



## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

## GP pharmacist poll

IN ITS recent submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) detailed how a general practice-based pharmacist (GPP) could support medication governance and safety in general practice, and is now surveying its members on their position.

The RACGP submission proposed dispensing and other fees generally associated with community pharmacy could be 'cashed out' to support the GPP role.

A GPP would take responsibility for medication governance within a general practice and be responsible for medication issues, including face-to-face patient education, practice audits for quality medication management, dispensing emergency medication and facilitating improved population medication management based on practice records.

The RACGP is seeking to determine the extent to which GP practices already include, or would consider including, a pharmacist as part of the practice team.

Feedback is sought from RACGP members via emails addressed to [advocacy@racgp.org.au](mailto:advocacy@racgp.org.au) and an online survey accessed through the RACGP website at [racgp.org.au](http://racgp.org.au).

## CW slams location rules

CHEMIST Warehouse has blasted the Pharmacy Location Rules in Australia as "antiquated, anti-competitive and nonsensical".

In a submission to the consultation on the interim report of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation ([CLICK HERE](#)), Chemist Warehouse's Damien Gance argues removing the rules would immediately free up the company to bring its "competitive medicine pricing to many of the communities whom we are currently unable to serve".

Gance said Chemist Warehouse believed it should be free to pass on to the consumer any economies of scale, efficiency gains or other savings it is able to achieve through its processes, its buying or its supply chain.

The Chemist Warehouse response warns that options

proposed relating to separation of complementary medicines from other medications are "bordering on unworkable".

The company noted an option in the Review report which would see pharmacies fill the "education gap" by giving consumers understanding of TGA approval processes for CMs.

Just as supermarkets do not display signage on the Heart Foundation 'tick of approval', and whitegoods retailers don't have to explain the energy rating system, "neither should it be beholden upon pharmacy to display signage explaining the workings of the TGA".

The wide-ranging response also covers the CSO, professional services and the Guild-run Quality Care Pharmacy Program - which costs Chemist Warehouse more to access because its pharmacies are not members of the Guild.

The company urged that a truly independent agency be used to oversee quality standards in pharmacy, warning that the Guild's "sovereignty" over the QCPP was an unacceptable risk to the firm.

Gance also contends the group should be included in any future Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations, because its interests are not represented by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia nor any other body suggested in the report.

"Given the current and growing proportion of Australian medicine sales and that of PBS supply which Chemist Warehouse represents, it is important that Chemist Warehouse have a voice at the table," he said.

## Diabetes drug for Parkinson's disease

PARKINSON'S disease symptoms have been positively affected by diabetes medication exenatide, marketed in Australia by AstraZeneca as Bydureon and Byetta, in a new UK study.

"Whether exenatide affects the underlying disease pathophysiology or simply induces long-lasting symptomatic effects is uncertain," researchers concluded, but expressed confidence that "exenatide represents a major new avenue for investigation in Parkinson's disease, and effects on everyday symptoms should be examined in longer-term trials".

The research was funded by the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Visit [thelancet.com](http://thelancet.com) for the study.

## API's laser target

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries is understood to be among a number of companies bidding for Laser Clinics Australia, which operates a network of about 60 outlets across the country.

According to the *Financial Review*, API is working with advisory firm Morgan Stanley to lodge a final bid for the "botox and hair removal business" which is up for sale.

Other bidders are said to include Bain Capital, Permira, KKR & Co and US-based spa services provider Steiner Leisure, with bids in the auction process due by 24 Aug.

## Compounder fined

A MELBOURNE compounding pharmacy has been ordered to pay \$73,000 in damages and costs in a case brought by Lawley Pharmaceuticals which accused the outlet of "passing off" one of its products to a patient who presented with a script for Lawley's AndroForte 5, but was instead supplied a compounded cream.

## Guild phone poll

WITH the launch of the Pharmacy Guild Mobile App, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is seeking feedback about the operating systems of user mobile phones.

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the poll.

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## Dispensary Corner

**TREASURE** trashing at its worst. A Russian man has graphically demonstrated the dangers of excess alcohol in a way that would bring tears to anyone's eyes.

While clambering clumsily over a sharp metal fence, the hapless drunk managed to castrate himself and remove his penis at the same time - **PD** chooses not to show the picture which is clearly offensive in spite of the creative title - "torn-off todger" - courtesy the UK's *News Group*.

