



From the CEO



IN THIS ISSUE

From the CEO	1
Indigenous expert group talks strategy	3
APC on the international stage – interprofessional accreditation in action	4
Streamlined Standards highlight Social Accountability	4
Examinations Workshop	5
Coming up at APC	5
APC meets US ‘cousin’ to grow regulating bodies	6
Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Distinguished Lecture Series	7
Colloquium 2020 Save the Date	8

It’s been a busy few months following a number of achievements both nationally and internationally thanks to the supportive collaboration we enjoy with our many stakeholders and partners.

Most significant for APC was receiving approval for our new [Accreditation Standards for pharmacy education programs](#), confirmed by the Pharmacy Board of Australia. The Standards come into force in the new year.

These Standards create one set of degree and intern training program standards and establish the foundation for the next generation of pharmacy education.

The development of the Standards has been a truly collaborative effort. We could not have achieved such a result without the input from the many individuals, educators and organisations who contributed to our consultation workshops,

written feedback, focus groups and reference groups. I am very proud of our staff in the way that they have sought out views and listened to stakeholders. This has ensured that the final standards will enable future pharmacists to be prepared for their full scope of practice and improve health outcomes for all Australians.

Recently, our Chair Sue Kirsas and I attended the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress in Abu Dhabi, the theme of which was *‘New horizons for pharmacy – Navigating winds of change’*.

We attended FIP with over 2000 other pharmacists from across 140 member countries, and the congress gave us many opportunities to [learn and connect with colleagues and colleague organisations](#) across the globe. We also attended the inaugural meeting of Pharmacy Regulators at FIP and look forward to contributing to this new group. The FIP Congress will be coming to Brisbane in 2021, and I am delighted to be able to contribute to this through membership of the Host Committee and to welcoming our “pharmily” to Australia then.

We are finalising our 2018-2019 Annual Report. See a [sneak peek of our achievements](#). We also have a [Board Director position](#) up for appointment currently, specifically aligned to assist us with our Improving Indigenous Health Strategy. You can read about our Expert Advisory Group [here](#).

We have our upcoming AGM and the [Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Distinguished Lecture Series](#) on Monday 25 November, and I am looking forward to hearing Associate Professor Faye McMillan deliver the address. I hope you can join us here in Canberra on that day, and you can [register here](#).

Bronwyn

I am always interested in hearing how we can improve in our services across the sector, and how we can be more efficient and effective. Please don’t hesitate to contact me by email if you have any questions or suggestions to help us better deliver on our mission of Advancing and Assuring Quality in Pharmacy Education.





2018-19 Snapshot

We held **13 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS** for the Review of Accreditation Standards



52 STAKEHOLDERS attended our consultation workshops



We collaborated with **155 DEDICATED PHARMACISTS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES** (up 10%)



We formed **ONE NEW COMMITTEE**



We attended **36 EXTERNAL MEETINGS** and **19 EVENTS** (up 16%)



We submitted **7 EXTERNAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES** to share our expertise in standard setting



We received **67 SUBMISSIONS** that informed our decisions



We combined **2 SETS OF STANDARDS INTO ONE**



We hosted **3 MAJOR EVENTS** on pharmacy education



OUR BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE UP 29% due to the new Examinations Committee and Review of Accreditation Standards



We **INCREASED** our in-house pharmacy by employing more pharmacists



WE GOT SOCIAL

1819 LinkedIn Followers



Twitter:

- Followers: 1790 (up 15%)
- Page visits: 5758 (up 25%)
- Mentions: 278 (up 34%)
- Retweets: 546 (up 55%)
- Likes: 1479 (up 65%)



Indigenous expert group talks strategy

As the target to Close The Gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people by 2031 widens rather than closes, we have strengthened our commitment to improving health outcomes for our nation's First Peoples.

The Improving Indigenous Health Strategy, Expert Advisory Group was established by the APC Board to improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through our work as an accreditation authority. As we set the standards for Degree and Intern Training programs, we aim to ensure cultural safety for all our Indigenous Peoples through education of our pharmacists, and importantly to support and grow recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our profession.

As outlined in the [2019 Close the Gap report](#) we know that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved in the development and design of the services they need, there's a better chance of achieving success.

