

Media release

Friday 8 March 2019

SHPA leading the way on International Women's Day

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is embodying the themes of [#BalanceforBetter](#) and [#MorePowerfulTogether](#) this International Women's Day, with leading female representation across organisational leadership and governance, and strengthening advocacy on behalf of the predominantly female Australian hospital pharmacy workforce.

Today marks the 109th year of the [international movement](#) to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, with countless organisations affirming the message to think globally and act locally to bring about positive change.

With one of this year's [#IWD2019](#) themes calling on all people to build a gender-balanced world, SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels notes gender equity is thriving across each of SHPA's leadership and governance bodies.

'The proportion of women on SHPA's Board of Directors today is 70%, up from 50% at the end of 2016, the strongest representation – and only majority – among Australia's leading pharmacy organisations.

'In the clinical sphere women lead 15 of SHPA's 24 Specialty Practice Leadership Committees, and the SHPA Executive is 50% women, while 65 of SHPA's 113 Fellows are women, a testament to their lasting impact and legacy on the profession.'

Ms Michaels says the number of women shaping hospital pharmacy in Australia is fitting beyond the principles of gender equity.

'The practical reality is our profession comprises 62.5% women, at last count, so it is pleasing to see this presence reflected at every level.

'As in many areas of healthcare, women are overrepresented in the pharmacy workforce and SHPA is more committed than ever to amplifying these voices, and the voices of all hospital pharmacists and technicians working in all settings, to improve their ability to practice, impact the profession and provide the very best care to every patient they see.'

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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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