

Media release | Wednesday 30 October 2024

# AdPha welcomes NSW pharmacist and technician wage rise

New NSW pay agreement for health workers is a critical first step but more can and should be done says Advanced Pharmacy Australia.

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) today welcomes a new pay agreement for NSW hospital pharmacists and technicians as part of a [NSW Government agreement with the Health Services Union](#) to increase wages and deliver salary packaging benefits for 50,000 health workers across the state.

AdPha President Tom Simpson FANZCAP (Lead&Mgmt) says AdPha has long fought for fairer remuneration of its workforce having recently represented their NSW members at the [NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding](#) and [supported WA members in their industrial action fight](#) to improve pharmacy award wages.

*'As presented in our evidence delivered by our NSW Branch Committee Vice Chair Dr Jonathan Penm alongside AdPha Head of Policy and Advocacy Jerry Yik, the pharmacist award is not currently fit for purpose.*

*'It does not incentivise recruitment and retention in the workforce, does not recognise increasing breadth of roles and responsibilities nor the size of the health services pharmacists are responsible for, and does not value recognition and specialisation.*

*'As the convenor for Pharmacist Resident and Pharmacist Registrar training programs and host of Australasia's first recognition platform for pharmacist specialisation in ANZCAP – which just this week celebrated the recognition of more than 2,500 pharmacists and technicians – we have the tools and programs to support award reform.*

*'And we are seeing the impact of unjust wages reflected in the low uptake of pharmacist and technician roles across the state, with the ratios of pharmacists to hospital beds significantly lower in NSW compared with Victoria and Queensland.*

*'Without fairer remuneration, hospital pharmacy workforce shortages will continue with patients standing to lose the most.'*

Mr Simpson says while progress in NSW is welcome more reform is needed to ensure pharmacy awards are better fit for purpose.

*'Hospital pharmacists and technicians play a crucial role in delivering safer patient care and their impact on the health system should not be undervalued.'*

*'They work as part of an increasingly complex health environment ensuring the safe and quality use of medicines and provide a myriad of clinical pharmacy services that improve the patient journey whether they are by the bedside, in the pharmacy, or in governance and systems roles.'*

*'We congratulate the NSW Government and Health Services Union on taking this first critical step towards rewarding the pharmacy workforce but look forward to seeing both parties commit to working together to create a more modern, fit for purpose pharmacy award.'*

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**About Advanced Pharmacy Australia:**

Formerly trading as the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, or SHPA, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is the progressive voice of Australian pharmacists and technicians, built on 80 years of hospital innovation that puts people and patients first. AdPha supports all practitioners across hospitals, transitions of care, aged care and general practice to realise their full potential. We are the peak body committed to forging stronger connections in health care by extending advanced pharmacy expertise from hospitals to everywhere medicines are needed.

[adpha.au](http://adpha.au)