

1 December 2016

More SHPA residency program sites accredited

Another six residency programs to be offered by hospital pharmacies starting in 2017 have today been accredited by The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

“This brings the total number of sites offering a residency program in this inaugural year to 30”, said SHPA CEO Ms Kristin Michaels. “Over 130 pharmacists will, for the first time in Australia, have a formal program of experiential foundation training. This will consolidate initial education and training and progress the novice workforce towards advanced practice.”

At the beginning of November, an initial 24 programs were granted provisional accreditation against the SHPA Accreditation Standards for pharmacy residency programs. A number of hospital pharmacy programs that were not initially accredited, were asked to submit additional information or to clarify some accreditation responses.

“The desk-top evaluation by SHPA of the comprehensive accreditation submissions by prospective sites has been proven to be a robust and defensible process”, said Ms Michaels.

“Following this second evaluation round, we’ve confirmed six sites compliant with the Accreditation Standards and their provisional accreditation is announced today,”, said Ms Michaels. “To achieve full accreditation, SHPA will undertake site visits of all 30 provisionally accredited programs late in 2017.

“The provisionally accredited programs demonstrate the capacity for a diverse range of hospital pharmacies to offer residency programs, including private hospital pharmacies and rural/regional hospitals.

Director of Pharmacy and SHPA member at newly accredited Tamworth Hospital, Ms Sheridan Briggs said: “The residency program is especially important for pharmacists outside of metropolitan areas and we’re really excited to be involved.”

“Rural pharmacists don’t have the same easy access to professional development, high level training and on-going education programs. To be able to offer the residency program at Tamworth Hospital will go a long way to rectify this.”

“It’s a demonstration of rural pharmacy’s commitment to providing quality healthcare and ensuring pharmacists’ knowledge, skill and ultimately, the care they provide to rural and regional patients, isn’t determined by geography,” said Ms Briggs.

SHPA’s residency program is a structured, formalised, supported and accredited national program of practice based experiential training. It is a two-year program that will begin in 2017.

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national professional organisation for more than 4,500 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 responsibility 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.