



Australian Government

**Department of Health
and Aged Care**

Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Practice

Commonwealth of Australia

and

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Limited ACN 008 532 072

Contents

- 1. Definitions.....2**
- 2. Role of Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.....2**
- 3. Pharmacist Professional Practice Standards and performance3**
 - 3.1 Joint commitment.....3
 - 3.2 Professional Practice Standards and practice guidelines3
 - 3.3 Code of Ethics for Pharmacists3
 - 3.4 National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists.....3
 - 3.5 Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services3
 - 3.6 Pharmacy credentialling and accreditation systems4
- 4. Commonwealth support for professional pharmacy practice.....4**
- 5. Timeframe for measures described in clause 3.....4**
- 6. General matters5**
 - 6.1 Term and commencement.....5
 - 6.2 Consultation arrangements.....5
 - 6.3 Variation.....5
 - 6.4 Arrangements at the end of this Agreement.....5
 - 6.5 Status of this document5
- 7. Interpretation6**
 - 7.1 Words and headings.....6
 - 7.2 Specific references6
- Signing Page.....7**

Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Practice

Dated 3 June 2024

Parties

Name	The Honourable Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia
Short name	Commonwealth

Name	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Limited ACN 008 532 072
Short name	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Background

- A. This document is the Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Practice between the Commonwealth and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.
- B. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is recognised as the national peak body for pharmacists working in Australia.
- C. This Agreement supports the central pillars of the National Medicines Policy 2022, which include:
 - C.1 equitable, timely, safe and reliable access to medicines and medicines-related services, at a cost that individuals and the community can afford;
 - C.2 medicines meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy; and
 - C.3 quality use of medicines and medicines safety.
- D. Consistent with the aims of the National Medicines Policy 2022, the parties recognise that the professional practice of pharmacists in Australia is integral to primary care service provision.
- E. The Commonwealth and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia:
 - E.1 acknowledge medicine safety and quality use of medicine as the 10th National Health Priority Area; and
 - E.2 share an aspirational goal to continue to expand the range of primary health care services pharmacists provide.

1. Definitions

In this Agreement:

Agreement means this Strategic Agreement on Pharmacist Professional Practice.

Australian Pharmacy Council means Australian Pharmacy Council Ltd ACN 126 629 785.

Department means:

- (a) the Department of Health and Aged Care; or
- (b) any successor department or agency of the Commonwealth having responsibility for the administration of Part VII of the *National Health Act 1953* (Cth).

Minister means the Minister for Health and Aged Care.

Pharmacy Board of Australia means the National Health Practitioner Board for the pharmacy health profession as provided for in the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Regulation 2018*.

Term means the term of this Agreement as set out in clause 6.1.1.

2. Role of Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

2.1 The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is recognised as the national peak body for pharmacists in Australia, and is the custodian of the:

- 2.1.1 Code of Ethics for Pharmacists;
- 2.1.2 National Competency Standards Framework;
- 2.1.3 Professional Practice Standards;
- 2.1.4 Clinical Governance Framework for Pharmacy Services; and
- 2.1.5 guidelines related to the documents in paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 describing performance measures.

2.2 Without limiting the role of the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Pharmacy Council, it is recognised that the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia plays a central role in ensuring:

- 2.2.1 the standards governing the professional practice of pharmacists in Australia remain fit for purpose now and into the future; and
- 2.2.2 pharmacists are supported to achieve the highest level of professional practice.

3. Pharmacist Professional Practice Standards and performance

3.1 Joint commitment

The Commonwealth and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia are committed to supporting the highest standard of professionalism in the pharmacy sector and the achievement of outcomes aligned with the aims of the National Medicines Policy 2022.

3.2 Professional Practice Standards and practice guidelines

3.2.1 With pharmacists' key role in medicine safety, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will continue to maintain, review, update and develop the Professional Practice Standards and practice guidelines for pharmacy programs, with the aims of:

- (a) providing pharmacists with practice information and guidance to support the safe and quality use of medicines; and
- (b) increasing accountability, measurability and assessment of pharmacist practice, including performance measures, to assist delivery of best practice at an individual, provider and industry level.

3.2.2 The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia intends to develop implementation and support materials, quality and safety measures, and continuous quality improvement processes to complement the Professional Practice Standards and associated guidelines.

3.3 Code of Ethics for Pharmacists

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia intends to further develop the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists that underpins the practice of pharmacists in Australia.

3.4 National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia intends to:

- 3.4.1 maintain the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia (**Competency Standards**); and
- 3.4.2 develop implementation tools for any updates to the Competency Standards, to enable pharmacists to fulfill their scope of practice to meet the current and future healthcare needs of the Australian community.

3.5 Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services

3.5.1 The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia intends to further develop the Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services to ensure that those principles are consistent with the aims of the National Medicines Policy 2022 and reflect international contemporary best practice in the delivery of pharmacy services.

3.5.2 The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia supports pharmacists with implementing the Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services' requirements to improve the quality of patient care delivered through pharmacy services.

3.6 Pharmacy credentialling and accreditation systems

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia intends to conduct an analysis of credentialling and accreditation processes internationally and in Australia to ensure that the continuous quality improvement and recognition systems available to pharmacists represent latest international best practice.

