

# Media release

Wednesday 16 October 2019

## **SHPA welcomes new PSA CEO at time of 'unparalleled cooperation and opportunity'**

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) today welcomed the announcement of Mr Mark Kinsela as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) at a time of closer strategic alignment between two of Australia's venerable professional pharmacy organisations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Branches and members across the country, SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels welcomed Mr Kinsela, who will replace interim CEO Dr Shane Jackson in December.

'For decades SHPA and PSA have worked side-by-side to support and represent Australia's pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and it was a pleasure to attend the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations at PSA19 in July this year.

'With Medication Safety recently declared Australia's next National Health Priority Area by Health Minister Greg Hunt, I look forward to very close and positive collaboration as we work together to best represent our members and deliver on our shared vision to improve the quality and safe use of medicines for all Australians.'

Ms Michaels says the tenure of Dr Jackson and the concurrent release of strategic plans from the two organisations has heralded a time of unparalleled cooperation and opportunity.

'Inappropriate medicines use is implicated in 250,000 hospitalisations and 400,000 emergency department presentations annually, at a cost of \$1.4 billion to the health system.

'Regardless of where they work and who they consult and care for, Australia's pharmacists and technicians are best-placed to reduce this alarming figure, through closer intra-disciplinary cooperation through transitions of care, and through closer collaboration with professional partners across health care.

'I thank Dr Jackson both personally and on behalf of our members for his leadership this year, which has seen closer alignment between SHPA and PSA for the benefit of patients, consumers, the pharmacy profession and the broader community.

'With both SHPA and PSA releasing five-year strategic plans this year, I look forward to working with Mr Kinsela to progress our mutual goals, as we empower and equip SHPA and PSA members to improve the safe and quality use of medicines for all Australians.'

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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.

[shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au) |   