

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from: ([click](#))

- Pharmacy Alliance

Reg'd pharmacists up

THE number of registered pharmacists has increased for the quarter to December 2014 to 28,883, up from 28,403 in the September quarter.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia released its quarterly registration data, with 17,430 female pharmacists outnumbering males in every state or territory, accounting for from 55.7% in Tasmania to 65.7% in the ACT.

Pharmacists aged 25 to 29 were the largest group at 6,374.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

TGA warns on vax advertising

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said it has become aware of pharmacies advertising the supply of vaccines including some influenza vaccines no longer able to be legally supplied in Australia.

Pharmacies could advertise the vaccination service only but not the actual vaccine itself, the TGA said.

In response to **PD** queries, a TGA spokeswoman said as part of its normal compliance activities, the organisation identified potential breaches of advertising legislation and the statement was a way to remind pharmacies of their obligations in relation to this.

Audit: adequate 6CPA record

THE Department of Health should maintain an adequate record of the negotiations for the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA), the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has said.

In its eight recommendations made following its audit of the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, the ANAO said the Department should also review its internal guidance on record keeping for the negotiation of significant contracts and agreements.

The report found there were "persistent" shortcomings in record-keeping in the 5CPA, with no formal record of meetings with the Pharmacy Guild (**PD** 06 Mar).

Documented evidence was also not available to support the Department's assertion that it had held discussions with the Minister's office regarding re-allocation of \$7.3m approved for the Electronic Prescription Fee to other purposes.

This included \$896,110 to the Guild to increase pharmacies' understanding, awareness and uptake of the Fee and financial assistance paid to Prescription Exchange Services, the providers of which were eRx and MediSecure Limited, ANAO said.

"As a consequence, in the first three years of the 5CPA some 80 per cent of EPF payments

were not paid to pharmacies but were instead used to fund other activities."

A Guild spokesperson said there was an underspend of the money allocated to encourage the uptake of electronic prescriptions by pharmacies, due largely to issues of interoperability between the two main operators.

This led to lower than expected eligibility for pharmacies to claim payments for e-scripts, the spokesperson said.

"In these circumstances it was reasonable that underspent money was put towards improving interoperability, providing additional incentives for pharmacies to take up electronic prescriptions, and providing funds to encourage pharmacies to be aware of these incentives and to change their practices accordingly."

In relation to formal records, there were learnings from the ANAO report which would influence the formation and administration of the 6CPA, the spokesperson said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report.

Incentivise stock holding

PALLIATIVE Care Australia (PCA) has said establishing designated pharmacies in specific areas that had an incentive to stock medications for urgent symptom control used by cancer patients, such as midazolam, could be a solution for issues of timing and access.

Submitting to the Senate Standing Committee inquiry on the availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs (**PD** 05 Dec 14), PCA said community pharmacies might not have these in usual stock, so hospital pharmacies often needed to prescribe the medications in an urgent situation even when the patient had not attended the hospital.

Commonly, doctors in PC would contact pharmacies to check stocks, meaning patients and carers might have to travel long distances to collect medications, PCA said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the submissions.

Friday's comp winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Friday's competition winner, **Tin Duong** from API.

This week **PD** and Designer Brands are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack, starting today with those in ACT and NSW.

See **page two** for details.

Zovirax alternative

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised the alternative ophthalmic treatment AciVision 30 mg/g Aciclovir ointment is available from Medsurge Pty Ltd (**PD** 26 Feb).

Any adverse events involving the ointment should be reported to either Medsurge or to the TGA, the organisation said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full update.



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Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Trent Ruprecht, Business Services Manager** at PKF Sydney and Newcastle.



Looking to sell or retire in the next five years? Start planning now.

In an ideal world you will have mapped out your exit strategy with your advisers when you commenced business or set up your existing structure. You will also have revisited it regularly to address any change in circumstance or law.

Unfortunately, this does not happen enough in reality. Exiting a business in a way that ensures you have maximised your returns and contributed to your personal financial goals can take years. It is therefore critical to consider your options and plan exit strategies well before you want to sell.

Here are some questions you should be asking yourself:

- How is my pharmacy performing and what steps can I take to improve it?
- What am I doing next?
 - o New opportunities?
 - o Retirement?
- What are my personal and financial goals?
- What are my likely exit options?
 - o Market sale?
 - o Internal succession - how will it be structured and financed, and what development and training do they need?
- Are my legal documents, policies and procedures up to date?

