28 April 2003

S1 12

MRA Review
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616
Australia

e-mail: mra@pc.gov.au

REVIEW OF TRANS TASMAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the efficacy and effectiveness of the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA). The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (the Society) is the statutory and regulatory body for pharmacists and pharmacies in New Zealand. All pharmacists are required to register with the Society in order to practise and pharmacies must also be registered to operate. The Society has a responsibility to ensure safe, efficacious and appropriate medicines and relevant advice is provided to maintain the health of the New Zealand public.

There are 3,800 pharmacists registered in New Zealand.

The pharmacy profession in New Zealand interacts with the TTMRA in two ways:

1. the mutual recognition of pharmacists' registration
2. the mutual recognition of registration of therapeutic products (medicines)

1. The Mutual Recognition of Pharmacists' Registration

New Zealand and Australian pharmacists have had reciprocity of their registration with each other (and the UK) since the late 1960s, so mutual recognition when it came in 1998 was not a big issue to pharmacy.

The numbers of pharmacists using mutual recognition to register in Australia and New Zealand over the past four years are:

	Aust pharmacists in to NZ	NZ pharmacists out to Aust
1999	7	not recorded separately
2000	1	not recorded separately
2001	7	12
2002	6	20

For comparison, each year about 100 NZ pharmacists get reciprocal registration into the UK and about 30 UK pharmacists come here.

Apart from one issue, the Society has no problem with the concept and operation of mutual recognition of registrations. The one issue of concern has been the potential non-equivalence of applicants' knowledge of local New Zealand procedures in order to practise pharmacy safely and effectively. This concern is not of their clinical or pharmaceutical knowledge.

Since 1997 the Society has required Australian (and UK) pharmacists registering through TTMR or reciprocity to undertake four weeks supervised pharmacy practical training to gain familiarity with our laws, ethics and the Pharmaceutical Schedule of subsidised medicines. Following this period the applicant is interviewed by a practising pharmacist approved by the Society to establish how s/he has adapted to New Zealand pharmacy practice. It is rare that deficiencies are found, and when they are, the applicant's NZ registration is deferred for one or two weeks while the deficit identified is addressed and re-assessed.

This requirement of practical training could be considered contrary to the mutual recognition provisions of the TTMRA. However, the Society considers that because of the different laws governing the practice of pharmacy in New Zealand (including the Pharmacy Act, Medicines Act, Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) and the complexity of medicine subsidy requirements imposed on pharmacists by agencies such as Pharmac and HealthPAC it would be a danger to public safety to allow Australian registered pharmacists to practice in New Zealand without having a brief period of supervised employment to familiarise themselves with the New Zealand situation.

In 1998 the Society obtained a legal opinion from Kensington Swan (attached) who pointed out that section 20(3)(a) of the TTMR Act permits conditions to be imposed for the purpose of achieving equivalence of occupation. Kensington Swan considered the one month's supervised practical training could be appropriately viewed as such a condition. It is on this basis that we have been enforcing this training, and although there were initial objections by Australian states, it is now accepted, with some (e.g. NSW) applying the same condition. We accept this.

Concern has been expressed by some Australian pharmacy registration authorities of 'back door' entry to practice in Australia via the TTMRA by persons from third countries who gain registration through free trade agreements and other arrangements. In particular Singapore, with whom both Australia and New Zealand now have free trade agreements. We would not wish this free trade agreement to develop into a mutual recognition of professional registration without an intensive review of the Singaporean pharmacy education and pharmacist registration process.

Another concern raised by Australian pharmacy registration authorities is that a non-active New Zealand pharmacist may re-register and begin practice in Australia. Be assured that pharmacists returning to the New Zealand register after 3 years absence must have their work experience since graduation assessed as equivalent to the entry requirements for the pre-registration programme, complete a minimum of 12 weeks supervised practice and successfully complete all of the pre-registration programme assessments, measured against the New Zealand Competence Standards for Pharmacists.

