

Media release

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SHPA welcomes embrace of pharmacist specialisation and advancement

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has welcomed the embrace of specialisation and advancement in a new report by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) outlining systemic changes required to enable community pharmacists to work to their full scope.

Pharmacists in 2023: Roles and Remuneration, released by PSA National President Dr Chris Freeman at the breakfast session of PSA19 in Sydney this morning, describes how community pharmacy roles have increased in complexity, accountability and responsibility in the past two decades and 'how advanced practice can provide a structure to recognise and remunerate the contribution of pharmacists to the health system'.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the roles and remuneration report is strong indication the broader pharmacy profession is on the same path.

'As the founding member and principal investor of [Advancing Practice](#) and host of the most comprehensive specialisation framework in Australian pharmacy, we welcome this report.

'SHPA is strongly supportive of the correlations drawn between these two pillars of personal, professional progress and appropriate recognition and remuneration for the training, skills and expertise of community pharmacists across Australia.

'SHPA stands beside PSA in their call for an increase in total remuneration to the pharmacy sector.'

Ms Michaels says SHPA's booming [Specialty Practice](#) program is a testament to the enduring power of specialisation as a catalyst for career growth and tangible practice change.

'The commitment and passion of our members to ensure evidence-based practice has the strongest possible impact on patient care is clear through the remarkable uptake of SHPA's revitalised Specialty Practice program, which provides a framework for national advocacy and education leadership across pharmacy disciplines.

'More than 2,400 hospital pharmacists and technicians participate across 26 streams, and discussion forums are abuzz from Critical Care and Geriatric Medicine to Pain Management and Women's and Newborn Health, and our two newest streams, Research and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.'

Ms Michaels says SHPA has proudly invested in the return of advanced practice credentialing to Australia.

'From gathering the Advanced Practice Think Tank in February 2017 to celebrating the "first class" of credentialed practitioners at Medicines Management 2018, the 44th SHPA National Conference, our organisation has consistently supported the value of independent practitioner credentialing.

'Now Advancing Practice is in its second full year of operation, and SHPA – with our partner body Pharmacy Development Australia, supported by the visionary [Advancing Practice Advisory Board](#) – is enthusiastic about this report's reiteration of the value of this recognition as a central, immutable measurement of practitioners' progress and impact on the profession and patient care.'

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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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