To implement our Strategy and foster this approach, we have formed a wholly Indigenous advisory group with the following respected indigenous leaders:

- [Associate Professor Faye McMillan](#). Director, Djirruwang Program, Charles Sturt University
- [Mr John Briggs](#). John Briggs Consultancy

- [Ms Leanne Te Karu](#). Associate Dean (Māori), School of Pharmacy Otago University

On 4 October 2019 we held our inaugural Expert Advisory Group meeting where the group focused on its agenda with reference to the Improving Indigenous Health Strategy. The meeting included delegates sharing each other's journeys; exploring the group's role and function to advise the APC Board; establishing its Terms of Reference detailing Objectives and Actions; and delving into the pharmacy environment in relation to supporting and encouraging current and future Indigenous pharmacists.

"It is such a privilege to have these esteemed colleagues and wonderful people assist us on this important journey. The indigenous lens that they bring to our work is both important and relevant to all our work, and we thank them so much for their commitment to us. It is a very exciting time for APC to start this journey", said Bronwyn Clark, APC CEO.

As part of our own staff commitment, we held a Team-Away day this month in which we painted three paintings under the guidance of Linda Huddleston from Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery.

The paintings reflect stories of the 1967 Referendum, the Stolen Generation and Reconciliation. Our paintings have been hung in our offices in Canberra - come and see them for yourself when you are next nearby!



APC staff with Burrunju artists: Left to right: Rita, Yvonne, Kate, Justine, Jeanne, Glenys, Calvin, Linda, Linda Huddleston, Peter, Gabrielle, Anna, Elaine, Joanna, Kamal, Deb, Josephine, Peter.

The Expert Advisory Group will next meet in November 2019 before the [Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, AO Distinguished Lecture Series](#) where Professor McMillan will present on "Yindyamarra (respect) your Narrative". We invite all our colleagues to come to the lecture and engage in the conversation.

APC on the international stage – interprofessional accreditation in action

In September this year our Executive Director Glenys Wilkinson and our colleague Michael Carpenter, CEO of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, led a session discussing interprofessional education at the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) education conference in Minneapolis, USA. Their presentation focused on inter-professional education standards for pharmacists and psychologists in Australia and Ireland. They were joined by colleagues from the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) and the Health and Social

Care Professions Council in Ireland (CORU).

Glenys presented the APC's commitment to interprofessional education in our new 2020 Accreditation Standards for pharmacy education, through the lens of social accountability. This is an innovative approach to ensuring at the point of general registration pharmacy graduates have the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours to work together and provide safe and contemporary pharmacy services to everyone in the community.

Delegates engaged in a lively discussion about implementing standards that address interprofessional education. They collectively addressed some of the current and perceived enablers and barriers to implementation such as language, professional identity and the role of regulators in embedding standards addressing interprofessional education.



Glenys Wilkinson (EDPS APC)

The perspectives of our Irish counterparts complemented and extended the discussion and created an enriching experience for the workshop participants as we examined our own current experience in an international context. The consistent message however is a collective commitment to interprofessional education to improve outcomes for the public.

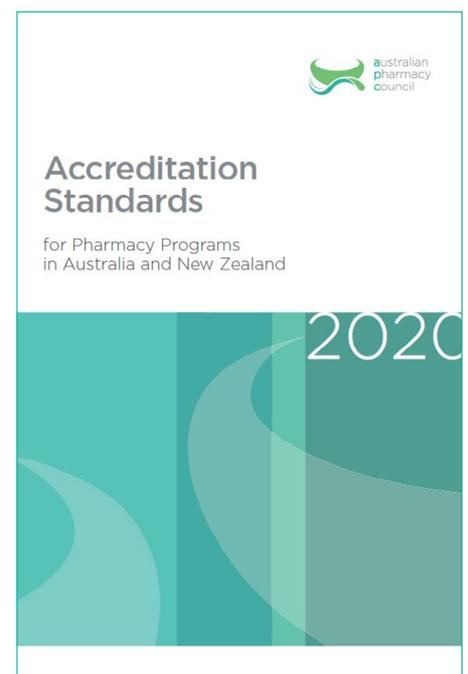
Streamlined Standards highlight Social Accountability

As of next year, one set of Standards will be adopted to create a streamlined and uniform approach to pharmacy education and intern training. Social Accountability underpins the Standards to ensure graduates understand the health needs and requirements of everyone within the community.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has recently approved the latest set of [Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs in Australia and New Zealand 2020](#).

“It was a truly collaborative effort by education providers, professional associations, peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori associations, pharmacy students and consumers,” APC Chair Sue Kirsasaid.

Following more than 12 months of extensive consultation with a wide variety of highly valued stakeholders, the Standards will assure that graduates have the knowledge, skills and behaviours that pharmacists need for the



evolving nature of contemporary pharmacy practice.