Australian pharmacy registration authorities have voiced concerns that pharmacists from countries other than the UK or Ireland may obtain New Zealand registration, and then through TTMRA use it to obtain 'back door' registration in Australia. Some claim New Zealand has different and in some respects less stringent requirements for the registration of pharmacists from non-reciprocal countries. I can assure the Commission that this is not so.

We would argue they are more stringent and more applicable to the practice of pharmacy than are the Australian assessments.

We accept that prior to 1999 there were deficiencies in our process, primarily because we used the Australian knowledge-based APEC examination as an entry point. This was replaced in 1999 by a process that requires evidence of spoken and written English language (IELTS Level 7.5), assessment of their primary pharmacy academic qualification and pharmacy work experience as being deemed equivalent to the knowledge gained by a current New Zealand pharmacy qualification (i.e. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), a supervised practical work place-based training of a minimum of 26 weeks, a pharmacy law and ethics examination and a number of workplace –based assessments within the programme. The final assessment is the Assessment Centre which includes objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE's) and an interview. The process is an internationally accepted model of competence-based assessment. The full process can be seen at the entry to practice / overseas pharmacists / others page on the Society website www.psnz.org.nz.

I note the submission from the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales refers to an enquiry from a pharmacist who qualified in India, then resident in Australia who is undertaking the pathway towards registration in New Zealand. Records of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand show only one applicant who meets these criteria, who has had their qualifications and work experience deemed not equivalent to that of a current New Zealand Bachelor of Pharmacy graduate. To remedy this the applicant is currently studying appropriate subjects to complete a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at a New Zealand University. On successful completion of this study (late 2004 at the earliest) he will then enter a 26 week preregistration programme followed by the assessments listed above. Of interest, under the present system of RPL there are no graduates of Indian Universities who have been deemed to have equivalency with a New Zealand B.Pharm degree.

New Zealand and Australian pharmacy regulating authorities have very good working relationships, no doubt assisted by New Zealand's Associate membership of the Australian Council of Pharmacy Registering Authorities (COPRA) – which meets twice each year to discus issues of mutual impact and concern.

The overall view of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand is that Trans-Tasman mutual recognition is workable provided we retain the four weeks supervised practical training requirement. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review.

Yours sincerely,

Euan Galloway
B.Pharm, FPS, FHPA, MNZCP, ED

Manager – Pharmacy Practice & Legislation

Attachments:

1. Kensington Swan legal opinion

2. Procedure for registration as a pharmacist of a person who holds an overseas pharmacy qualification and registration (non-reciprocal, non-TTMRA)

RECEIVED
- 9 DEC 1998

Kensington Swan

Barristers, Solicitors &Notaries Public

Refer to: Mrs P J Andrews/J P Forsey
Direct Phone: 498 0889/498 0815
email: pja@ks.co.nz/jpf@ks.co.nz

7 December 1998

Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
P O Box 11 640
WELLINGTON

Attention: Glenys Lowery

TRANS-TASMAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION ACT - SUPERVISION ISSUES

The Issue

1 You have asked us to provide an opinion in relation to the provisions of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 ("the TTMR Act"). We understand that the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand ("the Society") currently has a policy that, when Australian pharmacists are registered in New Zealand, this is subject to their completing a one month period of supervision.

2 We understand that that this period of supervision is considered necessary because of the different laws governing the practice of pharmacy in New Zealand (eg that relating to the Health and Disability Services Commissioner) and the complexity of the requirements imposed on pharmacists by agencies such as Pharmac and HBL. The concern is such that the Society considers it would be a danger to public safety to allow Australian registered pharmacists to practise in New Zealand without having a brief period of supervised employment to familiarise themselves with the New Zealand situation.

3 It appears that some Australian registering authorities have suggested that this approach by the Society in requiring a period of supervision, is contrary to the provisions of the TTMR Act, and that it should not be carried out as a matter of course. We are not aware of the specifics of the Australian authorities' concerns.

Summary of our Advice

4. In summary, our advice is as follows:

4.1 The Society has legitimate concerns about the public safety aspects of Australian applicants practising in New Zealand without a period of

supervision, in order to become familiar with New Zealand's particular legislative requirements.

