

AUGUST
2026

ISSUE
ONE.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

KOOROC

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN



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ISSUE ONE.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

HI EVERYONE,

WELCOME TO THE RETURN OF THE WAPSA NEWSLETTER (WHICH SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW BY ITS ORIGINAL NAME, KOORAC, FROM YEARS AGO IN WAPSA'S HISTORY). THIS YEAR, WE ARE EXCITED TO BRING IT BACK AND HOPE TO MAKE IT A TRADITION THAT KEEPS THE CURTIN PHARMACY STUDENT COMMUNITY CONNECTED FOR YEARS TO COME!

BEING A PHARMACY STUDENT IS ABOUT SO MUCH MORE THAN LECTURES AND EXAMS- ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING PARTS ABOUT OUR DEGREE IS MEETING PEOPLE, MAKING LIFELONG FRIENDS, AND CREATING UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES. UNI LIFE PASSES BY SO QUICKLY, AND SOON AS WE KNOW IT, WE WILL BE PHARMACISTS, AND IT WILL BE THE MEMORIES WITH PEERS THAT WILL STICK WITH US. WAPSA IS HERE TO GIVE BACK TO YOU THROUGH EDUCATION, SOCIAL EVENTS, PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND EXPERIENCES TO MAKE THIS TIME AT UNI AS REWARDING AS POSSIBLE.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING COMMITTEE FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK SO FAR THIS YEAR. I'D ESPECIALLY LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR WONDERFUL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE- BRIDGET ELLEMENT (VICE PRESIDENT), HANNAH RUSLI (TREASURER), AND LIBBY AYRE (SECRETARY)- FOR THEIR DEDICATION, SUPPORT, AND EVERYTHING THEY DO TO MAKE WAPSA WHAT IT IS.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS! GOOD LUCK FOR SEMESTER 2!

LOREN RETTA
WAPSA PRESIDENT
FOURTH YEAR PHARMACY STUDENT



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INDUSTRY UPDATES

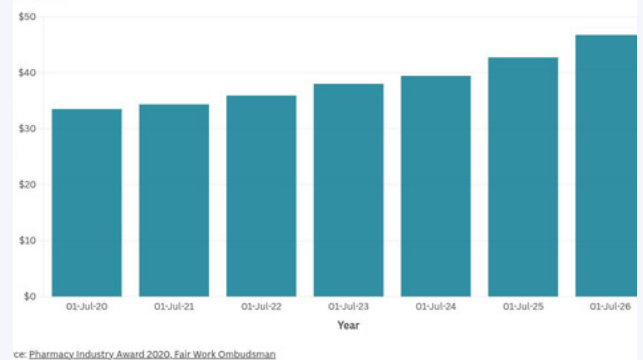


PHARMACY STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2026

We are so excited to announce our very own Curtin Fourth Year pharmacy student, Sophie Watson was awarded the People's Choice Pharmacy Student of the Year. After winning the Western Australian heat, Sophie travelled to the PSA26 conference where she competed in front of 100s of people in a primary-care scenario.

Sophie Watson (PSOTY award winner) and Hannah Rusli (WAPSA Treasurer)

A base hourly rate for pharmacists in charge
10-2026



NEFFY

There has been many exciting developments in the pharmacy world recently. A personal favourite has been the Neffy® adrenaline nasal spray being added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme after being approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in December 2025. Using the same device as the Nyxoid® naloxone nasal spray, Neffy® provides a needle-free alternative for adrenaline for anaphylaxis.



PHARMACY AWARD WAGE INCREASE

The second part of a 3-phase wage increase, originally announced by the Fair Work Ombudsman in 2025, came into effect on the 30th of June. To put it simply, the minimum wage for an entry level pharmacist increased from \$38.14 to \$39.85. An annual wage review also increased the minimum wage by 4.75% on July 1st. The third part of the wage increase will come into effect on the 30th June 2027.

