


“MedView Paperless enables our staff to spend more time with customers and provide a better level of service”

TONY SARENA - TerryWhite Chemmart Southland

APP2018 stand 127



SHPA abstracts call

THE 44th SHPA National Conference, Medicines Management 2018 (MM2018), is calling for abstracts, with a deadline of Fri 13 Jul.

Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy assistants, researchers and other health professionals are invited “to shape the discourse at Australia’s largest scientific pharmacy conference across the categories of leadership, clinical, workforce/practitioner development and digital/IT health,” according to SHPA chief executive Kristin Michaels.

“The theme ‘It’s time’ acknowledges that healthcare needs are evolving, our workforce is transforming, and every day across Australia pharmacists and technicians are creating more value and providing better patient care with less,” she said.

MM2018 will run from Thu 22 to Sun 25 Nov 2018 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre - view more information at mm2018shpa.com.

Quarterly rego data

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has released registration data for the three months to 31 Mar.

The figures indicate there are 28,065 pharmacists with general registration across the country, along with 1,794 with provisional registration and 1,116 non-practising pharmacists.

62% of Australian pharmacists are female, and the largest age demographic is 30-34 comprising over 20% of the total.

Guild modern award battle

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has lodged a submission with the Fair Work Commission, in response to a “work value claim” seeking pharmacist pay rises made by union group APESMA as part of the Four Yearly Review of Modern Awards.

The long-running matter has seen APESMA propose increases to the minimum rates of pay for pharmacist classifications covered by the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010, as well as the creation of a new classification of Accredited Pharmacist.

Arguments over the matter have continued since Dec last year, with the latest Guild submission claiming that APESMA will not be able to make out that there has been the requisite “significant net addition” to the work of pharmacists to warrant an increase in minimum wages for work value reasons.

The Guild further argues that the new Accredited Pharmacist classification is “contrived...and not justified on work value reasons”.

Submissions by the Guild include statements from a number of pharmacy proprietors, saying

that while work has evolved for pharmacists over the last 20 years “essentially the core tasks have stayed the same”.

The statements note the clinical and administrative efficiencies introduced through technology, and less extemporaneous compounding being conducted in general.

A list of “new services” which forms part of the APESMA submission are “evolutionary in nature and do not represent a significant net addition for work value purposes”, the Guild submission argues.

APESMA’s document cites 25 pharmacists who undertake ‘professional services’ and claims there have been significant net increases in work requirements at all levels, including the introduction of Quality Use of Medicines into the National Medicines Policy in 1999 and increases in undergraduate pharmacy course requirements.

GSK typhoid vax cut

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has announced the discontinuation of its Typherix (salmonella typhi Vi polysaccharide) adult vaccine, which will be no longer available.

GSK said it had experienced constrained supply for some years, and was pulling the product noting the availability of alternate typhoid vaccine products in Australia.

Compounding confab

COMPOUNDING solutions company Medisca has announced the first-ever World Congress of Compounding set to take place Oct 27-28, 2018 in Las Vegas, USA.

Organisers say the event will present new business solutions and opportunities, with sessions on a range of topics including hormone replacement therapy, pain management, veterinary medicine and regulatory updates.

For more or to register visit compoundingcongress.com.

ANZAC day closures

ALL offices of the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency will be closed tomorrow due to the ANZAC Day national public holiday.

Pharmacy Daily will also be closed, with our next issue on Thu.

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1. Faergemann et al. Journal of Cosmetics, Dermatological Sciences and Applications 2011, Vol:59-63.

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Stand 308-311



Jazzy reward for Ramsay customer



RAMSAY Pharmacy has rolled out a new "Better Rewards" loyalty scheme, which this month saw a lucky client on the NSW South Coast win a new Honda Jazz.

The Win-a-Car competition was conducted in collaboration with Nowra Honda, and saw Better Rewards member Deb Myers, an entrant from Ramsay's Shoalhaven Pharmacy, drive away with the

four-wheeled reward.

Ramsay's Better Rewards scheme allows customers to earn "actual reward dollars" on everyday non-prescription purchases, with the dollars accrued able to be used for purchases in any Ramsay Pharmacy nationwide.

The lucky winner is pictured above with the team from Shoalhaven Pharmacy.

Guild NIP push

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it was encouraging States and Territories to provide enhanced access to flu vaccines for vulnerable adult patient groups through pharmacies under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

While this currently applies in Vic, it is yet to be agreed to in the rest of Australia, but the Guild has recently flagged its intentions to move on the anomaly (*PD* 16 Apr).

Guild national president George Tambassis has highlighted the broader reach and herd immunity enhancement when vaccination is made available via highly accessible community pharmacies.

Up to 120 CW planned for New Zealand

CHEMIST Warehouse yesterday opened its second outlet across the Tasman, with an additional Auckland store part of a planned rollout of up to 120 Chemist Warehouse shops across New Zealand, according to NZ trade publication *Pharmacy Today*.

