



Pharmacy Quarterly is a public facing news and education source for the pharmacy team, the health sector and the public. Through Pharmacy Quarterly, we hope to build a strong, unified pharmacy community that can make a difference for everyone.

Kia ora from... Michael Hammond



"We started the new year with the launch of our position statement and 8 priority areas of focus. It's good to set out our direction for the year and to have that focus," says Michael Hammond.

"We've had many members renew or join PSNZ over the last few months which is great! It's never too late to join and enjoy member benefits of advocacy, education, support and connection.

"We've been doing a lot in the advocacy space. We highlighted the issues with rural pharmacies based off feedback we received to our advocacy inbox. We also highlighted feedback on the pressures that pharmacy technicians are under.

"We've advocated for how pharmacy needs to be part of the solution to the chronic issues facing general practice. Most importantly, how an uplift in funding for pharmacy is needed to make things more sustainable across all pharmacy settings.

"Senior representatives from the pharmacy sector, including PSNZ, met late February for the second time. It's important we collectively advocate for the pharmacy sector in New Zealand. By standing together we have a stronger voice and can drive collaboration and leadership and explore potential opportunities for positive change."

Position statement and 8 areas of priority focus

Our 8 priority areas for 2025 are:

- sustainable funding
- supporting our workforce
- addressing pressure in rural pharmacies
- sustainability of PSNZ's training programme
- expanding the role of pharmacy technicians
- how pharmacists should be recognised as medicines experts
- pushing for the national roll out of a minor health conditions service
- supply chain issues and approval of medicines.

We plan to keep the momentum going so it's an exciting and challenging time for us looking ahead. Read more [here](#).

Funding for CPCTs needs to continue

PSNZ, Clinical Advisory Pharmacist Association (CAPA) and Māori Pharmacists Association (MPA) says [funding for Comprehensive Primary and Community Care Teams \(CPCTs\) should continue after June 2025](#) as they are delivering many benefits to patients and primary healthcare.

The Minister of Health has confirmed, "Health New Zealand is currently considering options for

the CPCT programme funding beyond 30 June 2025, to avoid losing important clinical roles working in primary care”.

This is great news. Pharmacy needs to be part of the solution in the face of chronic issues with access to general practice. Expanding the skill mix available in general practice teams, including pharmacists, increases public access to healthcare and improves health outcomes and continuity of care.

General practice pharmacists use their expert knowledge of medicines to help people safely get the best possible health outcomes from their medicines. The teams have been well received by general practice staff and can help relieve some of the heavy workload that falls on doctors and nurses.

The CPCT Enablement Team from Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland talked to newsroom about how their CPCTs are going. Read more [here](#).

More funding needed for pharmacy

It’s great to see extra funding and initiatives to boost general practice announced by the Government recently, but we’d like to see pharmacy included.

We want to see equity of funding across the health system for all primary care services, including pharmacy. Patients need all primary care professions to be operating together effectively to achieve better health outcomes.

There needs to be an overall uplift in funding for pharmacy to make it more sustainable. This will support pharmacists to be medicines experts in all settings.

If pharmacy was appropriately funded and resourced, pharmacy teams could help the Government meet its health targets, from increasing immunisation rates to wait times at Emergency Departments.



Hawke's Bay Minor Ailments Service

Newsroom spoke to Riani Albertyn, population health clinical pharmacist at Health Hawke's Bay about the success of the region's pharmacy minor ailments service.

Throughout Hawke's Bay every pharmacy has signed up to the service and it's proven very popular with around 1,000 patients receiving care and treatment each month.

It has successfully reached priority populations and is popular with under 14's where whānau utilise the service for free pain/fever relief instead of going to their GP. Read more [here](#).



Michael Hammond says, rolling out a national minor health conditions service is a no brainer. "At a cost of around \$33 million a year for a scaled up national service, pharmacies could help take the pressure off general practice and potentially Emergency Departments, one of the Government's key health targets."

David Woods awarded PSNZ Gold Medal



David Woods was recently awarded the prestigious PSNZ Gold Medal Award for 2024.

The Gold Medal is awarded to a member of the Society who in addition to making a significant and outstanding contribution to the profession, also brings distinction to the profession.

PSNZ Vice President Sandy Bhawan says Dave has been at the forefront of creating valuable pharmacy resources and online educational courses. "His visionary leadership has empowered

pharmacists across the country and internationally with accessible high quality learning materials, further enhancing the expertise and capabilities of the profession.

