



PPA: structure failing young pharmacists

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has said it believes the way pharmacy is structured is failing young pharmacists.

The increasing number of pharmacy graduates, schools and registered pharmacists, as well as a need to see pharmacy move beyond 'four walls' into GP clinics, aged care facilities and advanced practice pathways, required a whole-of-pharmacy approach in order to rebuild pharmacy, with an industry discussion needed, it said.

The organisation was working to ensure pharmacy internships were a positive experience which built students' skills, and would participate in a workshop of national pharmacy organisations in April to discuss student numbers and workforce needs.

"Unless pharmacists' roles are expanded so more pharmacists are needed, urgent measures should be implemented to reduce the number of pharmacy graduates as one strategy to stop the downward pressure of wages."

The Pharmacy Guild said it would be involved in the meeting in April.

National president George Tambassis said the Guild had always had a whole-of-pharmacy approach, but it was not true to say pharmacy needed to be 'rebuilt'.

"All these issues can be addressed in a consultative way.

"The Guild is getting on with the work that needs to be done, including through our Pharmacy Transformation program."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

People per rural phmcy drop

THE Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services found the number of people per pharmacy in rural areas dropped from 4,277 to 3,771 from 2010 to 2014.

This was below the number of people per pharmacy in urban areas, which rose from 3,814 to 3,963 in the same period.

The report found government expenditure on medications through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Repatriated PBS was about \$7.7b in 2013-14, a drop from the Department of Health's figures for government pharmaceutical benefits expenditure for the year to 30 Jun 14 of \$9.15b.

This difference was due to the inclusion in the Department's figures of Highly specialised drugs and Section 100, Commission spokesperson said.

Expenditure on the PBS decreased from about \$7.7b or \$346 per person to \$7.3b, or \$313 per person, from 2009-10 to 2013-14.

About 210m services were provided under the PBS in 2013-14, 89.3% of which were concessional,

MA: PBS expenditure overestimated

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has said its analysis of previous Intergenerational Reports showed the 2002 and 2007 reports "significantly overestimated" Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) expenditure as a proportion of GDP.

The organisation said PBS expenditure had "remained static in real terms over the past five years".

The full savings from price disclosure reforms were not yet fully apparent when the 2010 report was released, MA said.

The 2015 report would need to take into account ongoing impact from the reforms of the last decade, with 2010 price disclosure reforms delivering an estimated additional \$3.4b in savings to 2017-18 and last year's reforms giving another \$1b, MA said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

which amounted to nine filled prescriptions per person, the Commission found.

The Pharmacy Guild said the report identified more than 2.2m potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments in 2013-14 across the country, highlighting the scope for community pharmacies to help.

National president George Tambassis reiterated the Guild's push for service enhancements including treatment of minor ailments in community pharmacies and post hospital and transitional care medicine reconciliation support. (**PD** 19 Jan).

Australia was lagging behind other countries when it came to making most effective use of its pharmacy network, the Guild said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

Graduate oversupply symposium update

A SYMPOSIUM about graduate oversupply will be discussed by the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum at its next meeting, **PD** understands.

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association has previously said a symposium to discuss an industry stance on oversupply was likely to occur mid-year (**PD** 15 Jan).

2.4m burn for a tan

MORE than 2.4m Australian adults allow themselves to be sunburnt on any given summer's weekend, according to the Cancer Council's National Sun Survey of 5,288 people via phone over the 2013-14 summer.

Australian adults were becoming increasingly complacent about the dangers of excessive exposure to UV rays with the downward trend in adult sunburn since 2003/04 flattening, the Cancer Council said.

National Skin Cancer Committee chair Vanessa Rock said that compared with four years ago, about 430,000 more Australian adults were getting burnt, putting themselves at risk of skin cancer.

"The survey suggests men in particular are neglecting sun protection, with 18% getting sunburnt on the weekend, compared to 12% of women."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

New history checks

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has a new procedure for checking international criminal history.

Health practitioners seeking, renewing or changing registration as of yesterday will need to apply for an international criminal history check (ICHC) from an AHPRA approved vendor, who will provide it to the applicant and AHPRA.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

PRO PAIRA
Skin Care for Problematic Skin

Acne Prone skin

[find out more](#)

WIN WITH PROPAIRA SPF 50+



This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Propaira** are giving readers the chance to win two lots of Propaira SPF 50+ sunscreen 80mL.

Propaira SPF50+ Sunscreen is designed to protect cancer prone skin from harmful UVB and UVA. The term "SPF (Sun Protection Factor) UVA/UVB Broad Spectrum" used on sunscreen labels represents UVB protection but has less emphasis on UVA protection, the company says. Propaira SPF50+ Sunscreen has very high UVB protection as well as very high UVA protection to further prevent the development of skin cancers, Propaira says.

