

# Pharmacy Standards Review Project

**Client:** Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC)

**Services:** Literature review, background research and stakeholder consultation

## Context

The PPDC, 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, appointed the AHHA to provide background information and consultation to inform the PPDC's current review processes. The PPDC reviews the national competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia as part of its regular review cycles. The committee required consultancy services from an organisation with a strong track record in conducting research, experience in competency standards development and the ability to conduct national consultations.

## Approach

In the first stage of the project, competency frameworks developed for 32 dental professions and services were considered to compare and contrast their features. An examination of the literature for the concepts and rationale supporting different features within these frameworks, as well as for current trends, was then undertaken.

From this review, a consultation paper was developed to facilitate stakeholder discussion. Stakeholder feedback was obtained via electronic 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.

A key challenge for this project was engaging stakeholders from both within and beyond the pharmacy sector in engaging and contributing to 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.

## Result

The AHHA's findings, which included that the current framework is regarded to be comprehensive and is used for a full range of purposes, were accepted. The PPDC agreed that while fundamental change is not required, revisions are needed for contemporary practice and emerging and future pharmacist roles to be reflected.

The PPDC is progressing subsequent phases of this work, based on the recommendations made in AHHA's reports.