NAPSA CONGRESS 2026

Another NAPSA Congress has come to a close, bringing together pharmacy students from across Australia, New Zealand and overseas for a week of learning, connection and unforgettable memories. The week was packed with educational sessions covering everything from hospital pharmacy careers and herbal medicine to travel health, sun protection, dermatitis, shingles and the future of pharmacist prescribing.



Later in the week, delegates enjoyed Alumni Night and trivia before wrapping up Congress with the Wildcard Pharmacy Student of the Year competition and the ever-popular Tradeshow, where students connected with industry representatives and collected more than a few freebies along the way. The week concluded with the Congress Ball on Darling Harbour, celebrating an incredible week of friendships, professional development and memories that will last well beyond Congress. The biggest announcement of the night, however, was announcing which branch will host the next NAPSA congress...



Delegates also took part in interactive workshops and heard from inspiring pharmacists who shared their experiences and advice on building successful careers in the profession. Of course, Congress wouldn't be complete without the social events. Day 3 saw WAPSA swap their polos for cowboy hats as they took on the iconic Battle Night, complete with water guns, before bringing the trophy back to the West Coast.



... Perth will officially host NAPSA Congress 2027. It has been 10 years since Congress was last held in Western Australia, and we're excited to welcome pharmacy students from across the country back to Perth. Planning is already underway, and we can't wait to showcase everything our city, our students and WAPSA have to offer. Keep an eye out for ticket releases and announcements in the coming months. We look forward to welcoming you to Perth for what promises to be an unforgettable NAPSA Congress 2027.

Sukhie Virk
NAPSA Congress Chair
Second Year Pharmacy Student



NAPSA CONGRESS 2027

Scan here to sign up
before it's too late!



EDUCATION

Semester 1 Event Recap

ACTIVATED PROBIOTICS

To recognise Asthma Awareness Month, WAPSA welcomed Rebecca Edwards, Director of Education at Activated Probiotics, for an insightful education session on the science behind probiotics. Students learnt about the gut microbiome, the importance of strain-specific probiotics, and the evidence supporting products such as Biome Breathe™ Probiotic in asthma management. Rebecca also busted common probiotic myths and highlighted how evidence-based probiotics can support patient care across a range of conditions. A big thank you to Rebecca and the Activated Probiotics team for delivering an engaging session and sharing their expertise with our students.

Sophie Baron-Hay
Co-Education Chair
Third Year Pharmacy Student



PDL HACKATHON

The semester wrapped up with an exciting PDL Ethical Scenarios Hackathon, proudly sponsored by PDL. Students tackled real-world ethical and professional dilemmas commonly encountered in pharmacy practice, building confidence in navigating challenging situations before entering the workforce.

A special thank you to the WA PDL Advisory Committee: Celia Sansom, Tracy Routledge, John Foster and medico-legal lawyer Shannon Mony for sharing their expertise and facilitating thought-provoking discussions throughout the evening.

Neha Holla
Co-Education Chair
Fourth Year Pharmacy Student



CHARITY CUP

During the first semester, the Pharmacy Awareness Team focused on participating in the NAPSA Charity Cup. NAPSA Charity Cup is an annual national fundraising competition where pharmacy schools from universities across Australia compete each other to raise money for a selected charity. This year, funds were raised for Pride Foundation Australia. Pride Foundation Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that provides support to LGBTQIA+ communities. The foundation aims to improve equity, inclusion, and wellbeing by funding initiatives in areas such as mental health, disability support, education, and community development.



In addition to the sausage sizzle, WAPSA held interactive competitions, including the "Guess the Lolly Jar" and "Guess the Doctor's Handwriting" challenges. Just like the sausage sizzle event, all the students and staff came together to work on the events. All the events were successful with the help from everyone. Overall, the NAPSA Charity Cup was a successful event that not only raised funds for the charity but also increased awareness and strengthened community engagement.

