



Media release

Wednesday 30 June 2021

Expert 'crowd-sourced' vision to 2026 as inaugural *Pharmacy Forecast Australia* released

A new strategic thought leadership piece on emerging trends and phenomena projected to impact pharmacy practice and the health of Australian patients to 2026 has synthesised the visions of 100 leading practitioners through 'wisdom of crowds' methodology for the first time in Australia.

Released by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) today, [*Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021*](#) will help equip hospital pharmacy departments to proactively position themselves and their teams for potential future events, as identified by 82 survey respondents in November 2020, and contextualised into recommendations by the report's 19 authors, spanning six themes.

Developed under the auspices of the Pharmacy Forecast Advisory Committee, the 25 recommendations of *Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021* include encouragement for pharmacy leaders to:

- identify barriers to implementing collaborative prescribing;
- advocate for increased pharmacy informatics roles that harness smart technology to inform safe systems;
- unite behind robust national system performance measures for pharmacy procurement;
- actively participate in discussions around policies and funding reforms that increase access and equity to medications;
- lead the transition to biosimilars by developing clear education and management processes;
- centralise medication safety in all workforce planning, including through SHPA Advanced Training Residencies;
- invest in the ongoing professional development of hospital pharmacy technicians;
- advocate for closed loop medication management systems; and
- increase the prevalence, safety and effectiveness of pharmacy telehealth services.

SHPA President Peter Fowler says 'partner perspectives' from key organisations contextualise the recommendations in themes of aligned interest.

'Our members and their peers are specialised pharmacists embedded in medical teams, who collaborate to advance the safe and quality use of medicines and whose leadership shapes multidisciplinary responses to Australia's National Preventive Health Strategy focus areas.

'It is therefore appropriate our Forecast pages feature perspectives from like-minded organisations, and we thank our contributors from the Australian Medical Association, Medicines Australia, Consumer Health Foundation of Australia, Council of Pharmacy Schools, NPS MedicineWise and Australian Digital Health Agency.'

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the Forecast will sit adjacent to the organisation's advocacy activities.



The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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'We're thrilled to present *Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021* as a mirror to the profession, reflecting a snapshot of current opinion on what innovations are more and less likely to become widely adopted or embedded in the next five years.

'On behalf of all SHPA members I thank our Advisory Committee for their project leadership, which has produced valuable insight – based on experiences in a range of roles covering all Australian jurisdictions, unrestrained by organisational limitations – that will complement the expertise of our embedded Specialty Practice streams.'

Pharmacy Forecast Advisory Committee Chair Russell Levy says the impetus for developing the Forecast arose from the success of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacist's (ASHP) *Pharmacy Forecast*.

'Over the past decade, the ASHP Foundation's *Pharmacy Forecast* has grown to become a much-anticipated annual publication used by multiple pharmacy practice sectors in the United States as a tool to anticipate and plan for future demand. The Advisory Committee thanks members of ASHP for their insight and generosity in the development of *Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2021*.'

Omnicell is SHPA's Pharmacy Forecast Australia partner.

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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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