

The Clearing House administers examinations on behalf of the following professional organisations:

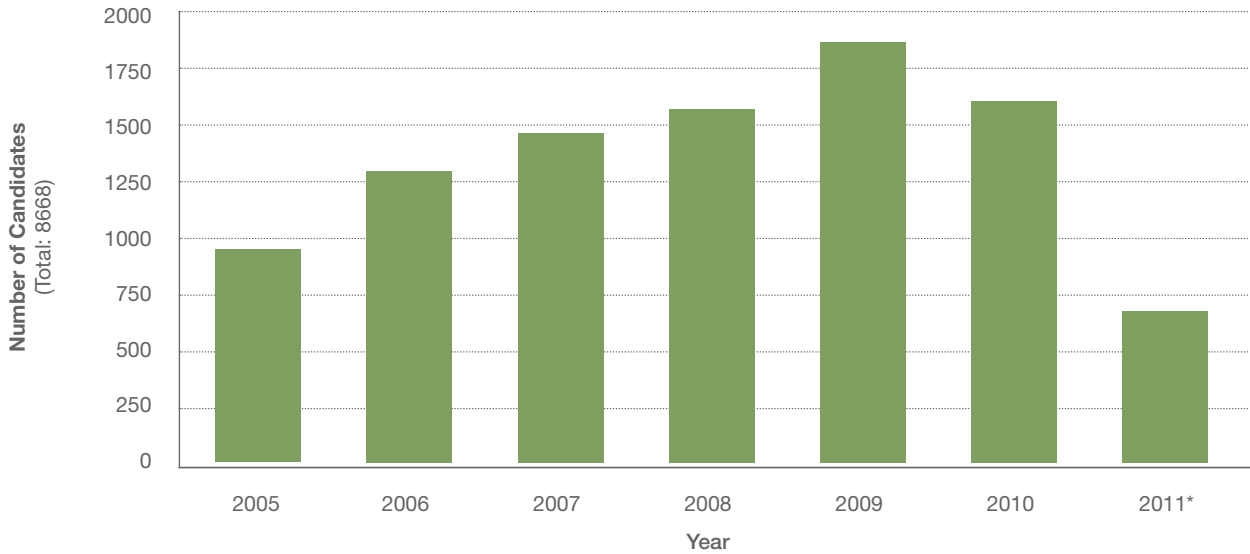
- Australian Dental Council
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine
- Australian Institute of Medical Scientists
- Australian Pharmacy Council
- Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council
- Dietitians Association of Australia
- National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters
- Pharmacy Council of New Zealand

During this financial year 3700 examinations were administered by the Clearing House. In October 2010 the Clearing House conducted a survey of all venues across Australia and overseas as part of its quality assurance process. The survey analysis showed that all of the Clearing House quality assurance indicators are being met, for example with regards to secure storage, insurance cover and English speaking experienced invigilators. As part of the same quality assurance process, updated service agreements for the coming 2011/2012 financial year were negotiated and signed with examination venue providers.

A notable event that affected the business of the Clearing House this year was the political unrest in Egypt at the start of 2011. Because of ongoing events the Cairo examinations in March 2011 were cancelled, which impacted a small number of candidates. All candidates were offered the opportunity to attempt their examinations in alternate cities in the region.

### Number of Candidates (Calendar Year)

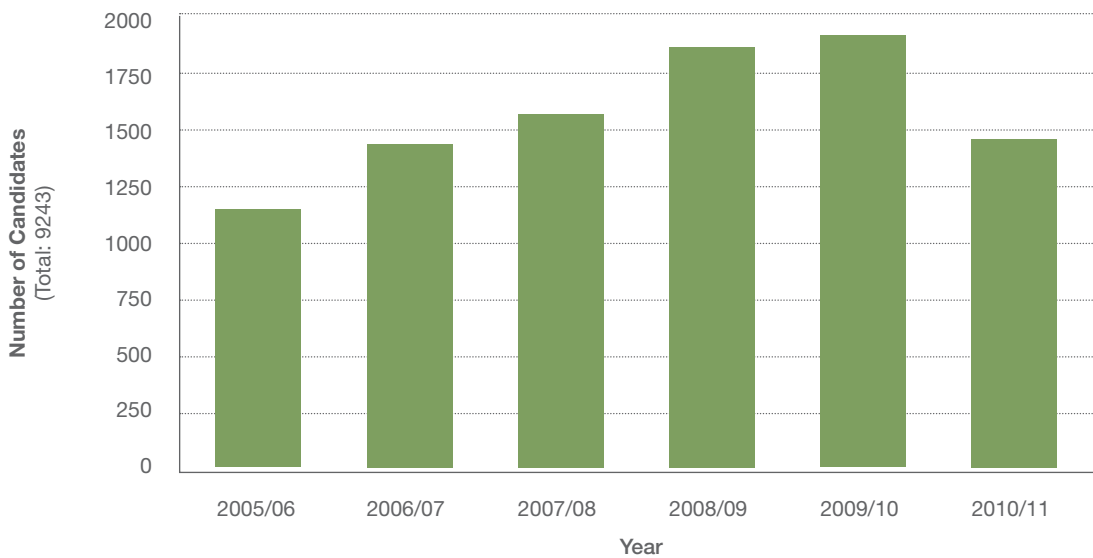
The data represents the total number of candidates that have attempted examinations administered by the Clearing House.



