

# PHARMACY LOCATION RULES

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The Pharmacy Location Rules govern the ability of a pharmacist to relocate an approved pharmacy, to establish a new approved pharmacy or to expand/contract an approved pharmacy. A pharmacy cannot be relocated or expanded/contracted without prior approval.

There are currently:-

1. 7 rules contained in the Pharmacy Location Rules which deal with the establishment of a new pharmacy;
2. 3 rules which deal with relocation of a pharmacy; and
3. 1 rule which deals with the expansion/contraction of a pharmacy.

An application to relocate or to establish a new approved pharmacy is made to the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority ('ACPA') and the ACPA has designated meetings throughout the year. Each meeting also has a cut-off date by which an application must be received by and these cut-off dates are strictly adhered to.

An application to expand/contract an approved pharmacy is made to the Secretary of the Department of Health. There are no designated meetings of the Department of Health when expansion/contraction applications are considered.

Each Rule has its own distinctive set of exhaustive criteria that must be satisfied. Both the ACPA and the Secretary require all aspects of each Rule to be satisfied in full and in-depth. As such, it is very important when making an application under one of the Rules that extreme care is taken to ensure that an answer in satisfaction of each criteria noted for a particular Rule is set out in the application.

Please bear in mind that besides making an application to the ACPA or the Secretary of the Department of Health, each States or Territories legislation in relation to pharmacy relocation, establishment or expansion/contraction also continues to apply. That is, you will (depending on the State or Territory) also very likely be required to make an application to the respective State's/Territories board.

The establishment of a new unapproved pharmacy, relocation of an unapproved pharmacy or the expansion/contraction of an unapproved pharmacy do not require an application to be made under the Pharmacy Location Rules. Rather, a pharmacist would need to consider any State or Territory based requirements that may apply in relation to same.

If you would like to know more about the Pharmacy Location Rules or the process involved in establishing a new pharmacy, relocating a pharmacy or a expanding/contracting pharmacy premises in a particular State or Territory please contact **Maria Stafurik** of our office on (07) 5570 9366 or by emailing [maria.stafurik@spglawyers.com.au](mailto:maria.stafurik@spglawyers.com.au).