

NAPSA LEADS STUDENTS THROUGH CHANGE

Now is a great time to be a pharmacy student, and the body representing them, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), says it is excited to be part of this new era of the profession.

National President of NAPSA, Ashleigh Coome, said that with national registration now available and the recent signing of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, "it is a great time to be a pharmacy student".

"It has been nine years since NAPSA's reformation and our organisation still strives to maintain its vision to be the pre-eminent and independent organisation for pharmacy students in Australia and to support their education, leadership, professional and personal development," she said.

"This year NAPSA plans to increase awareness of rural pharmacy by revamping the role of our Rural and Indigenous Health Committee. We also plan to increase our global profile by hosting more international pharmacy students as a part of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) Student Exchange Program."

National President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Warwick Plunkett, said NAPSA was an important organisation that helped focus the profession on the needs, and aspirations, of upcoming pharmacists.

"Young pharmacists face a lot of challenges in today's professional environment but with the backing of NAPSA they leave their colleges well prepared."

Ms Coome said NAPSA acknowledged that the profession was evolving.

"Some challenges include an oversupply of pharmacists, a shortage of intern positions and lacking infrastructure to provide the key cognitive services that the profession requires," she said.

"NAPSA not only acts as a voice for pharmacy students to the wider profession, but also relays this information back to our members so they can become informed and engaged in the current pharmacy climate."

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