

## **POLICY TOPIC: REGISTRATION POLICY FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION UNDER TRANS-TASMAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION**

*Adopted: 25 July 2007*

*Commencement date: 2 January 2008*

This document describes the registration policy of the Pharmacists Board of Queensland (the Board) in relation to issuing of registration as a pharmacist under Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the relevant legislation listed below:

*Pharmacists Registration Act 2001*(the Act)

*Pharmacists Registration Regulation 2001* (the Regulation)

*Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997* (C'th)

*Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 2003* (TTMR Act)

The State (Qld) legislation is available for download from [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au).

### **1. BACKGROUND**

Presently, the Pharmacists Board of Queensland (the Board) requires New Zealand registered pharmacists to undergo a period of 4 weeks' supervised practice in a Queensland pharmacy, as well as a forensic assessment with a representative of the Board. This period of supervised practice and assessment is currently undertaken prior to the application for registration.

The Board has reviewed this policy and intends to require the period of supervised practice and assessment to be on registration as a condition of registration.

### **2. CONDITIONS**

Under section 19(5) of the *TTMR (Qld) Act*, the Board may impose conditions on registration but such conditions may not be more onerous than would be imposed in similar circumstances unless they are, among other things, necessary to achieve equivalence of occupation.

The Board's power to impose conditions is found in Section 61 of the *Pharmacists Registration Act*, which provides that it may decide to register an applicant on conditions which it considers necessary or desirable for the applicant to competently and safely practise the profession. Given that the profession of pharmacy in Australia is heavily regulated and subject to specific legislative frameworks in each state or territory, it is not unreasonable for the Board to require some steps to be taken in order to ensure that the applicant is familiar with pharmacy law and practice in Queensland before being able to practise unconditionally in their own right.

Practice in the profession in New Zealand is based on a qualification that is equivalent to, substantially equivalent to, or based on, similar competencies to the *Pharmacists Registration Regulation 2001*. Therefore New Zealand registrants have the necessary underlying competencies to practise as a pharmacist in Queensland.

To date the Board has not agreed that New Zealand registrants have sufficient knowledge of *current* Australian and Queensland law and practice to competently practise in Queensland without undergoing training under supervision in this jurisdiction.

It is commonly accepted in the profession that supervised practice is practice under the supervision of a registrant and can be of variable length.

### 3. POLICY

On receipt of an application for registration (in the approved form) and of any documents the Board reasonably requires to decide the application, the relevant fee and pursuant to appropriate checks with other relevant registering authorities, under section 19 of the *TTMR(Qld) Act*.

- The registrant, where entitled, will be registered.
- The Board will impose conditions on that registration that are necessary to achieve equivalence of occupations namely that the registrant:
  - undertake 152 hours (over at least 4 weeks) of supervised practice in a Queensland pharmacy; and
  - successfully complete a written (and oral, if required) forensic assessment that may include forensic, ethics and calculations elements with a representative of the Board.
- The Board will impose a review period of not less than 28 days from the commencement of supervised practice in a Queensland Pharmacy.
- Pursuant to section 61(2) of the *Pharmacists Registration Act 2001* the registrant will be notified of the conditions and of the review period in an information notice.
- The details of the conditions will be recorded on the public register.
- The Board may review the conditions imposed on receipt by the Board of:
  - an application from the registrant to review the conditions; and
  - a Commencement of Supervised Practice Form (Form 3); and
  - a Completion of Supervised Practice Form (Form 4); and
  - notification of successful completion of the specified Board assessment; and
  - the recommendation of the Professional Adviser - Pharmacy.