



30 May 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

NAPSA surveys major student concerns

NAPSA's Industrial Affairs Committee recently conducted the annual National Pharmacy Student Survey (NPSS) and received 584 responses.

Students were surveyed on a number of topics including increased graduate numbers, major concerns for the profession in the immediate future and what they wanted to gain from a career in pharmacy.

Students were asked where they would like to complete their internships, with over 25% of respondents seeking to practise in regional and remote areas. When considering concerns for the intern year, over 40% of students listed location as their primary concern and salary a secondary concern. Further concerns included quality of the preceptor and opportunities for continued employment after completion of the intern year.

Of concern for the profession are the responses indicating that 25% of respondents would not recommend a pharmacy career to others. Reasons for not recommending pharmacy as a career included poor employment prospects, low wages, increased student intake and a growing number of pharmacy schools.

Indicative of the increasing competition for post graduate employment, the 2010 results demonstrate a 10% increase in students being employed within a community pharmacy. Students were asked to identify the biggest threat to the pharmacy industry; this question has been repeated in both the 2008 and 2009 surveys. 23% reported "too many graduates for jobs available", which is up from previous year's results (12% in 2008, & 16% in 2009). Other concerns included the discount model of pharmacy with 21% of responses, and supermarket ownership at 16%.

When participants were asked if they believed there is an oversupply of pharmacists in Australia, over 50% of respondents replied yes, a third of respondents were unsure whilst only 12% disagreed.

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