4.2 There is scope within the provisions of the TTMR Act to enable the Society to require Australian applicants to undergo a one-month period of supervised practice;

4.3 This is most appropriately characterised as a condition on registration, rather than a postponement of registration or a refusal to grant registration;

4.4 The justification for the imposition of a condition relates to assessment of the equivalence of the occupation as between Australian States and New Zealand;

The TTMR Act

5 The Act establishes the "Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Principle". It is significant that every law of New Zealand must, unless it or the TTMR Act otherwise expressly provides, be read subject to the TTMR Act (section 5).

Equivalence of Occupation

6 An occupation for which individuals may be registered in an Australian jurisdiction is taken to be an equivalent occupation to an occupation for which individuals may be registered in New Zealand, if the activities authorised to be carried out under each registration are substantially the same (section 14).

7 The above is subject to the fact that equivalence of occupations between New Zealand and an Australian jurisdiction may be achieved by the imposition of conditions on deemed registration or registration (section 14(2)(a)). It is also subject to any declaration made under section 30 by the Trans-Tasman Occupations Tribunal (set up under the Act) in relation to equivalence, or a declaration made under section 31 by Ministers as to equivalence.

8 The TTMR Act creates a legal entitlement for Australian registered applicants. The mutual recognition principle in relation to occupations is as follows (section 15(1)):

> *(1) The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition principle in relation to occupations is that, subject to this Act, an individual' who is registered in an Australian jurisdiction for an occupation is entitled, after giving notice to the local registration authority for the equivalent occupation, -*
>
> *(a) to be registered in New Zealand for the equivalent occupation; and*
>
> *(b) pending such registration, to carry on the equivalent occupation in New Zealand.*

And further:

(2) The entitlement described in sub-section (1) arises by virtue of this Act, and no law of New Zealand requiring an individual seeking to carry on that occupation to have any particular qualification before doing so applies to any individual who is registered in an Australian jurisdiction for an occupation and who gives notice to the local registration authority for the equivalent occupation in accordance with section 19 ".

Therefore, there can be no refusal to register, or impositions of conditions, on the grounds of the lack of any particular qualification. Any conditions must have another basis in order to be allowed under the Act.

9 The TTRMR Act does not, however, affect the operation of any laws of New Zealand that regulate the manner of carrying on an occupation in New Zealand, so long as those laws apply equally to all individuals carrying on that occupation in New Zealand. Australian pharmacists wishing to practice in New Zealand will have to comply with all the legislation, regulations, etc. that apply to New Zealand pharmacists. Australian registered pharmacists need to be made aware of these before they can operate effectively and safely in New Zealand.

TTMR Act procedure

10 An individual who is registered in an Australian jurisdiction for an occupation may notify the New Zealand registration authority in writing. The notice must contain the specific elements set out in section 19 of the TTMR Act.

11 On receipt of the notice, the New Zealand registration authority (the Society) must, within one month, (section 20) either:

"(1) *(a) Grant registration on the ground referred to in section 17(1);*

or

(b) postpone, under section 21, the grant of registration; or

(c) refuse, under section 22, to grant registration ".

12 It is not clear whether the present policy of the Society amounts to a decision to postpone the grant of registration, or rather it is a granting of registration subject to conditions. In the present case, we believe the Society is granting registration subject to conditions, rather than postponing or refusing registration. We address all three possibilities.

Conditions

13 Section 20(2) provides that if the local registration authority grants registration under sub-section (1)(a), it must decide whether or not to impose conditions on the grant.

14 Conditions may be imposed under sub-section (2) on the following basis (section 20(3)):

> "(a) *For the purpose of achieving equivalence of occupation; or*
>
> *(b) for the purpose of imposing on the applicant's registration in New Zealand a condition that applies to the applicant's registration in an Australian jurisdiction; or*
>
> *(c) for any other purpose relating to the implementation of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition principle in relation to occupation ".*

15 In our opinion, the one month supervision requirement is most appropriately viewed as being a condition under section 20(3)(a), or possibly section 20(3)(c) (although the *"other purpose relating to the implementation of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition principle " is* considerably more vague).

