

Ley's \$12k plane fare

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley spent more than \$12,000 chartering a private jet so she could attend the Pharmacy Guild's APP conference on the Gold Coast in Mar last year, according to a *News Limited* media report this morning.

The flight from Canberra was undertaken "in accordance with the rules," said a spokeswoman for the minister, with alternative commercial flights found to be unsuitable due to a tight schedule.

"Before Minister Ley departed Canberra, she was required to attend another ministerial portfolio commitment that morning which had been called at short notice.

"This meant any commercial flights out of Canberra on that day would have had Minister Ley arrive into Coolangatta after her scheduled commitment with the Pharmacy Guild was due to start," the *Herald Sun* quoted the spokeswoman as saying.

NAPSA survey out

PHARMACY students from across Australia have urged a stronger focus on mental health, with 73% of respondents to the annual National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) survey indicating that Mental Health First Aid Training should be a requirement to become a Registered Pharmacist.

The National Pharmacy Students' Survey (NPSS) is collated annually to help NAPSA accurately represent and advocate for pharmacy students, and was completed by 761 respondents in Nov 2016.

68% of students are employed in community pharmacy, the survey found, with 85% agreeing that community pharmacy work is important whilst studying.

The respondents also urged more guidance in earlier years of their degree programs in relation to hospital pharmacy employment.

Metropolitan pharmacy continues to be the most appealing setting for pre-registration year.

Over half of respondents said oversupply of pharmacists and poor salaries were the greatest barriers to their future pharmacy roles.

Wholesaler prosecuted

THE NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has made a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct against Mr Mina Attia, a registered pharmacist and wholesaler of pharmaceutical goods.

According to the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission, Attia was alleged to have been involved in the distribution of counterfeit Viagra, which was on-sold to the Sydney Children's Hospital for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

The tablets were sourced from Sajay Rai, who had been convicted in 2013 on two counts of "supply counterfeit therapeutic goods".

Attia's company Hillmear Trading Pty Ltd bought the fake drugs from Rai, and on-sold them to "one of the largest wholesale distributors in Australia" which in turn sold them to the hospital.

A pharmacist at the hospital became suspicious of the product while crushing the tablets in preparing medication to be given to paediatric patients, finding that the product was "uncharacteristically gritty".

A three day hearing was held in Jul 2016, during which Attia



NCAT
NSW Civil &
Administrative Tribunal

admitted to some of the allegations but not all.

The complaint alleged that he had breached his pharmaceutical wholesaler's licence by purchasing Viagra from an unlicensed supplier; failed to ensure that the product was genuine by contacting Pfizer; knew or ought to have known the product he purchased was not genuine; and provided the Therapeutic Goods Administration with false and misleading information in the course of its investigation into the distribution of the counterfeit Viagra.

Attia was found guilty, with the Tribunal commenting that it did not accept him as a truthful witness and "could not be confident that Mr Attia would act with complete candour in future dealings with regulators".

His registration was cancelled, with the Tribunal ordering that he must not apply for a review of the cancellation order for a period of 12 months.

Ethical pharmacists

AMERICANS consider pharmacists to have strong honesty and ethics, with pharmacy coming in second place behind nursing in the annual Gallup poll of professions - ahead of doctors, engineers, dentists and police.

Cool kids UV protected

CHILDREN should wear sunglasses when outdoors to protect their vulnerable eyes from ultra violet (UV) radiation exposure from the sun, according to a formal Australian Medical Association statement.

AMA vice president Dr Tony Bartone said that all people should wear sunglasses when outdoors, even on overcast days.

"Your sunglasses should be more than a fashion statement - they should meet UV protection standards," Bartone said.

So those childrens' sunnies will do more than just create cool kids.



Win with Aveeno

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Aveeno are giving away each day Daily Moisturising Lotion and Dermexa Moisturising Cream.

