



The Hon. Anthony Albanese (A.Albanese.MP@aph.gov.au)
The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer (keir.starmer.mp@parliament.uk)
The Rt Hon Mark Carney (mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)
The Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (C.Luxon@ministers.govt.nz)

25 September 2025

Dear Prime Minister

Re International reciprocity for pharmacy education and licensure, and free movement of pharmacists between identified countries

The Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada is joining with our counterparts in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to request our respective Governments enable freer movement and greater ability for registered pharmacists to transfer and practice within any of our countries.

Productivity within the health sector in general and the pharmacy sector particularly can be improved by facilitating pharmacists to move freely between and practice more easily within our countries. With a common language, similar cultural values, stable health systems and strong quality controls in health care, there should be no educational barrier for pharmacists transferring to and practising within any of our countries. This would allow our union of countries to have a high-quality, competent pharmacy workforce that is competitive with other advanced unions, such as the European Union.

All our countries are facing increasing demands on their health sector, requiring all clinicians to step up and work to their full scope. And all are facing significant constraints on their health human resources, including pharmacists.

Reciprocal recognition of pharmacy education and licensure and greater border mobility between our countries would provide a shared reserve of highly trained pharmacists for all.

All our countries have high-quality, comprehensive requirements for a pharmacist to register for practice. This is supported by a robust system for pre- and post- graduate education to ensure that registered pharmacists have the necessary training and competence for contemporary practice.

Reciprocal recognition of pharmacy qualifications and training between our countries would remove regulatory and administrative barriers to international mobility and practice for our pharmacist workforce. Having similar competency requirements, a more mobile pharmacist workforce between our countries would also facilitate newly arrived pharmacists contributing earlier and more fully to the health system within their destination country. This would also support their successful integration into their new communities, helping them maintain their professional identity and contribute meaningfully from the outset.

All our countries are using pharmacists more productively within their respective health systems, legislating and supporting pharmacists to work to their full scope. With freer mobility of registered pharmacists between our countries, it would be expected to see not only greater harmonisation of

pharmacist training and practice standards, but the development of skills, practice and standards as we learn and benefit from each other. This will then be of benefit to the citizens of each of our countries who will ultimately benefit from these enhanced and shared skills and capabilities.

Nova Scotia, Canada, offers a compelling example: through recognition of pharmacist education and licensure from select countries, the province has waived competency examinations and internship requirements—strengthening its healthcare system by streamlining the integration of internationally trained pharmacists into the workforce. This model demonstrates how strategic recognition policies can serve as a crucial tool to address workforce shortages swiftly and effectively.

This compelling example, extended across Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, using the existing robust systems and process in each nation would strengthen all health care systems and provide greater professional satisfaction and opportunity for pharmacists.

We urge your government's support for international reciprocity in recognising pharmacy degrees from the identified countries to enable freer mobility of registered pharmacists between our countries.

Your support along with changes to policy and regulation related to migration, visa and quota requirements will aid in improving both the quality and productivity of the pharmacy sector in all our respective countries.

Yours sincerely



Professor Trent Twomey
President
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



Sandra Hanna
CEO
Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada



Keshree Naidoo-Rauf
President
Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand



Oliver Picard
Chair
National Pharmacy Association, UK

End.