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No place for meds near Krispy Kreme

CIGARETTES and alcohol do not belong in pharmacies, and prescription medications should not be sold in convenience stores, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis (pictured), believes.

Responding to comments from Australasian Association of Convenience Stores CEO, Jeff Rogut, published in *The Age* and *SMH*, over the weekend, that consumers want to access pharmacy services from their 7-Eleven, Tambassis defended the Pharmacy Location Rules.

“When we do surveys of our customers, pharmacy ranks up there with things like postal services as one of the top items they would like to see in a convenience store,” Rogut said.

“The reason why is because of the extended hours, the ability to park easily, get in and out quickly and do all the things they want to do ... it would save them time and be more convenient.

“If there was the opportunity of doing the US drug store concept, like CVS or Walgreens, that would be warmly welcomed.”

However, Tambassis said the location rules had ensured Australians have better access to pharmacies than supermarkets, banks and medical centres.

“In capital cities, 95 per cent of consumers are no further than two-and-a-half kilometres from a pharmacy. In regional areas, that figure is 72 per cent,” he said.

“According to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), there are more pharmacists in remote Australia than there are GPs, specialists, psychologists or physiotherapists,” he said.

“Our pharmacists also make sure that patients take their medication correctly and offer health advice and screening.”

Tambassis highlighted that many of the drugs pharmacists dispense can be deadly if not taken correctly. “These aren’t the sort of services



you could get at a 7-Eleven wedged between the Krispy Kreme doughnuts or next to the alcohol or cigarettes that supermarkets sell.”

Urging for an expansion of the role of frontline staff such as pharmacists, Tambassis said this will broaden Australian’s access to “basic health care that is faster, more affordable and convenient for them”.

In addition, this would help alleviate society’s healthcare costs associated with the ageing population and pressure on overburdened doctors.

Vit D - CVD link

PRENATAL and early childhood vitamin D levels appear to play a substantial role in the development of elevated systolic blood pressure (SBP), according to new work published in *Hypertension* - ahajournals.org.

This applies especially to those born to mothers with obesity, diabetes mellitus, or hypertensive disorders themselves, researchers found.

“These findings may have important public health implications, given the high prevalence of vitamin D deficiency worldwide, including among pregnant women,” they said.

The authors referenced previous studies that showed early life treatment of vitamin D deficiency via supplementation or other lifestyle changes could reduce hypertension and cardiovascular risk in later life.



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References:

¹ Glasier A, et al. ISGE Statement of Emergency Contraception. *Gynecological Endocrinology Informa Healthcare*. 2014; 30(10): 681-682
² Brache, V. et al. Ulipristal acetate prevents ovulation more effectively than levonorgestrel: analysis of pooled data from three randomized trials of emergency contraception regimens. *Contraception* 2013; 88(5): 611-618.

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Pharmacist snaps Milat

A PHARMACIST is being investigated by NSW Police after allegedly attempting to take photos of serial killer, Ivan Milat, at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

The high-profile prisoner has been treated in an "inmate-only annex" at the Sydney hospital for complications stemming from oesophageal cancer, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

CCTV footage allegedly caught the unnamed pharmacist taking photos sparking a security scare at the hospital, with staff suspecting he was trying to capture a picture of the killer.

A prison source told the paper that Milat had been attending regular appointments at the hospital for a number of months, but has recently been transferred from Long Bay prison, where he has been housed since May, to the hospital's inmate-only annex, in the last week.

Milat's condition is believed to be severe, with the paper reporting



that he was "in the last weeks of his life".

Milat was convicted of the murders of seven backpackers, who he buried in the Belangelo State Forest in the Southern Highlands between 1989 and 1993, and was jailed for seven life sentences in Jul 1996.

He has also been linked to a number of unsolved disappearances, however, he has always maintained his innocence.

Vaccine for CVD

THE influenza vaccine, administered by pharmacists to more than one million Australians last year, can act as a preventive measure for heart attack and respiratory hospitalisations, new research from the University of New South Wales shows.

Authors said that extending the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and providing the influenza vaccination to adults aged 50-64, has the potential to prevent 1,482 heart attacks, 314 cases of influenza/pneumonia and 338 respiratory hospitalisations.

Cost savings would arise from averted heart attack hospitalisations, the researchers added.

The work was presented at the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting 2019 in Adelaide, last Fri 09 Aug.

Beauchamp to open Connect

SECRETARY of the Department of Health, Glenys Beauchamp, will open the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Connect conference on Fri 06 Sep.

Beauchamp has led the Department of Health since Sep 2017.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

Tipping winners



CONGRATULATIONS to this week's *Pharmacy Daily* Footy Tipping competition winners.

Rochelle Sherrard-Smith from Sigma Healthcare took out top spot for NRL round 21 while Matt McDowell won round 21 for the AFL tipping.



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Dispensary Corner

WANT to save the environment?

Brazil's President, Jair Bolsonaro, who has a questionable reputation when it comes to protecting Mother Nature, believes people focused on sparing the Earth, should curtail the frequency of their bowel movements.

Bolsonaro, who took office in Jan, has been under fire after official data showed deforestation of the Amazon has increased significantly over the last 12 months.

The Brazilian President's comments came in response to questions from a journalist about reports saying deforestation and agriculture cause a quarter of greenhouse gases.

"It's enough to eat a little less," he said.

"You talk about environmental pollution, it's enough to poop every other day.

"That will be better for the whole world."

However, the President's plan to cut the frequency of Brazilian bowel movements could have unintended health consequences that could lead to the need for the nation to undergo "bowel retraining" for severe constipation.



Misterhood raises \$700K



PRICELINE Pharmacy's 2019 'Misterhood for the Sisterhood' campaign (**PD** 03 Jul), has reached the half-way point with \$700,000 raised for the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation, on track to meet their target of \$1.5 million.

Cricket legend Merv Hughes has been leading the charge on this campaign, with the help of some new 'Misters' – AFL greats, Glen Jakovich (WA), Dermott Brereton (Vic & Tas) and Tony Modra (SA

and NT), and NRL stars Billy Moore (QLD) and Braith Anasta (NSW & ACT).

Since the campaign kicked off on 19 July, the sporting legends have been spreading the word by visiting local Priceline Pharmacy stores all around Australia to rally the community to buy a \$2 Scratchie and Win ticket for a good cause at the checkout.

Donations can be made online at priceline.com.au/sisterhood.

Guild Update

Clarity on unfair dismissals

THE Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Kate Carnell, has handed down a comprehensive review of the Small Business Fair Dismissal Code, recommending a suite of changes to help small business employers meet their obligations.

Ms Carnell said the Small Business Fair Dismissal Code in its current form was not working in the way it was originally intended.

She said the recommended amendments and checklists were designed to guide a small business employer through a fair dismissal process, not to make the dismissal process easier.

The review contains recommendations in the following areas:

- Amendments to ensure the code meets its intended functions and objectives and provides certainty on what is required of small business employers to ensure a dismissal is fair.
- Improving small business education and awareness in relation to the Code
- Clarifying the unfair dismissal claims process for small business employers and employees

The review can be access here: www.asbfeo.gov.au.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the NEW 125ml Plunkett's Vita E Natural Vitamin E Quick Dry Oil and a 100g Vita E Natural Vitamin E Cream valued at over \$40.

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

Does Plunkett's Vita E Natural Vitamin E Quick Dry Oil contain any preservatives, mineral oil or parabens?



Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Aya Alaouie.