

# NEW FRONTIERS

**In another challenging year hospital pharmacy rose to the occasion, helping Australia chart a course through the Covid-19 pandemic, while maximising opportunities to extend the reach of specialist, clinical roles at the innovative edge of patient care.**

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) provided unique support every step of the way, through our pre-eminent education program, outreach to growing member cohorts of accredited and community pharmacists and lending an expert voice to the most significant shake-up of medicines policy in decades.

In 2022 we also celebrated five years of the cornerstone Specialty Practice program, which underpins Australia's fastest growing pharmacy profession, a timely milestone as Hospital Pharmacists, Technicians and their interdisciplinary peers look to new frontiers improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

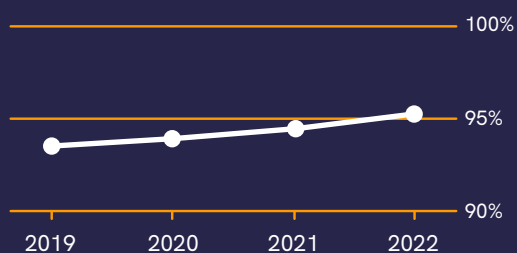


## LEADING EDUCATION AND NATIONWIDE NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE

### TOTAL SHPA MEMBERS

**5,000+**

### PAID MEMBERSHIP RETENTION\*



\*Difference between annual low point and high point of membership.

Despite another year without the SHPA National Conference, Australia's pre-eminent pharmacy education program again saw a cumulative total of nearly 10,000 delegates across more than 100 events:

- 4,880 delegates at 60 national events
- 4,447 delegates at 49 Branch events.

While our 31 Specialty Practice streams continued to thrive:

- 51% of SHPA members are enrolled in an average of seven Interest Groups each.
- Practice Group participation increased by 77 to 666.

# LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD



In 2022 SHPA fully celebrated its 80th year, following postponed commemorations during the recent challenges of COVID-19.

In common with many peak health care bodies our beginning were humble, but the energy and momentum was palpable from the outset. In his History of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists in Australia in Victoria, 1941–1950, Neil Naismith noted that ‘perhaps the greatest achievement of this period was the contact and rapport which was established between the pharmacy staffs and the various hospitals by means of the monthly meetings and the Annual Conference that became a regular event from 1947.’

These words carry a poignancy this year, as we continued to face limitations in our ability to gather, collaborate and cooperate.

However, I share in the excitement of thousands as we prepare for the return of Australia’s largest scientific pharmacy conference, Medicines Management 2022, in Brisbane this December.

It is therefore with bittersweet anticipation I prepare to hand over the presidency of our venerable organisation at such an exciting time. But I can think of no more fitting way to farewell a role that I have so enjoyed, spanning a critical period for our profession, during which we have achieved great things, together.

The last few years have seen exponential growth in the uptake and output of our unique Specialty Practice framework. Our education program deftly managed the necessary move to virtual environments, and our membership remains strong and consistent. We advocated passionately for the specialist skill of hospital pharmacists and technicians that proved so central to Australia’s COVID-19 response. Hospital pharmacists and technicians (Our members) managed one quarter of the nation’s PBS budget and upheld safe and quality medicines care in complex and diverse care settings, the new frontiers of our profession.

Most importantly, though, we have supported each other. Formal and informal mentorships and mateships are throughlines that connect us all, from large tertiary hospital departments to practitioners working alone, but not in isolation.

With a sense of confidence from the resolution born of these times, and in this spirit of community and collegiality, I thank you.

PETER FOWLER  
SHPA PRESIDENT

## AN ECOSYSTEM OF EXCELLENCE

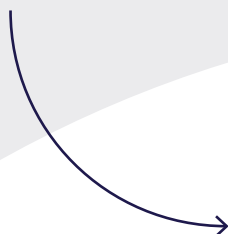
Symbolising the strength of SHPA as the home of innovative pharmacy practice, 2022 marked five years since the revitalisation of Specialty Practice, a successful contemporary framework for peer support and engagement that has shaped education and driven change at a national level.

More than 260 members have been elected to a Leadership Committee, providing these members an unparalleled opportunity to develop their leadership skills and showcase their expertise while influencing practice nationally.

More than 650 SHPA members now belong to at least one Practice Group, growth of 45% since 2018, and this thriving ecosystem of excellence has now informed 116 advocacy and policy submissions, 65 *Practice in Focus* updates and driven the revision or development of 14 Standards of Practice.



[View the Five Years of Specialty Practice report, August 2022 →](#)



# EMPOWERING AND HIGHLIGHTING OUR SECTOR THROUGH ADVOCACY

Australia's hospitals are home to the fastest growing pharmacy sector, with Hospital Pharmacists supplying almost one quarter of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines expenditure, while leading important innovations such as Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting (PPMC), the first iteration of pharmacist prescribing in Australia.

However, the profession remains in shortage as workforce growth of 52% nationally in the last decade is outstripped by surging demand for Hospital Pharmacist expertise.

Workforce issues will be further challenged as residential aged care facilities will begin to have on-site aged care pharmacists from 2023, which SHPA has been proud to advocate for over a decade and stands ready to support this growing sector of the pharmacy workforce.

