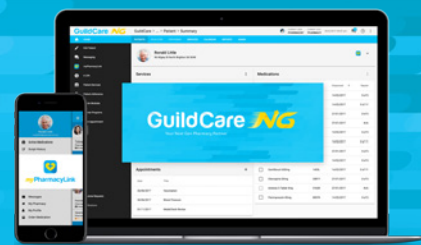


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Review 'bad' - Guild

PHARMACY Guild executive director David Quilty has come out with all guns blazing in his fortnightly *Forefront* editorial this week, saying the direction laid down by the King Review of Pharmacy (see page 3) is "bad for patients, bad for the pharmacist profession, bad for the broader community pharmacy workforce, bad for the medicines sector, and bad for Australia's 5,600 community pharmacies".

Quilty said the Review's "prescription for the future" had all the hallmarks of a calculated attempt to dismantle a community pharmacy model that worked well and enjoyed the overwhelming support of the Australian public.

"It also ignores or misunderstands global health care trends... at a time when health experts worldwide are arguing for a more integrated and patient-centred approach to health care, it would narrow the role of community pharmacies and commoditise the safe and professional dispensing of medicines," Quilty fumed.

He said that in spite of its many flaws, the King Review "is a strong reminder to everyone in pharmacy that we must plan for the future."

"We cannot afford to blithely sit back and hope the future will look after itself or that we can outsource it to some third party," Quilty said.

The Guild executive director said with the next community pharmacy agreement negotiation looming, "the need to plan for and secure the future of community pharmacy to 2025 and beyond is upon us".

NSW Guild briefs health minister



THE NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild has been working hard to brief politicians on the range of issues arising from the upcoming rescheduling of codeine to prescription-only, which is set to become effective from Feb 2018.

Guild NSW Branch president Rick Samimi has led a delegation at two meetings with NSW health minister Brad Hazzard, as well as a discussion with shadow health minister Walt Secord about the codeine changes.

The Guild is proposing a new arrangement based on a regulatory mechanism that would maintain codeine-containing medicines as 'Prescription Only' but at the same time allow for provision of codeine for the temporary relief of acute pain under strict conditions.

Samimi told *Pharmacy Daily* the structured arrangement would include a real-time monitoring and recording system and continuing education programs for pharmacists.

"The Guild proposal will include a clinical assist recording platform, which also assists pharmacists to identify and refer at-risk patients and/or patients suffering from chronic pain conditions to general practitioners and pain clinics for further investigation," Samimi said.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is working with the Guild and is supportive of the initiative, the NSW Branch president added.

"The Guild proposal meets the acute needs of the vast majority of our patients, who take codeine-based medications responsibly and on an occasional basis, by providing access to these medicines safely and on a timely basis through their local pharmacy," he said.

Pictured above after one of the meetings are, from left: NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard; NSW Guild Branch director Caroline Argent; NSW Guild Branch president Rick Samimi; and NSW Guild national councillor, Mario Barone.

POTY 2018 nominations open

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is now accepting nominations for the Guild Pharmacy of the Year (POTY) Award for 2018.

The Guild said the annual Pharmacy of the Year awards were the benchmark for recognising excellence in the community pharmacy industry and sought out highly motivated, innovative and adaptable pharmacy businesses that strove to provide more health care in even more ways.

The national competition is open to all Guild Member community pharmacy businesses who can enter in the three categories: Excellence in Business Management, Excellence in Community Engagement and Excellence in Professional Services.

Nominations are set to close 29 Sep this year.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

TGA presentations

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced the conferences at which it will be presenting in the immediate future in 2017.

Events listed include the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) Centenary Congress in Melbourne, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA 17) Conference in Sydney, the 2017 Australian Nurses and Midwives Conference in Melbourne and EyeForPharma Australia 2017 in Sydney.

Visit tga.gov.au for details around each conference.



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Phcy-GP collaboration pilot

PHARMACISTS and doctors are being brought together in a trial chronic disease management plan to better manage patient issues.

The Victorian Health Department funded convenient-access scheme

is dubbed 'Pharmacist Chronic Disease Management Pilot' and involves four sites:

Alexandra - Alexandra Medical Centre with Alexandra Community Pharmacy, Kerang - Gannawarra Family Clinic with Terry White Chemist Kerang, Kilmore - Stepping Stones Medical Centre with Amcal Pharmacy Kilmore, and Whittlesea - Whittlesea Medical Centre with Whittlesea Amcal Pharmacy.



Interest in the project has been strong among both GPs and pharmacists such that initially only three sites were expected to be named, but this was increased to four based on engagement from

GPs and pharmacies since the expressions of interest period opened in Jan.

All four sites have demonstrated there is already a strong

working relationship between the pharmacies and GPs.

They were also identified as areas with a high prevalence of chronic disease and would stand to benefit the most from the pilot scheme, the Minister for Health Jill Hennessy said.

"Chronic disease is a huge burden on our communities – more than half of patients at a GP are there because of a chronic condition," she explained.

"We want patients to be able to look to their trusted and skilled pharmacists for routine queries, so we can take the pressure off doctors and medical clinics.

"It makes sense and still gives patients the personalised health care and expertise they deserve at every step of their journey."

Patients with chronic diseases such as asthma or hypertension will be eligible to be part of the trial which is expected to begin in Sep.

Myeloma therapy tick

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved Janssen Australia's first-in-class multiple myeloma therapy that activates the immune system of multiple myeloma patients to attack and kill cancer cells.

Approved for both monotherapy and combination therapy, Darzalex (daratumumab), is the first CD38-directed monoclonal antibody approved for use in Australia, Janssen said in a release.