Aveeno Dermexa Moisturising Cream is specifically formulated to soothe and hydrate even the most sensitive skin, and is clinically proven suitable for eczema prone skin. Aveeno Daily Moisturising Lotion contains Active Naturals Colloidal Oatmeal, which is a specially milled, finely ground oat formula that allows the lotion to lock in moisture while replenishing the skin's own moisture levels.



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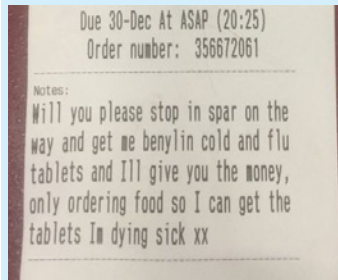
Dispensary Corner

A **FAST** food outlet in Belfast, Ireland has highlighted a special request from a flu-stricken customer who used the 'comments' area of an online order form to plead for the delivery of some cold medication.

The unusual order at Feeley's Fish and Chip Shop also included some food, but asked the driver to stop at the pharmacy en route.

"Only ordering food so I can get the tablets I'm dying sick XX," the customer wrote (**below**).

The shop later posted an image of the medicine with a 'get well soon' message and a promise to send a free meal when the customer recovered.



TRAVELLERS flying through Tokyo Narita Airport are now being offered special smartphone-disinfecting 'toilet paper' roll.

The dispensers (pictured) have been installed in seven bathrooms courtesy of mobile data provider NTT Docomo, with the rolls also offering information about public wi-fi networks and a travel app.



'Health Hub' a finalist



SHIFTING customers' mindset from treating their local 24 hour pharmacy purely as a 'convenience store' to recognition as an 'health hub' was the task facing Beaufort St 24hr Chemist in Perth.

Rising to the challenge, with its associated risks, partners Bruce Affleck and Alexis McLeod (**pictured**) have succeeded in being named a Guild Pharmacy of the Year Finalist with their renewed focus on professional services.

The enthusiastic team managed to achieve a 43% increase in pharmacist roster hours from 2013 to 2016, converted a back office space into a vaccination compliant consultation room in 2015 and changed marketing strategy which saw the pharmacy restrict content relating to non-health related products and promotions refocussed to positive health-oriented messages.

Also as a result of the new strategy, store categories were reviewed with a prioritisation of healthcare stock space over that committed to non-core stock such as cosmetics.

"In June we removed a large cosmetic stand and the space

created has been allocated to first aid and medicinal products," said Affleck.

McLeod said the pharmacy was acutely aware that in a rapidly changing industry "what made us successful yesterday will not be enough for us to succeed tomorrow."

She said the partners were very aware that doing this often involved taking some financial risks but they did not let this deter them from reaching their goals.

Affleck said, "We also constantly reinvest our profits back into further developing our business.

"Recent examples of this are our investment in a vaccination compliant private consultation room in 2015, our increased investment in professional staff wages over the past three years and our investment in developing an after-hours Urgent Care Nurse Clinic," he added.

The fully qualified nurse practitioners were trained to diagnose and treat a wide variety of conditions, Affleck explained, enabling them to treat wounds, remove sutures, inject, drug test, screen for STD's and repeat scripts.

Cannabis chair

DR ANDREW Southcott has been named as the chair of the new Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis.

Health Minister Sussan Ley confirmed the appointment, saying the Council will look at all aspects of patient healthcare, cannabis therapies, related research, palliative care and patient advocacy.

Southcott is a medical practitioner and a former member of Federal Parliament, with the Council formed pursuant to the commencement of the Medicinal Cannabis Scheme in Oct last year - more information at www.odc.gov.au.

Guild Update

Gearing up for 2017

NOW is a great time to make sure your Pharmacy's business plan for sustainable growth is in place for 2017. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's business support tools are available to assist you to plan a successful 2017.

If you have not yet completed an Opportunity Analysis, we invite you to complete this tool today via the Health Advice Plus website www.healthadviceplus.com.au. The Opportunity Analysis will identify potential opportunities within your business through currently available funding sources. On average pharmacies that have completed an Opportunity Analysis have identified a potential revenue opportunity of \$25,000 through the sustainable and consistent delivery of professional services they currently offer.

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