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## Pharmacy healthcare by numbers

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Authority (AHPRA) Pharmacy Board has published a pharmacy-specific statistical summary and a report from the Chair that covers the work of the Board over the 12 months to 30 Jun 2019, including its consultation around pharmacist prescribing (**PD** 10 Jan).

The report covers the usual statistical data around the profession.

Of the almost 750,000 registered health practitioners in 2018-19, 31,955 were pharmacists, up 2.7% from the prior year (31,108).

The largest cohort is found in the 25-39 year age bracket, with 427 still practising over the age of 70 years, and 62.8% identifying as female.

The percentage of pharmacists against whom notifications were received by the Board was 1.8% for 2018-2019 versus 1.7% for all health practitioners, both figures insignificantly different from the prior year (1.9% and 1.6% respectively).

About half of all cases required no further action (52%) while 29% received a caution or reprimand,

with 1.5% having their registration suspended or cancelled.

The spread across the states was roughly in line with population numbers.

The major exercise apart from all of the normal regulatory functions of the board was the hosting of the Pharmacy Prescribing Forum in Jun.

Following the forum, the Board published a report and opened a consultation with a discussion paper around possible frameworks for pharmacist prescribing, models of pharmacist prescribing of Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 medicines and related issues of education, legislation and competency.

This resulted in an ongoing



analysis which is expected to generate a report next year around the degree of support for prescribing by pharmacists and may include recommendations about any additional work required.

Other matters in the Board's summary included research and analysis, Board member induction and the new five-year accreditation agreement between the Board, the Australian Pharmacy Council and AHPRA.

Today's issue of **PD**

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news.

## Brauer Teething Gel recall

**CONSUMERS** and health professionals are advised that Brauer Natural Medicine, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration is recalling batch #809057 of Brauer Teething Gel 20g due to bacterial contamination.

Return affected goods or contact Brauer customer service on 1300 308 108.

## Faye McMillan a self-respect inspiration

**ASSOCIATE** Professor Faye McMillan (**pictured**), the first registered Aboriginal pharmacist, the 2019 Aboriginal Woman of the Year, and Atlantic Fellow, says creating authentic relationships and understanding how current policies impact First Nations Peoples is the way to start to creating a health profession where First Nations Peoples feel valued and included.

*Yindymarra* (respect) your Narrative was this year's topic at the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) third Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Lecture Series.

McMillan spoke about privilege and respecting what makes you 'you' – understanding where you've come from, your challenges, opportunities and



behaviours which determine how you build meaningful relationships, with a sense of "belongingness".

"Belongingness creates relationships, and relationships create better health outcomes."

McMillan issued a challenge to attendees to call out racism and have courageous conversations.

"The behaviour you walk past is the standard you accept."

## More TGA alerts


**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Safety Advisory notice saying that due to the critical nature of the ongoing EpiPen Jr shortage, it is allowing one batch (#9KC652) to be supplied even though it has not met all the required quality specifications (**PD** 25 Nov).

Two other TGA warnings relate to Sheaya Herbs tablets by Kulchaya, which have been found to contain the unscheduled laxative bisacodyl, and PURE BIOTHROID-B No1 tablets which contain a bovine thyroid from an undisclosed source.

The TGA advises both products may have been bought online by consumers, are illegal to sell in Australia, pose a serious risk to health and should be taken to local pharmacies for safe disposal.

## PBS update

**THE** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme has listed formulary allocations, drugs subject to disclosure as at 01 Dec, with pricing, revised resperidone listings and more in its latest site update - see [pbs.gov.au](https://pbs.gov.au).



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## Dispensary Corner

**HOW** many parents have told their kids to count sheep when they're claiming to have difficulty getting to sleep?

Few would expect their little "Johnny" to take the parental advice literally, and take the John Deere out for a spin to check on the local flock population figures.

Believe or not, that's just what happened in Trim, Co Meath, Ireland, where a 12-year-old was joined in the cabin of a tractor by an eight-year-old and a 15-year-old, as they drove a tractor passed party-goers at 12:30am on Sun morning in the middle of the town, many kilometres from the nearest sheep.

Local police officers convinced the restless trio to pull over without an incident, and they were taken into custody until their parents were contacted to pick them up.

It is unclear how the boys slept after the excitement of their late-night escapade, but we suspect their parents may seek pharmaceutical assistance to get their little angels to sleep in future.

Alternatively, Mum and Dad may never sleep again after Sat night/Sun morning's escapade.

## Sigma's \$105m high tech DC investment

**SIGMA** Healthcare unveiled its largest and most technologically advanced distribution centre (DC) ever at Kemps Creek in Sydney last week, to coincide with an investor day and customer showcase evening (**PD 26 Nov**).

An industry update and site tour to showcase the centre was conducted with key investors, local pharmacists and other industry partners.

Sigma CEO, Mark Hooper (**pictured**), hosted the showcase event to highlight the capability of the new facility, which is highly automated and will further improve Sigma's operational efficiency.

Hooper said, "The Kemps Creek Distribution Centre is a \$105



million investment by Sigma and represents our largest ever single investment in our national distribution network.

"The Kemps Creek facility ensures that every resident of NSW has affordable and equitable access to essential medicines usually within 24 hours, no matter where they live."

The 40,000 square-meter Kemps

Creek facility is twice the size of the MCG playing surface and employs more than 100 staff "to ensure a efficient distribution of essential medicines across NSW".

### Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the pictured prize pack valued at over \$60.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf – rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round. Visit: [www.Plunketts.com.au](http://www.Plunketts.com.au) for more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



**Is Plunkett's Aloe Vera certified organic?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Linda Luczak.*

## Guild Update

### Christmas Trading Hours Poster

**THE** Guild has a range of Member Only resources available to download and use in your pharmacy as needed.

For the holiday season later this month, there are Trading Hours posters available to download.

Member resources are available to download (Member login required):

[www.guild.org.au/resources/in-home-care/ask-your-pharmacist](http://www.guild.org.au/resources/in-home-care/ask-your-pharmacist).



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