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Dr Karen Whitfield receives 2017 SHPA Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award

Dr Karen Whitfield was honoured for her contributions to hospital pharmacy yesterday, receiving the prestigious 2017 SHPA Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award.

In announcing the award on the closing day of Medicines Management 2017, the 43rd SHPA National Conference, SHPA President Professor Michael Dooley acknowledged the broad impact of Dr Whitfield’s significant contributions.

‘Dr Whitfield has been a member of the SHPA for almost 15 years, but her contributions to hospital pharmacy both in Australia and internationally span decades.

‘Karen’s work in Women’s and Newborn’s Health has had a lasting impact on the way infants and women are treated nationwide.’

Professor Dooley acknowledged the excellent standard of nominees this year, singling out Luke Grzerekowiak (SA), Cindy Patterson (NSW) and Sonya Stacey (Qld) for special mention.

‘We had many very worthy pharmacists nominated for this year’s award, and I congratulate all of them on their many achievements and accolades in the field.’

Upon accepting the award, Dr Whitfield encouraging pharmacists to get inspired and involved in research, of any scale.

‘Even small studies can lead to big changes in clinical practice.’

Dr Karen Whitfield
Dr Whitfield is currently the Team Leader Specialist Pharmacist at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Queensland, in Women’s and Newborn Health. A regular reviewer for numerous Journals and articles, some of her many recent contributions include:

- Development and implementation of a Queensland steering group for women’s and newborn’s health
- Education of medical staff, including Neonatal Transition Program and Neonatal Medical Staff
- Establishment of medication safety initiatives in neonatal and obstetric medicine
• Clinical leader and expert in statewide guidelines for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, early onset Group B streptococcal disease and neonatal resuscitation.

**SHPA Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award**

• The SHPA Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award may be awarded by Federal Council annually to a member of the organisation in recognition of outstanding contributions in the area of clinical pharmacy practice.

• Such contribution may be made by academic achievement, professional leadership or national and international activity in clinical pharmacy, service to professional organisations (including SHPA), as well as other extra-mural activities;

• The award considers outstanding contribution to knowledge relating to clinical pharmacy practice or knowledge of therapeutics through research, clinical teaching, service on expert panels/committees, or publications in peer-reviewed pharmacy/medical/scientific journals.

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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.