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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Students voice concerns over Skilled Occupations List

NAPSA members have voiced their concerns about the addition of pharmacy to the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) come 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

National President Ashleigh Coome commented, "we acknowledge that there is great concern amongst our membership, most of it is confusion as to how this decision was made. Many students have expressed their views via an online petition".

The petition, which was created by a member of NAPSA, has received great interest with over 600 responses since its creation on 11th June.

NAPSA are calling for the Department of Immigration to release the data which was used to come to the decision to put pharmacy back on the SOL.

Coome also commented "With national registration now in effect, it is possible to gather data on all Australian pharmacists of where they work, what hours they work, if they want more/less hours etc, so we can work towards fixing the unequal distribution in the workforce".

NAPSA challenge the Pharmacy Board of Australia to provide means of gathering this data, so we can make accurate decisions for our profession in the future.

NAPSA supports the development of new professional roles to utilise the increase in graduates to improve health outcomes for Australians.

"NAPSA looks forward to working with the government and other professional bodies with regards to this topical issue" Coome said.

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