In a federal election year, SHPA has met with senior public servants, all major parties and several minor parties to discuss our election priorities, including leading calls for the commissioning of a national pharmacy workforce strategy and achieving nationally consistent access to PBS medicines in all Australian hospitals. SHPA has been intimately involved in the review of the Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements, and most recently ACT has committed to negotiating an Agreement with the Commonwealth. The progress towards an Agreement in NSW has been continually highlighted by SHPA at several NSW parliamentary inquiries.

SHPA has hosted a number of Pharmacy Leaders Forums as well as roundtables with key health and pharmacy policymakers and decision makers, relaying issues and challenges facing our members at the coalface, and providing real, tangible solutions to improve our healthcare system's capacity, quality and safety. Many of these are already being enabled through innovations and pilots which SHPA has been proud to raise with key health departmental representatives.

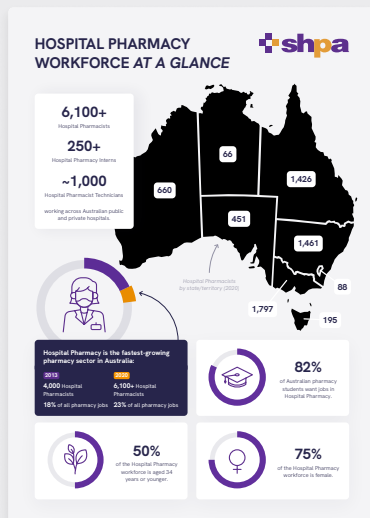


SHPA's annual thought leadership report [Pharmacy Forecast Australia built momentum in its second year](#), expanding to 43 recommendations on the future of Hospital Pharmacy and featuring new themes around wellbeing, funding and sustainability as the country emerges from the worst stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Society's *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* recorded another year of growth, with 211,850 full-text downloads.

Positive broadcast media coverage of SHPA's activities reached a cumulative audience of 92.6 million in 2021-22, an increase of 1.4%, while the social media audience eased 25% to 1.02 million from record early pandemic figures.

View Hospital Pharmacy Workforce at a Glance, May 2022 →



Cumulative potential media audience

**91.3 million**

2020-21

**92.6 million**

2021-22

## SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION

SHPA's nation-leading Residency Program continued to grow, with 503 Foundation Residencies now active or complete nationwide (up 6%) and 55 Advanced Training Residencies active, with the first cohort completing in 2022.

Seven Advanced Training Residency Framework and Knowledge Guides are now available, with five in development for release in 2023.

**shpa** Foundation  
Residencies

**shpa** Adv. Training  
Residencies



## EXTENDING MEDICINES EXPERTISE

This year saw the release of the largest ever edition of *Don't Rush to Crush*, with information on more than 590 oral medicines included in Australia's essential guide to safely administering oral medicines to people with enteral feeding tubes or swallowing difficulties. The fourth edition introduced new information on thickness levels, informed by research using International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) testing methods, and new information about gastrointestinal dysfunction, entrenching the book as an indispensable frontline resource to manage clinical risk.

SHPA's *Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook* (AIDH) remained at the forefront of clinical care, with online updates rapidly released upon new or amended COVID-19 treatment information.



## 2021 SHPA AWARDS



**Professor Jason Roberts** received the 2021 Fred J Boyd Award, recognising the unparalleled impact his support for the pharmacy profession, and research-driven influence on pharmacy policy and practice, has had on Australia's healthcare system.

[Read more →](#)



**Kerry Fitzsimons** was awarded the 2021 SHPA Medal or Merit, recognising her role leading Western Australian's COVID-19 vaccination program as well as her achievements in advocating for medication safety, as a research collaborator, and mentor to early career pharmacists.

[Read more →](#)



**Sally Marotti** received the 2021 SHPA Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award, recognising her inspiring and influential leadership within the pharmacy profession, and lifelong dedication to fostering excellence in pharmacy practice through education initiatives and pioneering research.

[Read more →](#)

## 2021 SHPA MEMBERS' AWARDS



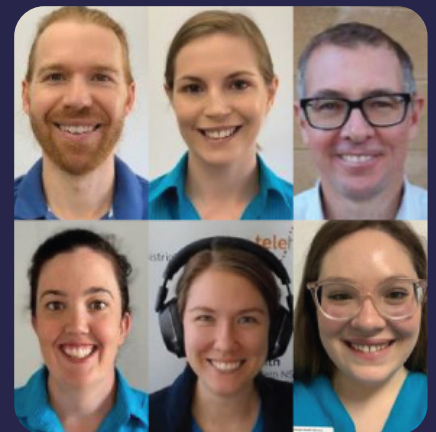
SHPA Members voted **Megan Clark (Vic)**, as **2021 SHPA Early Career Pharmacist of the Year**, celebrating her commitment to improving pharmacy services in neonatal, paediatric and maternity populations achieved through her extensive body of work including developing national and international guidelines.

[View Megan's video acceptance speech →](#)



**Luke Corbett (Tas)** won **2021 SHPA Technician of the Year** in recognition of the vital role he played in organising and coordinating the supply, storage, and distribution of COVID vaccine supplies across four sites in Tasmania.

[View Luke's video acceptance speech →](#)



The **2021 SHPA Hospital Team Innovation of the Year** honour went to the **Western NSW Local Health District Virtual Clinical Pharmacy Service** (Western NSW LHDVCPs) team, recognising their outstanding work in implementing and embedding a completely virtual hospital pharmacy service in Western NSW Local Health District and Far West Local Health District throughout 2020.

[View their video acceptance speech →](#)