

Media release

Wednesday 2 June 2021

Focused on work ahead as Reconciliation Week ends

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has recommitted to meaningful action in the name of reconciliation as [National Reconciliation Week 2021](#) concluded across Australia today.

SHPA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Leadership Committee Chair and Yugambah woman Aleena Williams says this year's theme is a timely reminder of the commitment involved.

'This year's theme – "More than a word. Reconciliation takes action." – resonates personally with me as it highlights the behavioural changes needed, by individuals and organisations, for us to reconcile our past. To meet this challenge, I will prioritise cultural and reconciliation activities alongside my clinical and workplace commitments.

'The theme calls for people to take action. These actions are what is now required for our country to continue to reconcile our history.

'I encourage all SHPA members and hospital pharmacists and technicians to consider what actions they will undertake to truly live this commitment. We all have a part to play in becoming a reconciled nation.'

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the organisation is committed to developing a 'reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

'In addition, SHPA will continue to advocate to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is supported through revisions to Closing the Gap policies and other measures supporting access to medicines for patients.

'This will primarily be driven by initiatives and activities stemming from our 200-member Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Specialty Practice Stream, which is unique in Australian pharmacy, as well as our ongoing partnership with NACCHO, support for the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and education supporting culturally safe practice in pharmacy.'

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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.

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