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PSA seeks funding boost in Tasmania

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Tasmanian Branch is seeking \$2 million from the State Government to fund a pilot trial of after-hours services it says could deliver significant savings.

In its pre-budget submission, released on Fri, the PSA Tasmania President, Dr Ella van Tienen, called for pharmacists to be empowered to work to their full scope of practice, including providing minor ailments care.

“For a whole raft of reasons our emergency departments are under immense pressure,” she said. “Contributing to the burden are the number of presentations by patients with less-serious ailments, such as minor pain management or cold and flu.

“Recent research shows pharmacists have the skills and expertise to support patients who would currently seek care from a

GP or hospital. Pharmacists can provide self-care advice, which in most cases is what is needed, or triage patients and refer them to the appropriate health service.

“Pharmacists are located throughout our local communities and a network are already open after-hours, making them well placed to do more. We estimate this initiative could save Tasmania’s health budget over \$4 million a year.”

The PSA also called for an additional \$700,000 to fund a dedicated medicines safety pharmacist to work in each of Tasmania’s five adult mental health services.

“Tasmania’s mental health outpatient facilities provide care to some of the most vulnerable members of our community,” van Tienen said.

“Medicines are a major treatment



modality for many people with a mental illness and due to the nature of these medicines and complexity of medication regimes, there is increased risk of medication error and harm.

“Tasmania actually has the highest proportion of people dispensed with mental health-related prescriptions. To ensure these medicines are used safely we would like pharmacists more actively involved in the care team.”

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our Weekly Comment.

Atypical opioids

GUILD Learning and Development and Seqirug have launched a new online course to boost pharmacists’ knowledge of tapentadol.

The program, *Not all opioids are created equally: Spotlight on Palexia SR (tapentadol sustained release)* highlights the role of atypical opioids in the management of chronic pain.

This activity has been accredited for 1.5 hours of Group 1 CPD (or 1.5 CPD credits), suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist’s CPD plan.

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Sigma forecasts accelerated growth

PHARMACY wholesaler, Sigma Healthcare’s new agreement to become the first-line supplier of fast moving consumer goods (FMCGs) to the My Chemist/ Chemist Warehouse (CWH) group is set to accelerate growth in 2021, the company told the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) on Fri.

The deal announced last month (PD 26 Nov) came less than five months after EBOS Group offshoot, Symbion, replaced

Sigma as the discount pharmacy group’s first-line supplier for ethical products.

In its latest statement to the ASX, Sigma said the agreement would result in increase annualised sales of up to \$800 million, when at full run rate, which is expected to be from 01 Jul.

Sigma has announced it will reinvest some of the realised gains from CWH’s original exit to support the new deal.

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Christmas Team Photo Competition

Share your holiday spirit with your best Christmas team photo.

Enter to win an iPad.





Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is



Marta Stybowski, pharmacist and General Manager, Pharmacium.

Consult rooms or compounding labs? – 3 tips on maximising your refit ROI

IT'S great to see most pharmacy refit projects involving conversations around inclusion of direct dispense counters, addition of consult rooms or compounding labs – testament to the ongoing 'service' shift in pharmacy. However how do you ensure these newly created spaces add value to your business?

Niche/Need/Gap

Do your research – compounding labs may be on-trend but will it work for your business? Building more consult rooms creates a professional service image – but what are the opportunities in your community for service provision? Remote, inner metro or suburban locations all present different opportunities and challenges.

Resourcing

Fundamental to any initiative success is having the right resource – a nominated 'champion' to drive the service. Who is skilled, passionate and available in your business to manage an extended service added to your business post refit? What costs and time frames are required to upskill staff and are there options to outsource?

Awareness

The notion of 'build the facilities and they will come' simply doesn't work – having a clear communication plan to tell your patients (and relevant stakeholders!) about your new facilities and services is critical to success.

Be focused – avoid becoming a 'jack of all trades but master of none' by over-diversifying. Give your business a competitive edge by picking a couple of things and excelling in their delivery to maximise the ROI of your refit.

Rural funding

THE Federal and NSW Government have joined forces to create a Bilateral Regional Health Forum to decide how a combined \$2 billion can be used to boost NSW rural healthcare.

Dispensary Corner

A DUNCE Dublin thief who decided to rob his family's local pharmacy armed with a bicycle saddle has been jailed to two-and-a-half years.

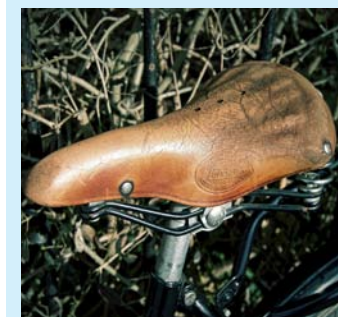
Ross Hutch (27) grabbed €200 from the till at Boles Pharmacy, escaping the store only to be disarmed of his saddle by a customer, before making a rather uncomfortable getaway on his saddle-less bike.

A hearing of Dublin Criminal Court heard a pharmacy employee, 70-year-old Catherine Raymond, who had been at the till when Hutch grabbed the cash, recognised him.

Hutch was later stopped by police and subsequently arrested at his home, in possession of €200 in cash.

In a victim impact statement, Raymond told the court that Hutch's family were customers of the pharmacy and she considered the incident to be a betrayal of trust.

Hutch provided a letter of apology to the court in which he expressed his regret and hope that Raymond makes a full recovery after the trauma of the robbery.



Pharmacist to practice

A PHARMACIST facing charges of sexual assaulting a patient will be allowed to practice after an NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal overturned a suspension handed down by the Pharmacy Council of NSW in Aug.

The Tribunal set aside Hany Samir Ibrahim's suspension on the condition that he is confined to the dispensary, not permitted to interact with customers, be employed as a pharmacist-in-charge or work alone in a pharmacy.

Any employer who hires him while the conditions apply will be required to provide written acknowledgement that they are aware of the conditions imposed on Ibrahim's registration, while they will also have to display a sign in the pharmacy stating the "pharmacist in the dispensary is not to advise or consult with customers/patients - please see the pharmacist in charge".

Ibrahim has been accused of assaulting a 19-year-old female, who had come into the pharmacy seeking emergency contraception on 01 Jul.

The incident is alleged to have taken place in a consultation room



in the store, after which the woman called the police and Ibrahim was arrested.

Ibrahim denies the allegations, and affidavits from four colleagues all attested that the allegations made against him were "completely out of character", and they were all confident he could continue to be employed at the pharmacy in a restricted role which did not involve private consultations.

In making its decision to partially overturn the suspension the Tribunal noted Ibrahim had not previously come to the attention of the Council and the had been no suggestion that he lacked competency in his practice.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