Anna Lee
Pharmacy Awareness Chair
Second Year Pharmacy Student



As part of the Charity Cup, WAPSA organised and participated in several fundraising activities. The engagement was not just from the pharmacy cohort, staffs and other cohorts also participated to make the event successful. One of the highlights was the sausage sizzle, where WAPSA members worked together as a team to raise funds. The event demonstrated how our Curtin community is willing to support Pride Foundation Australia.



Learn More Here!



SOCIAL EVENTS

Semester 1 Recap

PSA STUDENT LUNCH

The PSA Student Lunch was a wonderful opportunity for Curtin pharmacy students to connect with members of the PSA WA Branch and gain a deeper understanding of the many career pathways available within the pharmacy profession. Throughout the event, students had the chance to engage in meaningful conversations with experienced pharmacists, learning about their unique journeys, professional experiences, and the valuable lessons they have gained along the way. Following an afternoon of networking, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch while continuing conversations in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the 2026 PSA Student Representatives. I was incredibly honoured and grateful to be selected alongside Su Lwin and Sukhie Virk. It is a privilege to represent Curtin University, and I am excited to work alongside PSA to support fellow pharmacy students, strengthen student engagement, and contribute to initiatives that inspire the next generation of pharmacists.

Hannah Rusli

Treasurer

Fourth Year Pharmacy Student



WAPSA X UDOPS GAMES NIGHT

Co-hosting the UDOPS x WAPSA Games Night alongside Alice Choi earlier this year was such a rewarding experience! A huge thank you to Priceline Pharmacy for generously sponsoring the evening and helping make the event possible.

It was truly a privilege to be your host and see so many pharmacy students from both campuses come together, make new friendships, and strengthen existing ones. We kicked off the night with Bestie Bingo before diving into a Drug Spelling Bee, Guess That Song, and finished with a competitive Kahoot! It was fantastic to see everyone get involved, cheer each other on, and share plenty of laughs along the way.

I hope you had just as much fun as Alice and I did, and I can't wait to see you all again!



Cocktail Night

The WAPSA x Pharmacy 777 Winter Wonderland Cocktail Night was a fantastic evening, bringing together Curtin pharmacy students and the Pharmacy 777 team for a night of networking, career conversations, and plenty of winter-themed fun. Held at The Globe Perth, the event gave students the opportunity to connect with pharmacists from Pharmacy 777 in a relaxed environment, and was a great way to celebrate the end of a busy semester.



WAPSA would like to extend a huge thank you to Pharmacy 777 for their generous sponsorship and continued support of Curtin pharmacy students. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a memorable success, and we look forward to hosting more opportunities for students to connect with the profession in the future.

Maddy Hansom
Co-Social Chair
Third year Pharmacy Student



The Pharmacy 777 representatives were incredibly generous with their time, sharing their experiences, answering questions, and encouraging students to make the most of the networking opportunities. One of the highlights of the evening was the personalised messages prepared by Shaylee Mills (aka The Rural Pharmacist) for every student in attendance. This thoughtful gesture was a huge hit and reflected the genuine care and support that Pharmacy 777 has for future pharmacists. The evening also included a Best Dressed competition and the chance to win a tutoring/study session with Shaylee!



MERCHANDISE



Keep an eye out for the release of Early Bird AMH's later this year...

Hoodie's are SOLD OUT but other merch is still available on the tidy HQ website:



Pill Earrings



MEDICATION NAME		
CLASS	PREGNANCY SAFE / UNSAFE	INDICATIONS
DOSE	BREASTFEEDING SAFE / UNSAFE	
MECHANISM OF ACTION		
ADRs	INTERACTIONS	
MONITORING		

**SAMPLE ONLY
NOT TO BE COPIED
WAPSA 2026
DRUG MONOGRAPH**

B.PHARMILY UPDATES

B.Pharmily Instagram:



I hope that Semester 2 is progressing well – how is it half-way through 2026 already?!?! Congratulations on successfully navigating Semester 1, and I hope that you enjoyed a well-deserved break between semesters.