16 Conditions relating to ensuring equivalence pursuant to section 20(3)(a) are not defined.

17 Under section 20(3)(c), no condition may be more onerous than a condition that the local registration authority would impose in similar circumstances, having regard to relevant qualifications, if the registration were effected apart from the TTMR Act.

18 This would appear not to be an issue, however, as the type of supervision proposed is designed essentially to enable Australian applicants to become familiar with the relevant statutory framework which exists in New Zealand outside of the operation of the TTMR Act (section 20(4)).

Postponement

19 Postponement of registration is dealt with in section 21. Again, the most relevant grounds would appear to be under section 21(1)(e), under which the authority may determine that the occupation in which registration is sought is not an equivalent occupation.

20 Postponement cannot be for longer than a period of six months commencing at the conclusion of the period of one month following receipt of the notice.

Refusal

21 The grounds for refusing registration are set out in section 22 of the Act. One of the grounds is the determination that the occupation in which the registration is sought is not an equivalent occupation and that equivalence cannot be achieved by the imposition of conditions. That would not appear to apply here.

22 If the Society does not grant, postpone or if refuse registration within the period of one month after a notice is given, the applicant is entitled to registration immediately at the end of that period, unless there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been an attempt to obtain the registration by fraud.

Conclusion on conditions

23 As noted above, it is our view that the one month period of supervision is properly characterised as a condition on registration, that the Society can impose under section 20 of the Act.

Notification

24 Such a decision must be notified to the applicant in writing (section 23) setting out the decision to grant registration or the imposition of conditions on registration. This must include a statement of the reasons of the decision (section 23(2)(a)), and include a statement to the effect that the applicant may apply for a review of the decision (section 23(2)(b)). We note for the sake of completeness that failure to include reasons or the right to apply for a review does not affect the validity of the decision (section 23(3)).

Deemed registration

25 We note that as an interim arrangement, and subject to section 26 of the Act, an applicant is, pending the grant or refusal of registration, entitled to carry on his or her occupation in New Zealand as if the applicant were subject to registration in New Zealand (section 24). Conditions may, however, be imposed on an applicant's deemed registration (section 25). The grounds for imposing conditions are the same as those for imposing conditions under section 20. The activities that an applicant is entitled to carry out under deemed registration are set out in section 26, and an applicant operating under deemed registration is subject to all relevant New Zealand law by virtue of section 27. Deemed registration ceases if the local registration authority grants registration (section 28(1)(b)).

Declaration

26 The tribunal established under the TTMR Act may make a declaration that occupations carried on in an Australian jurisdiction and New Zealand are not equivalent, if the tribunal is satisfied of certain matters (section 30). The grounds for declaring that registrations are not equivalent include the following grounds under section 30(1)(b):

> *(i) The activity of class of activity is a material part of the practice of an individual subject to registration in an Australian jurisdiction for the occupation; and*
>
> *(ii) The activity or class of activity, if carried on by an individual not conforming to the appropriate standards, could reasonably be expected to expose persons in New Zealand to a real threat to their health or safety or could reasonably be expected to cause significant adverse effects on the environment in New Zealand; and*

(iii) *It is not practicable to protect the health or safety of such persons from that threat or the environment from such adverse effects by regulating the manner in which services in the occupation are provided".*

27 As an alternative to simply imposing the supervision period as a condition of registration, a declaration could be obtained as to the equivalence of the New Zealand and Australian occupations. This may be to the effect that the occupations are not equivalent and that certain conditions are required to achieve equivalence. This is then notified by a Notice in The Gazette.

28 We are of the view that the position of the Society, as to the need for familiarity with the New Zealand legislative framework, in particular, is a reasonable one, and that the requirement for one month's supervision could be a suitable condition to be specified by declarations.

29 We note that, under section 31 of the Act, a declaration can also be made by Ministers in New Zealand and Australian jointly.

30 Clearly, if a declaration were obtained, it would settle any arguments that may exist about equivalence of occupation, and could specify the conditions to be imposed. Applicants would be quite clear as to the requirements for registration. We would not expect however, that either route to a declaration would result in a rapid outcome - the issues would certainly have to be argued with the Australian authorities who object to the imposition of conditions.

