

Pharmacy Council March 2022 newsletter

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From the Chair and Chief Executive

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. In it we provide you with updates from our recent Council meeting on 3 and 4 March 2022. At the meeting, we reviewed progress on key projects, planned for the next financial year, and explored the future of pharmacists with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

We also confirmed key roles on the Council, with Arthur Bauld and Michelle Lomax both elected unopposed to Chair and Deputy Chair of Council respectively.

Looking to the year ahead, we are pleased to provide you with an update on the budget and work programme for the next financial year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023).

This is all part of our commitment to make some changes to how the Pharmacy Council communicates and engages. There is a strong drive to improve understanding of the Pharmacy Council's role and strengthen our performance as a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner.

We are also committed to providing greater visibility of our work and creating new opportunities for pharmacists and stakeholders to input to the development of key initiatives and projects. You can read more about work to develop the new Accreditation system for education providers below. As we move through the year expect to hear more from the Council, and please keep an eye out for emails about engagement opportunities coming throughout the year.

You can read about the Pharmacy Council's performance in the report from the independent review conducted on behalf of the Minister of Health at the end of 2021. As the responsible authority for pharmacy under the Health Practitioners' Competence Assurance Act, we take part in these periodic reviews to ensure we are carrying out our functions in the interests of public safety and to provide right touch regulation. We are pleased to report we met all core performance standards. You can find the report below.

It is with pride we and the rest of the country observe the amazing job pharmacists are doing to support their communities in these unprecedented times. With case numbers growing day to day please stay safe and reach out if you need pharmacist support (or are able to provide support to pharmacists). The COVID-19 Pharmacists Relief Workforce is in place, and we

are still taking expressions of interest from practising and non-practising pharmacists to provide COVID-related relief for pharmacists and pharmacies.

We also encourage you to get your APC applications in as soon as you can to ensure you can continue to practise after 1 April. We appreciate there has been some adjusting to the new MyRecert platform but can report that 93 percent of you are in the process of completing your learning record or have already completed it. Thank you.

Ngā mihi

Arthur and Michael



Arthur Bauld / Michael Pead
Chair / Chief Executive

Pharmacy Council's 2022-23 budget and work programme

Council approved the 2022-23 financial year budget at its March meeting. The coming year begins 1 April 2022, which is a change from previous years to bring the financial year into alignment with the Annual Practising Certificate (APC) year. Council is looking forward to the clarity this change will bring to our financial reporting processes.

Expenditure has been approved at the level of \$3.935 million (operating) and \$161,000 (capital), with an overall total of \$4.122 million. The 2022-23 budget will be funded from a combination of 2022-23 APC income (expected to be received during March 2022) and Council's accumulated reserves as of 31 March 2022.

2022-23 work programme

In 2022-23, the Pharmacy Council will continue to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the public by ensuring pharmacists are competent and fit to practise. We will continue to deliver our business-as-usual priorities under the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Act which includes registering interns, pharmacists, and pharmacist prescribers, managing annual practising certificates and maintaining the register of pharmacists, managing qualifications assurance and competence processes such as recertification, accreditation and qualification monitoring, and considering the cases of pharmacists who may not be meeting required professional and ethical standards. These activities are budgeted at \$3.792 million.

In addition to our day-to-day business activities, nine percent of the overall budget (\$329,000) has been set aside for specific pieces of developmental work to ensure the regulatory framework and work of the Pharmacy Council is fit for purpose in the future and supports the realisation of the Council's two strategic objectives of 'Minimising risk of harm to public from pharmacist practice' and 'Maximising pharmacists' competence and fitness to practise'. [You can read more on the strategic objectives in the Council's Strategic Plan.](#)

In 2022-23 we will...

- Mature our operations to enable us to give greater effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, such as further developing our Māori and Health Equity Advisory Group for authentic partnership.
- Strengthen our engagement and communications to give greater visibility to our work and to provide opportunities for engagement with stakeholders.
- Establish our in-house accreditation standards and systems in preparation for their implementation from 2023-24.
- Refresh the 2015 professional competence standards for pharmacists.
- Continue our work with other Responsible Authorities to explore the potential for unified prescriber regulatory tools for all prescribing professionals.
- Implement the recommendations of Pharmacy Council's statutory performance review undertaken on behalf of the Minister of Health.
- Mature the development of our business management, sector assurance and decision support frameworks through fit-for-purpose business intelligence gathering.
- Bed down and operationalise the compliance management system to include transitioning external Council committees from the Basecamp platform across to SharePoint.
- Complete an analysis and prepare a business case for the potential replacement of our current assessment management software platform in 2023-24.
- Continue the implementation and uplift of Microsoft 365 services across all aspects of the organisation.
- Rationalise systems infrastructure and ongoing operating costs as part of the shared relocation with the Dental Council to a new premise.
- Implement any recommendations from the independent cybersecurity review (phase 2).