The company has previously said it expects to open 10 stores in Auckland during 2018, before expanding into other centres such as Wellington and Christchurch.

Chemist Warehouse offers \$5 off the standard subsidised script charge for NZ customers.

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Nanabis ready for RNS trial

MEDLAB has confirmed that its Nanabis medicinal cannabis product is now ready for sale and delivery to Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital, where it will be part of an "intractable pain" trial commencing next month.

In an update to shareholders yesterday the company said the recent decision by the Council of Australian Health Ministers to progress a single national online application pathway to access unregistered medicinal cannabis products has enabled Medlab to progress its original plans for Nanabis by 12-18 months.

Chairman Michael Hall reiterated that the company was able to sell

Nanabis prior to the completion of the RNSH trial results, in line with Special Access Scheme approvals.

"As a result our executive team are already on the road training doctors and pharmacists," he said.

Medlab says that Nanabis, which is a whole cannabis plant extract in a proprietary delivery platform provides a solution to the opioid crisis, and is indicated for advanced cancer pain.

The endpoint of the trial is to demonstrate effective pain management and thus reduce reliance on standard opioid use.

Upon completion of the trial Medlab envisages applying for TGA registration of Nanabis in early 2019.

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Dispensary Corner

AUTHORITIES in Florida, USA have come under fire this week after attempting to use the fingerprint of a dead man to unlock his phone.

Investigators went to the funeral home where the body of a 30-year-old man was lying in state after he was killed by a police officer last month while allegedly resisting arrest, reports the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Detectives were trying to gather evidence from his phone, but were unable to unlock it by holding his dead fingers against the fingerprint sensor.

While questioning whether it was appropriate, the report cited legal experts who mostly agreed that what the officers did was legal because "dead people can't assert their Fourth Amendment protections".

THE latest culinary fad in Britain doesn't sound like much fun.

It's a "health optimisation party," where guests pay £250 for the privilege of having their blood tested before a "banquet style meal" where the nutritional element of each dish is outlined by a dietary expert.

The event is being offered by a group called The Urban Kitchen, and includes three courses plus a presentation by London-based nutritional scientist and Cordon Bleu chef Toral Shah.

Unlike a conventional dinner party there's no wine poured on arrival, with guests asked to fast before they come so they can have an accurate blood test.

Post-dinner discussions centre on health, while the deal includes a 30-minute phone follow-up.

Viagra S3 proposal for ED

PFIZER Australia confirmed it has made a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for inclusion of sildenafil 50mg (Viagra) in Schedule 3, as a Pharmacist Only Medicine for treatment of erectile dysfunction.

Pfizer Consumer Healthcare medical lead Dr Stephen Blair said the availability of non-prescription sildenafil would provide men that are currently not having these conversations with their doctor an additional entry point into the healthcare system, encouraging them to seek advice and treatment they otherwise would not have sought.

"Giving men the opportunity to talk to a pharmacist and discuss suitability of sildenafil for the treatment of ED could be a real step forward," Dr Blair said.

"We know ED can be an early warning sign of a more serious underlying condition, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease."

Blair added that non-prescription access would provide an opportunity to educate men on the underlying causes of ED and encourage them to see a doctor.

"This could lead to earlier

detection of conditions which may otherwise go undiagnosed."

Pfizer has also said it would work with national pharmacy bodies to ensure pharmacists are adequately trained and prepared for discussions with men with ED, including proactively encouraging them to consult their doctor so that any potential underlying conditions can be investigated.

Flu vax compulsory

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has announced that the provision of influenza vaccinations for all staff in residential aged care homes will be compulsory, as a means of "maximising protection" for senior Australians ahead of the 2018 influenza season.

Aged Care Minister Ken Wyatt noted that last winter aged care facilities where only a quarter of the staff had been vaccinated had a 25% higher rate of flu outbreaks than those with three quarters or more of their staff immunised.

Last year, just over 1,100 influenza-associated deaths were reported in Australia, with people aged 65 years and older accounting for more than 90% of these.

Emerade on PBS

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has recommended the temporary addition of adrenaline auto-injector Emerade to the PBS until 31 Aug, as a means of helping mitigate the current global supply shortage around EpiPens.

Pharmacy Guild Update

APP 2018 Guild Business Pods

THE Pharmacy Guild's Business Support team is staffing business pods at APP2018 where private consultations with members can be held to discuss their current business needs and concerns.

The 15-20 minute appointments will see an industry professional advise on possible solutions for business growth and innovation using diagnostic tools and change management resources.

To help facilitate the changes, the Health Advice Plus team will provide Guild members access to an Opportunity Analysis report at business pods.

The Opportunity Analysis provides a customised report using a pharmacy's data to identify lost opportunity income linked to key service areas.

The APP 2018 Guild Business Pods will be located outside the trade hall at entry 6 of the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

