

Media Release

Contact: Mrs Elizabeth Frost
President
Australian Pharmacy Council
Phone: 02 6262 9628

Contact: Ms Lyn LeBlanc
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Pharmacy Council
Phone: 02 6262 9628

Pharmacy Board of Australia approves Intern Training Program Accreditation Standards

A feature of the education and training of pharmacists in Australia is the requirement that, following graduation from an accredited undergraduate or graduate program, the graduate must complete a period of workplace integrated learning (supervised practice) with an approved pharmacist preceptor in an approved practice site. The additional clinical experience and professional insight furthers the graduate's journey towards competency as outlined in the '*Competency Standards for Pharmacists in Australia, 2003*' required for full registration.

Arrangements for Intern Training Programs (ITP) have traditionally been made at the state and territory level by local boards, but as a result of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme the Pharmacy Board of Australia is now responsible for the oversight of a national program for competency acquisition by interns. This program currently includes extended on-site workplace assessments of competence demonstrated through appropriate performance and overseen by approved preceptors and Intern Training Program (ITP) providers. The *Accreditation Standards for Intern Training Programs in Australia 2010* contain nine Standards ranging from program curriculum and resources to intern support structures. The intent of the Standards is to provide a framework by which to evaluate the quality of an ITP including the content, management and support structures within the program.

Organisations wishing to deliver an ITP in 2011 must be accredited under the Standards. Applications for accreditation to deliver an ITP in 2011 are invited until **23 July 2010**. **The Standards and Application Forms** are available from the Australian Pharmacy Council website www.pharmacycouncil.org.au

Postal Address: PO Box 269
Civic Square ACT 2608 Australia
Email: admin@pharmacycouncil.org.au

For further information please email the above or contact Ms Lyn Le Blanc, CEO on (02) 6262 9628.