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Symposium caps stellar first year for SHPA Residency Program

Over 60 hospital pharmacy leaders from around Australia have gathered in Melbourne to share their year's experiences and learnings at the 2017 SHPA Residency Symposium, an annual highlight of Australia's first hospital pharmacy resident program .

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the symposium, which closes today, marks a turning point for the new SHPA Residency Program, which has accredited 30 sites around the country to provide education and support to over 100 pharmacy residents in its first 12 months.

'Following the success of our inaugural event in 2016, this year we've turned our attention to providing program leaders, preceptors, clinical educators and pharmacy directors with the hands-on support and guidance they need to deliver quality residency programs.

'Qualitative assessment tells us the Residency Program is providing twin benefits: turbocharging the early careers of hospital pharmacists in their formative years, while rapidly deepening the skill set and capacity of hospital pharmacy departments.'

Keynote speaker Beth Ward, Foundation Programme Manager from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (UK) says she is delighted Australian hospitals have embraced SHPA's residency program, a proven workforce development framework overseas.

'There's a great buzz here today – the energy reflects what is an exciting time in hospital pharmacy; not only do residency programs give early-career pharmacists support to consolidate their studies, they assure hospitals that staff are providing patients with the best possible care in a safe environment.'

'In the UK we've published evidence that pharmacists who structure their career path around formalised residency programs develop faster and that hospitals offering these programs are more enticing to enthusiastic and dedicated newcomers.'

The next round of SHPA Residency Program site accreditation, for 2018, will open in mid-September.

More information about the program is available at: <https://www.shpa.org.au/residency-program>

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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 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.