Getting the right advice upfront is crucial, as is getting the right ongoing support to execute on the strategies required to maximise the returns.

Simplify PBS Authority system

PUBLIC submissions for the Post-Market Review of Authority Required Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) Listings have called for simplification of the system.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia focused on the concept of one authority system with a clear set of rules around which drugs should be included such that no authority script could be written without authority being granted, removing the policing of the system from the pharmacist.

The Pharmacy Guild defined situations where a drug should demand either a Restricted Benefit, an Authority Required provision or

have the restrictions relaxed.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia highlighted factors which should call for some restriction of PBS products.

In contrast, the Australian Medical Association argued for a removal of the authority system, saying other measures could ensure appropriate levels of use of drugs affected.

It also proposed more modest changes to the system, specifically designed to reduce red tape, for example, for repeat scripts, increased quantities, palliative care and repatriation scripts.

CLICK HERE for all submissions.

Vit D diabetes link

VITAMIN D deficiency has been found to be associated with diabetes independent of the level of obesity, according to new research published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

Complementary Medicines Australia ceo Carl Gibson said the study added to the database of research on the impacts of vitamin D deficiency.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

CHF call for ANAO report public inquiry

THE Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) has called for a public inquiry into the report from the Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO) investigation into the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (PD 09 Mar).

CLICK HERE for more.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS



This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Designer Brands** are giving readers a prize pack containing a new look Mineral Eye Shadow, Beyond Amplifying Mascara and 2 Kohl Pencils*.

Eyes are often the focal point of make-up and Designer Brands' All About Eyes promo celebrates their hottest selling on-trend eye products, a must for every makeup lover. Designer Brands' Beyond Amplifying Mascara has a new formulation with Argan Oil and Lash Food Complex, the company says. The prize pack also includes new look Mineral Eye Shadow, and two Kohl Eye Pencils.

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

How many shades in the Mineral Eye Shadow quad?

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

Check here tomorrow for the name of today's winner!

*Shade will be chosen at random



DISPENSARY CORNER

POTTERING with health.

The 2015 Intergenerational Report (IGR) (PD 06 Mar) prompted responses from several health organisations, but our favourite title comes from the Grattan Institute, which titled its response 'Intergenerational Report: Joe Hockey and the deathly budget hallows'.

The article said the report "resembles a Harry Potter movie", starting with "prosaic reality", but moves into a story about "the magic of compound interest" when it talks about the sustainability or otherwise of the Commonwealth Budget.

You may not think of cuddling up at night with a 145-page financial forecast, but if you're a sucker for Harry Potter, you can check out the article **HERE**.

NOT kidding around.

Wipe the perspiration from your brow - this ferocious criminal won't appear in your pharmacy, having been apprehended for stealing two bicycles and a dwarf goat.

Oleg Plyushchev was arrested in Oregon when he tried to sell the bikes on Craigslist, AP reported.

Detectives then learned he was connected "to the theft of a dwarf goat named Penelope" taken from its owner's yard, the publication reported.

Apparently, Plyushchev put the purloined Penelope up for purchase but the police were able to recover her, the report said.

COMMODORE-IOUS location.

If you're looking for a break from pharmacy, check out the US King County Metro Transit job of a 'comfort station coordinator', which involves finding accessible bathrooms for Seattle bus drivers and pays US\$97,000 a year, AP reported.

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How are you feeling about the future of your pharmacy?



Fearful



Worried

The harsh reality of PBS reform is making every pharmacy owner contemplate the future prospects of their business.

With almost 500 independent pharmacy members, at Pharmacy Alliance we have built up the strength and influence to support each one of our members in facing the challenges of today and in the future.

Through our innovative programs and selective, long-term industry partnerships we provide our members with leading tools to tackle price cuts, competition and the growing consumer demand for value, plus also future proof their business.

If you're fearful or worried about the future of your business, call us to find out how we can help access the right information for your business' needs.



Happy

Be confident about the prospects of your business with our 'profit increase' guarantee*.

*'Profit increase' guarantee relates to your new baseline profit results post PBS SPD

Going to APP2015? Book a confidential appointment to discuss your business with

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