SHPA maps bold vision for pharmacy workforce as MM2019 begins

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has released its vision for developing the Australian hospital pharmacy workforce and a new Standard of Practice for hospital pharmacy technicians as Australia's largest scientific pharmacy conference opened on the Gold Coast this morning.

Opening Medicines Management 2019 (MM2019), the 45th SHPA National Conference via video, The Hon. Greg Hunt, Minister for Health reaffirmed the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) as a cornerstone of Australia's health system and noted the central role of hospital pharmacy in ensuring new and innovative medicines are provided safely and effectively to Australians who need them.

In his opening address, SHPA President Peter Fowler unveiled *Advancing Australia's Pharmacy Workforce*, SHPA's bold vision for realising an advanced pharmacy profession, delivering quality use of medicines, benefiting all Australians.

'This manifesto ties together years of planning, showing through two concepts how SHPA supports members in their everyday work, while fostering a broader healthcare environment in which every pharmacist can maximise their impact on patient care.

'In the first, SHPA's Practitioner Development Pathway connects our cornerstone initiatives and programs, showing how SHPA supports growth in a pharmacist's skill, expertise and experience, connecting ambition and opportunity as they advance their practice.

'In the second, SHPA's six Pharmacy Innovation Principles show how we intend to foster intra- and inter-hospital environments that fully harness the value and expertise of Australia's hospital pharmacy workforce.'

In a stirring welcome, Mr Fowler welcomed the challenges to orthodox thinking evident in the diverse and dynamic program spanning mental health, opioid stewardship, digital health, leadership, teaching, deprescribing, disaster preparation and recovery, novel cancer therapies and safety across the transitions of care.

'We will be confronted by waves of disruption born of non-orthodox thinking and fashioned on emerging evidence – some will be ripples, others breakers and I expect, some giant ocean swells.

'The challenge is to be receptive to these ideas and to apply careful and logical consideration for I believe, here, we will find many answers to today's and tomorrow's problems as we continue individually, as teams and as an organisation to advance pharmacy and advance patient care.'

SHPA's Pharmacy Innovation Principles:

1. *Position all pharmacy practitioners, across all settings and in all roles, as essential to Australian healthcare.*
2. *Support and recognise pharmacists and technicians to operate at their fullest scope of practice.*

3. *Embed an advancing practice approach to reflective life-long learning from earliest stages of career development.*
4. *Establish equitable access to experiential learning for students, hospital pharmacy interns, and foundation and advanced training residents, across Australia.*
5. *Progress advanced and specialty roles and career opportunities for pharmacists and technicians.*
6. *Build and strengthen partnerships fostering innovation and research between practitioners, healthcare teams and organisations.*

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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 |

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