\* current as at 30 June 2011

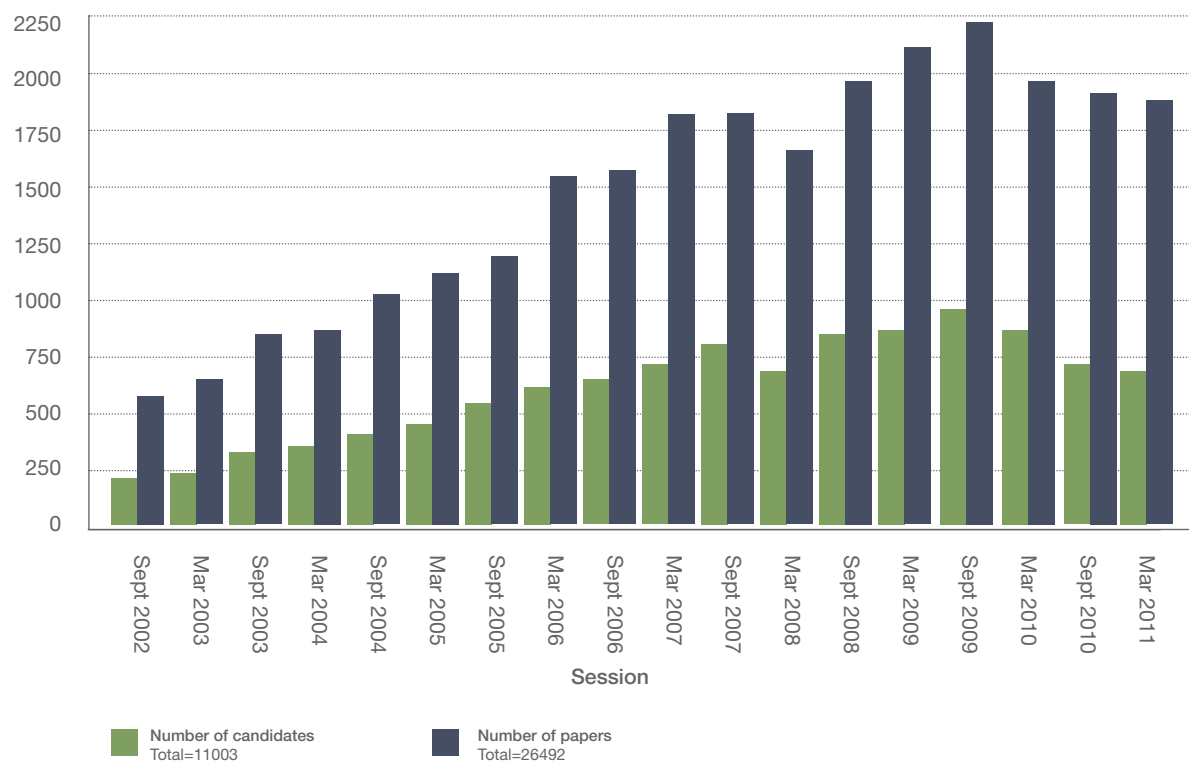
### Number of Candidates (Financial Year)

The data represents the total number of candidates that have attempted examinations administered by the Clearing House.



### Number of Candidates vs Examination Papers for Each Examination Session 2002-2011

The data represents the total number of examination papers administered by the Clearing House, compared with the total number of candidates that have attempted examinations.



### Top Ten Venues for Professional Examinations 2010-2011

The data represents the Australian and overseas venues that had the largest numbers of candidates attempting examinations administered by the Clearing House.

Venue	September 2010	March 2011	Total
Sydney	168	131	299
Melbourne	141	138	279
New Delhi	54	66	120
Perth	53	64	117
Brisbane	55	49	104
Adelaide	42	50	92
Auckland	32	41	73
Cairo	48	23	71
London	35	33	68
Manila	13	15	28

## Memberships

The APC is a member of the following:

### Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum

The Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) is an independent coalition of representatives from 10 national pharmacy organisations who work together on issues of national importance to the pharmacy profession and the public.

### Forum of Australian Health Professions Councils

The 10 members of the Forum of Australian Health Professions Councils are the first tranche of health professions accreditation authorities (Councils) under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). A further four professions will be included in 2012. The Forum members work together on issues of national and international importance to the regulated health professions.

