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Media release

Victorian Parliamentary vision for community pharmacy

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia welcomes and supports the report of the Victorian Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the role and opportunities for community pharmacy.

The Parliamentary Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee report, tabled today, makes 17 recommendations, including:

- a trial of pharmacist immunisation for adults, ideally commencing in time for the 2015 influenza season
- a pilot of a minor ailments scheme delivered by community pharmacies in rural areas of Victoria
- support for a pilot of an evidence-based chronic disease screening and management program in community pharmacies
- an expansion of the existing Continued Dispensing initiative by pharmacists
- funding for medicines reviews when patients leave hospital
- more support and remuneration for pharmacies preparing and delivering dose administration aids
- strengthened relationships and pathways between community pharmacies and GPs
- more support for pharmacies providing standardised evidence-based opioid dependence treatment.

The National President of the Guild, George Tambassis, said the report was a timely reinforcement of the scope for community pharmacies to play a bigger role in our national health system.

“I congratulate this committee for having the foresight to advocate an expansion of pharmacy services to add value to our health system. In particular, the determination to get a pharmacist vaccination trial up and underway by early next year is the right decision for the health of Victorians,” Mr Tambassis said.

“All over the world, comparable countries to Australia are making better and fuller use of pharmacists’ expertise and the accessibility of pharmacies, and it is time for Australia to do the same,” he said.

Mr Tambassis thanked the Victorian Branch of the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia for their input into this important Parliamentary inquiry.

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