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Rural patients happier to seek advice

PATIENTS in rural areas are more willing to talk to and heed the advice of pharmacists about general health matters than those living in urban areas, research from the University of Tasmania reveals.

The new work analysed data from 17 publications comparing aspects of rural and urban community pharmacy practice in Australia, the US, Canada, the UK and South Africa, with Australian studies indicating pharmacists in rural and remote pharmacies were likely to offer extra services for indigenous people and herbal medicine, than those operating in cities.

The paper published in the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, noted that a South Australian study found rural pharmacists were more prepared to provide opioid substitution, and take on drug program clients compared to those working in urban pharmacies.

Rural pharmacies were also less likely to experience payment-

related problems, thefts or disruptions, related to methadone clients than city-based pharmacies.

"Rural customers were more willing to talk about general health matters and ask advice from the pharmacist," the authors said.

"The rural pharmacist initiated conversations more and talked longer than in urban pharmacies,"

MEANWHILE, new Federal Nationals MP for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, has called for a dramatic revamp of rural health services to ensure equity of access in regional Australia.

Webster stressed community pharmacy would have a key role in the National's health policy.

"I'm very committed to doing whatever I can to improve the outcomes for those in Mallee," she said.

"I've had and continue to have many conversations with pharmacists, GPs and healthcare providers to look at how we can ameliorate the current situation



and I think pharmacy is a part of that story," she said.

"For me it's a multi-pronged approach, it needs to be at a structural level, it needs to be systemic and it needs to be board and operational.

"Allied health and nurse practitioners need to have access to a greater range of Medicare funding for the work that they do, which could assist in regional centres.

"We need to have a really robust conversation around healthcare providers and that includes the work of pharmacists."

Dismissal review

AUSTRALIA'S Small Business Fair Dismissal Code needs to be revamped to ensure it is fair for business owners, former ACT Chief Minister and pharmacist, Kate Carnell, believes.

In her role as Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Carnell, said the current code was "ambiguous and open to interpretation", and was adversely impacting business owners.

"We know that small businesses do not make the decision to end a worker's employment lightly," she said.

Among her list of recommendations, Carnell said an updated code was needed to provide clarity around the unfair dismissal process for both employer and employees, and give business owners information so they are aware of what is required to ensure a dismissal is fair.

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¹ Glasier, A. F. et al. Ulipristal acetate versus levonorgestrel for emergency contraception: a randomized non-inferiority trial and meta-analysis. *Lancet*. 2010 Feb 13;375(9714):555-562. Erratum in: *Lancet*. 2014;384(9953):1504.

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Gen store pharmacists earn more in US

PHARMACISTS working in general merchandising stores are the profession's top-earners US Bureau of Labor Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook* reveals.

Pay data, published last month, revealed the median annual wages for pharmacists working in US nontraditional pharmacies was US\$131,460, with hospital pharmacists earning US\$127,330, while those working in pharmacies and drug stores took home an average salary of US\$124,760.

The US figures contrasted with Australian pharmacists' earnings, highlighted in *Pharmacy Daily's* annual salary survey for 2019 (*PD* 06 May), which found the average community pharmacist earns \$80,550 for their work in a retail pharmacy setting, described as "embarrassingly low" by one respondent.

Last month the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) launched its *Pharmacists in 2023: Roles and Remuneration* report,



which set out a target to increase pharmacist pay in Australia with the goal that newly registered pharmacists will earn a minimum of \$80,000 by 2023 (*PD* 29 Jul).

A spokesperson for Professional Pharmacists Australia told *Pharmacy Daily* that the union was committed to fighting for better pay rates, noting that pharmacist remuneration had increased over the last three years.

"Overall the problem of wages is a concentration of bargaining power in large employer groups against diffuse employee pharmacists," the spokesperson said.

"The only remedy is greater organisation of pharmacists to balance out that power."

Woodcroft PA wins SA PATY



PHARMACY Assistant, Emilie Dalwood (pictured above), from TerryWhite Chemmart Woodcroft Plaza has been chosen to represent South Australia at the National Finals of the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Dalwood was chosen from 15 other state finalists at the South Australian workshop and will represent her state at the National Finals at the 2019 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA2019) on 12 Oct in Brisbane.



Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National President, George Tambassis congratulated Emilie for her valuable contribution to community pharmacy in Australia.