I'd also like to congratulate WAPSA on the launch of this newsletter. This is an exciting new initiative that has the potential to further strengthen our Pharmacy@Curtin culture by sharing news, celebrating achievements, and connecting staff and students beyond the classroom. For those students who are not yet engaged with WAPSA, I encourage you to get involved. The relationships you form as a student become the professional networks that support you throughout your career. WAPSA is the gateway to future engagement with the profession - take my word for it, as the 1996 WAPSA Secretary! Getting involved with professional pharmacy organisations provides so much more than a line on your CV. It offers opportunities to build networks, develop leadership skills, meet mentors, learn about emerging issues in practice, and contribute to advocacy that shapes the future of the profession – and you can start today! What are you waiting for?

Staff News and Achievements

Outside the classroom, Semester 1 was another busy semester for your Pharmacy academics:

- Much energy has focussed on navigating approval and accreditation processes for our new Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours)/Doctor of Pharmacy pathway, which we proudly launched to the general public at Open Day (with thanks again to the students who volunteered on the day). We look forward to inviting our First Year students to transition to this new pathway in 2027, and have been hosting some information sessions for all students, especially First Years, over the past weeks – see *The Dispensary* for more details!
- The other big news in learning and teaching is that Canvas will be replacing Blackboard in 2027. Training and support will be offered to students to help with navigating this new learning management system, so keep your eyes open for more news in the coming weeks
- A/Prof Fei Sim commenced in a part-time role as Dean International for the Faculty of Health Sciences in March. Fei has enormous passion for supporting globalisation, and her energy, enthusiasm, strategic intelligence and strong commitment to good governance will be of enormous value to the Faculty in this role. Congratulations, Fei! Ms Lesley Ellett, who most of you will know and love from her sessional contributions across multiple units, will be covering some of Fei's teaching in 2026.
- Ms Ife MacKenzie was recently appointed as the School's ISoLT Fellow to lead assessment review and innovation within our program, focusing initially on the Pharmacy Practice stream. Congratulations, Ife!

Welcoming New Staff:

- We have welcomed three new academic staff members to the School in recent months:
 - Dr Ayomide (Mide) Ogundipe commenced in March, bringing expertise in digital health transformation and human centred design from her PhD, leadership experience from roles with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and a wide range of sessional academic experience. Some of you may have already met Mide in Pharmacy Practice 5 or in previous sessional roles, and she will be coordinating IPT1 in Semester 2. Since commencing with us, Mide has two new achievements to celebrate – she was recently awarded an “In her Name” scholarship (a national scholarship program investing in young multicultural women), and appointed to Science and Technology Australia's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Congratulations to Mide!
 - Dr Kwi Moon started in June, bringing over 22 years of experience as a pharmacist to her new role, including nearly 20 years in paediatrics and more than 12 years in a formal leadership role at Perth Children's Hospital. Kwi is an active clinician researcher, and some of you may have met her previously as a sessional academic in Evidence Informed Medicine Use.
 - Ms Donna Scott commenced in the first week of August. Donna brings over 20 years of hospital pharmacy experience, most recently in Critical Care at Fiona Stanley Hospital. She has been recognised for her leadership in service innovation in hospital pharmacy practice, establishing the first pharmacist-led prescribing and clinical review service for parenteral nutrition in a WA hospital, and a mentorship program for ICU pharmacists.
- Kwi and Donna will be contributing across a range of units in Semester 2.

