

# LAWMATTERS



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LAWYERS



## CHANGES TO CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT STATUTES

**Childhood sexual assault in NSW has been subject to reform in recent years, particularly with respect to its statute of limitations. RMBMW Compensation Lawyer THOMAS GLANCY guides you through the changes:**

In the past, victims seeking to file a common law claim for damages related to childhood sexual assault were generally required to initiate legal proceedings within three years of turning 18.

However, findings from the 2015 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse revealed that these limitation periods posed a substantial barrier for victims and their ability to bring legal proceedings.

In response, the NSW Government enacted the Limitation Amendment (Child Abuse) Act 2016, which removed the statute of limitations for civil claims related to childhood sexual abuse.

The legislative change in effect means that formal court proceedings in common law claims for childhood sexual assault no longer must be brought within a specific period of time. Rather, such claims can now be brought at any time. This is a significant advantage to victims of childhood sexual assault.

Despite the removal of limitation periods in such claims, we encourage victims of childhood sexual assault to seek legal advice as soon as possible.

There are several factors that may influence the best timing of legal proceedings, and discussing these with a solicitor can provide valuable insight tailored to your situation. For example:

The death of the offender, which may complicate the process of gathering evidence and the ability to recoup the offender's assets in the event they have already been disbursed from the estate. While claims can typically be made against the offender's estate, timely action may be beneficial.

The risk of the offender dissipating or losing assets that could potentially satisfy a settlement or judgment.

The psychological well-being and recovery of victims of childhood sexual assault must always remain a top priority. If investigating such a claim is a possibility however, we encourage you to consider seeking professional legal advice as early as possible as it may be beneficial to the strength of your claim and the recouping of settlement or judgment monies.

Seeking legal advice at your earliest convenience can help ensure clarity as to your legal options and prevent any unforeseen circumstances that could adversely affect your claim.

At RMB Lawyers, we are committed and dedicated to assisting victims of childhood sexual assault and guiding them through this process of a common law claim with compassion and expertise.

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# Parkes pharmacist recognised for supporting rural students

PARKES Pharmacist Lochie Pettiford has been recognised for his dedication to mentoring pharmacy students in rural and regional areas.

The managing partner of Parkes Pharmacy has been awarded the inaugural Rural Pharmacy Preceptor Award by the School of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney.

Lochie was nominated for his outstanding clinical placement support and supervision.

In 2024, university preceptors supported more than 1200 students to complete 1789 clinical placements.

"It was very surprising to be recognised but it's great to know the students who came here to Parkes, enjoyed their time," Managing partner and Pharmacist in Charge of Parkes Pharmacy, Lochie Pettiford said.

"That's what we at Life Pharmacy Group strive to provide the students - an experience that's not just standing in the dispensary, it's about getting out and learning what pharmacies, particularly in rural environments, can achieve."

Fellow Life Pharmacy



Lochie Pettiford (middle) presented with the inaugural Rural Pharmacy Preceptor Award at the USYD presentation with Sydney Pharmacy School Associate Professor, Claire O'Reilly and Pharmacist and academic, Andrew McLachlan. PHOTO: Supplied

Group (LPG) Pharmacists Chris Young (Canberra) and Josh Lee (Armidale) were also finalists along with Rob Smith (Canberra) from Men's Health Downunder.

The University of Sydney Pharmacy School launched the student nominated Pharmacy Preceptor Awards this year, to allow students from across all degree programs to nominate pharmacy preceptors

who have made a significant impact on their clinical learning or development as a future health professional.

Preceptor awards were presented in five categories including community pharmacy preceptor, hospital pharmacy preceptor, rural/regional pharmacy preceptor and the Dean's Choice Award.

"These awards will help future students understand who offers good

pharmacy placements and hopefully that encourages others to come out to the Central West and experience life here," Lochie Pettiford said.

"To have four pharmacists in LPG nominated, shows we provide a good placement experience, no matter where you are. This really highlights just how hands on the experience can be for students in regional areas. We engage with our patients

well, we put them first and we show that through our values, missions and goals."

Third year Bachelor of Pharmacy student, Sonja, completed her placement in Parkes and said she left the placement feeling as though the country was home.

"The main thing that stood out to me was how he inspired us to be pharmacists of integrity and sincerity. To always put patients first. Particularly in a town with limited access to doctors, Lochie showed us how important a pharmacist's role in the community was and how passionate he was towards consistently improving the quality of care, services provided and trust with patients," Sonja said.

"This made me feel empowered as a pharmacy student.

"It made me feel optimistic around the future of pharmacy and my ability to make a positive difference in people's lives. He inspired me to think innovatively about what the future of pharmacy holds and the expanding scope of practice."

## HANNAH BENJAMIN IS OUR STAR OF THE WEEK

Hannah Benjamin is the Star of the Week for demonstrating our Core Values (In Praise, Love and Trust) and for always being hardworking and diligent.

**What is your favourite subject?**

Religion

**In your free time, what do you like to do?**

Play with my sisters

**What is your favourite food?**

Masala Dosa

**What do you like most about our school?**

The library

**What are your strengths?**



Art (Drawing & Painting)  
**What would you like to be when you grow up?**  
A doctor

## TYLER MCPHEE IS OUR STAR OF THE WEEK

Tyler McPhee is the Star of the Week for demonstrating our Core Values (In Praise, Love and Trust) and for his consistent effort and positive attitude this semester.

**What is your favourite subject?**

Mathematics

**In your free time, what do you like to do?**

Play on the computer

**What is your favourite food?**

Pizza

**What do you like most about our school?**

The oval

**What are your strengths?**



Reading and writing  
**What would you like to be when you grow up?**  
A police officer

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