



COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE ADVANCED PHARMACY PRACTICE FRAMEWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee is a profession-wide collaborative forum established to progress tasks and initiatives associated with the national competency standards for pharmacists.

The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee (APPFSC) met in early December and takes this opportunity to report on the following progress and key outcomes.

Finalisation of a customised entry-level competency tool

The APPFSC is pleased to release for pharmacists the *Professional practice profile for initial registration as a pharmacist: a customised tool of entry-level competencies incorporating guidance on pharmacy school and intern training provider contributions*. This follows the approval of the document by the Committee and subsequent adoption by the Pharmacy Board of Australia to help inform future standards for the accreditation of pharmacy schools (PS) and intern training providers (ITP).

This practical tool is based on and derived from the *National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2010*. It presents the professional practice profile expected at initial registration as a pharmacist (ie. at entry-level to the profession) and includes additional advice on the contributions of PS and ITP. While the articulation of PS and/or ITP has been provided for all Performance Criteria relevant at initial registration, this exercise is not intended to create a segmentation of learning or training requirements for the student and intern years but rather, confirms that the competency standards represent a continuum of learning.

The tool was developed through the organisations represented on the APPFSC and has involved pharmacists and personnel from PS and ITP, as well as preceptor pharmacists and intern pharmacists. The assistance of various individuals and the feedback from pharmacists during the consultation phase is greatly appreciated.

Recognising the evolving nature of the competency tool, the APPFSC has recommended that the tool be reviewed in 2013. To help inform this review, we would welcome feedback from users of the document over the next 12 months, particularly in relation to your experience in the application of this tool.

The release of the competency tool was announced through an APPFSC media release on 19 December 2011 and can be downloaded from: www.psa.org.au/archives/6230

Development of an advanced practice framework for pharmacists

As reported previously, the APPFSC is developing an advanced practice framework for pharmacists with a view to establishing a mechanism or pathway for formal recognition of those practising at an 'advanced' level. The APPFSC is working to develop a generic advanced pharmacy practice framework.

Liaison with the UK Competency Development and Evaluation Group. The APPFSC recognises that some pharmacists, particularly in the hospital sector, have already been developing advanced level frameworks based on the UK Competency Development and

Evaluation Group (CoDEG) materials and are working at or towards an 'advanced' level. To ensure continuity and compatibility with these activities, the APPFSC has been communicating with personnel on the CoDEG panel who recently granted permission for the reproduction and adaptation of their materials for the work of this Committee. We express our sincere thanks to Professor Ian Bates and his colleagues for their generosity. The APPFSC will continue to liaise with the CoDEG to share our experiences and milestones.

The decision to adapt the CoDEG framework for our project has also been strengthened and confirmed through an initial exercise where successful mapping of the CoDEG standards to the Australian Competency Standards and the existence of a continuum were demonstrated.

Profession-wide consultation. It is anticipated that in March 2012, the APPFSC will be releasing a consultation paper to the pharmacy profession for comment. The Committee firmly believes this is a vital initiative to build and advance the profession and create opportunities for pharmacists into the future. I encourage all pharmacists to be part of the consultation process as it will be important for the Committee to hear your views regardless of whether you or your colleagues hope to be practising at an 'advanced' level in the future or not.

The APPFSC would also like to express sincere thanks to those hospital pharmacists who have openly shared their work and experiences in developing advanced level frameworks in their area of practice. The APPFSC is committed to building on their important work and goodwill.

Shane Jackson
Chair APPFSC
19 December 2011