

Media release

Friday 6 March 2020

Representation in numbers: SHPA leads gender equity on International Women's Day

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) embodies this year's International Women's Day (IWD) theme of [#EachforEqual](#) and stands by 'an equal world is an enabled world', with leading female representation across organisational leadership and governance, and strengthening advocacy on behalf of the predominantly female Australian hospital pharmacy workforce.

Today marks the 110th year of the [international movement](#) to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, with countless organisations affirming the message to think globally and act locally to accelerate gender equality.

In considering this year's call to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievement, SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels notes that SHPA continues to lead the way in Australia which, in 2018, saw 57.9% female representation on health boards.

'SHPA's Board of Directors has seen 70% female representation for a number of years now, the strongest – and only majority – among Australia's leading pharmacy organisations.'

'Gender equity is also thriving across each of SHPA's leadership bodies. In the clinical sphere, women lead 18 of SHPA's 26 Specialty Practice Leadership Committees, the SHPA Executive is 60% women, while 59% of SHPA's Fellows are women, a testament to their lasting impact and legacy on the profession.'

Ms Michaels says the number of women shaping hospital pharmacy in Australia is fitting beyond the principles of gender equity.

'SHPA membership currently is made up of 74% of women pharmacists and technicians working in a hospital setting, and it is gratifying to see that number well-reflected across our organisation. Our female members are active across research, policy setting and education, ensuring their voices are heard and have impact as we continue to shape hospital pharmacy in Australia and ensure the very best care for patients.'

– ends –

For more information contact:

Nick Sharp-Paul, Head of Strategy and Communication
nsharp-paul@shpa.org.au | 0411 098 838

About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working across Australia's health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA

members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.

shpa.org.au |   