

INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM HELPS PHARMACISTS MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES

The transition from being a student to a practising pharmacist can be a difficult time and unless early career pharmacists equip themselves for the new challenges they face, they may not be maximising their career opportunities.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has long recognised that this is not an easy time for early career pharmacists and its National Intern Training Program (NITP) helps smooth the transition from student to competent pharmacist.

A great strength of the NITP program is that it is delivered by the PSA, the professional organisation representing the professional interests of pharmacists and the practice of pharmacy wherever pharmacists work in supporting the Australian health-care system.

The program has been developed with workplace relevance in mind, increasing the applicability of pharmacists' skills and knowledge.

The NITP is especially relevant under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) which came into effect last month and which requires registration nationally instead of pharmacists registering in each state individually.

The PSA NITP incorporates discussion on national and state-based issues to take into account the NRAS changes and, being a national program, enables interaction between interns and pharmacists across Australia, thereby broadening their knowledge of the profession.

PSA understands the key elements required of a training program developed to help new graduates apply their knowledge in a range of workplace situations, and to become a valuable team member in any pharmacy. To meet these needs, PSA has designed the NITP program for maximum impact and effectiveness.

With a combination of interactive workshops and workplace-based activities, the NITP course is not just an extension of university, but a specifically developed program with a focus on the workplace with the utilisation of pharmacists' skills and knowledge in practice.

To explain the course and help students enrol, a series of talks will be presented at universities across Australia starting with the University of Tasmania on 18 August.

Fourth year University of Tasmania pharmacy student Leah Hodgkinson said, "PSA's National Intern Training Program comes at a great time to coincide with National Registration, it's great to know that if you do the PSA's course in Tasmania and then practice in Queensland that you can be working next to other pharmacists who have done the same intern course."

Details of presentations at other universities and pharmacy schools can be found at www.psa.org.au/intern

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MEDIA CONTACT: Warwick Plunkett 0412 304 450
Peter Waterman 0419 260 827