"His tireless commitment to the advancement of pharmacy, his exemplary clinical practice, his pivotal role as an educator and his invaluable contributions to research all attest to his outstanding dedication to the profession. In summary, Dave embodies the ideals and values that the PSNZ Gold Medal seeks to recognise."

Read more [here](#).



Student news

It was a pleasure to attend the welcome, along with CEO Helen Morgan-Banda, for the first cohort at the University of Waikato going into the Masters of Pharmacy Practice, says Michael Hammond.

"It was encouraging to see a group of motivated individuals, many of whom are qualified in related fields, choosing to join the pharmacy workforce. Their diverse backgrounds and wealth of experience will bring new perspectives and innovation to the sector.



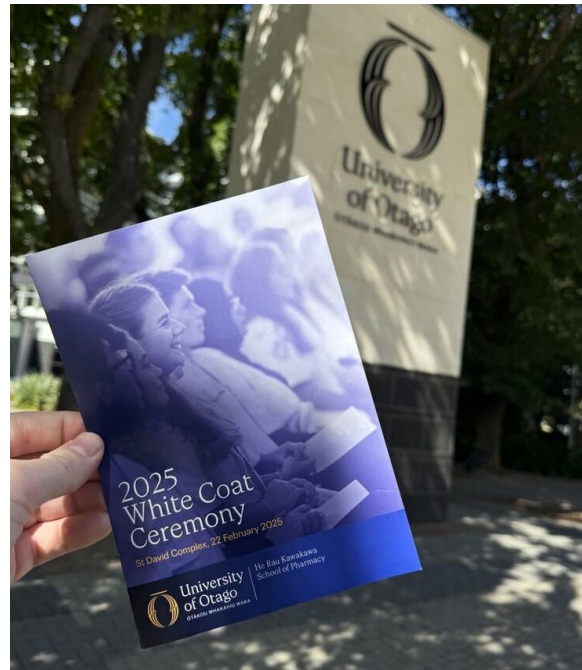
"PSNZ is here to support students at every stage of their career. We are committed to enhancing the practice of pharmacy in New Zealand and ensuring that pharmacists are integral members of healthcare teams.

"It was also great to catch up with two former PSNZ Presidents – Rhiannon Braund, dean of the new school, and Ian McMichael.

"I also attended the White Coat Ceremony for the incoming pharmacy students at the University of Otago.

"Watching these talented individuals take this significant step in their journey as future pharmacists was inspiring.

"This ceremony symbolises more than just a milestone, it's a commitment to the values of care, professionalism, and the pursuit of knowledge."



Education news



Intern training programme

With numbers for the Intern Training Programme (ITP) for 2025 finalised, PSNZ decided to extend preceptor funding to all sites for 2025, says Dr Nick Kimber, Education Manager

"This year we have a record number of sites with international interns so it was timely to extend preceptor funding (\$2000) to all sites for 2025.

"Last year, we had 195 interns in total so it's a bit of a jump up to 242 interns this year. We also have a record number of overseas trained pharmacists as interns, with 67 in total.

"We are now nearing the end of the intern training days for the programme. It's been going well, and we've been getting some good feedback from interns who are excited about being on the programme.

"Thanks to all the pharmacies for enabling their intern to take time away from the pharmacy. The interns first assignment will be due next month so good luck to everyone for their future studies.

"I'd also like to thank all the preceptors for the support they are providing to their interns. It's a big commitment.

"We have now completed all the preceptor training, which was well received, and we are working to better support our preceptors going forward.

"At the start of April, we will have a new introductory module available which has been designed to support our international students. We are also developing a project plan for our large group of international interns to ensure they are well supported. The international intern project is in collaboration with intern education leads from the major pharmacy groups across the motu."

PACT training programme

Dr Kimber also says, the Pharmacy Accuracy Checking Technician (PACT) programme continues to go well. "Last month, we held a successful workshop for the new cohort of PACT trainees and preceptors, and the next cohort will start with a workshop in Christchurch in July.

"Toitū te Waiora Workforce Development Council is conducting a review of pharmacy technician qualifications, ranging from levels 3 to 6. Senior PACT Educator, Lisa May and myself, are actively involved in this review process."

Top intern and preceptor for 2024



Olive Harvey North from Unichem Campus Pharmacy, Auckland was awarded PSNZ's top intern for 2024.

