

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006

## **Importance of Rural Pharmacy Reinforced at the Annual Charles Sturt Foundation Dinner**

Regional pharmacists and industry bodies demonstrated their commitment to rural pharmacy education at the Annual Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Dinner which was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

The Dinner, which aims to increase the awareness of Charles Sturt University's (CSU) pharmacy programme and foster relationships with industry groups, was also attended by the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Goulter.

"CSU is fortunate to have the support of the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation which works to ensure the support and development of the University's pharmacy programme," said Professor Goulter. "Through the efforts of the Foundation, staff and students of the University, Australia's first regional pharmacy programme continues to improve the shortage of skilled professionals in rural and regional areas."

Jeff Sher, Group Leader at Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) and guest speaker on the night, highlighted issues relating to discounting in the pharmacy profession.

"Mr Sher and API have been strong supporters of the pharmacy programme at CSU and it was wonderful for Jeff to share his passion for the industry with those present," said Chair of the Pharmacy Foundation, Mr Peter Gissing.

A feature of the evening was the announcement of a \$50,000 commitment to the CSU pharmacy programme by API which will be used to support students studying the Retail Management component of the course.

The support of other key industry representatives and donors was also recognised on the night, with presentations being made to The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Professor Peter Carroll, The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW and Dowley's Amcal Pharmacy.

Maxine Goodman, who has had a long and distinguished involvement in both community and hospital pharmacy, was also recognised on the night.

"Maxine has been a strong supporter of CSU within the profession," said Chair of the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Peter Gissing. "During her 23 years as Branch Director of the NSW Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia she has been involved in the development of pharmacy education, practice support and advocacy. CSU is extremely fortunate to have her support."

The Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation was developed to support the CSU pharmacy programme which was established in 1997 with the primary aim of addressing the shortage of pharmacists in rural areas. The Pharmacy Foundation has supported the development of the programme by contributing to the establishment of suitable faculties at the Wagga Wagga and Orange campuses and providing scholarships to students.

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