



Fair Work submission

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) says it's currently preparing detailed submissions in support of its argument before the Fair Work Commission urging increases in pharmacist pay rates.

According to an update from the union group, pharmacists have increased responsibilities through initiatives such as Medschecks, down-scheduling of medicines, immunisations and diabetes and asthma management programs.

There are also increased academic and registration requirements and CPD, and "a more complex and difficult working environment with changes such as new pharmacy models of practice, increasingly complex diseases/illnesses and options for treating them".

PPA is seeking further input - see professionalpharmacists.com.au.

GP career path preferred

THE most popular pharmacist career identified by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's new "Career Pathways" portal is as a General Practice Pharmacist, with almost 1,700 pharmacists across Australia having used the online tool since its launch at the PSA16 conference in Jul.

The portal offers a suite of education and practice support resources to guide them on defined career paths, with other popular options including Professional Services Pharmacist and Pharmacist Manager.

PSA National President, Joe Demarte, said the strong uptake for the program indicated that pharmacists were "eager to entrust PSA with guiding their future careers."

"This tailored and highly focused initiative is a major first for pharmacy in Australia and guides pharmacists to improve their skills and education for their preferred area of practice".

Demarte said the initiative also reinforced PSA's status as the country's largest provider of professional development, education and practice support.

UK technician change

BRITAIN'S General Pharmaceutical Council is proposing changes which would allow dispensary technicians to be supervised by fellow technicians rather than pharmacists.

A consultation document has been released, with the regulator describing it as a "major overhaul" of education standards for technicians who "are being seen more and more as crucial members of the healthcare workforce".

Other changes would see the removal of the current ability of pharmacists to automatically register themselves as pharmacy technicians - see pharmacyregulation.org.

Shortages highlighted

WEEKEND newspaper reports yesterday warned hospitals are being forced to "stockpile, ration and use back-up treatments" due to a national shortage of first-line antibiotics.

Vancomycin, aciclovir and metronidazole are currently in short supply, the articles claim, with Professor Peter Collignon from the Australian National University quoted as saying the situation is "absolutely unacceptable".

A Pfizer spokesperson said the interruption of supply was due to "increased demand as a result of other manufacturers and distributors exiting the market or experiencing their own supply disruptions on their medicines".

Pfizer also noted the complexity of injectable manufacturing, adding it took time to respond to changes such as competitor disruptions and market withdrawals.

Meet the finalists!



GUILD Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) finalist Capital Chemist Southlands, ACT, has described its strategy to success in this past year.

With two pharmacies located in the same small shopping centre, under the pressure on the industry and the need for transformation, rationalisation became a necessity, said Capital Chemist Southlands partners, Stacey Fuller and Louise McLean (pictured).

Consequently they agreed to close one pharmacy and employ all the staff in the one centre, now offering a wider range of health services in the one location.

"All staff and services from Mawson Pharmacy are now located at Capital Chemist Southlands.

"Now with a staff of more than 35 we are able to ensure services are kept up to date, while training and education are a big focus of the behind-the-scenes operations.

"We embrace the different strengths of our team to maximise the health solutions we offer to our customers," she added.

The partners say they intend to "future proof our pharmacy and enable us to continue to provide a high quality, service-driven model of pharmacy".

Ansell schoolies condom promo

MORE than 75,000 free SKYN condoms were distributed to around 30,000 schoolies party-goers over a 10-day period in Surfers Paradise.

The company took over the Surfer's Sling Shot ride, renaming it 'SKYN Intense Feel Ride' with school-leavers riding for free, enjoying a safe yet adrenaline-fueled experience allowing them to 'Feel Everything'.

More than 3,000 Sling Shot riders were catapulted 80 metres into the air and given a camera snap while an email link allowed them to view and share with family and friends.

Ansell said October and November saw SKYN contributing \$1 per pack from sales of its SKYN Original 20 pack condoms to beyondblue, helping the charity support good mental health for all.

GSK innovation push

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has announced its support for the BlueChilli 'SheStarts' program which aims to "turbocharge female leadership in the startup economy".

The scheme offers ten women \$100,000 each in "pre-seed capital" and a spot in the SheStarts accelerator to help make their startup ideas a reality.