31 We trust that the above advice has been of assistance.

Yours faithfully
KENSINGTON SWAN

Pamela Andrews
Partner

Procedure for Registration as a Pharmacist in New Zealand (as of 1st January 2003) of a person who holds an overseas pharmacy qualification and registration (non-reciprical, non-TTMRA)

The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand is the statutory body for registration of pharmacists. **Any person who holds a pharmacy qualification from, and current registration in, an overseas country,** and wishes to practise as a pharmacist in New Zealand must apply to register as a pharmacist under Section 13 of the Pharmacy Act 1970.

In assessing your competence to practise in New Zealand the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand will consider each application individually, and the Council's decisions will be confirmed in writing.

There are 6 steps involved

Step 1 Preliminary Application
Step 2 Comprehensive Assessment of Qualifications and Work Experience
Step 3 Oral Presentation of Evidence
Step 4 26 Week Preregistration Programme
Step 5 Pharmacy Law & Ethics Examination
Step 6 Preregistration Assessment

STEP 1
PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

PLEASE NOTE: *Completion of Step 1 is a requirement for all overseas pharmacists wishing to register in New Zealand. If you elect to undertake further study at a New Zealand University without completing Step 1, your future registration status may be jeopardised*.

If your original documents are not in English you are required to obtain an officially certified English translation. All documents must be supported by a Statutory Declaration to the effect that they are genuine and relate to you.

The following must be submitted to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand before your application will be considered:

- A certified copy of your ***current*** certificate of registration. This must be provided ***directly*** to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand ***from your registration authority***. **NOTE**: You must maintain registration with your own authority until you are granted registration in New Zealand.

- A Statement of Good Standing from your registration authority or body, which grants you a license to practise as a pharmacist in your country of residence, confirming that you are registered and in good standing with that authority. This must be dated within six months of your application, and must be provided *directly* to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand *from your registration authority*.

Intention to reside in New Zealand

Applicants must intend to reside in New Zealand permanently. It is possible that you will not have permanent residence at the time of application, however, it must be your intention to gain this. Full

registration on completion of all of the Steps in the procedure, will not be granted until you have been given permanent residency status by the New Zealand Immigration Service. New Zealand Immigration Service may not grant you permanent residency until you have completed all of the requirements for registration to the satisfaction of the Society and are waiting for full registration. You will need to liaise closely with NZIS with regard to your residency status. If you do not have permanent residency when you apply for Step 1, confirmation is required from New Zealand Immigration Service that you will be eligible for a visa that will allow you to work while you complete the preregistration period.

Please also submit:

- A curriculum vitae giving details of the place you obtained your pharmacy qualifications, the name of your pharmacy qualifications and the number of years taken to complete them.
- The original copy of the Test Report of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) showing that you have gained overall proficiency to at least Level 7.5 in the General Training Category, and that you have gained a minimum of Level 7 in the Listening and Level 8 in Speaking Skills.
- Documented evidence of change of name, where this is applicable.
- Statutory Declaration of Identity.
- Completed application form.
- A recent passport type photograph bearing on the back:

(a) The statement "This is a true likeness and signature of {name},
(b) Your usual signature,
(c) Certification of (a) & (b) by the same person who certified your statutory declaration of identity.

- NZ$675.00 (including GST). This covers consideration of your application and is non-refundable.

CHECK LIST FOR STEP 1 HAVE YOU PROVIDED.....

Proof of current registration sent from applicant's board to Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand	☐
Statement of Good Standing sent from applicant's registration board to Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand	☐
IELTS (minimum 7.5 overall, 8 speaking, 7 listening)	☐
Brief details of pharmacist qualification, place of study and length of programme	☐
Documented evidence of change of name (if applicable	☐
Completed application form (including declaration of identity)	☐
Photograph	☐
Fee NZ$675	☐

Download application form for Step 1

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
All of the documentation for Step 1 will be reviewed. An initial assessment of your qualification will be carried out by the Society.

