

Pharmacist crucial unique position

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018 report revealed 95% of Australian children do not consume the recommended number of serves of vegetables each day, and more than two-thirds exceed the recommended intake of free sugars.

Nutritional company Activated Nutrients MD Blair Norfolk said this highlights the crucial role of pharmacists and their unique position to influence parents who are looking for strategies to help their growing children to meet their nutritional requirements.

The company has launched "Grow Up - Kid's Superfood" in pharmacies across Australia.

"Providing the right information to parents is so important to getting the message of good nutrition across," said Norfolk.

"Pharmacists are in a position of trust and they can really make a difference to the lives they touch."

Emergency medicines call

PROMPTED by yet another emergency situation threatening medicines access for patients, namely the tragic Townsville floods, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called for three key changes around medicines supply to consumers.

Writing in the weekly *Forefront* editorial, the Guild expressed the concern that all health professionals have for patients unable to have timely access to their essential medications.

"The Guild believes the current arrangements in all jurisdictions are inadequate to efficiently support patients in the event of a catastrophe such as fire, flood or cyclone when people can be displaced, essential medical services can be disrupted and people are at their most vulnerable."

Three propositions have been put to the Federal Government seeking coordinated response from Commonwealth, states

and territories working together through the COAG Health Council to implement these changes as soon as possible:

1. An expansion of Emergency Supply provisions in all States and Territories to enable supply by a pharmacist without prescription.
2. An expansion of the range of pharmaceutical benefits for Continued Dispensing.
3. Prescription Renewal arrangements for all stakeholders to improve medication use efficiencies via a Community-Based Medication Chart.

Guild leaders funded

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland Branch, has been named as a successful funding recipient as part of the Queensland Government's 'Advancing Women in Business Initiative'.

The initiative aims to provide female pharmacists, interns, pharmacy students and pharmacy staff with support, education and resources to enable more women to start and grow their own businesses and attain positions of leadership.

For details visit guild.org.au.

Omega-3 PBS?

OBSTETRICIAN Professor Julie Quinlivan, from the University of Notre Dame Australia, in Fremantle, says public health messages should promote fish oil supplements in pregnancy in the wake of a Cochrane review released late last year, according to a report by *6minutes*.

Quinlivan said she believed all pregnant women should be able to access the simple measure that has been shown to almost halve the rate of preterm birth.

See a useful summary of the data at 6minutes.com.au.

Free vax for A&TSIs

THE Federal Government will fund free influenza vaccination for 170,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (A&TSI) children five to 14 years of age and has also committed \$12 million to boost a national immunisation education campaign, Health Minister Greg Hunt said this week.

Funding will be via the National Immunisation Program with the additional \$12 million spent over the next three years to expand the reach of the successful 'Get the Facts' about immunisation campaign - see beta.health.gov.au.

NP in Superloop Adelaide 500



SOUTH Australian-based National Pharmacies will feature on Nick Percat's #8 ZB Commodore (pictured) for the 2019 Supercar season opening event, the Superloop Adelaide 500, starting 28 Feb.

The 50-strong pharmacy chain has been supporting Brad Jones Racing

Team since 2017.

National Pharmacies is focusing on men's health at this year's Superloop Adelaide 500 event.

Tickets to the event are up for grabs as well as the chance to win a spot in the coveted Hot Lap through National Pharmacies' Facebook and Instagram.

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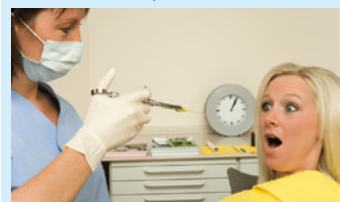
WHO doesn't want an extra hit of novocaine when the dentist is masochistically drilling holes through your pearly whites?

But perhaps some dentists take the dispensing of drugs a little too far, like the pair of Virginia Beach dentists in the United States who used patients as drug mules.

The Drug Enforcement Administration shut the pair's practice down after finding they had prescribed more than 46,000 hydrocodone pills, 20,000 pills of carisoprodol and 8,000 oxycodone pills to patients who never suffered from dental ailments.

The DEA's report also claimed dental work was performed in exchange for pills being handed off to dealers by the patient.

With any luck they might escape penalty by the skin of their teeth - but this looks quite doubtful.



EMPLOYEE welfare checks or an invasion of privacy? That's the question being asked by many workers as the trend of workplace health surveillance surges.

The rise of digital fitness trackers have made it possible for companies to monitor the health of its staff in real time, as Chris Zubko recently found out after returning from bypass surgery.

The very second he entered the office, he received this text from his boss: "Man! I noticed your steps have picked up. Two times you worked out this week. Good!"

Expanding role in asthma

THE National Asthma Council of Australia has called for training and funding for pharmacists around asthma management including written asthma action plans (WAAPs).

The message is loud and clear in the Council's in-depth exploratory paper *Current practice and new approaches in asthma: Perspectives of asthma practitioners and patients*, which was funded by AstraZeneca.

Pharmacists figure as the key health professionals along with nurses in one of the five high-level objectives in the National Asthma Strategy 2018.

"Workforce roles and responsibilities were examined, with an emphasis on increasing the role of pharmacists, and practice nurses in asthma management."

The report recommended "an asthma medication review system, greater prescriber access to dispensing data, and pharmacist inhaler technique remuneration."

"The pharmacist is the



professional that people would see more often than a GP because they are getting their repeats and they can check inhaler technique," said one contributor referencing such a system operating in

Denmark.

With around 50 references to the role of pharmacists in asthma management there are too many to describe here - access the paper at assets.nationalasthma.org.au.

Import drugs warning

HEALTH professionals and consumers are being warned by the Therapeutic Goods Administration that Boxy Indelar capsules and Mang Luk Power Slim capsules pose a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

Both products contain the undeclared substance sibutramine, a prescription-only medicine withdrawn in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events - tga.gov.au.

Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away NS Hands and Heels prize pack valued at over \$45.

Hands and Heels - Dry, rough cracked hands and heels? Nutri-Synergy can help. NS is natural dermatology...natural active ingredients are synergistically combined to restore dry, sensitive and problem skin. NS 8 Heel Balm hydrates, softens and exfoliates dry cracked heels while NS hand creams absorb quickly to nourish and repair dry, cracked hands, nails and cuticles. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au for more.

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NS Protective Hand Cream protects hands for up to how many hours?

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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 *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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