



## **Intern Placements Research Project and Survey**

While much speculation has taken place on the availability and long term viability of intern placements and the attitude of preceptors, very little research has been conducted to support theories. The motivations and drivers which influence pharmacists to undertake, or not to undertake, the role as a preceptor for intern candidates has not been well documented.

As a result, the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) undertook an *Intern Placements Research Project*. The project set out to establish;

- What can be done to alter the existing impediments and difficulties in attracting pharmacist preceptors as well as retaining pharmacist preceptors involvement in intern training programs
- The existing and the additional (yet to be developed) support needed to increase involvement and actual number of pharmacist preceptors
- The on-going prevention of the loss of pharmacy graduates to the profession through an inability to access suitable training sites for the purpose of intern training

During the Project 500 pharmacists across the states of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia were surveyed. In each state half of the pharmacists were preceptors and the other half were pharmacists who were not preceptors. A concurrent survey of fourth year undergraduate students in these states exploring their experience of obtaining a placement was also undertaken to enable triangulation of the data.

The findings have been encouraging and enabled the APC to identify the components of a strategy to maintain current preceptors and encourage other pharmacists to consider preceptorships.

The survey is now complete and a copy of the final survey report is available at [www.pharmacycouncil.org.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au)

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