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APC here to stay

The APC has been re-appointed as the Accreditation Authority for pharmacy for a further five-year period.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia (PharmBA) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) confirmed this tenure until 2024 in August. This secures our position as the leading and best-practice accreditation council for pharmacy and allows us to continue to advance and assure quality in pharmacy education.

While we have been around for more than 35 years, APC was first appointed as the Accreditation Authority for pharmacy in June 2010 under the national law. For the past eight years we have worked in collaboration with the PharmBA, our education providers, pharmacy organisations, students, interns and other members of the community to ensure that the standards of pharmacy education continue to meet the ongoing changing needs of the public to the highest standards.

This continued confidence from the Board and AHPRA in our work is very reassuring for us, especially considering the spotlight that professional accreditation has been under in Australia.

The Final report of the Accreditation Systems Review

by Professor Michael Woods has been presented to Health Ministers, but they have not endorsed the recommendations to date. We are confident that the work we are doing to continually streamline and improve our standards and processes for accreditation is efficient and reduces duplication. Our leadership in the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative (HPAC) Forum, with our CEO Bronwyn Clark as Chair, also demonstrates our willingness to work collaboratively with others in the health and higher education accreditation space.

Collective effort on accreditation recognised

In the Final report of the Accreditation Systems Review, Professor Michael Woods “recognises the important role that the HPAC Forum plays in bringing together accreditation entities to enhance cooperation and progress common issues”¹.

The Collaborative is a coalition of the Australian accreditation authorities for the regulated health professions, of which the APC is a member.

Bronwyn Clark said this statement from Professor Woods was reassuring for the Forum members, which has dedicated much of its work this year to working collaboratively to address issues raised within the Review.

This last six months has been a particularly busy period for the Forum, with several projects requiring cross-professional strategic work across the 14 professions within the National Scheme. The projects include:

- a consultation on a Framework for accreditation requirements for the safe and effective use of medicines
- a project on the Role of Accreditation in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Outcomes and;
- the preparation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority (TEQSA).

To read more about the HPAC Forum, see the most recent Forum meeting Communique [here](#).

¹ Independent Review of Accreditation Systems within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions. Final Report, November 2017 <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Portals/0/ASReview%20FINAL%20Report.pdf> Accessed 1 November 2018

Time to embed interprofessional communication into pharmacy education

Following a successful event in 2017 the *Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, AO Distinguished Lecture Series* returned to Canberra in November this year. APC past president, Professor Debra Rowett, highlighted the importance of interprofessional communication in practice, policy and education to improve the patient journey and optimise the outcomes from medicines.

Professor Rowett said health systems around the world are changing to address a number of existing challenges in providing effective, timely, value-based care now and into the future, with team-based care a key component.

“The increasing array of diagnostic tests, complexity of illnesses, multimorbidity, interventions and care options combined with the number of health carers and organisations involved can make it difficult for patients and providers of care to negotiate the health care system,” Professor Rowett said.

“The longitudinal care required for an ageing population and those living with chronic disease requires consideration of effective oral and technical communication between health care team members, their patients and their carers and families.

“Successful interprofessional communication cannot be left to chance. It is a skill that needs to have the same amount of investment as that of the effort we put into communication with our patients,” she said.



Professor Debra Rowett with Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO, and APC President Associate Professor Sue Kirska

Debra has spent a lot of her years working with her medical and pharmacy colleagues developing academic detailing training at a national and international level. Debra has also successfully introduced interprofessional communication training, in the intern training program in South Australia and post graduate programs at the University of Queensland. Debra says that training in interprofessional communication needs to be embedded into pharmacy education.

“We need to prepare the pharmacists of tomorrow to not only be competent and the best in their field, but to be collectively competent – we need both for successful healthcare teams.” Professor Rowett said.

Professor Rowett had a chat to us about her pharmacy journey, insights to her lecture and where she sees the future of pharmacy heading - [listen to the podcast here!](#)



APC colleagues receive international accolades at FIP World Congress

Celebrations were called for at this year's 78th International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Glasgow, as two of APC's admirable leaders were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the pharmacy profession.