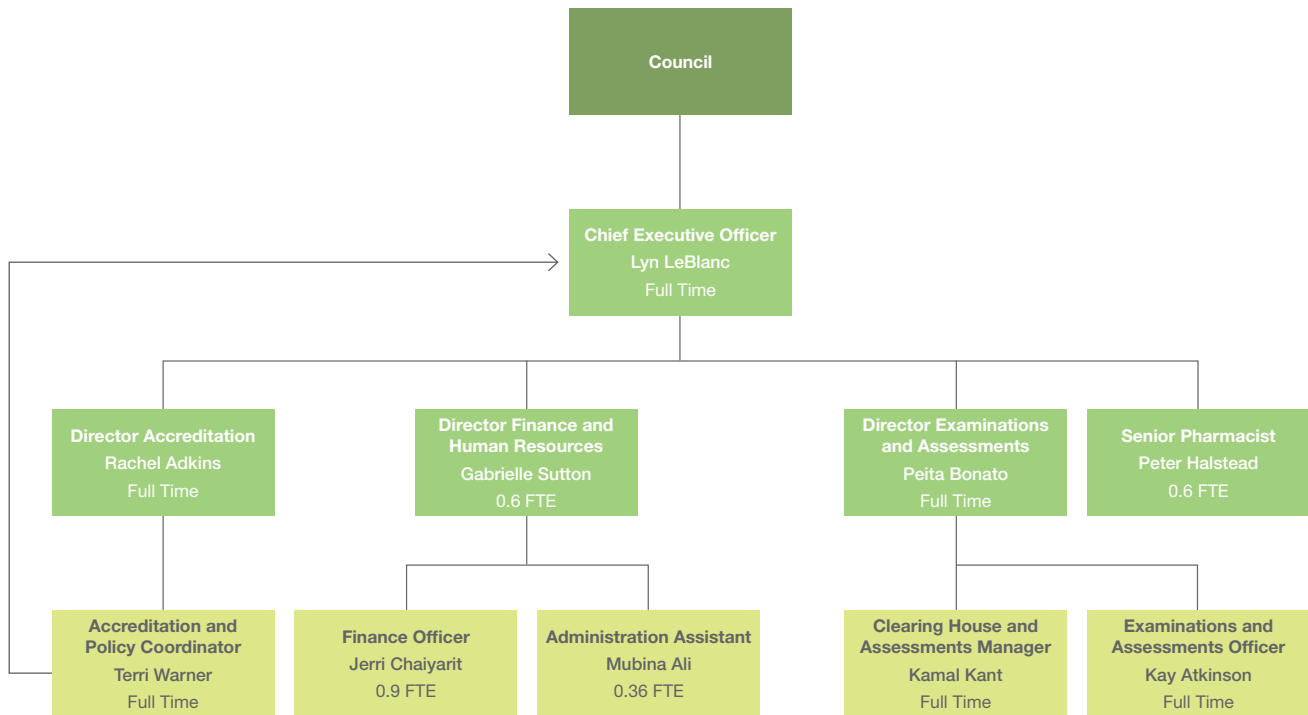
### Professions Reference Group

The Professions Reference Group has been established by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to provide a forum for engagement between AHPRA and associations and bodies representing the professions in the NRAS.

### Professions Australia

The APC is an Associate Member of Professions Australia, which is a national organisation of professional associations. It advances and promotes professionalism for the benefit of the community. It does this by communicating the benefits of professionalism and ethical practices and providing government with reliable and objective advice on relevant issues.

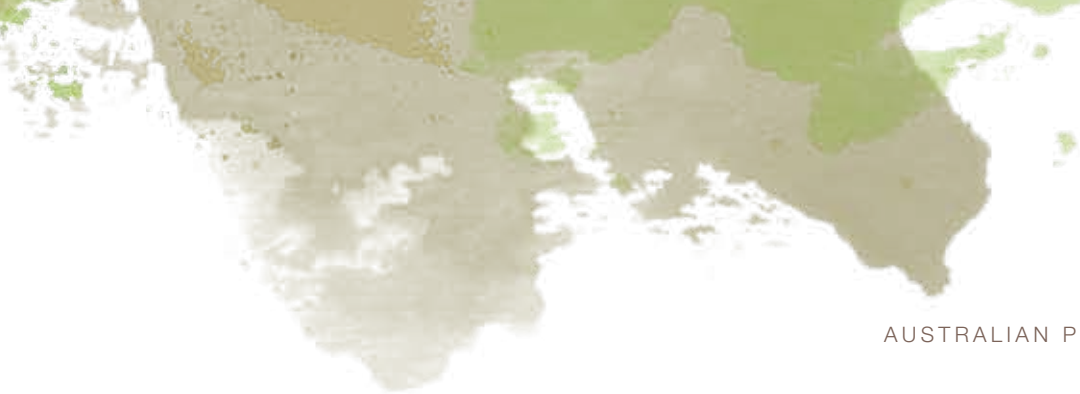
## Australian Pharmacy Council Organisational Chart



*From Left to Right:*

**Seated:** Rachel Adkins, Lyn LeBlanc, Terri Warner

**Standing:** Jerri Chaiyarit, Gabrielle Sutton, Kamal Kant, Kay Atkinson, Peita Bonato, Mubina Ali



AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY COUNCIL LTD

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