



AUGUST 2025

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to our August 2025 newsletter.

The 2024-2025 annual report was presented by President Sharon Doolan summarising the 28 page annual report. President Sharon Doolan related that it was a great pleasure to welcome everyone to our 2025 Annual General Meeting and the 71st Annual IPA Dinner. It had been another remarkable year for the Illawarra Pharmacists Association, and she was proud to share a few highlights from the past 12 months.

First, I want to sincerely thank our hardworking executive—Frances Lae, David North OAM, Katerina Novarina—and our dedicated committee members Sean Kelly, Vlade Jankulovski, and Anne-Marie Katsoudas. Your support and commitment have been invaluable.

This year, we strengthened our communications, relaunched our website, and expanded member resources, making it easier to stay connected and collaborate. We have continued to support early-career pharmacists through our growing IPSIG network, and I am proud of the education events we have hosted, from CPD-accredited evenings to our vibrant World Pharmacists Day celebration. Our major accomplishment this year has been the redevelopment of our official website. This significant upgrade now includes a secure member sign-in area, monthly newsletters, along with a directory of local pharmacies and pharmacists. We were thrilled to see local pharmacists Peter Figliuzzi (intern) and David North recognised with PSA Excellence Awards—a testament to the calibre of professionals in our region. Our first

fundraising event raised \$1,250 for the Wollongong Homeless Hub, and our outreach efforts have continued through walks, workshops, and student engagement.

Nationally, we have contributed to pharmacy trials, health reform discussions, and celebrated the signing of the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement. Our Guild events have seen fantastic engagement from World Pharmacists Day celebrations, and the Pharmacy Groups Symposium, to the APP Conference, Pharmacy Connect 2024, and practical workshops addressing both employee management and pharmacy leasing.



Particularly exciting is the Illawarra Pharmacy Student and Intern Group (IPSIG) which has become an invaluable platform for early-career pharmacists. The committee organised Cardiovascular Guidelines update at Corrimal RSL which was a standout success, and the enthusiastic feedback encourages us to keep building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Collaboration with the PSA continued to be productive, particularly with the support of PSA State Manager NSW & Professional Support Advisor, who provided valuable education resources and webinars.



Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

Our membership continues to grow, and we are committed to developing new educational opportunities to serve you better.

It has been my privilege to serve as your President alongside such a dedicated team.

And finally, to our members—thank you. Your engagement and support drive this association forward. We will continue to represent your interests and promote the full scope of pharmacy practice throughout the Illawarra and beyond.

(Answers to Quiz 1.B, 2.B, 3.D, 4.A, and 5.B)

At our recent AGM

Our Guest Speaker, Leanne Taylor, a passionate and accomplished leader, joined us as a guest speaker to share her inspiring journey and impactful work with the Quest for Life Foundation.



As a Director on the Board, she brings a wealth of experience from her former roles as CEO and board member across diverse sectors. Leanne spoke with heartfelt conviction about Quest for Life's transformative programs, which support individuals facing trauma, mental health challenges, grief, and chronic illness. She

highlighted the Foundation's local initiatives in the Illawarra, including workshops, outreach services, and peer support networks that foster resilience and healing. Her message emphasized the importance of compassion, connection, and practical tools to navigate life's difficulties. Leanne's powerful story and deep commitment showed how anyone can get involved to create meaningful change in their community.



At our recent AGM

Luke Kelly, president of the PSA NSW, identified the **Illawarra Pharmacists Association** as one of three key regional pharmacist groups in NSW, alongside the **Newcastle Hunter Valley Pharmacists Association** and the **Central Coast Pharmacists Association**, with no other major regional associations currently evident.



He highlighted the **Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)** as a central player in supporting



AUGUST 2025

pharmacists to practise to their full scope, particularly through its **Prescribing Scope of Practice Training Program**, which includes both prescribing and clinical components. PSA envisions a future where pharmacists are empowered to deliver expanded clinical services, improving patient access and strengthening primary care. The PSA offers extensive **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** resources, including over 350 education offerings, planning tools, and access to exclusive CPD events. Their **Pharmacist Advice Line** provides professional guidance on practice, ethics, medicines, legislation, and registration matters, and is available to both members and non-members. This suite of support reflects PSA's commitment to advancing pharmacist roles and ensuring safe, effective healthcare delivery across Australia.

Upcoming Events for NSW Pharmacists: July–



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia
NSW Branch

Peppe Raso the NSW Guild Councillor for the South Sydney- Illawarra region, District 7, invites all pharmacies in our region to consider becoming a Guild member if their pharmacy is not already a member.

The NSW Branch delivers a range of services and benefits to assist members in operating professional businesses that most importantly, service the healthcare needs of patients.



At our recent AGM

Peppe Raso praised the Guild's push for PBS patient price reductions, calling it a historic move that ensures patients are not forced to skip essential medications due to cost.