FIP's highest pharmaceutical practice award, the 2018 André Bédat medal was presented to APC's Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO. Lloyd has had a distinguished career in education, research and policy, including advising the Australian Government and the World Health Organisation on pharmaceutical policy. Lloyd has been part of the APC for more than



Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO receiving the Andre Bedat Award

35 years, on both the Council and Examinations Committee, and since 2017 APC has named its annual Distinguished Lecture in his name.



CEO Bronwyn Clark with RPS President, Ash Soni, at the FIP Congress reception

Alongside the main congress, at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPS) reception, APC CEO Bronwyn Clark was presented with a distinguished honour of a fellowship of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPS), recognising her long and outstanding service to the profession across three countries, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain.

Bronwyn said it was a very humbling and proud moment.

"I'm just one of many people privileged to have worked across jurisdictions with so many fabulous people," Bronwyn said.

APC's quality and standards for testing overseas-trained pharmacists right on target

Our APC systems and processes for our exam specifically designed for overseas-trained pharmacists have been assessed to be robust, fair and equitable, giving assurances to the general public about the quality and standards of our overseas-trained pharmacists.

The APC's Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences (KAPS) exam, delivered on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, is right on target for assessing the knowledge of pharmacists who qualify overseas but wish to register to work in Australia.

This was the finding of Peter Robinson and Glenys Wilkinson who presented the results of an analysis of the trends in the high stakes examination in a paper delivered in the education stream at the Australian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) conference in Adelaide earlier this month. The project analysed KAPS results since 2011 and concluded that the assessment verification processes and examinations uphold Australian standards.

Another trend identified in the analysis is demand for the KAPS exam which has seen an increase of approximately 30% in the number of overseas candidates sitting the exam each year, which is delivered four times per year in multiple countries around the world with the majority of applicants sitting in Egypt, India or the Philippines.



APC staff Glenys Wilkinson and Peter Robinson presenting their findings at the APSA Conference

Collaboration the key to Blueprint

The collaborative work put into the development of the new Intern Year Blueprint project was the focal point of APC's presentation at the annual Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR) Education Conference in Philadelphia earlier this year.

APC's Glenys Wilkinson offered up the learnings and outcomes of the collaborative process which involved a variety of stakeholders, all of whom worked together to develop the new Blueprint based on the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016.

Those learnings revealed that the variety of experiences of stakeholders and their perspectives, brought up issues and a broader canvass of ideas that could only be achieved through genuine consultation with colleagues, organisations and interested parties keen for a new Blueprint.

Other learnings from the experience confirmed that collaboration requires time and resources to ensure it is respectful and inclusive and garners the support of participants for the project outcomes.

Bronwyn Clark also spoke about the Intern Year Blueprint at the FIP World Congress in Glasgow early in September. As part of the Advancing pharmacists' services and competence development session, Bronwyn presented the framework developed to assess interns with a shift in focus from competence to competency.

APC's Active Community Contributions

At APC we are proud of the contributions that our team members make individually and collectively to the community – here are some of our stories

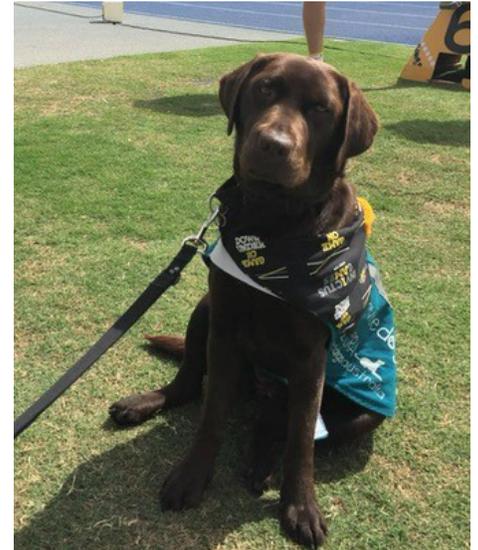
Invictus Games Adventures

In an environment where levels of anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder can be elevated, twelve Integra service dogs joined the Invictus Games to support athletes with the pressures of competing in the games.

Integra Service Dogs Australia was founded by two veterans to provide support to first responders and men and women transitioning out of the Australian Defence Force.

Our furry friend Maple, owned by Gabrielle, Executive Director Corporate Services, was a fan favourite amongst spectators and athletes and most importantly was solace for those who had to leave their service dogs at home. Maple's peaceful nature made an incredible impact on the athletes' experience, always keeping them alert and insisting on a cuddle.