Developing the new accreditation system

The Pharmacy Council is responsible for accrediting education providers to ensure their programmes support health practitioner competency at the point of registration and entry into intern pharmacist, pharmacist and pharmacist prescriber scopes of practice.

This year we intend to develop and implement a new in-house accreditation system to replace the external accreditation services that have to date have been provided by an external accreditation provider in Australia.

This work is one of our development projects for the 2022-23 year. A key focus of these projects is engagement with key stakeholders to ensure evidence-informed and high-quality regulatory tool development.

We will shortly be establishing an Accreditation Expert Working and Advisory Group to provide independent advice to Pharmacy Council. We will be calling for experts in education and accreditation to be part of this group this week.

You can keep up to date on the Accreditation system project [here](#)

Guidance for BPharm student placements

An update from the University of Auckland and University of Otago Schools of Pharmacy

Community and hospital pharmacy placements for BPharm students are essential to completing their programme, and in supporting their development as future pharmacists.

We want to acknowledge that the profession is facing significant challenges and disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have come together to provide some guidance for you to assist with placements of final-year students which start towards the end of March.

The following table outlines 'core' and 'optional' tasks that a final-year pharmacy student can be involved in during a placement and contribute to pharmacy services provided by that site. The types of tasks will vary depending on the placement site. These activities will support development of core pharmacy practice skills and required attributes that students will need when they enter the profession. Skills and attributes like professionalism, communication and collaboration skills, health and medicine management, supply, and administration of medicines can be developed across a range of activities.

Core pharmacy practice activities	
Dispensing and medicine supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription and chart screening for clinical and legal validation. • Identify discrepancies and clarifying with patient and/or prescriber (medicine reconciliation). • Preparation of prescriptions for the final check. • Patient education of dispensed medicines. • Preparation of compliance packaging.
Medicine information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of the enquiry and gather necessary additional information. • Gather relevant information from appropriate resources. • Appraise the evidence and decide on clinical recommendation. • Summarise information to provide clear and accurate answer.
Primary healthcare/OTC consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather relevant information to make a differential diagnosis. • Medicine history taking. • Check for red flags and contraindications with current prescribed and non-prescribed medication. • Choose appropriate treatment or referral. • Patient-centred education on treatment.
Other activities students could be involved in depending on site	
Vaccination services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-vaccination screening of patients. • Some students are provisionally authorised vaccinators and can administer COVID-19, MMR and influenza vaccines within a team of experienced vaccinator(s). • Can reconstitute vaccines under direct supervision if have completed required training. • Management of patients under observation if have completed required training.
COVID-19 services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient medicine management consultations, by telephone, for COVID positive patients isolating who may require prescriptions

	<p>and delivery of medicines to be organised as well as symptomatic OTC treatments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervised rapid antigen testing service. The student would have to be provided appropriate training by pharmacy staff.
Blood pressure monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform blood pressure check. Educate patient on result and referral if necessary. Manage documentation, inform patient's doctor if consent given.
Compounding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topical, oral, and aseptic preparations. Supervision of calculations, measurements, and final product is required.
Community Pharmacy Anticoagulation Management Service (CPAMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising of testing requirements and scheduling of appointment. Assist with procedure as appropriate. Patient education as appropriate.
Long term condition reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple consultations with patients who are due for their LTC review.
Pharmacist-only medicines sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment, diagnosis, treatment, education, and documentation with supervision by a pharmacist.
Smoking cessation service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial assessment with supervision by a pharmacist.

For more information about the placement programmes, please contact:

- University of Auckland, School of Pharmacy: pharmacyplacements@auckland.ac.nz
- University of Otago, School of Pharmacy: pharmacy.placements@otago.ac.nz

Quick links

Annual Practising Certificate applications

Update your practising status and/or renew your Annual Practising Certificate by 31 March 2022.

[Read more about how to complete your application.](#)

MyRecert declarations

As part of updating your practising status and submitting your APC application you will need to document a small portion of your professional development in the MyRecert platform and complete a declaration about the status of your learning activities over the last year.

[Read more about completing your CPD requirements.](#)

COVID-19 pharmacist relief workforce

Relief is being put in place to help minimise the impact of COVID-19 to support overworked pharmacists and when pharmacists find themselves needing to self-isolate because of COVID-19.

[Find out how you can help or get some help.](#)

2021 Pharmacy Council statutory performance review

[Read the outcome of our statutory performance review.](#)