

# The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's 2023 New South Wales State Election Priorities

## PRIORITY 1

Address longstanding under-resourcing of the NSW Health Hospital Pharmacy workforce to provide safer and better quality care for NSW hospital patients by funding a \$268 million *Hospital Pharmacy Workforce Sustainability in NSW Public Hospitals* proposal.

This proposal delivers over 600 positions each year and will facilitate expansion in scope of pharmacist practice in Emergency Departments to ease bed block and support patient flow.

## PRIORITY 2

Establish a **Pharmaceutical Reform Agreement with the Commonwealth** to reduce longstanding Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines access inequity for NSW public hospital patients.

The ACT is the only other non signatory and has recently committed to becoming a signatory in their [ACT Health Services Plan 2022-2030](#), meaning NSW could become the only jurisdiction to miss out.

These priorities directly address Recommendations 8 and 9 of NSW Legislative Council's Report into the *Inquiry on Impact of ambulance ramping and access block on the operation of hospital emergency departments in New South Wales*.

### Scenario: Typical heart attack patient discharging from public hospital

In all states with Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements, a typical heart attack patient discharging from hospital will receive **30 days' worth** of PBS medicines to support safe transitions of care, allowing sufficient time to recover, make a GP appointment and have enough medicines to prevent another cardiac episode.

Without a Pharmaceutical Reform Agreement, the same patient discharging from a NSW public hospital will get as little as **three days' worth** of medicines and are pressured to immediately seek a GP appointment post-discharge despite GP waiting times spanning a few weeks.



In NSW public hospitals, there are approximately **38% more** inpatient beds than Victorian public hospitals, however there are **23% less** hospital pharmacists in NSW compared to Victoria. In 2022, Victoria announced plans to recruit an additional 200 Hospital Pharmacists.

### WHAT DO HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS DO?

Hospital Pharmacists treat patients when they are at their most unwell, often after experiencing a significant health event such as a stroke, heart attack, cancer treatment, organ transplants and sepsis. Australian research demonstrates that for every \$1 invested into Hospital Pharmacy services, approximately \$23 is saved in the Australian healthcare system by reducing length of stay, readmission risk, need for medical procedures, and increased the safety and quality of medicines use.



The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional organisation for the 6,100+ Hospital Pharmacists, and their Hospital Pharmacist Intern and Hospital Pharmacy Technician colleagues working across Australia's health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use.

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