An expert Reference Group guided the project, which ensured all themes identified by stakeholders in submissions and at consultation meetings were addressed appropriately.

As a result, the APC is now leading the pharmacy education and training sector into a new era. The Standards' key features are:

- One set of Standards for education and intern training providers, including the option for integrated programs
- Adopting 'social accountability' as an underpinning principle to address public safety, cultural competence, professional identity and interpersonal (sometimes called 'soft') skills
- Outcome focused Standards harmonized with other health professions
- Addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander & Māori cultural safety
- Emphasis on interprofessional education, experiential learning, research and scholarship, and
- Ensuring programs of study equip graduate pharmacists with the required skills and competence for emerging practices, such as prescribing medicines in structured prescribing arrangements and/or under supervision within a collaborative healthcare environment

Based on the positive feedback following the consultations, the APC is confident this new era for pharmacy education and training will hit the mark for our future pharmacists. Our stakeholders noted our approach as 'exemplary' because we provided absolute clarity from the outset. This made the review very manageable for such a complex task.

The APC acknowledges and thanks the many stakeholders, pharmacists and academics who contributed so freely of their time to this project.

The new Standards will be effective as of 1 January 2020 and planning is already underway for a smooth transition to the new Standards. APC intends to continue a collaborative approach in the transition phase and will welcome any comments or feedback about the planning for this phase.

Examinations Workshop

APC Exams held two workshops over the financial year attended by 35 pharmacists from across the country.

The first workshop focused on training Subject Matter Experts to use the new question database and secure platform Exam Developer™. The second workshop held earlier this year, focused on standard setting.

Over the year, there has been an emphasis on integrating new persons into the cohort of Subject Matter Experts and feedback suggests that the overall experience of those pharmacists newly involved is one of having been professionally challenged while enjoying immensely the engagement and comradery gained through their commitment.

"Interesting to see the process (as complicated as it seemed) applied in real life (exam pass or fail to candidates)"

"What is already a good process is impressive, as is APC's commitment to improvement. The opportunity to contribute to the process is very welcome."

"Excellent day, very insightful! Well organised, structured and systematic. Thank you very much for the opportunity"

Coming up at APC

- » [Examinations Workshop Melbourne](#) 11 November & 6 December 2019
- » [Improving Indigenous Health Strategy Expert Advisory Group Meeting](#) 25 November 2019
- » [Annual General Meeting](#) 25 November 2019
- » [Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Distinguished Lecture Series](#) 25 November 2019

APC meets US 'cousin' to grow regulating bodies

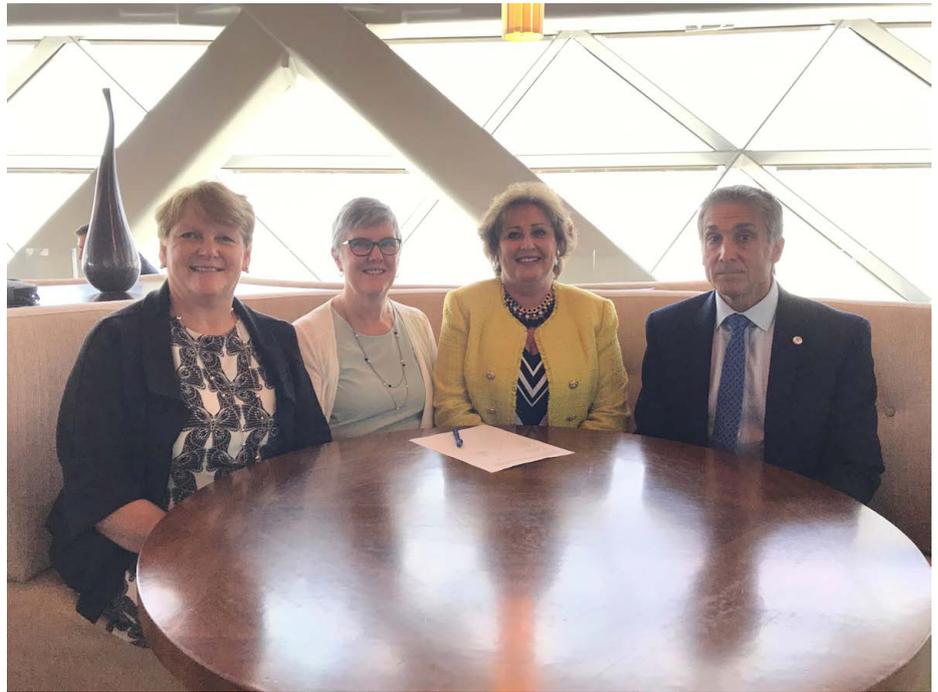
In this world of global connections, this year we connected with our colleagues at the US National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (the National Association) to discuss areas of mutual interest to both our organisations.