- If the Society considers your qualification may be equivalent to a New Zealand B.Pharm degree, you may proceed to STEP 2. This brief initial assessment does not mean that a full assessment panel at Step 2 will automatically consider your qualification to be equivalent to a B.Pharm obtained at a New Zealand School of Pharmacy.

- If it is clear at this stage that your qualification would not be assessed as equivalent to a New Zealand B.Pharm degree, your application can be referred to either of the Schools of Pharmacy (Auckland or Otago) for their recommendation for further study. Your permission will be sought before sending any documentation.

TIME LIMIT
From the date of application for consideration of eligibility for registration as a pharmacist in New Zealand, you have three months to provide the documents for Step 1. If the time is exceeded, a further fee may be charged.
DO NOT SEND ANY DOCUMENTATION OTHER THAN DETAILED IN STEP 1 ABOVE.
You may not proceed to Step 2 until you have received confirmation that you have completed all the requirements for your preliminary application
The necessary forms for Step 2 will be sent to you with confirmation that you may proceed with this Step.

STEP 2
COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

TIME LIMIT
You have six months from completion of Step 1 to gather the necessary documentation for assessment of your qualifications (Step 2). If the time is exceeded, a further fee may be charged and/or you may have to begin again, as certificates etc may be out of date.

Academic Record and Work Experience
The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand will consider each application individually, and approval or recommendations will be confirmed in writing.

The cost of the assessment of your qualifications and work experience is NZ$1,250.00 (incl. GST). This covers assessment of your documentation and is non-refundable.

Proof of your academic training must be provided as detailed below:

- Curriculum – A *full* syllabus of your academic courses, including all subjects, hours, and assessment methods and a list of the staff (if available). This document is required to be certified by the Registrar of the university or academic body concerned and sent direct to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand from the university or academic body.

- Academic record - A certified copy of your examination results. This must be provided directly to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand from the institution where you gained your pharmacy qualification.

If you are not sure exactly what is required please contact the Society.

You will also be required to submit:

- A full professional portfolio detailing your work experience in pharmacy. This should include dates, full details and evidence of all pharmaceutical experience undertaken post-graduation.
- The completed PSNZ forms summarising undergraduate and postgraduate courses and your work experience.

Please ensure that all the documentary evidence specified on the forms is attached to the appropriate forms.

CHECKLIST FOR STEP 2
HAVE YOU PROVIDED …….

A full syllabus of your academic courses (sent by your university or academic body to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand)	☐
A certified copy of your examination results (provided directly to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand from the institution where you gained your qualification)	☐
NZ$1,2050 (GST inclusive)	☐
Fully completedPSNZ forms for detailing qualifications/experience	☐

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Your documentation for this Step will be sent to a full Assessment Panel for consideration. Please allow 5-6 weeks from the time all of your documents have been received by the Society until the Panel has completed their assessment. You will be notified in writing of the result.

If your qualifications and work experience provide evidence that you have equivalence with at least a New Zealand undergraduate B.Pharm degree you may proceed to Step 4.

If the assessment panel consider <u>there is not sufficient evidence</u> to determine whether your qualifications and experience are at least equivalent to a New Zealand B.Pharm the Society <u>may</u> invite you to attend an interview to give an oral presentation of evidence – see Step 3.

If your qualifications and work experience do not provide evidence that you have equivalence with at least a New Zealand B.Pharm degree you will be directed to further study (See Step 1). If your qualifications and work experience do not provide evidence that you have equivalence with a New Zealand B.Pharm, you will not be permitted to undertake Step 3.

<u>Download application forms for Step 2</u>

STEP 3
ORAL PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE

Note: This Step only applies to applicants who are invited to an interview after the assessment panel considered there was insufficient evidence to determine whether their qualifications were equivalent to a New Zealand B.Pharm. Usually this is when elaboration on work experience may provide evidence that differences in the undergraduate curriculum have been addressed.

The purpose of this presentation is to clarify whether or not your qualifications and work experience are equivalent to a New Zealand undergraduate pharmacy degree because this decision could not be made on the documentary evidence alone. It is an opportunity for you to elaborate on your written evidence.

