

Essential care now: the simple way this top pharmacy is helping you skip the doctor



By Clara Bastow
October 29 2025 - 5:00am

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Having grown up in Dubbo, Lisa Gibson started her career at [Orana Mall Pharmacy](#) as a student, before progressing to cadet, intern and qualified pharmacist.

She is now the managing partner and pharmacist in charge and has just been named Australia's Pharmacist of the Year.

She was recognised for her outstanding commitment to improving community health by the Independent Pharmacies of Australia (IPA) at the annual Pharmacy Excellence Awards.

"Pharmacies in regional Australia are regularly the first port of call for assistance - we often play a role beyond healthcare in our communities," Ms Gibson said.

"Not only are the IPA awards recognition of individuals and their achievements, but the wider team who support our pharmacists in their vital work."

More than 500 industry representatives attended the annual awards ceremony on the Gold Coast where the long-time partner of Orana Mall Pharmacy (OMP) received the accolade for her leadership and ongoing commitment to community pharmacy.

IPA is the largest network of independent owned pharmacies, representing more than 1100 pharmacies across Australia.



Orana Mall Pharmacy pharmacist in charge Lisa Gibson. Picture supplied

"It was nice to be recognised for over 20 years of service to the Dubbo community," Ms Gibson said.

Through Ms Gibson's leadership, [Orana Mall Pharmacy has expanded its scope](#) to deliver essential services such as vaccinations and treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections, directly reducing pressure on overstretched local GPs.

She further champions innovative care by spearheading a primary care pilot program with in-store cholesterol and diabetes testing, ensuring earlier detection and better management of chronic conditions.

"I'm incredibly proud. It was a great night to celebrate with pharmacists from all over the country and take time to recognise leaders within our industry, a large percentage who live and work in regional Australia," she said.

Ms Gibson also provides tailored support for people with diabetes in the Dubbo and surrounding areas after becoming a diabetes educator. If that wasn't enough, Ms Gibson also established the in-store sleep apnoea clinic at Orana Mall Pharmacy to address a critical gap in access to specialised sleep.

Ms Gibson trained under the supervision of OMP co-owner Simon Blacker, who congratulated her on achieving one of the country's most prestigious and highly regarded pharmacy accolades.



Orana Mall Pharmacy pharmacist in charge Lisa Gibson. Picture supplied

"Lisa is one of the most capable, hardworking pharmacists I've worked alongside," he said.

"She has an amazing ability to upskill and then successfully implement changes in her practice, which ultimately benefits her local community.

"We're incredibly proud of Lisa for this accomplishment."

Mr Blacker said Lisa epitomises the qualities of an outstanding rural health professional through her unwavering commitment to the Dubbo community, her innovative approach to healthcare delivery, and her dedication to mentoring the next generation of pharmacists.

Dubbo's Leisa Stone was also a finalist in the Retail Manager of the Year Award.