The National Association has a similar responsibility to us in the assessment and examinations of pharmacists for the United States Boards of Pharmacy. We therefore have several similar interests and challenges. Collaboration will allow us to both grow as regulating bodies and enhance the safety and quality of healthcare within our own countries.

Following our first meeting in January, we were delighted to cement our relationship with FIP by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with them in September at the FIP Congress in Abu Dhabi.

It was also an opportunity to continue our relationship with our colleagues at the Irish Institute of Pharmacy, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI), who are hosting the [13th International Conference on Life Long Learning in Pharmacy in 2020](#). As our commitment to supporting Life Long Learning internationally, we will be Silver Sponsors of the conference, to be held at the RCSI from 3-6 July 2020 in Dublin.

For information about the conference see [here](#).



Bronwyn Clark (APC CEO), Sue Kirsas (APC Board Chair), Susan Ksiazek (NAPB Chair), Carmen Catizone (NABP Executive Director)



Bronwyn Clark (APC CEO) Dr Catriona Bradley (Executive Director Irish Institute of Pharmacy)

Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Distinguished Lecture Series

Monday 25 November 2019 4pm

Speaker: Associate Professor Faye McMillan

2019 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year and Senior Atlantic Fellow

Topic: Yindymarra (respect) your Narrative

Venue: Majura Park Conference Centre Lancaster Pl, Majura Park, Canberra



Emeritus Professor
Lloyd Sansom AO

distinguished
lecture series

Aligning with our Improving Indigenous Health Strategy, Associate Professor Faye McMillan will be presenting on “*Yindymarra (respect) your narrative*” at APC’s third [Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, AO Distinguished Lecture Series](#).

How can we work towards racial equity together? How do we ensure future health practitioners head into the workforce with sound knowledge in Cultural Safety?

On Monday 25 November 2019 Associate Professor Faye McMillan will speak about acknowledging who we are and where we come from to understand how this impacts the way we practice our craft.

“As highly trusted professionals within our communities how do we pay homage to all that we are, so that we offer an authentic relationship to those that we are in service to and with? In creating the environment that Yindymarra (respect/s) the totality of self, how is this reflected in your narrative?”

“Through the use of my own narrative I invite others to consider and share their narrative and how we use our own and collective narrative to shape, nurture and be in authentic relationships with ourselves/colleagues and communities.” Associate Professor Faye McMillan said.

Associate Professor Faye McMillan is a Wiradjuri yinaa (woman) from Trangie, NSW. Faye is the 2019 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year and a Senior Atlantic Fellow (inaugural Atlantic Fellow for Social Equity) and was a founding member of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) and was a board member of IAHA from 2009-2017 (and chairperson from 2010-2016) and works at Charles Sturt University (CSU) as the Director of the Djirruwang Program – Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health). [Read more.](#)

Save the Date

Wednesday 6 May 2020

Colloquium 2020

From Virtual to Reality: the journey to work-readiness

Just how prepared are our new practitioners for the realities of the profession and how can we support everyone involved in the process? Supporting and assessing students and new practitioners within experiential placements and internships will be the focus of Colloquium 2020. Delegates will explore “From Virtual to Reality: The journey to work-readiness”.

The APC and [ANMAC](#) Colloquium is returning Wednesday 6 May 2020 and we're bringing it home to the “Cool Little Capital”, Canberra, where art, culture and coffee seeps through the city.

As both Councils are currently reviewing the professions' placement and internship year, we are examining what constitutes work-readiness and placing strong emphasis on the support that both student/intern and preceptor require throughout the process.

The event will be underpinned by an interprofessional pillar where delegates will explore interprofessional experiential placements and learning, simulation, and how learning styles and professional development come into play.

Keynote speakers:

- Pharmacy's renowned **Professor Zubin Austin**, inaugural holder of the Murray Koffler Chair in Management, and the Academic Director of the Centre for Practice Excellence at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, Canada will be joining us as a keynote speaker.
- **Ms Essene Cassidy**, Director of Public Health Nursing and President of Nursing Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) has also accepted her invitation to Australia as a keynote speaker to provide insights into best practice within placements in Ireland.

If you missed 2019's, pencil this in your diary for next year! You do not want to miss Colloquium 2020.

