

# Media release

Monday 27 May 2019

## Strong support for hospital pharmacy in Tasmania

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) have welcomed the 2019-20 Tasmanian Budget, delivered by Tasmanian Treasurer Peter Gutwein in Hobart on Friday, which contains many favourable funding commitments to hospital pharmacy and infrastructure across the state.

SHPA President Peter Fowler says additional funding toward the Royal Hobart Hospital Pharmacy Redevelopment will increase capacity for hospital pharmacists to support chemotherapy and elective surgeries in the public health system.

'As a representative of hospital pharmacy, and as a Tasmanian, I welcome the \$3.8m over two years toward the Royal Hobart Hospital Pharmacy Redevelopment, which will see the construction of a new sterile pharmaceutical production facility.

'From the perspective of treatment safety and quality we commend the Tasmanian Government for this strong investment into this crucial aspect of cancer treatment, which will help ensure more chemotherapy services can be delivered in the public hospital system, which is important for equity of patient access.

'As custodians of a substantial proportion of PBS medicines, including cutting-edge chemotherapies for inpatients with cancer, it is appropriate to see commensurate investment in the facilities hospital pharmacists need to deliver these essential services.'

On behalf of the SHPA Tasmanian Branch and members in the state, Mr Fowler also welcomed \$352.6m in funding for a number of hospital and health system improvements and upgrades.

'It is pleasing to see fully-funded progress toward Stage Two of the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment, which will deliver an expanded Emergency Department and additional hospital beds, as well as \$76m over four years for Launceston General Hospital, \$22.4m for the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie and \$32m for capital upgrades to Mersey Community Hospital near Devonport.

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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.

