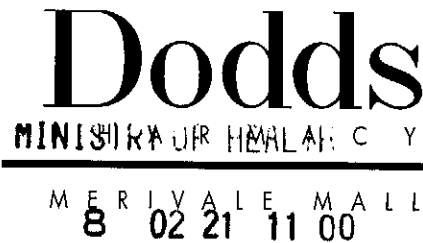


Peter Cooke M.Pharm F.P.S.  
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Ryan McLean  
Policy Analyst  
Ministry of Health  
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17/2/08

### Health Practitioners Competency Act Review

Dear Ryan,

I understand there is currently a review of the H.P.C. Act & I would like to indicate an area where an improvement in transparency could be made.

Currently a check of the Pharmacy Council website, with respect to pharmacists, shows their name and the qualification they first graduated with & therefore became eligible to be entered on the Register as a pharmacist.

I believe the overall objective of having the Register available, is to enable anyone to check if a person is registered as a pharmacist and is competent to practice.

Many pharmacists have undertaken further studies and have extra post-graduate qualifications. For a viewer to obtain accurate information I would argue that their search should reveal the total pharmacy qualifications. As an example, there are a considerable number of pharmacists now holding Master of Pharmacy degrees.

A quick check of the website shows that Steve Duffell has a Diploma in Pharmacy and John Shaw a B.Pharm. Both these gentlemen have PhDs & are Professors of Pharmacy at Otago & Auckland Universities respectively. !

My recommendation to the review is that, you consider changes to the Register qualification field to include any pharmacy recognised post-graduate qualifications.

This would reflect a public transparency, which I believe, is the intention at the core of the Act.

I would be happy to supply any further information you may request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Cooke'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.