



Ref: JCPAA ANAO24Jul15

24 July 2015

Susan Cardell
Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

By email jcpaa@aph.gov.au

Dear Susan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) inquiry into the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No. 25 (2014-15), Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

As an independent body engaged, in the public interest, in the assurance of pharmacy standards, we have an interest in the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement and how we can contribute to services under future agreements.

The Australian Pharmacy Council Ltd (APC) is the independent national accrediting authority for pharmacy. We play a key role in protecting the public safety by ensuring high standards of pharmacy education and training. We accredit education program providers and assess the competence of pharmacists. This is to ensure pharmacists have the skills and knowledge to deliver effective health care that meets the changing needs of the community. We operate as a part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, and work with the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand.

We note that the report highlights that the Pharmacy Guild Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) is the "sole approved pharmacy accreditation program" for the Pharmacy Practice Incentive and Accreditation Program (PPI)¹. We also note that the ANAO was advised by the Department of Health that "while other national pharmacy accreditation bodies would be approved, QCPP is the only one currently in existence".

The APC suggests that there should be an open mechanism for other national pharmacy accreditation bodies apart from the Guild to apply for approval to act as a pharmacy accreditation program for the current and future Community Pharmacy Agreements. This could improve both the quality and independence of the accreditation process for pharmacies to ensure the best outcomes for the public of Australia.

The APC believes an outcome of the report should be the inclusion of another national pharmacy accreditation body in the development of new rules written by the Department of Health and the Guild for any new programs or Pharmacy Practice Incentives for the 6th Community Pharmacy Agreement.

¹ Paragraphs 4.17 – 4.21 pages 137 and 138 of the ANAO Report No. 25 2014-15.

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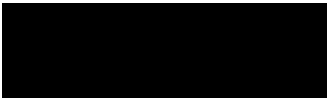
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Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



Bronwyn Clark
Chief Executive Officer

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