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### FROM THE CEO – COLLABORATION AND CO-LOCATION

**At APC we have been operating in accreditation for over 30 years to ensure that the standards of education, training and assessment of the pharmacy profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community.**

Currently professional accreditation is under the spotlight both in Australia and internationally, where questions are being raised by stakeholders and governments as to what the benefits may be. These questions are rightly making us all think about what are the best systems, processes and governance structures for accreditation to ensure an appropriate “right touch” approach.

The Accreditation Systems Review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) by Health Ministers has been running throughout this year, and in September the **Draft report** from the Review Team, led by Professor Mike Woods, was published. This follows the **previous Discussion Document** which was released in February.

We would like to thank all those who took the time to make submissions to both of these reports, recognising the importance of this work. Professor Woods has indicated he will make his final recommendations to Ministers on the future of health professions accreditation later this year.

At APC we believe profession-based accreditation is in the best interests of the public for health professions who have a potential to harm the public. We also believe that the public and the pharmacy profession is best served

by an independent accrediting body for pharmacists. Our connection to the profession, coupled with our expertise in quality assurance and our commitment to quality improvement, is instrumental to us providing high quality work. We have pharmacists working within our staff, on our Council and Committees, and as contractors on our exam-writing and accreditation teams, and I am very proud of the work we do and the high standard of work that we produce.

While we see the benefits of an independent profession-based accreditation council, we actively work with other professional bodies and accreditation councils in initiatives to ensure we are both efficient and effective in what we do. As an active member of the **Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum** we are committed to sharing our knowledge to encourage consistency in approach, while maintaining our individual profession-specific requirements. I am humbled to have been elected as the incoming Chair of this Forum, and I am committed to working across the 14 health professions to achieve the best outcomes of health professions education for the Australian public.

Earlier this year we further cemented our strategy to work in collaboration with our other professions as we co-located to offices in a “Health Accreditation Precinct” with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Australian Medical Council in Majura Park, Canberra. This is the exciting step in our journey of further sharing of our work, new joint projects and reducing duplication in services where possible.

We believe that our collaborative approach, underpinned by our pharmacy knowledge, allows us to provide accreditation services that deliver pharmacists who are able to provide appropriate services for the changing needs of the community. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with our members and stakeholders.

**Bronwyn Clark** DipPharm, MCLinPharm, FPS GAICD

### Council Meetings and Connections

The APC’s President, CEO and Accreditation Committee Chair recently had the opportunity to discuss the latest developments on our accreditation policies and processes with the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (PCNZ) at its Wellington office. We value these opportunities to exchange on our intelligence around accreditation and processes as we continually work towards mutually agreeable improvements for the pharmacy sector.

The intelligence sharing didn’t stop there as we joined other Australian colleagues including the Pharmacy Board of Australia Chair and AHPRA’s Executive Officer at the PCNZ’s Council dinner which was hosted ahead of their Council meeting scheduled the next day. This was a really fruitful meeting, and we thank our kiwi counterparts for their hospitality and collegiality.

In October, the Chair of the Pharmacy Board of Australia Bill Kelly attended a full APC Council meeting, and gave a presentation to Council about notifications data gathered by the Board. The Chair and Council also discussed the Accreditation Systems Review and proposed responses from the Board and the Council.

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with developments.**

[www.lllpharm2018.com](http://www.lllpharm2018.com)



## Council Strategy and Communications

In June this year the Council set the Strategic Directions for the APC for the next three years.

### APC – Assuring and Advancing Quality in Pharmacy Education

We have also updated our Communications Strategy, and an early result of this is the updated APC Website, which was launched on 15 September.

With a crisp new look, we've simplified the design to make it clearer and more engaging. We've enhanced our Education Providers site and developed new Handbooks to answer all the questions our stakeholders and candidates may have. Much of this redevelopment will create much-needed efficiencies for APC.

If you have any questions or feedback to share with our team on this website, we would love to hear from you – [admin@pharmacycouncil.org.au](mailto:admin@pharmacycouncil.org.au)

## APC STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2017-2020

ASSURING AND ADVANCING QUALITY IN PHARMACY EDUCATION



### Reputation

Our key stakeholders understand and value our distinct contribution



### Accreditation & Assessment

Our accreditation and assessment standards and methodologies are contemporary and integrative



### Business model

We are able to diversify and grow our revenue streams



### Position

We will emerge as a leader in dynamic and changing regulatory environment



### Capability

Our governance, staff and systems are fit for the future

### Intern Year Blueprint – have your say

A draft Blueprint that has reviewed the current Intern Year assessments is now available for public consultation.

The aim of the Blueprint is to create a revised framework and map for assessments of competencies of intern pharmacists prior to general registration.

We have been undertaking this project in partnership with the Pharmacy Board of Australia, to ensure our assessment practices and processes are contemporary and evidenced based.

The intern year is the final step in preparing pharmacy graduates to enter the workforce and take up trusted positions as health care professionals. Our assessments need to be able to effectively measure knowledge and competencies of pharmacists.

This is to assure the public that they are interacting with a highly competent professional. Alongside this **draft Blueprint**, is an extensive **Literature Review** for international evidence about contemporary assessment methods has been completed.

Comments and feedback on this draft Blueprint are welcome from all our stakeholders, and the consultation phase will close on Friday 17 November 2017.

## Life Long Learning in Pharmacy 2018 Brisbane, Australia, 6-9 July 2018

### Shaping tomorrow's practitioners today

We at APC are delighted to host the next International Conference of Life Long Learning in Pharmacy. This conference will be the latest in a series that discuss issues of importance and relevance to advancing pharmacy practice through continuous professional development (CPD) and lifelong learning.

The Host Committee has attracted an impressive line up of speakers who will be contributing to an invigorating program:

#### International Keynote Speakers:

**Professor Zubin Austin** – Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, Canada.

**Dr Catriona Bradley** – Executive Director, Irish Institute of Pharmacy, Ireland.

#### Australian Keynote Speakers:

**Dr Gabrielle Brand** – University of Western Australia, Perth

**Dr Gloria Dall'Alba** – University of Queensland in Brisbane

**Professor Debra Rowett** – University of South Australia, Adelaide

#### Sponsors:

A BIG thank you to our sponsors who have committed support so far:

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**Sponsor opportunities for the Gala Dinner and Welcome Reception are still available.**

#### Draft program:

Our preliminary draft program is now available on our website [here](#). We are also planning some Pre-conference workshops with invited presenters.

#### Abstracts:

Tell us about your Life Long Learning in Pharmacy story with an abstract, be it a paper, workshop or poster. Call for abstracts will open on 15 December and we encourage all prospective attendees to submit an abstract to share your work with an international audience. More information is available here

### New Councillors for APC

With a number of current Councillors retiring from the Council in the next few months, on 20 September we announced the names of five successful applicants to the APC Council.

The following new Councillors were appointed for two year terms:

**Professor Rhonda Clifford**, Head, School of Allied Health (Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences), University of Western Australia, WA, from October 2017;

**Professor Nicholas Glasgow**, Acting Head, Department of Health Services Research and Policy, Australian National University, ACT, from November 2017;

**Ms Amanda Galbraith**, Community Pharmacist, ACT, from November 2017; and

**Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson**, Associate Dean (Academic)/ Pharmacy, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, University of Queensland, Queensland, from February 2018.

**Professor Iqbal Ramzan**, a current Councillor, was re-appointed to the Council for a further three year term.

We will be commencing a second round of Councillor appointments for two community members in early 2018.

