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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Students support pharmacist immunisation

A recent survey of close to two hundred pharmacy students demonstrated an overwhelming support for pharmacist based immunisation.

When questioned, over three quarters of respondents were in favour of pharmacist based immunisation, with over half of respondents not limiting the service to either hospital or community based pharmacy. Over 80% of respondents indicated a desire to be involved in immunisation should it be expanded to pharmacists.

Over 75% of respondents agreed with the statement that *'immunisation conducted by pharmacists would be beneficial to the community and improve accessibility to immunisation'*.

The major barrier to immunisation, identified by over 50% of respondents was inadequate training to provide immunisation. Currently Charles Sturt University's Orange and Wagga Wagga based pharmacy school's are the only courses who have integrated training on immunisation into their curriculums. In addition to inadequate training, two other major concerns were the legal ramifications surrounding pharmacist-based immunisation and an assumption that pharmacists would lack the necessary resources and/or time to provide immunisation services.

NAPSA hopes to see a legislative change to permit pharmacist-based immunisation in Australia. NAPSA encourages pharmacy schools and Intern Training Programs to incorporate immunisation training into their curriculums.

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