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

# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**13th of October 2026 - Bridget Ellement**

## Introduction

What a year! 2026 has most definitely been a whirlwind.

Reflecting back on the year that has been, WAPSA has achieved a lot of things which I definitely wouldn't have anticipated 12 months ago. We've fostered a sense of community amongst pharmacy students at Curtin and I'm incredibly grateful to have been able to help facilitate that.

## Projects and Achievements

### WAPSA Study Guides

Before 2026 started, I was reflecting on how beneficial the advice I received from older students was, and how this gave me a good upper hand to succeed in units. Alas, the idea of a study guide was born.

Unfortunately Semester 1 escaped me with placement, so I wasn't able to transpose all the advice and tips received from staff and students in a timely manner for the study guides to be released. Thankfully Semester 2 didn't have the same fate and we were able to release guides for the 1st to 3rd years.

I cannot express the importance of why I believe this project should continue! My plan is to set up some foundational ground work so that the project isn't as time intensive. Additionally it is vital to reach out to staff well in advance to give them the ability to provide adequate tips and tricks (and a fun-fact about themselves too!)

### Yearbooks

Following on from last year's success with the re-introduction of yearbooks, and encouraging feedback from staff, we decided to continue the successful trajectory. I helped oversee the project which was led by our 4th Year Rep's KeJean and Ryan, and facilitated by a small team of 4th years and other committee members.

We used the same supplier as last year as we had an established relationship with Academic Media (an Australian yearbook printing company on the east coast) and they have continued to be very easy to work with.

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We managed to secure some sponsorship for this project to help ease the financial burden WAPSA faced. We were grateful to have the support of the Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia, who support WA based pharmacists and empower the pharmacy profession to benefit the health of Western Australians. I would recommend reaching back out to PSWA to continue this partnership, and contacting other potential sponsors before 2027 starts.

I'm excited to see future versions of the yearbook over the coming years.

### Hoodies

This year, we designed a hoodie for Curtin pharmacy students to purchase from WAPSA, which performed very well with a total of 65 sales. We used Colonial Brands for the hoodies, and built on the relationship formed last year with the sale of our sweaters.

The design of the hoodies was a bit more technical and difficult than we anticipated regarding printing and how "fine" the art design could go. This did delay our initial sales plans and caused us to push back release dates.

We continued with the low-risk approach for hoodie sales this year to avoid a high yield of dead-stock. This approach entailed students pre-ordering their sweaters before we made an order with Colonial Brands.

We have received a few enquiries regarding a re-run of 2025's sweater sales, which I would recommend bringing back in 2027. As Jamie said last year, "I believe that this initiative will continue to be a good source of profit and community for future years".

### Notion - WAPSA hub

Following on from the use of last year's Notion, we re-introduced it for the 2026 Committee. As it is on a separate platform from the majority of communication it's use was limited. I would recommend ceasing use of Notion in the future years and instead continue with current communication structures, and optimise shared Google Drive folders amongst the committee.

### Online Presence

Our online presence has continued to grow this year. In the past 90 days we have had over 222.7k views (a 72.9% increase). We currently have 1295 instagram followers (~280 of these since 2025 AGM).

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This increase in interaction/following can be attested to increased activity on all social media platforms; we have increased posts and reels. Collaborative posts have also helped further drive our platform's reach and engagement with our online community.

## Relationship with UWA

Our relationship with UWA Doctor of Pharmacy Society (UDOPS) has continued to be strengthened and nurtured this year. Amongst WA Pharmacy students there is a stronger sense of community. The collaborative events held this year have continued to be well received by all student cohorts at both campuses.

I would recommend ensuring planning and expectations of each branch in relation to each collaborative event is made clear at the start of the project. And especially for more high-stakes events such as the Gala Ball.

Fostering this relationship with UDOPS in 2027 and beyond will ensure that Western Australian pharmacy students have a sense of community before all joining the same workforce, and allow us to stand as a united front.

## Alumni Networking Night with the Pharmacy Guild of WA

This year Loren and I laid the foundations for what will hopefully be an annual event on the WAPSA calendar. With the aim of fostering connection amongst students, industry and Curtin pharmacy alumni, the networking night is a perfect opportunity to build mentorship and career opportunities.

I would highly implore the 2027 committee to host this event again, and utilise both PGWA and other professional bodies networks to promote the event to industry and alumni.

## WAPSA Couch Sessions

Something I didn't have the capacity or capability to continue/revive was the WAPSA Couch Sessions. In 2025 Jamie Alivio started this project, I would recommend this being a project of a few committee members (non-exec) in 2027.

*As Jamie explained in her report last year:*
With the expanding nature of our profession as pharmacists, we developed the idea of a podcast/video series to explore the stories and different pathways our pharmacy staff at Curtin have taken. The purpose of this podcast/video series was to build on the pillars of People and Engagement from our strategic plan, WAPSA 2028. This year, we have created a youtube account for these episodes to

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be posted and have recorded 2 episodes interviewing Fei sim and Laurence Cheung. Unfortunately due to time constraints the 2 episodes were insufficient for an official launch and therefore did not take off.

Despite this, I believe that this project has great potential to empower incoming and current pharmacy students and I hope that this project can continue over the following years and expand to pharmacists outside of Curtin.

### Recommendations for the Incoming Committee

- Continue to host collaborative events with UDOPS
- Have a regular and strong social media presence to engage students online
- Launch and continue WAPSA Couch sessions to continue the vision and empower incoming and current pharmacy students about their future careers
- Run another round of sweater and/or hoodie pre-orders and order extras to have on hand for immediate sales.
- Acquire sponsorships for projects early (before the new year!)
- If the Curtin Stadium is to be used for an event, it needs to be booked 6 months in advance; coincides with event calendar being completed early in the year

Being a part of WAPSA over the past few years has been truly incredible. I'm grateful for all the ups and downs, the mentors and new friends I've gained, and especially the sense of community.

I'm excited to see where WAPSA will go in the future, and wish the 2027 committee the absolute best of luck. I know you guys will do great things, and continue to foster a sense of belonging and support amongst pharmacy students at Curtin.



Bridget Ellement
WAPSA Vice President 2026