Olive was an exemplary intern says Dr Kimber. Staff say she was a delight to teach at training days and contributed well in all sessions. She submitted a fabulous Public Health Promotion, which influenced 42 people to be vaccinated against HPV. Her Medicines Optimisation Assignment significantly helped her patient and was marked as excellent by our external marker.

Louise Hofer from Life Pharmacy, Matamata was also awarded PSNZ's top preceptor for the year.

Louise was nominated by her intern Aleisha Currie. Dr Kimber says Louise organised extra hands-on training in their pharmacy from Diabetes NZ, Freestyle Libre and USL.

She included Aleisha in her work at the local Marae trying to minimise health inequity. She went through complex patient charts with her and spoke about barriers for these patients.



Dr Kimber says congratulations to both Olive and Louise for their exceptional work. Both received \$500 each and a complimentary membership to PSNZ for 2025.



Recent Practice Updates

Medicinal cannabis update

Since the last PQ, we have provided members with an update on professional and legal requirements for the supply of medicinal cannabis including practical considerations for dispensing. The update included an FAQ section and a summary table presenting different classes of products together with supply and storage requirements.

Controlled drug summary for prescribers

PSNZ worked with the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners to produce a [one-page overview](#) of the controlled drug changes that took effect in 2023. The document is still applicable and being used by members to help increase awareness in general practice about current controlled drug prescribing requirements.

Guides for pharmacists starting in new roles

The first day in a new environment is different for everyone, whatever pharmacy sector you are working in, whether you're newly qualified, changing from another sector, or returning after some time away. We have released a series of guides designed for members starting work in community, hospital pharmacy or as a locum pharmacist. They contain professional and practical considerations, advice and signposting to essential resources.

Medicinal Products Bill - future pharmacy services

We are working closely with the Ministry of Health Policy Team leading the development of the Medicinal Products Bill, which will replace the Medicines Act and Regulations. The conversations have been very productive and cover a variety of topics and areas that may be included in the future legislation. One area we have provided feedback on from our members was around pharmacy or pharmacist services they would like to deliver but are prevented by current legislation.



Keeping the professions strong - PQ interviews



Pharmacist on the West Coast, Tayla Cadigan, talks to newsroom about what her roles involve, what her 3 career highlights are, and also what the challenges are working in pharmacy.

Read more [here](#).

Tara Officer, senior lecturer at Victoria University, talks to newsroom about why she became a pharmacist, what her role involves, what her career highlights are, and what it means to be a PSNZ member.

Read more [here](#).



Marty Kennedy from Gisborne, a long time hospital pharmacist and recent community pharmacist, talks to newsroom about why he became a pharmacist, what the current challenges are and potential solutions.

Read more [here](#).



Clinical Pharmacist Prescriber, Natasha Nagar, talks to newsroom about why she became a pharmacist, what it's like working in a hospital environment, what her roles as senior pharmacist in psychogeriatric and fracture liaison pharmacist involves.

Read more [here](#).



Clive Cannons, owner of Clive's Chemist in Wainuiomata, talks to newsroom about what a typical day looks like, how their nurse support initiative is going and what his 3 key highlights from his time in pharmacy are.

Read more [here](#).

Newsroom interviews Linda Bryant, she talks about why she became a pharmacist, her work in primary care, her 3 key career highlights, and health equity.

Read more [here](#).



New from across the motu and beyond

PSNZ works to stay across news and practice developments that impact the pharmacy workforce nationally and internationally. Here are some items of interest from the last quarter:

- [PSNZ welcomes Health New Zealand's Workforce Plan](#)
- [High Assessment Centre pass rate a welcome boost for pharmacist workforce](#)
- [Rural pharmacies say change is needed](#)
- [Pharmacy technicians also under pressure, says PSNZ](#)
- [Baraq Al-Tuhafi talks to newsroom](#)
- [Lanny Wong talks to newsroom](#)




Want to hear from us more often?

Join us! Members receive a weekly newsletter from PSNZ, keeping them up to date with issues affecting practice, advocacy work and education.

Membership also gives you access to all of our practice support resources, branch networks, peer groups, workplace resources, early career support and more.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.





Helen Morgan-Banda
CEO
Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand Inc.



PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY
of New Zealand Incorporated

YOUR PROFESSIONAL HOME
CONNECT, LEARN, GROW

www.psnz.org.nz | 04 802 0030

Copyright © 2025 Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand Inc.
All rights reserved

Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand Incorporated.



Follow us on Social Media!