

Media release

Thursday 24 January 2019

Advancing pharmacy: SHPA charts new strategic course **Embargoed until 5am**

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has started the year on the front foot, with [President Peter Fowler](#) today announcing the release of the organisation's new strategic plan.

Mr Fowler says the [SHPA Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#) is SHPA's blueprint to advance Australian pharmacy by supporting world-leading practice for the optimal care of all people within the Australian health system.

'The SHPA Strategic Plan will guide the booming hospital pharmacy sector into a new era through SHPA's vision of "advancing pharmacy, advancing patient care".'

'Working with and for our growing membership base, our plan has four strategic pillars: developing a world-leading pharmacy workforce; advancing collaborative practice with pharmacy and healthcare partners; providing a progressive, evidence-based voice on pharmacy policy and issues; and, most importantly, focusing practice on patient outcomes.'

Mr Fowler says the SHPA Strategic Plan highlights how the organisation will continue to deliver as the indispensable professional partner of Australia's community of leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

'In a range of roles and care settings, our members practice at a high level, caring for complex patients with complex medicines management needs, in multidisciplinary environments.'

'Through SHPA's ongoing advocacy, programs and initiatives members will be supported to sharpen their skills, forge stronger connections, advance their practice and wield a more influential voice as they drive their careers forward.'

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says shaping policy will remain a priority as SHPA's influence continues to grow.

'The very first day of 2019 saw Australia's [new mandated system for managing and communicating shortages through the TGA](#) come into effect. This was a fitting way to mark 18 months since SHPA's point prevalence study [highlighted the issue of medicines shortages](#) in the national health conversation.'

'This year we look forward to building a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to minimising opioid-related harm originating in hospitals, following our November 2018 report analysing [current hospital pharmacy practices around opioid analgesia](#) in the surgical setting, and detailing recommendations.'

'We will continue to work with members, and healthcare and government stakeholders, to push for evidence-based policy change, while highlighting the valuable contribution made by hospital pharmacists in everything we do.'

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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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