To win, be the first person from **SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Is it UVA rays or UVB rays that penetrate windows and clouds?

Need a hint? [Click here.](#)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Dyan Mitchellhill from Friendlies Chemists!



Warfarin bleed risks

REDUCED kidney function has been shown to be associated with an increased risk of major bleeding among older adults with atrial fibrillation starting warfarin, especially during the first 30 days, in new work published in *The British Medical Journal*.

The research investigated 12,403 adults aged 66 years or more and took a baseline measure of kidney function.

Intracranial, upper and lower GI or other bleeds were outcome measures.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

Travel Specials

Save on an 'African Waterways' itinerary

This inspiring journey is a look at two pristine parts of Africa - the Okavango Delta and the Chobe National Park.

Book A&K's nine-day 'African Waterways' itinerary by 30 Apr for \$5,828 per couple (normally priced at \$7,328).

Another African opportunity is Tanzania, a captivating country with world class game viewing and one of the world's great wildlife spectacles, the Great Wildebeest Migration, from \$9,763 twin share per person.

CLICK HERE for a brochure.

Seahaven Noosa's Valentine's Day Package

Seahaven Noosa has a deal which will see you save \$260 when you book its Valentine's Day Package.

This includes two nights' accommodation in a one bedroom beachfront apartment, private car return transfers from Sunshine Coast Airport and sparkling wine on arrival.

The offer is priced at \$900 for two guests and is valid from 12 to 16 Feb.

CLICK HERE to book.

NSAIDs label consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced a consultation for proposed advisory statements for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

The TGA previously said it was already in the process of implementing changes to the labels of medicines containing diclofenac, following a review which concluded there was an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke and liver damage, while the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency reclassified oral diclofenac products to prescription only (*PD* 16 Jan).

For oral medicines containing flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid or naproxen, it was proposed the label should have the advisory statement "Do not use for more than a few days at a time unless a doctor has told you to."

"Do not exceed the recommended dose."

"Excessive or prolonged use can

be harmful and increase the risk of heart attack or stroke."

The labels for oral medicines containing diclofenac would include "Do not use for more than a few days at a time unless a doctor has told you to."

"Excessive or prolonged use can be harmful and increase the risk of heart attack, stroke or liver damage."

This followed reviews and feedback identifying the need for additional statements which highlighted that excessive use of NSAIDs in medicines for oral use could increase the risk of heart attack and stroke, the TGA said.

These new statements were proposed to be included in the next update to the Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels, with a transition period of 12 months to amend labels, the TGA said.

CLICK HERE to submit.

FDA nods Ibrance

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted accelerated approval to Ibrance (palbociclib) to treat advanced breast cancer, the second most common type of cancer in the United States.

CLICK HERE for more.

Enhancing compliance

PHARMACY assistant (PA) supported medical rounds have been shown to significantly reduce the rate of omitted medicine doses, according to a study published in the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*.

PAs trained to support nurses on medicine administration rounds were assigned to specific rounds while two control groups were set up with a total of 778 patients involved, with the primary outcome being the number of unacceptable omitted doses.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.



DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S all in the timing.

Hopefully dispensing timings aren't ever going to be as critical as the timing of a lottery cutoff and its implication for one Quebec man.

Joel Ifergan bought two Super Seven tickets in May 2008, just seconds before the cutoff set for 9 pm, *iol news* reported.

While the first ticket showed that day's date, 23 May, the second missed the cutoff by seconds, dating it for the following week's draw, the report said.

Computer delays were blamed for the fault, resulting in only half a win for Ifergan, who recently had his case finalised, against him, it said.

THOU shalt dispense, verily!

Know of any weird pharmacy laws from yesteryears?

Because Rhode Island is about to clear out some of its strange and outdated laws, and it made us wonder whether Australian pharmacy has any corresponding legal oddities.

For instance, a law restricting the amount of seaweed residents of Barrington could take from the beach to use as fertiliser, which has been around for 200 years, along with a law allowing US\$5 fines for anyone guilty of profanity, is on the books to be repealed, *Associated Press* reported.

For a local take, the Chambers Institute of Victoria has compiled a list of 24 weird rules in Australia, including that bars are required to have stable water, and should feed the horses of patrons, while "nucleating or seeding clouds artificially from a manned aircraft in order to make rain" is also illegal.

CLICK HERE to read more.

NSW wins pharmacy cricket shield



THE NSW team won the Chemists Interstate Challenge Cricket Shield over the weekend, beating out South Australia in a match played at Kensington Oval.

The four day eighth National Cricket Carnival saw teams from around Australia play, with pharmacists and NSW players Nathan Blackmore and Michael Holt named Batsman and Bowler of the Carnival.

Pictured is the NSW team.