See www.shestarts.com.au.

Sanofi vax grants

VACCINATION company Sanofi Pasteur, a division of Sanofi, has announced the four winners sharing in \$100,000 of funding through the Vaxigrants program announced in June this year (PD 16 Jun).

Vaccin8@Work, Gunbalanya Health Clinic, Robina Town Medical Centre and Gold Coast Primary Health Network along with The Babbingur Mia Aboriginal Health Service will each share in the prize.

Sanofi Pasteur gm Russell Jacobson said he had been impressed with the high standard of entries this year, selected for their innovative approach to making lasting change.



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Dispensary Corner

WHEN the rest of the world saw sickening images of 'fatbergs' (a greasy clog of fats and baby wipes) blasted out of a London sewer, two Dutch men saw art.

Mike Thompson and Arne Hendriks decided they wanted to build a 'fatberg' island in Amsterdam Harbour.

The work, which would not exactly be a thing of beauty is designed to make a powerful environmental statement.

"It's critical that we, as a society, reflect on such a manifestation of this vital material," the duo have told media.

The pair are currently making their own 'fatberg' in a lab.

An artist's impression of their part science project, part art installation and part conversation piece is **pictured** below.



SEXUAL frustration can drive men crazy. Like literally insane.

In fact one sexually frustrated man in a small village in northern India reportedly chopped off his penis after his wife refused sex for 10 years straight.

In a fit of rage Ghasi Ram massacred his member with a kitchen knife.

Too bad if she changes her mind!

When interviewed by media, his wife said she didn't like being intimate with her husband who was often drunk.

Monash pharmacist medal

ASSOCIATE Professor Michelle McIntosh from the Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has been jointly awarded the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation by the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation.

McIntosh (pictured) receives a \$50,000 research

grant, with the Foundation recognising her development of an inhalable form of oxytocin, to prevent postpartum haemorrhage in women from resource-poor settings.

Also honoured was Professor Mark Kendall from the University of Queensland, for his successes



with the Vaxxas nanopatch vaccine delivery system.

The Medal is awarded every two years to a researcher under the age of 45, for "outstanding contribution towards the development and advancement of a biomedical innovation related to the nature, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and incidence of

disease and other health problems that have a significant impact on the health of humans".

This year the Foundation's research advisory committee felt it was impossible to decide between the last two finalists, and hence the Board made the decision to award two medals.

Win with Blistex

This week Pharmacy Daily & Blistex are giving away each day a prize pack containing Blistex lip balms: Ultra Lip Balm, Five-Way Lip Protection, Lip Conditioner, Lip Conditioning Balm, Intensive Repair, Deep Renewal and Happy Lips Melon.

Blistex lip balms are dedicated to delivering superb moisturisation and protection to lips all year round. Blistex effectively moisturises dry lips, protects lips from all weather conditions, and feels amazing on the lips. The addition of SPF sunscreen protection makes Blistex a great choice for your lips over summer. Feel the difference of beautifully healthy lips with Blistex. For more information **CLICK HERE**.

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

Do all Blistex Lip Balms contain SPF sunscreen protection?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Always read the label. Use only as directed.

Weekly Comment

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



Is your pharmacy keeping pace with technology?

AS THE pace of technological change gets faster and faster, businesses across all industries need to adapt and embrace such advancements in order to continue meeting the needs of their customers. The pharmacy industry is no exception here.

For some, technological change is a scary thought while for others it provides a competitive advantage and could potentially add thousands to their bottom line. Here are just a few ideas how technology can significantly improve the efficiency of your pharmacies accounting function:

- System – Accounting packages such as Xero offer live bank feeds and intuitive capabilities that can reduce your bookkeeping time and spend by hours each and every week. Not to mention the benefit that comes from having access to your financial results no matter where you are in the world.
- Integration – Consider linking your point of sale directly to your accounting file to create efficiency within your systems.
- Time saving – Why spend hours or even days each week and month entering countless invoices when technology exists that can scrape and convert this data directly into your accounting system. Consider tools such as Shoebox and Invtbox both of which offer a cost effective solution.

Remember at the end of the day time is money; now ask yourself is your pharmacy keeping pace?

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