We also celebrated the excellence of our wonderful Pharmacy academic and professional/technical staff at the recent School Staff Excellence Awards, with congratulations to:

- Excellence in Teaching: Ms Taryn Hutchison
- Excellence in Teaching (Sessional): Dr Mide Ogundipe
- Excellence in Research Impact: A/Prof Laurence Cheung
- Excellence in Support of Research: Mr Jorge Martinez, Ms Jenny Dolzadelli, Dr Victor Chuang, A/Prof Laurence Cheung
- Excellence in Projects: Dr Hendra Gunosewoyo
- Excellence in Partnerships: Dr Victor Chuang, Ms Sue White, Ms Sher Sackmann, Dr Paul Ellery

In other good news, A/Prof Laurence Cheung was recently recognised as Cure Cancer's 2026 Researcher of the Year for his contributions to research into childhood leukaemia. Congratulations to Laurence on this well-deserved recognition!

Changes in Leadership Roles:

And finally, as some of you are aware, Dr Paul Murray is facing some health challenges and will be on extended personal leave for Semester 2, 2026. We know that you will join us in sending Paul the very best of wishes. His leadership roles will be covered in Semester 2 by:

- CHEM1006 Unit Coordinator: Dr Emma Hadfield
- PHRM2004 Unit Coordinator: Dr Hendra Gunosewoyo
- Third Year Coordinator: Ms Taryn Hutchison, and me.

I think that's enough for now. Wishing you all the very best for the rest of Semester 2, and I look forward to seeing you on campus over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,
Leanne.

A/Prof Leanne Chalmers
Director of Pharmacy



UPCOMING EVENTS!

PSA Speed Networking - Monday, 24th August

This interactive networking event involves a series of short conversations between each mentee and mentor, providing an excellent opportunity to meet and network with a diverse group of successful pharmacists, gather information and empower you to take the next steps toward your future career. This will suit final year pharmacy students, early career pharmacists as well as established pharmacists looking for a change within their pharmacy career!



WAPSA Trade Show - Wednesday, 2nd September

With 25+ exhibitors under one roof, this is your opportunity to network with employers, explore intern and career pathways, discover new products and services, and make valuable industry connections. Whether you're in first year or preparing for internship applications, there's something for everyone. Grab your pharmacy friends and join us for one of WAPSA's biggest event of the year. You won't want to miss it!



AdPha Clinical Trials in Pharmacy - Tuesday, 25th August

Listen to a panel of experienced clinical trial pharmacists, and hear them provide insight into the experiences, opportunities, challenges, and key decisions that shaped their career. Following these individual stories, the speakers will come together for a moderated panel discussion where they'll answer questions about working in clinical trials, career development, and the realities of the field. If you're curious about this career path in pharmacy you won't want to miss it!



WAPSA x UDOPS Campus Clash! - Tuesday, 25th September

The rivalry is back! Get ready for Campus Clash, where WAPSA and UDOPS go head-to-head in an action-packed evening of sport, teamwork, and friendly competition! From exciting team challenges to classic sporting games, this is your chance to represent your University and battle it out for ultimate bragging rights.



VS



UDOPS X WAPSA Gala Ball 2026

***Under the PharmaSea* - 14th November**

Undoubtedly the most highly anticipated WAPSA event of the year, the Gala Ball is back for 2026. This time we are excited to be hosting the ball in collaboration with UDOPS - which allows for a bigger and better event while also strengthening our ties to our fellow pharmacy students over at UWA.

Recently announced, the theme for 2026 is *Under The Pharma-Sea*. We hope everyone has lots of fun with this theme - it will no doubt be a great night.

The location is still under wraps, but be sure to keep the 14th of November open and follow our socials for further announcements!

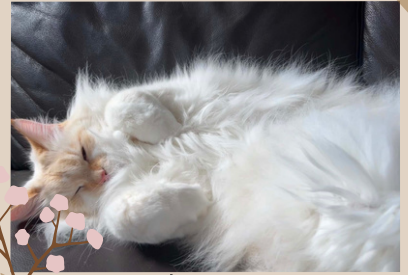
COMMITTEE PET WALL



Earl, Bandit, Arnold, Nussy,
Smekey and Megs



Stormie



Louis



Cooper



Lucie



Pancake



Yuko & Skiwi



Rusty