Tori McRae-Field (pictured above) from Direct Chemist Outlet Torrensville was named the Glucojel Super Star Award for outstanding customer service skills in community pharmacy.

McRae-Field will be in the running for the Glucojel Super Star Award National title, also awarded at PA2019.

Turmeric for arterial stiffness



NEW work published in *Phytotherapy Research* has provided further evidence for the beneficial effects of turmeric (*curcuma longa*), this time to support vascular function for patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The randomised, double-blind, parallel arm, placebo-controlled trial involved 136 patients whose arterial stiffness parameters were measured initially and monthly for three months.

Turmeric was shown to significantly decrease arterial stiffness as compared with placebo in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients.

CLICK HERE for access.

Blackmores price hike

AUSTRALIA'S leading vitamin and mineral supplement company Blackmores has announced price increases for its 216 product range.

The company told *Pharmacy Daily* that its commitment to supply only quality ingredients and ongoing consumer demand has put pressure on the price of raw materials over the last 24 months.

Until now the company has absorbed these cost of goods increases, but it has now decided to adjust the prices of some products.

Effective 01 Oct, the new wholesale list prices will see an average increase of 2.1% across the Blackmores range.

See the new price list at pages.blackmores.com.au.

New Dettol Parents Approved range

LONG-STANDING germ fighter brand Dettol has released a new range of hand washes and shower gels under the range name Dettol Parents Approved.

Reckitt Benckiser Category Manager, Kelly Benton, said, "Backed by over 80 years' experience helping to protect

families from germs, we are thrilled to introduce the new 'Dettol Parents Approved' product range offering a kind way to remove germs as it's free from harsh chemical residues, and that's why it's approved by over 200 Aussie parents".

For more, visit dettol.com.au.



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Dispensary Corner

FOR years the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has worked to ensure the nation's supermarket duopoly does not establish a foothold in the sector.

The threat of supermarket pharmacy domination has not been a problem for Keeseville Pharmacy in rural New York.

With no supermarket in the town, and the nearest store more than 40 km away, the pharmacy has branched into groceries, offering "farm fresh" produce including butter, yogurt, sauces and chutney, alongside medications.

Since 2017 the pharmacy has been working with local farmers and producers to create a "Farmacy" within the pharmacy.

A-D-KAction Farmacy Project Coordinator, Kiana French, told *WAMC Northeast Public Radio* that when the grocery store closed in 2013 the town was left without a retailer selling fresh fruit and vegetables.

"That's where this comes in... we are able to stock and offer a lot of local produce as well as staples," she said.

"It's a centralised location downtown. It gets a lot of foot traffic and a lot of families already come in for prescriptions and other pharmacy needs."

So popular has the Farmacy within the pharmacy model, that a second store in Port Henry, about 60 km south, is to open later this week.

However, unlike Keeseville Pharmacy the new store will go toe-to-toe with an established grocer.

Kokoda trek raises \$24K



TERRYWHITE Chemmart CEO, Duncan Phillips, along with his trekking contingent of nine pharmacy owners and support staff (**pictured**) successfully completed an eight-day trek along the Kokoda Track raising more than \$24,000 for Ovarian Cancer Australia, bringing the total over 13 years to more than \$1.4 million.

The team included TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy owners Christine Timms, Karen Brown, Tim Siv, Blaine Woods, Dean Llewellyn, Carolyn Wynen, Matt Boulter and

Kylie Becker and General Manager Operations Nick Munroe.

Phillips said the group all grew to understand and appreciate each other through the experience.

"There is a memorial to the soldiers that fought during Kokoda with four words, 'Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice,' and we all came away with a better understanding of what this meant."

'Trek for Teal' (**PD** 25 Jul) started 26 Jul and finished on 03 Aug. The group is aiming to reach its target of \$50,000 - give.everydayhero.com.

Win with ULTRASENSITIVE

This week Pharmacy Daily and ecostore are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack of products from ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, valued at over \$90.

Be in to win a shelf-ready pack of ecostore's key ULTRASENSITIVE products and supporting collateral, to offer your customers an asthma and allergy-aware solution for home and body care. Approved by Sensitive Choice for Australians with sensitivities. **CLICK HERE** for more.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name 3 products that are a part of ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body care range.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Ivonne Kusumah.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Flo Travel Nasal Spray*.



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