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Bushfires going from 'bad to worse'

BUSHFIRES in southern NSW "are going from bad to worse" Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, believes.

With blazes raging across the country a number of regional towns were closed off on Sat, as emergency services sought to combat the fires.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* yesterday morning, Topp said staff working at the group's Bowral store who had been out of their home since Fri, "don't know if they've got a house".

Topp noted that at 5pm on Sat, the day before the summer solstice, the sky above the south coast town of Huskisson "it was like the dead of night", as smoke from nearby fires blocked out the sun.

Topp listed nine Capital Chemist stores that have been directly affected by the fires, with three pharmacies in Batemans Bay, two in Ulladulla, and one each in Bowral, Braidwood, Huskisson and Mittagong, feeling the pressure.

"I'm not trying to say they're about to burn down, because that's not true," he said.

"But they are being heavily

impacted by fire from staff, from evacuees, customers' ability to access, ability to get stock delivered."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, who has a pharmacy in Cudmirrah Beach, said roads into and out of the area had been closed on Sat, with residents and visitors asked not to leave.

Heffernan told *Pharmacy Daily* the fires had created staffing issues, with one pharmacist who had been rostered to work unable to get to the coastal town.

Meanwhile, South Australian Guild President, Nick Panayiaris, said pharmacies in the state had been operating normally over the weekend.

However, he said, "many patients have been impacted by the fire".

"We are working on some potential logistical issues in getting deliveries into some of the fire impacted towns as they are screening people in and some of the couriers are not delivering into those areas," he said.

"Through the local branch of the Guild we have made some



financial provisions to each of those pharmacies to help with urgent supplies of medications to patients.

"The pharmacies will also be stocking up on the basics like toiletries, and sanitary items as well as asthma puffers and saline washes for those affected by the smoke.

"We have contacted the coordinating centres to inform them that anyone requiring an emergency supply of their regular medication should go into their local pharmacy for assistance."

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

PSS concerned

CONCERNS over pharmacists' welfare are being flagged as bushfires heap pressure on the profession to support the community.

A Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) spokesperson said pharmacists were facing a series of stress inducing factors, including the threats to posed by the fires to their lives and property, the difficulty of maintaining stock levels, due to road closures, which are forcing some pharmacies to operate at reduced staff levels.

The PSS also urged pharmacists working in fire prone areas to have a disaster plan in place to aid their response to an emergency.

PSS volunteers are available from 8am to 11pm AEDST on 1300 244 910 if you need support.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Pharmacy Daily's festive shutdown

TODAY'S edition of *Pharmacy Daily* is our final edition of 2019.

We will be back on 02 Jan, keeping you up to date on the issues that matter to you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers

and advertisers for their support throughout the year and wish you all safe and happy festive season.

See you in 2020, for what is set to be another big year for the profession.

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No deal - 7CPA deadline set to pass

NEGOTIATIONS for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) will continue into 2020, despite Department of Health Secretary, Glenys Beauchamp, saying having a deal signed by 31 Dec was one of her key performance indicators.

However, a Department spokesperson confirmed the deadline has been pushed back to 31 Mar, meaning negotiations are likely to continue beyond the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition.

"The Government has sought to be highly inclusive, inviting a wide group of stakeholders to contribute to the 7CPA," the spokesperson said.

"In line with this commitment, the Department has met with



a range of organisations since mid-2019.

"While the Department aimed to reach a negotiated agreement before the end of 2019, negotiations will continue into January 2020."

Issues surrounding double dispensing are believed to be a significant stumbling block for negotiators.

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

DESPITE the views of some that Australian pharmacy is a protected industry, few will have legislation ensuring their preservation.

However, British Heritage Minister, Helen Whately, has issued a decree guaranteeing the protection of a former pharmacy in Lowestoft, Suffolk, adding it to the National Heritage List for England.

The store was built for pharmacist, Robert Morris, in 1851 and has retained its Italianate shop front with arched windows and decorative mouldings, which the BBC noted was "very fashionable at the time, yet few survive today".

The store operated as a pharmacy up until 2012, and included mirror backed shelving and cupboards held good under gilt labels for "poisons" and "surgical appliances", and wooden drawers for the storage of dried and powdered chemicals.

The pharmacies listing comes alongside 552 other structures across England, including a World War Two observation post, Liverpool's Piazza Fountain and Sandford Parks Lido in Cheltenham.



CWH profits plummet

DISCOUNT giant and pharmacy deregulation advocate, Chemist Warehouse (CWH), is experiencing a slowdown, with East Yarra Friendly Society (EYFS), a company that represents close to 50% of the group's stores, reporting profits of \$6.5 million for 2017/18.

The latest financial results filed with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) on Fri, showed profits fell from \$12.96 million in 2016/17, which marked a dramatic decline on the 2015/16 figure of \$101.2 million.

The report showed sales for EYFS stores for the year to 30 Jun 2018 fell from a combined \$300.9 million in 2016/17 to \$298.6 million, having been \$400 million in 2015/16.

EYFS has yet to file results for the 2018/19 financial year.



The *Australian Financial Review*, reported EYFS directors and CWH owners, Jack Gance and Mario Verrocchi, have considered listing the group, with the paper reporting a possible initial public offering could take place in late 2020.

However, the business' complex structure has been described as a potential barrier to the rumoured \$5 billion float.

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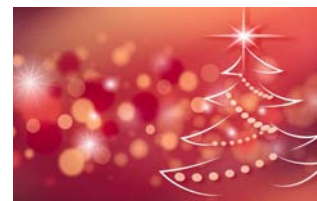
Guild Update

Christmas greetings from Guild

WE'RE coming up to a very busy time for community pharmacy with Christmas and the holiday season putting a lot of demands on all of us and our staff. Despite the busy time, we certainly hope all in community pharmacy can have a bit of work-life balance at this time of year, and enjoy a safe and happy time with your families over the festive season.

The Guild has worked hard in the interests of Members in 2019, and we will be continuing to do that in the New Year – working on important issues for our industry, including of course the Seventh Agreement. We will be doing our best in every way to give Members the certainty and security needed to continue running businesses and serving the needs of patients.

So to all community pharmacy owners and staff, please have a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous and fulfilling New Year.



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