Media Release
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Credentialing decision provides boost for Advanced Practice Pharmacists

The continuation of advanced practice pharmacist credentialing has been welcomed by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels said the announcement by the Australian Pharmacy Council that the program will continue is positive news for the future of the profession.

“SHPA has a strong commitment to ensuring positive career paths for pharmacists and welcomes this decision,” Ms Michaels said.

“We provided support for participants in the pilot who were credentialed as Advanced Practice Pharmacists because we have an ongoing commitment to ensuring that education, training and support for pharmacists keeps pace with advances in health care,”

“The role of pharmacists is evolving and becoming more sophisticated in response to measures to enhance quality of health care, and enhanced patient outcomes, within Australia’s healthcare system,” she said.

“The process of credentialing, along with more sophisticated approaches to continuing professional development, paves the way for pharmacists to continue to provide critical, integral services and to be fully supported throughout their careers.”

“The pilot provided valuable insight into how we can best support pharmacists applying for the next cohort of advanced practice credentialing in June 2016. We will apply our expertise to ensure they continue to receive optimal support and robust opportunities to pursue a successful, rewarding career,” Ms Michaels said.

“In parallel with this initiative, under the direction of the SHPA Federal Council, a robust review of the support and services provided to members is currently being undertaken with a view to ensuring ongoing support for the growing sophistication and diversity of pharmacy roles,” she said.

SHPA President Professor Michael Dooley also welcomed the decision to continue advanced practice credentialing.

“The recognition of advanced practitioners has been a major development for the pharmacy profession,” he said.

“The Australian Pharmacy Council should be commended on the pilot program and the decision to continue credentialing advanced practitioners.”

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
Professor Dooley said SHPA had recently embarked on two major workforce transformation projects that will support pharmacists to reach their potential on the continuum towards advanced practice.

“The first project is the National Translational Research Collaborative Project which supports SHPA’s key priority to support quality research that provides best-practice evidence for Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) strategies,” he said.

“The second project is the SHPA Residency Project which we will implement in 2017. The SHPA Residency will provide a structured, supported and accredited national two-year program for pharmacists in their foundation years, and will be a bridge from general level practice to the transition phase of the advanced practice continuum,” said Professor Dooley.

Ms Michaels said SHPA is actively supporting a number of key initiatives that will address the increasing sophistication of pharmacy and the journeys made by pharmacists towards advanced practice.

“We are strategically planning and preparing for implementation of profession-wide initiatives that will support quality healthcare and lay the foundations for robust recognition of the immense value of the work undertaken by pharmacists,” Ms Michaels said.

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national professional organisation for more than 3,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia’s health system. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with a core base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other health service facilities.

SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core business of pharmacists, especially in hospitals. SHPA supports pharmacists to meet medication and related service needs, so that both optimal health outcomes and economic objectives are achieved for Australians, as individuals, for the community as a whole and for healthcare facilities within our systems of healthcare.