



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia was established in early 1928 as the Federated Pharmaceutical Services Guild of Australia and was registered under the Federal Industrial Relations Act as an employers' organisation for the owners of community pharmacies. It was set up for the protection and betterment of its members. Eighty years later, that's still the reason for the existence of the Guild, which, because of its expertise and experience, is uniquely placed to serve pharmacy at all levels.

The Guild's structure

The Guild is a single legal entity with branches in each State and Territory to serve members and assist the National Council and National Executive in carrying out its aims and objectives. Branches have no separate legal status.

The National Council is the supreme governing body. It lays down all Guild policies, decides major issues and has the power to amend the Constitution, subject to referendum where required. Supporting National Council in the development of policies are a number of national committees that undertake research, examine strategies, provide advice and recommend policy approaches.

The Executive Director is the Guild's Chief Executive Officer, entrusted with implementing the policies and decisions of National Council through the National Secretariat, a small, flexible organisation with salaried, professional and administrative staff and consultants engaged as required. The Secretariat is located in the Parliamentary Zone in Canberra, close to Parliament House. The National President works closely with the Executive Director and the Secretariat and is the main spokesperson for the Guild. While always a pharmacist proprietor, the role of National President is effectively full-time.

The Guild's broad purposes

In representing the interests of its members, it seeks to maintain community pharmacies as the most appropriate primary providers of health care to the community through optimum therapeutic use of drugs, drug management and related services.

Aims and objectives of the Guild

The Guild's aims and objectives are to:

- a) represent the interests of members in industrial matters;
- b) further and protect the interests of, and generally to do anything which may be considered beneficial for its members;
- c) support the concept of freedom of choice of pharmacy to all citizens;
- d) provide education programs and specialised services for members to strengthen their business and professional ability;
- e) provide effective support and sponsorship of programs to encourage careers in private practice pharmacy;
- f) disseminate professional and economic information to members and cooperate and participate with government and other agencies in making available health information through pharmacies to the public they serve;
- g) scrutinise administrative and legislative decisions, acts and procedures affecting or likely to affect the practice of pharmacy in the interest of public welfare and the preservation of professional control and responsibility of the pharmacist in his/her pharmacy;
- h) urge and ensure representation and recognition of private practice pharmacists together with other health professionals on all local, State and Commonwealth boards, committees and advisory groups concerned with the health and welfare of the community;
- i) encourage and support pharmacists to effectively participate in political and administrative activity involving local, State or National health and welfare programs;
- j) establish close liaison and exchange information with other health professionals to promote mutual understanding in areas affecting the practice of these professions;
- k) maintain close relations with manufacturers and wholesalers of products sold through pharmacy to ensure that the total supply system serves the best interests of members and the community;

- l) obtain a just level of remuneration for members under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and other sources of government or independent remuneration;
- m) encourage good relations between members and their employees and/or other persons; and when requested by any member to offer advice or otherwise assist in relation to the settlement of any dispute or complaint involving a member and a member of the public; and
- n) enter into agreements with any persons engaged in any of the businesses of importers, inventors, exporters, manufacturers, dealers and merchants in respect of all or any of the goods, articles and products with a view to ensuring the marketing of such goods, articles and products in a beneficial manner.

In addition to the publications produced at a national level, each State and Territory branch has a Branch Bulletin which covers national issues and issues specifically relating to each State or Territory.

For further information on The Pharmacy Guild of Australia visit the website at www.guild.org.au or contact the National Secretariat:

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Publications of the Guild

A range of publications and papers are put out by the Guild's National Secretariat including:

- **Community Pharmacy** – a monthly newsletter;
- **Pharmacy Review Online**– the Guild's quarterly electronic magazine covering issues of interest and concern to pharmacists;
- **Pharmacy Review** – hard copy magazine produced bi-annually and distributed widely to pharmacists and key players in the pharmacy industry;
- **Quality Care for Pharmacies** – a bi-monthly newsletter providing information on the implementation and development of the Guild's Quality Care Pharmacy Program;
- **Fact Sheets** – a series of short briefing notes on issues of importance to pharmacy;
- **Annual Report** – an electronic report posted on the members only section of the Guild's website and reporting on the professional and financial milestones of the year;
- **Guild Digest** - the most authoritative analysis of pharmacy operations in Australia. It is compiled from detailed surveys of the operations of members' pharmacies and provides an invaluable benchmark for pharmacy operations. An online version is also available on the members only section of the Guild website;
- **Frontline** – a quarterly publication for pharmacy assistants;
- **Issues Papers** – which draw together a range of research and literature relevant to community pharmacy at both a national and international level. These are also available on the Guild's website; and
- **International Pharmacy Statistics** – produced by the Guild from data gathered from pharmacy organisations in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Comparative statistics are compiled which cover pharmacy indicators and government health and pharmaceutical expenditure.