

MEDIA RELEASE - 8 December 2025

Congratulations to 153 pharmacist interns now eligible to register as pharmacists

Over 150 people successfully passed the November 2025 Assessment Centre for intern pharmacists, which means they are now eligible to register in the pharmacist scope of practice.

"The Assessment Centre is the culmination of many years of work for intern pharmacists who have completed their degree and the intern training programme. It allows interns to demonstrate how the skills and competencies they have gained through their studies translate into safe clinical practice," says Michael Pead, Pharmacy Council Chief Executive.

The next step for these interns is to apply to register in the pharmacist scope of practice, then join the pharmacist workforce across New Zealand.

It's great to see more new pharmacists beginning their career in pharmacy. PSNZ looks forward to continuing to being part of their journey in pharmacy, offering support at every step of the way," says Michael Hammond, PSNZ President.

"It's an exciting time to join the profession. Pharmacy has untapped potential and at PSNZ and the Pharmacy Sector Leaders Forum we're looking to realise that potential. This means making it easier for pharmacists to work to full scope and moving towards more clinical service delivery. These changes will help aid retention and career options so more pharmacists stay in what is a rewarding and fulfilling profession.

"Thanks to all the preceptors and pharmacy teams who have supported interns this year. PSNZ put in a range of additional supports to help interns as part of our intern training programme."

The pass rate for this Assessment Centre was 66%, and interns who did not pass may be able to sit the next Assessment Centre in May.

Held in late November and run by the PSNZ on behalf of the Pharmacy Council, the Assessment Centre is the final step towards registration for aspiring pharmacists after completing the intern training programme.

The Pharmacy Council and PSNZ work closely together to develop each Assessment Centre, creating an assessment that mirrors the examples of real-life clinical scenarios encountered in everyday practice.

"We'd also like to acknowledge all the pharmacists who contributed to this year's Assessment Centre through their involvement in case writing, piloting, standard setting and assessment," said Michael Pead.

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