

Media release

Wednesday 22 January 2020

SHPA farewells Ms Glenys Beauchamp, outgoing Department of Health Secretary

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) congratulates and thanks Ms Glenys Beauchamp PSM for her service to Australians as Secretary of the Department of Health, upon today's announcement she is retiring next month, with Professor Brendan Murphy to commence in the role in March 2020.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says Ms Beauchamp's tenure has overseen significant growth in the hospital pharmacy sector and renewed Federal commitment to the importance of medicines safety.

'Over the last few years, SHPA has welcomed closer collaboration with the Department on important initiatives to improve access to medicines in Australia, including new legislation to improve the notification and reporting of critical medicines shortages, and ongoing work to ensure the sustainability of our world-class Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

'Ms Beauchamp's time as Secretary of Health oversaw a record in the number of new and expanded PBS listings – reinforcing a crucial pillar of Australia's health care system that is supported by Australia's expert hospital pharmacy workforce.'

Ms Michaels says collaboration is set to continue with Medication Safety and the Quality Use of Medicines confirmed as Australia's latest National Health Priority Area.

'Professor Murphy is a respected medical professional, healthcare leader, researcher and advocate and, on behalf of SHPA's Board of Directors and our members, I welcome him to the position of Secretary of the Department of Health.

'Professor Murphy is an advocate for a more fully utilised pharmacy workforce – as indicated by his support for [embedded pharmacist roles](#) in residential aged care – and our profession has also welcomed his [evidence-based action on opioid prescribing](#) to reduce opioid-related harm.

'SHPA looks forward to partnering with the Department and associated agencies to realise the full potential of hospital pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other pharmacy professionals in Australia.'

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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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