He noted this is only the second time in PBS history that such a broad price cut has been implemented, making medicines more affordable for all Australians.

He emphasized the Guild's commitment to full scope of practice, with pharmacists expanding into diagnosing and prescribing for conditions like UTIs, oral contraceptives, shingles, and dermatological issues.

He highlighted the role of pharmacists in urgent care clinics and suggested that where such clinics do not exist, pharmacies could step in to fill the gap.

The Guild is also promoting a national women's health package, enabling pharmacists to initiate treatment for UTIs and hormonal contraception under PBS subsidies.

He warned that pharmacies not embracing scope expansion and training may struggle to remain viable in the evolving healthcare landscape



AUGUST 2025

- And much more!

FROM THE SECRETARY.



At our recent AGM

The election of the 2025 -26 IPA committee resulted in and was announced by Minister Paul Scully MP (Member for Wollongong).



President Sharon Doolan
Vice president Frances Lae
Treasurer Katerina Novarina
Secretary David North OAM (Life Member)
Committee members
Vlade Jankulovski
Annmarie Katsoudas
Sean Kelly (Life Member)

The 2025 annual report is available in the members only section of the new IPA website.

FROM THE TREASURER.



Renewal of your membership is due.

However, the good news is membership for 2025-26 is free!

To renew your membership or to become a new member go to the IPA website, <https://www.illawarrapa.com/cms/pages/1/illawarra-pharmacists-association.html> and click on join us and follow the registering steps.

To gain access to the members area of our new website you must register as member.

Members-Only Area, which includes:

- Upcoming event details
- IPA newsletters
- Job opportunities
- Governance material



AUGUST 2025



Their vision is rooted in creating a fairer system where feeling better is a right, not a privilege. Arrotex supports pharmacists with tailored programs, robust supply chains, and professional development initiatives. Patients benefit from accessible treatments and integrated support services. Healthcare teams are backed by strategic partnerships and innovative resources. Their collaborative approach across DBG Health's network ensures sustainable growth and community impact. Arrotex and its affiliates are driving excellence in Australian healthcare.

A special thank you to our photographer on the evening Bruce Novarina.



Also, a special thank you to our master of ceremonies on the night Eve Sultan.

Matt Brown, the Arrotex Southern NSW State Manager for Arrotex Pharmaceuticals, warmly introduced Tasie Leimroth as the new Arrotex Illawarra Region Manager and expressed sincere gratitude to the Illawarra Pharmacists Association for welcoming them into the IPA family. He highlighted that Arrotex is a key part of **DBG Health** which also includes **VidaCorp**, **AXE Health**, **myDNA Inc.**, and the **Independent Pharmacies Australia (IPA) Banner Group**. Arrotex's mission is to deliver affordable, high-quality medicines and innovative health solutions that empower pharmacists, improve patient outcomes, and strengthen the healthcare ecosystem.



Sean Kelly (Life Member) thanked Leanne Taylor our guest speaker on the evening





AUGUST 2025

A collage of the Arrotex Annual Dinner





AUGUST 2025





AUGUST 2025



To sharpen our minds.

Short quiz

1. Which of these statements about the epidemiology of dementia is most accurate?

- Men are diagnosed with dementia at twice the rate of women
- Education level is inversely associated with dementia risk
- Vascular dementia is the most common type of dementia
- Approximately 5% of adults aged ≥ 85 years have been diagnosed with dementia.

2. Which of these combinations of clinical features would fully meet the criteria for a probable diagnosis of dementia with Lewy bodies?

- Marked slow-wave activity in the posterior regions on EEG, characterized by periodic fluctuations in the pre-alpha or theta frequency bands, with medial temporal lobe structures appearing largely intact on CT or MRI
- Progressive dementia accompanied by bradykinesia and repeated episodes of visual hallucinations that are usually vivid and clearly defined
- Markedly heightened sensitivity to antipsychotic medications along with apathy, anxiety, and depression

- Progressive dementia with rest tremor and pronounced orthostatic hypotension

3. What is the recommended criterion standard cognitive assessment tool for evaluating Alzheimer's disease and related dementias?

- Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE)
- Quick Dementia Rating System (QDRS)
- Everyday Cognition (ECog) scales
- No single criterion standard

4. Which of these statements about fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET in dementia diagnosis is most accurate?

- It is used to associate neurodegenerative changes to specific brain regions
- It is primarily used to detect tau protein in suspected frontotemporal dementia
- It quantifies tau/phosphorylated tau protein in suspected Alzheimer's disease
- It should be reserved for use in patients with severe dementia

5. Which of these drug classes is best indicated for the treatment of agitation associated with Alzheimer's disease?

- Monoclonal antibody
- Serotonin-dopamine activity modulator (SDAM)
- Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI)
- Norepinephrine-dopamine reuptake inhibitor (NDRI)

Thank you for taking the times to read our July newsletter'

President Sharon Doolan
On behalf of the IPA committee.