- The fee for this presentation is NZ$1,100 (GST incl) and must be paid in full before an appointment for your presentation will be confirmed. This fee is non-refundable.
- Prior to the presentation you will receive more details of the subject areas which you should concentrate on in your presentation.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW

If after this presentation your qualifications and work experience are deemed to be at least equivalent to a New Zealand undergraduate pharmacy degree you will proceed to Step 4.

If after this presentation your qualifications and work experience are deemed to be *not* equivalent to a New Zealand undergraduate pharmacy degree you will be directed to approved courses of study (see Step 1).

TIMING

You have three months from the date of notification of your result of Step 2 to complete the requirements for Step 3. If this time is exceeded, further fees may be charged or you may have to begin again.

NOTE

If you are directed to further study, subsequent to Step 3, the time allowed to successfully complete this will be the minimum time required to complete the assigned course. The time allowed will depend on:

- The date of the next available course
- The minimum time required to complete the course and any appeal processes allowed within the course.

STEP 4
26 WEEK PREREGISTRATION PROGRAMME

Note: The fee for the preregistration training programme is set on 1 January each year. The fee for 2003 is NZ$2475 (inc GST).

TIMING
You have 18 months from completion of either Step 2 or 3 (as applicable) to complete all other requirements for registration, including Steps 4, 5 and 6.

Where entry into the preregistration training programme has been delayed by study required by the Society the fees and requirements current at the time of resuming the programme at Step 4 will apply.

You are required to undertake a minimum of 26 weeks practical training in an approved community or hospital pharmacy. Your supervising pharmacist (preceptor) must be trained in workplace assessment and be approved as a preceptor by the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand. During the 26 week period you will complete set assignments and be assessed by your preceptor to determine whether you are competent to practise as a pharmacist in New Zealand .

The required level of competence is described in the *NZ Competence Standards for Pharmacists.* This can be found on the Society website – www.psnz.org.nz

Assessment Centre
On completion of your preregistration training period you are required to attend and complete an assessment centre which includes practice based scenarios and an interview. The Assessment Centre is held in February, June and November each year.

First Aid Certificate
As part of the preregistration process all preregistrants are required to complete a First Aid Certificate. Information on courses available is provided in the preregistrant guide of the preregistration programme folder which will be sent to you at the start of the 26 week training period.

STEP 5
PHARMACY LAW & ETHICS EXAMINATION

The Pharmacy Law and Ethics examination is offered in June and November each year (please note that this may vary). Information will be sent to you when you are eligible to proceed to this Step.

A three-day workshop, which is voluntary, is offered and strongly recommended prior to the examination.

You can sit the examination prior to, or during your 26 week pre-registration programme. If you are undertaking further study (see Step 1) the law exam can be sat during this time.
If you do not pass the exam you are allowed to resit one further time. Any further attempt will only be allowed at the discretion of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.

Costs:

- Exam fee $695.00 (GST incl).
- Workshop fee $1200.00 (GST incl).

STEP 6
PREREGISTRATION ASSESSMENT

When Steps 1-5 have been completed, a preregistration assessment will be conducted by the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.

If on the basis of all the preregistration assessments you are judged as competent against the **NZ Competence Standards for Pharmacists** you will be eligible to apply for registration as a pharmacist in New Zealand.

Assessment will be offered three times per year in February, June and November. You may not attend an assessment centre until you have successfully completed Steps 4-5 (26 week preregistration programme and law exam). If subsequent assessment is required, additional fees will be incurred.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- A certified copy is a document signed by a person having legal authority to certify a document to be a true and correct copy of the original document.
- The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand reserves the right to terminate your application at any stage in the process.
- All communication with the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand must be in writing.
- All applications must be in writing; faxed applications will not be accepted.
- *The right to reside in New Zealand*. If applying for residency in New Zealand please show your agent or immigration officer this information setting out the Society's requirements for registration.

TO COMMENCE YOUR APPLICATION:

Complete the application form for Step 1 and send all the required documentation for this Step to:

Overseas Applications
Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
PO Box 11-640
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Download the application Form for Step 1

For enquiries please contact
Rachel Tough
e-mail r.tough@pharmacy-house.org.nz