



Your opportunity to become a pharmacy school evaluator

A key role for the **Australian Pharmacy Council** is to accredit pharmacy schools and programs throughout Australian and New Zealand. The Council's accreditation functions are performed by a standing committee, the New Zealand and Australian Pharmacy School Accreditation Committee (NAPSAC). Currently there are 18 accredited pharmacy schools covering 20 Bachelor and Masters programs throughout Australia and NZ.

The accreditation process seeks to ensure that pharmacy graduates have the appropriate knowledge, skills and attributes to commence supervised practice in a pre-registration training program applying recognised competency standards. The Committee relies on external evaluators drawn from pharmacists and pharmacy academics from around the country to carry out its role. This involves evaluation of application material and/or site visits which require 2-3 day duration (usually) visit to the university. Evaluators of application material and site review teams are funded to carry out their roles e.g. sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses. The Committee is keen to encourage enthusiastic pharmacists and pharmacy academics who may be interested in becoming Australian Pharmacy Council evaluators. If you are a community pharmacist you may register your interest by contacting the Registrar of your state or territory pharmacy registering authority. If you are a pharmacy academic you should contact Professor Nick Shaw, Chair of the Council of Heads of Schools of Pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand (CHPSANZ) on (07) 3365 2017.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain insight and provide input into shaping pharmacy education. Through the NAPSAC process evaluators will be able to hone their skills in areas such as critical review, curriculum development, quality assurance and audit processes.

"When I joined the site evaluation team and did a review of a country pharmacy school, I found the experience to be valuable and enjoyable. I feel that I have made a real contribution to pharmacy students and the profession" said 32 year old Mario Botros, NSW Community Pharmacist.

For information regarding accredited schools and programs refer to the Australian Pharmacy Council website www.pharmacycouncil.org.au and follow the tabs under Accreditation.