4. Commonwealth support for professional pharmacy practice

- 4.1 The Commonwealth anticipates providing funding to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia during the Term to be directed to achieving the objective of further promoting the standards of professionalism in the pharmacy profession.
- 4.2 Provision of funding will be subject to the Department complying with all legislative and policy requirements for the expenditure of public resources, including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (13 June 2023) or the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines 2017.

5. Timeframe for measures described in clause 3

Subject always to clause 4.2, and the impact of matters beyond their reasonable control, it is the parties' intention to commence the measures described in clause 3 as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Timeframes for measures

Clause	Measure Description	KPI/Milestones
3.2.1	Maintain, review, update and develop the Professional Practice Standards Maintain, review, update and develop practice guidelines for pharmacy services	Completion financial year 2028/29 Ongoing 2024–2029 inclusive
3.2.2	Develop implementation and support materials, quality and safety measures and continuous quality improvement processes to complement the Professional Practice Standards	Completion financial year 2028/29
3.3	Further develop the Code of Ethics for Pharmacists	Completion financial year 2024/25
3.4	Develop implementation tools for the Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia	Establishing an advisory group including Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Pharmacy Council and other relevant stakeholders financial year 2024/25. Completion financial year 2026/27

Clause	Measure Description	KPI/Milestones
3.5.1	Further develop the Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services	Completion financial year 2025/26
3.5.2	Supports pharmacists with implementing the Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services' requirements	Ongoing 2025 – 2029 inclusive
3.6	Pharmacy credentialling and accreditation systems	Completion financial year 2025/26

6. General matters

6.1 Term and commencement

6.1.1 This Agreement commences on 1 July 2024 and expires on 30 June 2029.

6.1.2 The parties agree that the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement will end at 11.59pm on 30 June 2024.

6.2 Consultation arrangements

6.2.1 To oversee the implementation and achievements of the Agreement, the parties intend to meet not less than annually during the Term.

6.2.2 As soon as practicable after the minutes of a meeting between the parties under clause 6.2.1 have been settled, the Department and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will ensure communication to enable public scrutiny of the Agreement's implementation and achievements.

6.3 Variation

This Agreement may only be varied by a document signed by the parties.

6.4 Arrangements at the end of this Agreement

The parties will use their best endeavours to ensure that negotiations for any new agreement to apply after the expiry of this Agreement will commence twelve (12) months prior to the expiry of this Agreement.

6.5 Status of this document

Both parties acknowledge and agree that:

6.5.1 it is their common intention to meet their commitments under this Agreement; and

6.5.2 despite paragraph 6.5.1, nothing in this Agreement places a financial obligation on the Commonwealth of Australia or gives rise to an obligation on the Commonwealth of Australia to pay compensation, including during or after the end of the Term.

7. Interpretation

7.1 Words and headings

In this Agreement, unless expressed to the contrary:

- 7.1.1 words denoting the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- 7.1.2 the word 'includes' in any form is not a word of limitation;
- 7.1.3 where a word or phrase is defined, another part of speech or grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning; and
- 7.1.4 no rule of construction applies to the disadvantage of the party preparing this Agreement on the basis that it prepared or put forward this Agreement or any part of it.

7.2 Specific references

In this Agreement, unless expressed to the contrary, a reference to:

- 7.2.1 a decision, determination or action of the Minister includes a decision, determination or action of the Minister's delegate;
- 7.2.2 consulting on a matter, means seeking the views of the relevant other party or third party and is not an obligation to seek or obtain the agreement of any other person;
- 7.2.3 any legislation (including subordinate legislation) is to that legislation as amended, re-enacted or replaced and includes any subordinate legislation issued under it;
- 7.2.4 any document (such as a deed, agreement or other document) is to that document (or, if required by the context, to a part of it) as amended, novated, substituted or supplemented at any time;
- 7.2.5 writing includes writing in digital form;
- 7.2.6 'this Agreement' is to this Agreement as amended from time to time;
- 7.2.1 a clause, part, table or attachment is a reference to a clause, part, table or attachment in or to this Agreement;
- 7.2.1 a 'person' includes an individual, a firm, a body corporate, a partnership, a joint venture, an unincorporated body or association, or any governmental, semi-governmental, administrative, fiscal, judicial or quasi-judicial body, department, commission, authority, tribunal, agency or entity; and
- 7.2.2 any body (**Original Body**) which no longer exists or has been reconstituted, renamed, replaced or whose powers or functions have been removed or transferred to another body or agency, is a reference to the body which most closely serves the purposes or objects of the Original Body.

Signing Page

Signed by the Honourable Mark Butler MP,
Minister for Health and Aged Care on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia

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in the presence of:



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Witness

Blair Comley, Secretary

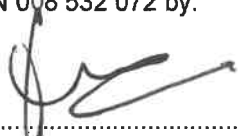
Name of witness

3 June 2024.

Date

Signed by Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Limited ACN 008 532 072 by:

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National President

Dr Fei Sim

Full name

3 June 2024

Date



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Chief Executive Officer

Adjunct A/Prof. Steve Morris

Full name

3 June 2024.

Date