Communiqué

26 October 2017

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the "Authority") met on 10 October 2017 at the Authority offices.

Quarterly performance report

The Authority's quarterly performance report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2017 is now available on the VPA website here. The report provides information on the Authority's activities and intended outcomes.

Based on statistics from inspections carried out during the period, inspectors will continue to focus on the following areas in coming months:

- Adequacy of references
- Appropriate storage and display of Schedule 3 medicines including Schedule 3 codeine and pseudoephedrine products
- Reconciliation of Schedule 8 stocks and records
- Routine barcode scanning
- Adequacy of arrangements for privacy throughout pharmacy
- Appropriate security of keys to Schedule 8 safes

Panel hearings

There were three Panel Hearings held in September 2017 into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities to comply with the *Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010* and/or good pharmacy practice at registered premises.

Case 1

A pharmacist had commenced to carry on a pharmacy business without making the required notification to the Authority. The pharmacist's licence application had been approved but they neglected to pay their licence fee and notify the Authority when settlement was finalised and they commenced to operate the pharmacy. This resulted in a reprimand.

Case 2

The allegations included:

- Numerous and significant discrepancies in accounting for transactions of S8 poisons;
- Failure to store returned and unwanted S8 poisons securely;
- Failure to maintain adequate security alarm coverage of all areas where scheduled poisons were stored; and
- Other failures of good pharmacy practice relating to drug refrigerator temperature monitoring and pharmacotherapy procedures

The Panel found the allegations proven. The licensee was cautioned and required to submit further evidence of rectification of deficiencies and development of written procedures.

Case 3

The allegations included:

- Significant discrepancies in accounting for transactions of S8 poisons;
- Failure to store returned and unwanted S8 poisons securely; and
- Failure to maintain adequate dose administration aid filling records.

The Panel found the allegations proven. The licensee was reprimanded and required to submit copies of written procedures. They had appeared before a Panel previously for similar contraventions when a reprimand had also been issued. The Authority subsequently ordered that the pharmacy be reinspected at the licensee's cost.

Toni Riley
Chair