

Monday 22 May 2006

## **Charles Sturt University Pharmacy students celebrate the 2006 academic year**

In celebration of the 2006 academic year, Charles Sturt University (CSU) pharmacy students met with academics, local pharmacists and industry representatives at the annual Commencement Dinner held in April on the University's Wagga Wagga Campus.

Registrar of the NSW Pharmacy Board, Ms Kym Ayscough, addressed the audience of just of 100 guests on the increasingly important role and value of pharmacists in the community.

The 2006 Dinner, which is organised annually by Charles Sturt University Pharmacy Student Association, Pharmers, marked the first attendance of pharmacy students from the University's Orange Campus. 12 students travelled the 300 kilometres to Wagga Wagga to meet their peers and share their experiences of the program.

Member of Pharmers, Megan Billing, says the dinner allows students to develop a greater understanding of the industry and form personal and professional networks.

"The dinner provides a rare opportunity for pharmacy students to meet with representatives of the industry and academic staff," said Ms Billing. "The growing success of the event demonstrates it's effectiveness in developing friendships and networks and also provides a forum to share information."

Among the guests on the evening were Mayor of Wagga Wagga Cr Kerry Pascoe, representatives from the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The CSU pharmacy program was established in 1997 with the primary aim of addressing the shortage of pharmacists in rural areas. Currently, approximately 40 CSU pharmacy graduates are choosing to work in rural Australia each year.

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