



Military and Emergency Section Annual Report 2023

- MEPS has had a challenging year. The increase in conflict and humanitarian disasters, both natural and manmade has led to increased pressure on members in deployed locations. This tempo is highly likely to increase. For MEPS it has meant that there is even less volunteer time available for developmental projects.
- MEPS had a good Congress in Brisbane with participants including many from the Australian Defence Force to boost numbers. Other than that attendance was low. Feedback from members is that it is getting increasingly difficult to get approval to attend the Congress. With so little dedicated MEPS content there is little perceived benefit considering the costs of attendance from financially squeezed organisations.
- One highlight of the year is the production of a photo book to celebrate MEPS 70th anniversary. This book is a very good record of MEPS activities over the decades.
- **MEPS has led the development of the FIP statement of policy: The role of pharmacists in disaster and emergency management. This was adopted in the Brisbane Congress Council. This activity relates to FIP Development Goal 18: Access to Medicines, Devices and Services.**
- As usual, there is great communication between members using the WhatsApp Chat Groups. This Chat Group though has been active in helping to highlight appropriate resources as they become available- and for resolving issues as they arise by sharing ideas and solutions. It is a great support network. MEPS is particularly proud of this group and the way the members support and encourage each other. It crosses all the disciplines found within MEPS and both supports and relates to the ONE FIP vision.
- Projects:
 1. MEPS is working in collaboration with CPS on a project entitled 'Community Pharmacies as emergency First Aid Centres'.
 2. MEPS members in collaboration with the FIP office are looking at doing an analysis of FIP's humanitarian responses to determine how these, possibly, could be improved.
 3. MEPS is doing a feasibility study on the possibility of working with the Canadian Blood Service to provide training on the management of blood and blood products for pharmacists in deployed locations.
- Newsletters: 4

Goals in 2024:

- Goal #1: To actively work at maintaining connectedness amongst the Section members. MEPS will continue to work closely with the Technical Commission for Pharmacy of the ICMM to

provide in-between congresses webinars with relevant content. This is to provide continuation of the support and collaboration between the members.

- Goal #2: To work on MEPS internal projects in order to support applied emergency and humanitarian practice.
- Goal #3: To continue the work to identify programs that could receive the FIP seal for programmes for the Global Humanitarian Pharmacists Competency Framework.