His jeans joined his genitals on the fence spike, but he did manage to get over the fence, so he achieved his objective, and not a little fame.

Images snapped by many onlookers have been posted and reposted enthusiastically on social media sites across the globe.

**HERE'S** an ideal way to build fitness into your routine - try swimming to work.

That's exactly what 40-year-old German man Benjamin David has been doing, in order to avoid heavy traffic congestion in his home town of Munich.

The Isar river flows past his home and he can dive in and swim the 2km to the office in about 30 min each day.

"The traffic on the road next to the Isar is so wild that it is no fun," he told the *BBC*.

"When I'm swimming, I am indeed quicker and also more relaxed," he said.

In colder weather he dons a wetsuit, and also wears rubber booties to protect his feet, with his work clothes and laptop packed in a waterproof bag which also doubles as a flotation device.

## Formula consultation

**FOOD** Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has released a consultation paper relating to infant formula products for special dietary use.

FSANZ ceo Mark Booth said the paper was the next stage of a proposal looking at revising and clarifying standards relating to infant formula.

"Although breastfeeding is the recommended way to feed a baby, a safe and nutritious substitute for breast milk is needed for babies who are not breastfed," Booth said.

"FSANZ is looking at clarifying some standards, bringing them up-to-date with the latest scientific evidence and is considering alignment with international regulations," he said.

These products are regulated as a specialised category of infant formula products because they are produced for infants who have different nutritional needs because of a health or medical condition.

FSANZ said it welcomed input from all community stakeholders, government agencies, public health professionals and industry.

Submissions close 28 Sep - visit [foodstandards.gov.au](http://foodstandards.gov.au) to submit.

## Pharmacy hep C role

**GUILD** Learning and Development is partnering with Gilead Sciences in an online course titled *Management of Hepatitis C and the role of pharmacy*.

Hepatitis C (HCV), a blood-borne virus which primarily affects the liver, is detectable in 0.9% of the Australian population, the Guild explained in its announcement.

Although there is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C, advances in treatment of the condition have progressed significantly in the past couple of years with the broader availability of direct acting antiviral medications resulting in cure rates greater than 90%.

The Guild-Gilead course examines the pathophysiology of HCV and the availability of these new direct acting antivirals.

In addition, the course will also discuss the role pharmacists can play in supporting patients with chronic HCV through the provision of advice on screening, treatment, risk reduction and all-important treatment compliance.

This accredited activity is available through [myCPD.org.au](http://myCPD.org.au).

## TGA advisories

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has found undeclared prescription only substances in Majestic African Mango and Maxidus capsules.

Both products pose a serious risk to health, the TGA warned, with investigations finding a number of people in Australia may have bought the products online.



Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Debbie Capuano, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.



## Do you ever stop to ask yourself why?

**WITH** a large number of pharmacy owners Australia-wide struggling to secure Pharmacists for their businesses, one of the most commonly asked questions we are getting is "what's going on?"

I think the question should be more "why is this happening?" Of course, the comparatively low salaries are one of the reasons we are given when someone approaches us for part-time work because they are returning to study medicine or something not even associated with the health industry. Yes - we've had Pharmacists say they are studying engineering, law, teaching and even one saying graphic art!

Overwhelmingly though, the two other main contenders to take out the "why" question is lack of support and rosters. They feel the staffing ratio often has them constantly under the pump and the rosters don't allow for healthy work/life balance.

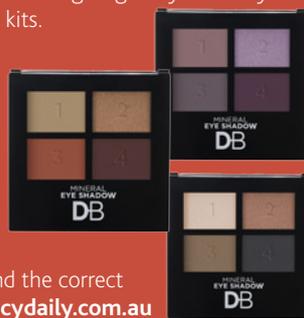
They basically feel they are squeezed to the point of having to make a change.

The take-away from this is you don't want to be losing your good people if you can avoid it. Be part of the solution and help make Pharmacy a "Career of Choice" by being an "Employer of Choice"; and start by asking "how?"

## WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away each day three of their DB Quad Mineral Eye Shadow kits.

These eye shadow quads are perfect for creating smokey, multi-faceted looks. Each palette includes intense mineral pigments and a super-blendable formula in four complementary shades. 100% certified cruelty free and Vegan. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more.



To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Name two shades of Designer Brands Quad Mineral Eye Shadows.

[Check here tomorrow for today's winner.](#)

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