Darzalex is not funded on the PBS but there are around 1,600 new diagnoses and 900 deaths annually in Australia from the blood cancer disease.

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Congratulations, Dr Terry White!



AUSTRALIAN pharmacy legend Terry White was yesterday recognised by the University of Queensland, when he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Pharmacy.

White made the occasional address to the 2017 graduating class, saying he recognised "how important a part my alma mater has played in my life, as first challenging my thinking as a student and setting me on a pathway to various careers".

He told attendees of surmounting various challenges, both as a member of Parliament and leader of the Queensland Liberal Party and then, with his wife Rhonda and eldest son Anthony "in the challenge of taking two pharmacies through very difficult times for our family, to a small group of pharmacies in Queensland.

"From those early years we

persisted in the face of significant adversity and succeeded in establishing the largest pharmacy franchise company in Australia which now services 500 pharmacies across the nation," White said.

He also urged the graduating pharmacists to be bold.

"Many people sadly never achieve their dreams or even their potential because they are afraid to change, to make decisions, or lack the courage to persist," White said.

The formal citation for White's doctorate described him as an entrepreneurial pharmacist who has had far-reaching impact as a leader and innovator in business, community service, politics and health care delivery.

"Through the decades, Mr White has influenced the evolution of the community pharmacy sector and its increasingly sophisticated role in multi-disciplinary health care."

WIN WITH NUTRI-SYNERGY

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and NS are giving away a NS pack for Sensitive Skin including NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser 500ml (RRP \$16.50), NS Extra Dry Skin Moisturiser 250ml (RRP \$17.50), NS Protective Hand Cream 60g (RRP \$9.30) and NS Lip Balm 10g (RRP \$6.70). Nutri-Synergy Extra Dry Skin Moisturiser is formulated with natural active ingredients to give your skin superior moisturisation. NS is rich in Natural Moisturising Factors like urea, glycerine and triglycerides and common irritants are avoided such as petrochemicals, parabens, soap, harsh detergents and perfumes. For more info visit www.nutrisynergy.com.au.



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Dispensary Corner

A BOUT of gastroenteritis has been described as “the most expensive poisoning in the music history of Belarus,” after Dave Gahan, the singer from electro-pop band Depeche Mode, took ill just two hours before a major gig.

The Minsk Arena performance had to be cancelled at the last minute, with 7,000 disappointed fans urged to keep their tickets in case the show is rescheduled.

The food poisoning occurred during a tour of eastern Europe, with the next performances scheduled for tonight in Kiev, Ukraine and then Warsaw, Poland tomorrow evening.

Intriguingly, one of Depeche Mode's many hits is a song called “Shake the Disease” - something fans will be hoping Gahan is able to do quickly.

CAR sharing disruptor Uber has marked another milestone this week, with a driver in Los Angeles helping to deliver the baby of one of his customers.

Erica and Niv Davidovich used the ride-hailing app on Fri after Erica started having contractions.

She told local broadcaster KABC-TV her first three children came after long labours, so she was sure she had plenty of time to get to the hospital.

However that wasn't the case, with the couple quickly asking the driver to pull over, where Niv delivered a healthy baby boy in the back seat of the vehicle - and the driver later delivering an Uber onesie (like the one pictured) to the happy family.



King Review ‘uncertainty’

THE upcoming Pharmacy Connect conference has confirmed a strong focus on issues raised in the King Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation, including two dedicated sessions to discuss the draft report of the Review Panel.

Conference convenor Kos Sclavos said Pharmacy Connect presented a timely opportunity to reflect upon the options presented in the Interim Report and for key industry representatives to respond.

“There is no doubt this Review has caused uncertainty in the sector,” Sclavos said.

“Although some options presented seem innocuous in terms of impact on community pharmacy, it's vital that the industry representatives consider unintended consequences.”

Chair of wholesaler peak body the National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) and ceo and md of Sigma Healthcare, Mark Hooper, along with ceo and md of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, Richard Vincent, will present the wholesalers' perspective on Sat 02 Sep.

NPSA ceo Donna Staunton said that wholesalers were concerned about the options presented in the Report.

Monash media course

MONASH University is running a ‘Medicine and the Media’ workshop which aims to bridge the gap between media and researchers.

Speakers include Associate Professor Ken Harvey, Dr Suzanne Mahady, Dr Charles Livingstone and Age health journalist Julia Medew.

See med.monash.edu.au.

“The options presented in the Interim Report would inevitably lead to significant upheaval and uncertainty throughout the entire supply chain without

materially enhancing outcomes for pharmacy, the community or Government.

“We went to a tremendous amount of effort to give the Panel the data it needed and we offered practical

measures to ensure the long term sustainability of the supply chain.

“We are extremely disappointed that the Panel appears to have given greater weight to data that is, in our view, less rigorous.

“We look forward to sharing the official response from wholesalers at Pharmacy Connect,” Staunton added.

In addition, Sclavos said Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis and ceo David Quilty would present the Guild's official response in a special session on Sun 03 Sep.

The conference takes place at the Hilton Sydney hotel 01-03 Sep - see pharmacyconnect.com.au.

Coloxyl campaign

ASPEN Pharma has taken an unusual approach to promoting its Coloxyl laxative product, partnering with the Australian Radio Network for a campaign called “On the Stuhl with Stefan”.

The tongue-in-cheek talk show comprises a number of interviews with “celebrities” connected to the Kiis radio network such as Lisa Oldfield from The Real Housewives of Sydney and Big Brother winner Tim Dormer, in an attempt to make discussions about constipation more accessible.



Travel Specials

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