FAQs

What is changing?
The 2019/20 annual registration fee for pharmacists based in NSW is increasing, compared to the fee paid in 2018/19.

Who does it affect?
Pharmacists whose principal place of practice is NSW.

How much is the increase?
The Pharmacy Board of Australia has limited the increase in 2019/20 registration fees to indexation of 3 per cent.

NSW practising pharmacists will also see an increase in the complaints component of the total registration fee that funds the work of the Pharmacy Council. The complaints component of general and limited registration fees will increase by $77 and the complaints component of the provisional registration fee will increase by $4. The complaints component of the fee for non-practising pharmacists will remain unchanged.

Why is the Pharmacy Council of NSW increasing fees?
The Council has increased the complaints component of the registration fee to ensure it is sufficiently resourced to regulate pharmacists in NSW. Effective regulation ensures the protection of public health and safety, and confidence and trust in the profession.

What do NSW practitioners pay?
The 2019/2020 registration fees for pharmacists whose principal place of practise is NSW are as follows:

- $478 for general registration
- $478 for limited registration
- $204 for provisional registration
- $336 for non-practising registration

For more information please see the Pharmacy Board of Australia website.

When does the new fee commence?
The fee applies from 19 September 2019 and covers the registration period for pharmacists from 1 December 2019 to 30 November 2020.

Which agency do pharmacists pay their registration fee to?
Pharmacists pay one annual registration fee to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). This fee includes amounts for registration, accreditation, and complaints management. The registration and accreditation amount of this fee is set by the Pharmacy Board of Australia. In NSW the complaints component of the fee is set by the Council.
How does the Council manage its costs?
The Council manages its costs as efficiently as possible. This includes setting an annual budget and regularly monitoring financial performance and ensuring it has appropriate levels of equity.

Why is NSW different?
NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction. The Council and the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) jointly assess and manage complaints about a pharmacist's conduct, health and/or performance. The Council also monitors pharmacists' compliance with conditions and any other restrictions on practice.

In all other states and territories (except Queensland), this work is done by AHPRA with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (including state and territory boards of the Board).

Why now?
The Council had to increase its component of the national fee to cover the actual costs of regulating the profession in NSW. Compared to previous years, the Council is dealing with an increased volume and complexity of matters, which is expected to continue going forward.

Do the fees paid by pharmacists fund the regulation of other professions?
No. There is no cross-subsidisation in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The registration fees of pharmacists only fund the regulation of the pharmacy profession in Australia. The Council publishes detailed financial information in its annual report about its income and expenditure, available online at pharmacycouncil.nsw.gov.au