

## Communiqué

11 August 2016

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the "Authority") met on 19 July 2016 at the Authority offices.

### **New member**

Mrs Karen Samuel retired from her membership of the Authority on 30 June 2016. Mrs Samuel was a member of the Authority since its inception in August 2010, and also served as a member of the former Pharmacy Board of Victoria. During the meeting the Authority acknowledged Mrs Samuel's long-standing service and dedication as a pharmacist member.

Following the expiration of Mrs Samuel's term, the Governor in Council appointed Ms Casuarina G Fersterer as a pharmacist member for a three year term until 30 June 2019. Cassie first registered in 1997. She has practised in hospital pharmacy in both clinical and managerial roles, and also has several year's community pharmacy experience. She spent time working in the regulatory sector for AHPRA in the administration of Pharmacy Board examinations and registration of pharmacists. She also worked for several years at SHPA supporting pharmacists in their practice.

Cassie currently works at NPS MedicineWise as a clinical services specialist, using her skills as a pharmacist to educate GPs on evidenced based prescribing. She also works as an examiner for the Pharmacy Board of Australia, and is passionate about lifelong learning, integrity, quality use of medicines and serving and protecting consumers when it comes to their health.

### **Registration and licence certificates**

Emails advising of renewal of registration of premises and licensing of proprietors were sent on 21 July 2016 to all registered premises. The emails included links to download registration and licence certificates for the current financial year.

### **Recent inspections - recurring deficiencies**

While the majority of pharmacists ensure that all deficiencies listed on inspection reports are rectified and take steps to ensure the deficiencies do not re-occur, the Authority continues to be concerned about some pharmacies where the same or similar deficiencies are detected at successive inspections. Instances are frequently considered by panel hearings into the operation of the pharmacies concerned.

From time to time the Authority also invites pharmacy owners to attend meetings of the Authority to discuss deficiencies identified during inspections, particularly where deficiencies re-occur.

The Authority reminds pharmacists that the [self-audit form](#) available on its website provides a useful tool for pharmacists to monitor their own compliance with legislation and guidelines. The Authority's [Guidelines](#) are also readily available on the website.

### **Recent panel hearings**

Poor record keeping of transactions of Schedule 8 poisons identified during inspections has continued to be the major reason for the Authority to convene Panel Hearings in recent months. During June

2016, two Panel Hearings were held into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities.

*Case 1.*

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was:

- A failure to ensure that records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction; and
- A display of Schedule 3 poisons containing codeine that did not meet the requirements of the Authority's Guidelines.

The proprietor was cautioned.

*Case 2.*

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was or were:

- A failure to ensure that records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- A display of Schedule 3 poisons containing codeine that did not meet the requirements of the Authority's Guidelines;
- A display of Schedule 2 poisons outside of the professional services area;
- The omission of displays of the proprietor's name, the name of the pharmacist-in-charge and the name of the duty pharmacist; and
- Unsatisfactory arrangements for the disposal of confidential client information.

The proprietor was cautioned.

Toni Riley  
Chair