

Four Australian schools of pharmacy have formed the National Alliance for Pharmacy Education (NAPE) to "actively support the ongoing advancement of the pharmacy profession as a key contributor to the healthcare team" and to "provide leadership in both undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy education". The founding members of NAPE are Monash University, the University of Queensland, University of South Australia and the University of Sydney.



The Dean of Monash University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Bill Charman, said the alliance will provide a collaborative national voice in pharmacy education and members will work closely together to advance both undergraduate and postgraduate education for pharmacists in Australia.

NAPE says that it believes that ready access to cutting edge university postgraduate award courses, including intern training programs, is crucial for pharmacists if they are to contribute effectively to health care delivery in Australia.

AusPharm asked NAPE's Professor Charman from why the new group formed at all given that pharmacy schools already have a 'peak body', CHPSANZ / CPS?



Professor Bill Charman

According to Professor Charman "NAPE was formed to provide leadership in both UG and PG pharmacy education that reflected the collective aspirations and views of the four founding members. There has been much recent change within the profession and pharmacy education and the four founding members wanted to contribute effectively to the debate and development of new opportunities in education, aligned with the needs of the profession. The four members viewed the establishment of NAPE as the best means for doing so."

Professor Nick Shaw (UQ) told us that "CHPSANZ, the Committee of Heads of Schools of Pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand, was exactly what the name suggests – a committee to provide a discussion forum and some representation for Schools of Pharmacy on the then Council of Pharmacy Registration Authorities (COPRA). When COPRA became the Australian Pharmacy Council it was necessary for CHPSANZ to evolve and become an incorporated entity. This occurred in 2009 and CHPSANZ became the Council of Pharmacy Schools: Australia and New Zealand Inc. (CPS). CPS has a similar remit as CHPSANZ – to provide a forum for feedback, comment and discussion and to provide representation for Schools of Pharmacy on APC and the APLF."

In light of comments AusPharm has received from a pharmacy academic that the new group may "splinter the old Heads of School conviviality and support for each other" we also asked NAPE how the four founding members were recruited and whether other schools of pharmacy had been invited to join.

Professor Charman told us that "The four schools already collaborate in both education and research -- each school believes in research-led education, and they have the critical mass in pharmacy education, staffing and research to work collaboratively together. In the future, there may be opportunities for other schools to join. However, initially when forming NAPE, logistical and administrative considerations guided the selection of the four major schools that are the current members."

He added "NAPE believes that it has some exciting programs coming forward in post graduate pharmacy education and we will explore opportunities in undergraduate education as well. Our success in this area will be for others to judge once the initiatives have been implemented."

[Post a comment to AusPharmList](#)