

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – PSQ Annual General Meeting 2025

1. What is PSQ?

The Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland (PSQ) is the historical state-based association that represented pharmacists in Queensland.

In 2008, PSQ entered into the *Pharmaceutical Societies Transition Agreement (PSATA)* with the national body, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Ltd (PSA Ltd). Under this agreement, PSA Ltd assumed responsibility for all governance, membership, and advocacy on behalf of Queensland pharmacists.

Since that time, PSQ has not undertaken ongoing activities. Its role has been limited to holding residual assets (including the Queensland property) and managing several trust funds, which have now been transferred to the PSA Foundation to preserve their purpose and legacy. The proposed winding up is the final step in formally recognising this transition, while ensuring PSQ's long history and contribution are honoured.

Important to note: PSQ (the historical association being wound up) is not the same as the PSA Queensland Branch Committee, which is a branch committee of PSA Ltd. The PSA Queensland Branch Committee will continue to operate and represent members as usual.

2. What does this mean for the future of pharmacy in Queensland?

The winding up of PSQ is an administrative and governance step. It does not change PSA's strong presence in Queensland or its commitment to members. PSA Ltd will continue to deliver events, advocacy, professional support, and programs for Queensland pharmacists, ensuring PSQ's legacy continues to benefit the profession both locally and nationally.

3. What happens to PSQ members?

There will be no change to membership rights or entitlements. Members are already members of PSA Ltd. Winding up PSQ simply removes the duplicate incorporated entity.

4. Why is PSQ proposing to wind up?

PSQ has fulfilled its role since the 2008 *Pharmaceutical Societies Transition Agreement (PSATA)*, which transferred primary governance, membership, and advocacy responsibilities to the national body, PSA Ltd.

Keeping PSQ creates duplication, ongoing compliance obligations, and costs. Winding up ensures assets are consolidated with PSA Ltd, delivering efficiencies and ensuring funds are applied directly to member benefit and the advancement of the pharmacy profession.

5. What happened to PSQ's property and funds?

Earlier this year, PSQ's property was sold. After all debts and liabilities were settled, the balance of proceeds was transferred to PSA Ltd.

In addition, PSQ's trusts and funds have been transferred into the PSA Foundation to preserve their purpose and legacy:

- Hugh and Mary Darragh Fund – approx. \$180,000
- Queensland Pharmacy Research Trust – approx. \$300,000
- PSQ Benevolent Fund – approx. \$22,000

These funds remain dedicated to charitable, educational, and professional purposes in line with PSQ's objectives.

What about the historical artefacts, records, memorabilia and other items of significance?

PSA Ltd already owns these items under the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Transfer Agreement (PSATA); this step simply formalises that ownership and ensures the continued preservation and custodianship of PSQ's historical materials within PSA's national archives.

6. What happens to PSQ's assets and liabilities now?

PSQ no longer holds any assets. The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Ltd (PSA Ltd) has assumed responsibility for any and all debts or liabilities of PSQ that may arise as a result of the sale of the property or this process, ensuring there is no financial risk to members arising from the closure.

7. How does the Constitution allow for winding up?

Clause 35 of the PSQ Constitution provides that PSQ may be wound up if three-fourths (75%) of members present and voting at a meeting vote in favour of the resolution.

8. Who can vote at the AGM?

Ordinary Financial Members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Ltd residing in Queensland are entitled to vote provided they are financial as at the date of the AGM and have consented to be added to the register of members of PSQ.

9. Why do members need to give consent to join the PSQ register?

For the purposes of this AGM, and to ensure compliance with the Constitution and transparency of process, we are maintaining a register of members who have consented to be included. This ensures there is a clear, auditable record of who was eligible to vote and who voted.

10. How will PSQ's legacy be preserved?

PSQ's legacy will be recognised through:

- A PSQ Celebration event acknowledging its history and contributions in 2026.
- PSA Foundation document; reporting and sharing achievements and future commitments.

- The continued application of transferred funds through the PSA Foundation, ensuring ongoing benefit to pharmacists and pharmacy students.
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11. What is the PSA Foundation?

The PSA Foundation (PSAF) is the charitable arm of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, registered with the ACNC. Its purpose is to support pharmacists, students, and the community through targeted grants, scholarships, and projects that improve health outcomes and strengthen the pharmacy profession.

12. What has the Foundation done or will do with the money?

The PSA Foundation transforms donations into real impact — funding programs that empower pharmacists, improve patient outcomes, and strengthen our profession.

Recent highlights:

- Building a resilient workforce (Mental Health First Aid): Pharmacists who received Foundation scholarships report feeling more confident, better equipped to handle safety-critical conversations, and more connected to the communities they serve.
- Driving safer care (Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines eBook): This year, the PSA Foundation received a donation from the Wilson Foundation to fund the distribution of 250 eBook licences of The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines to pharmacists across Australia.
- Inspiring innovation (Shark Tank sponsorship): By backing new ideas, the Foundation has elevated its profile nationally, engaged thousands of pharmacists, and opened doors to new partnerships and collaborations.

Who benefits?

- *Frontline pharmacists and teams* — through training, resources, and scholarship opportunities.
- *Patients and carers* — especially older Australians and those managing mental health conditions, who benefit from safer medicine use and earlier access to support.

What's next?

- The PSA Foundation will launch a new scholarship program supported by the Hugh and Mary Darragh Trust (HMDT) donation and PSQ, with details to be announced at the 2025 AGM. The first HMDT Scholarship recipient will be announced in 2026, marking an important milestone in continuing the Darragh family's legacy of supporting excellence and innovation in pharmacy practice.
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13. What happens if the special resolution is not passed?

If the resolution does not pass:

- PSQ will remain as an unincorporated association.

- Compliance obligations (administration, insurance, and record-keeping) will continue.
 - The Council and Queensland Branch Committee will need to continue managing PSQ, diverting resources from national member priorities.
 - Duplication with PSA Ltd will remain, contrary to the intent of the *Pharmaceutical Societies Transition Agreement (PSATA)*.
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14. Will members still have a voice in Queensland?

Yes. Members will continue to be represented through PSA's national structure and the Queensland Branch Committee. Programs, advocacy, and services for Queensland members will continue to be delivered by PSA Ltd, ensuring a strong presence in the state.

15. How will members vote at the AGM?

- All voting will be conducted by poll.
 - Only registered members of PSQ (those who have provided consent and are Ordinary Financial Members of PSA Ltd residing in Queensland) are entitled to vote.
 - A quorum of 20 members is required for the meeting to proceed.
 - The special resolution requires approval by at least 75% of members present and voting.
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 **For assistance and further details please email:** qld.branch@psa.org.au