

# Media release

Tuesday 2 April 2019

## SHPA welcomes returning NSW Minister Hazzard

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) congratulates Brad Hazzard MP on his re-appointment as NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research yesterday following the recent re-election of the Berejiklian Coalition Government.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says there is enormous opportunity in NSW to prioritise investment in clinical pharmacy services, opioid stewardship and electronic medical records to improve patient care.

'SHPA looks forward to a continued strong relationship with the New South Wales Government, and we have welcomed the many campaign commitments made in March regarding hospital infrastructure and healthcare across the state.

'We look forward to working with government and other healthcare stakeholder to address the state's low hospital bed to pharmacist ratios and alarming statistic of 2.1 deaths due to pharmaceutical opioids per 100,000 people.'

Ms Michaels says proven pharmacist-led initiatives can help improve the quality and safety of patient care for people across NSW.

'Investing in more hospital pharmacists and extended weekend and after-hours pharmacy services – as is common in other jurisdictions – and investment in opioid stewardship services will help reduce the 28,000 medication-related incidents that occur in NSW each year.

'On behalf of our members, who are committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care, we look forward to supporting all state, and national, initiatives to improve patient care through the quality use of medicines, safeguarding against misuse and diversion.'

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### For more information contact:

Nick Sharp-Paul, Head of Strategy and Communication  
[nsharp-paul@shpa.org.au](mailto: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.

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