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SERVICE EXAMPLE:

PHARMACY STANDARDS REVIEW

Client	Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC)
Services	To conduct research and consultation to inform the review of the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia
Context	<p>The PPDC is a profession-wide collaborative forum of eleven organisations focused on the development of pharmacist practitioners in Australia through consideration of competencies and scopes of practice. In 2014, the PPDC commenced a review of the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia, consistent with its regular review cycle.</p> <p>AHHA was appointed to conduct initial research and consultation to inform the PPDC's current review processes.</p>
Approach	<p>In the first stage of the project, the features of 32 competency frameworks for professions and services in Australia and internationally, were considered to compare and contrast their features. An examination of the literature was then undertaken to explore the concepts and rationale supporting different features within these frameworks, as well as for current trends.</p> <p>From this review, a consultation paper was developed to facilitate stakeholder discussion. Stakeholder feedback was obtained via online surveys, two consultation workshops held in Brisbane and Canberra, written submissions and telephone interviews with key stakeholders. The final report summarised the findings from the background research, literature review and stakeholder consultation, with 14 recommendations provided to inform the PPDC's review of the framework.</p> <p>A key challenge for this project was engaging stakeholders from both within and beyond the pharmacy sector in the consultation. AHHA worked closely with the members of the PPDC to ensure the pharmacy sector, both organisations and individuals, were involved in the consultation. The team used the AHHA's extensive networks of health groups and individuals to provide sufficient and representative input from the health sector more broadly. This included aged care organisations, clinical peak bodies and professional colleges, consumer groups, accreditation councils, local hospital networks, private health insurers and state and territory health departments.</p>

Result

AHHA provided recommendations in relation to:

- the type of competencies that need to be included in the pharmacist competency standards to appropriately reflect contemporary practice and likely future changes to pharmacy practice in Australia; and
- medium to long term planning of future competency standards models for the Australian pharmacy profession and whether these require incremental change or a substantial restructure.

The PPDC revised the document encompassing the recommendations in the AHHA report. The revised standards were published in December 2016.

The AHHA report is available at

<http://advancedpharmacypractice.com.au/resources/> under 'Other competency standards-related resources'.

Date completed March 2015
