N A P S A

National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association

gpo box 2826
canberra act 2601
australia

web: www.napsa.org.au
email: council@napsa.org.au
abn: 63 261 503 316

22 July 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

NAPSA's view on Australian pharmacy education

NAPSA supports the idea that the continued expansion of pharmacy schools is unsustainable, and that a more transparent policy relating to the release of student enrolment numbers and retention rates should be employed by all universities, thus allowing for more holistic decision making.

Current data released by Skills Australia showing low graduate unemployment (1.7%) does not signal an undersupply, but stems from prerequisites of the accreditation process requiring a mandatory internship to validate our studies.

On 20th July 2011, NAPSA called upon the Department of Immigration to release data used in the decision to place pharmacy back on the Skilled Occupations List. NAPSA is still awaiting response from the department.

National President Timothy Mizzi commented, "Until now, the growth experienced in tertiary institutions offering pharmacy courses has developed a more competitive course framework for pharmacy curricula. However, the benefits of continued growth will be significantly mitigated due to graduate oversupply".

Mizzi also commented "Although NAPSA believes the rapid expansion of pharmacy schools over the last decade has been positive, a moratorium to address the issue of oversupply in industry is necessary, as our industry has reached capacity in terms of pharmacy schools".

Further increase in the number of pharmacy schools will potentiate a future oversupply; it is paramount that in this industry a pharmacist is provided with remuneration for their responsibilities and expertise.

"NAPSA aims, in calling for a cessation of new pharmacy schools, to ensure the future employment prospects of our members are maintained" Mizzi said.

Media contact	Timothy Mizzi	0405 447 340
	Arron Sparkes	0402 576 990