Western Australian Pharmacy Students' Association
Building 306, Curtin University, Hayman Rd, Bentley, WA, 6102
Email: wapsa@napsa.org.au ABN: 64624731955

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

11th October 2026 - Loren Retta

Introduction

Reflecting on my year as WAPSA President, I am incredibly proud of what the committee has achieved together. Although I was initially apprehensive about the responsibilities of the role, I was driven by a desire to make a meaningful difference to the pharmacy student experience. My goal was to create a more welcoming and inclusive association, making WAPSA an integral part of a Curtin pharmacy student's university life, rather than simply an added benefit. This report reflects on WAPSA's achievements, the challenges faced throughout the year, and my recommendations and hopes for the future.

Achievements

Governance

Throughout my term, I have focused on aligning WAPSA's initiatives and activities with the WAPSA 2028 Strategic Plan, ensuring the committee's efforts contribute to the association's long-term goals and priorities.

NAPSA Congress

WAPSA was represented by 42 delegates at the NAPSA Congress in Sydney in January 2026, providing valuable opportunities for professional development, learning and inter-university networking. The executive team and I dedicated considerable time to coordinating delegate communication, designing delegate shirts and organising Battle Night costumes and wristbands. While coordinating such a large delegation presented challenges, it was rewarding to see our collective efforts contribute to a positive experience.

On the Sunday before Welcome Night, I attended the National Council Meeting, bringing together the NAPSA Board of Directors, national chairs and 19 branch presidents from across Australia. This provided an opportunity for WAPSA to contribute to national discussions and strengthen connections with pharmacy student associations nationwide.

On the final day of Congress, it was announced that WAPSA would host the 2027 NAPSA Congress in Perth, returning to the west coast for the first time in over a decade. During the early planning stages, I developed the Congress logo and branding, and Sukhie (2027 NAPSA Congress Chair) and I worked together to

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select the Congress Organising Committee. I have since continued to contribute as Publications Chair alongside my role as WAPSA President. I look forward to attending Congress next year and seeing the incoming WAPSA Committee experience this amazing event, while continuing to build on WAPSA's presence on a national level.

Relationship with UDOPS and the Combined Ball

This year, WAPSA has strengthened its relationship with UDOPS through several collaborative events, including Games Night, Campus Clash, PSA Speed Mentoring and the AdPha Hospital Information Night. Both the Games Night and Campus Clash have attendance increases from 2025, which I hope will only continue.

A key highlight of the relationship was introducing a combined WAPSA x UDOPS Ball, which brought pharmacy students from Curtin and UWA together, with 240 tickets selling quickly and demonstrating strong student interest. Ideally, this collaboration will become an ongoing tradition. While the planning process presented some challenges, future combined balls would benefit from a dedicated subcommittee with a small number of representatives from each association, led by the respective lead Social Chairs, to improve communication, accountability and coordination.

In addition, WAPSA was able to secure a significant increase in sponsorship for the ball through its revised prospectus.

KOORAC and the WAPSA Study Guides

This year, we revived the longstanding KOORAC newsletter, which had been a long overdue plan for WAPSA. We also introduced the WAPSA study guides, led by Bridget, to provide additional academic support and resources for students.

Foundations of the Alumni Network

Bridget and I laid the foundations for WAPSA's Alumni Network by establishing an Alumni Networking Night in collaboration with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, WA Branch. This initiative aligned with WAPSA's 2028 Strategic Plan, particularly its third pillar, *Connection*, by creating opportunities for students to network with industry professionals and build meaningful connections beyond university. By establishing this network, we have hoped to create lasting opportunities for mentorship, career development and ongoing engagement between current

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students, graduates and the wider pharmacy profession. I hope this initiative continues, and will benefit future WAPSA cohorts.

Update of Facilities

The WAPSA room was upgraded with new cupboards and desks, alongside the expanded access to provide a more functional and welcoming shared space for all students within the School of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences.

Challenges

- Committee engagement and workload management- Balancing responsibilities and ensuring tasks were distributed fairly
- Attendance for some of the Education events (e.g. Lifestyle Medicines Event, Activated Probiotics) was low
- Meeting deadlines for events, posts, and administrative tasks
- Securing a sponsor for WAPSA shirts was unsuccessful due to delays in communication and difficulties coordinating with potential sponsors.
- Some potential sponsors were primarily interested in providing educational sessions rather than financial contributions, limiting opportunities to obtain monetary support for WAPSA initiatives and events.

Recommendations for the Incoming Committee

- Continue growing WAPSA through actions aligning with the 2028 Strategic Plan
- The committee's use of Notion was limited, suggesting it may not have been the most effective organisational tool for our needs. I recommend exploring alternative platforms or approaches to task management and information sharing that better suit the committee's workflow, and encourage consistent engagement.
- Regular committee check-in surveys to monitor member wellbeing, gather feedback and identify any concerns early, while continuing to prioritise inclusivity and fostering a welcoming, respectful environment for all committee members.
- Planning and finalising semester event calendars ahead of the commencement of each semester
- Securing a ball venue by February, and confirming sponsors by July (as per 2025 recommendation)

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- Attendance to the Education events when they were during the day (e.g. Lifestyle Medicines) was lower than ones in the evening (e.g. PDL Hackathon), therefore it may be prudent to consider hosting more Education in the evenings
- The Wigs and Wine Tour was thoroughly enjoyed by attendees; however, hosting this or a similar event (e.g. Scrub Crawl) earlier in the semester may encourage greater student participation and attendance.
- Continue growing and developing the Alumni Network established by Bridget and I, with a focus on increasing Alumni participation (especially of recent graduates!). Consider hosting the event earlier in the year to allow 4th-year students to connect with pharmacy owners and industry professionals before securing an internship and graduating.
- To formalise the handover process for Chair positions, encouraging each Committee Chair to develop a brief role-specific guide outlining their key responsibilities, processes and recommendations for future committees (similar to the President's Booklet but tailored to each individual role)

Reflections & Looking Forward

Serving as the 2026 WAPSA President has been both a rewarding and challenging experience, providing valuable opportunities for personal growth, leadership development and strengthening connections within the pharmacy student community. Throughout the year, I have placed a strong emphasis on fostering an inclusive and positive environment where all committee members feel welcomed, supported and valued. Navigating committee management, event coordination and unexpected challenges has required adaptability and resilience, but I am proud of what the committee has achieved together. Looking forward, I hope the next committee continues to build on these successes and continues to foster a supportive environment where all members feel empowered to contribute. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to WAPSA throughout the year and look forward to seeing the association continue to grow.

Loren Retta
2026 WAPSA President