Read more about Integra Service Dogs at the Games [here](#).



Poppies for the Fallen

The call for volunteer knitters to knit poppies to mark the centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War was heard by APC's Jeanne Edwards. Over 3 months Jeanne created 100 handmade knitted poppies adding to the thousands of others knitted by volunteers from across Australia which formed a moving display of 62,000 poppies, one to mark each of our fallen, at the Australian War Memorial as part of the five-week commemorative program.

For more information see [here](#).



Display of knitted poppies at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra



One of Jeanne's poppies on display

Ride to Fight MS

Natalie Johnson, our lively and resilient Business Coordinator, wanted to make a personal impact and change lives. On Sunday 4 November Nat cycled a monstrous 62km from Sydney to Wollongong in support of people living with multiple sclerosis.

Nat went beyond her goal and raised \$1,120, which contributed to the more than \$3 million nationally.

She said the event was as rewarding as the hills were steep (very steep) and will return next year. Read more about [MS Sydney to the Gong](#).



Natalie at the MS Sydney to the Gong Ride

UNWomen Trek for Rights

Amanda Galbraith, APC Councillor and Canberra pharmacist, has raised \$7,636 after taking part in the challenging UN Women Trek for Rights in Fiji, which is part of an international development project organised by the United Nations Women National Committee Australia and supported by QUT Business School.

UN Women aims to empower females across the Pacific through leadership training, financial literacy and assurance of safety while they provide for their families. The program helped raise almost \$50,000, which will assist with procurement of new markets, toilets and security facilities for women who operate at local markets.

Amanda urges all pharmacists to use the opportunities of their professions to help others.

"I hope that whilst I raise money for them, they will raise me up as a person," Amanda said.



Amanda, second from the right, during 12km Trek For Rights in Fiji

APC gets Accreditation for recycling

Nat's bike ride isn't the only cycling that has taken place around here. APC has now undergone accreditation for re-cycling (pardon the pun) to ensure that we are reducing our carbon footprint and leaving a positive impact on the environment.

APC is committed to nurturing the planet we live on and are now an accredited and recognised as an Actsmart Business.

Learn more about becoming an accredited business [here](#).

Council meets on World Pharmacists Day

This year we have welcomed a number of new councillors to our Council, and in September we brought them together in a facilitated session to explore working styles and values.

The following day we held our first Council Meeting with the full complement of Councillors, who articulated clearly their plans and visions for APC as a collective thanks to a very productive session the day before.



Our Council Meeting also coincided with World Pharmacists Day, which was duly celebrated.

September 25th marks the annual event, as designated by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). It is a day in which people around the world celebrate the contribution pharmacists make to the communities they serve.

“Pharmacists: Your medicines experts” was the theme of this year’s World Pharmacists Day.



AGM Constitution Change

We held our most recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 27 November where we had an additional focus to consider proposed changes to the APC Constitution. The APC Constitution was last updated in 2015 and it was deemed an appropriate time for a review to modernise and incorporate best practice governance in relation to company constitutions.

All suggested changes were accepted, and the new APC Constitution is available [here](#).

Annual Report 2017-2018

After a successful year, we have released our 2017-2018 Annual Report.

[Click here](#) to read about APC achievements and stories from the people who are at the core of our work. APC thanks our staff, our stakeholders and colleagues for such a fantastic year.



Save the date - APC Colloquium 3 May 2019

We're bringing back one of our most loved events!

In 2019 APC is re-establishing its annual Colloquium series- these one-day events were held in each of 2013, 2014 and 2015, and engaged those interested in pharmacy education in a stimulating workshop event with international and local speakers.

The 2019 Colloquium will be held in collaboration with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) on Friday 3 May at the Sofitel Melbourne On Collins.

More to come...



We have a brand new job opportunity!

We are looking for a pharmacist to work closely with our Professional Services team to provide expert knowledge and assistance in examinations, accreditation, policy and research.

[Find out more](#)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE WED 12 DEC.



[Listen to our podcasts](#) | [Read our 2017-2018 Annual Report](#) | [Visit our website](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read our Insights Newsletter