

## Pharmacy attack

**NEW** South Wales state police are seeking information from the public following an armed robbery at a Moorebank pharmacy on Stockton Avenue.

At around 8.30am on Mon, two men wearing balaclavas, and one armed with a knife, entered the pharmacy.

Staff were threatened and forced to hand over some prescription drugs as well as cash from the register.

## Pharmacist banned over drug thefts

**AN ASPIRING** pharmacist's provisional registration has been cancelled and she has been barred from the profession for at least two years, after stealing prescription medicines.

Sara Shadi Kazeme was found guilty of theft and attempted theft of prescription-only products including human growth hormone, cosmetics, vitamins and other items, from a pharmacy she was working in, by the Magistrates Court of Victoria on 23 Nov 2016.

The offences occurred between 13 Feb 2014 and Jun 2015, on 83 separate occasions, at the Como Compounding Pharmacy in South Yarra, where she was employed to dispense medicines.

Documents from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal reported Kazeme created false compounding request forms, and then packaged and distributed the stolen products to various addresses, including her own home.

In a civil case taken by her former employer, Nima Alavi-Moghadan, on 16 May 2016, it was claimed Kazeme had wrongfully appropriated pharmaceuticals and other items, and sought damages of \$285,291.05, a figure she



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disputed, suggesting the wholesale value of the stolen items was between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

On 26 Feb 2018, Kazeme was ordered to pay damages of \$237,185, plus interest fixed at \$41,481.58 for the period 16 May 2016 to 16 Feb 2018, and costs of \$10,000.

At the time of the VCAT hearing on 19 Nov 2018, Kazeme had not made any repayments.

Pharmacy Board of Australia Chair, Brett Simmonds, welcomed the VCAT decision to reprimand and cancel Kazeme's registration and bar her from reapplying for a

minimum of two years.

"The Board welcomes the tribunal's decision and its emphasis on the importance of the trust that the community places in pharmacists to protect and control access to both prescription and non-prescription pharmaceutical drugs and products," he said.

In early 2016, the Pharmacy Council of NSW suspended Kazeme's provisional registration, when she was involved with a clinic that made false and misleading claims about the benefits of an IV vitamin drip service (PD 27 Jan 2016).



 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news.






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## Dangerous doc fails to get jail term cut

A FORMER GP who attempted to kill a pharmacist, and who has been described as “dangerous” by Supreme Court of South Australia Justice Anne Vanstone, has failed to appeal his 15-year jail sentence.

The South Australian Court of Criminal Appeal rejected Brian Holder’s claim that the 10-year non-parole period handed down by Justice Vanstone was excessive.

Court documents revealed a 28-year-old pharmacists working in Port Lincoln reported Holder to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, after eight indigenous patients came into the pharmacy she was working in on the same day, with private scripts for benzodiazepines, provided by the Adelaide-based GP, despite all having regular local doctors.

On 10 Oct 2017 Holder went



to the Terry White store in Port Lincoln where the pharmacist was working, and lured her out from the dispensary.

Holder attacked the pharmacist with a fishing knife, inflicting three lacerations to her arm, but she managed to defend herself, while a customer tried to grab Holder before he fled the scene.

Court papers reported that police found Holder “barely conscious” in a hotel room, having taken several insulin injections and other drugs.

## Push to return unused opioids

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is conducting a campaign to urge consumers to return their unused opioids to their local pharmacy for safe disposal.

Resources to support those who wish to do so, and rationale to use to encourage others, are provided.

The resources focus on four messages highlighting the dangers of unattended opioid in the house: Don’t keep your strong pain medicines ‘just in case’; Curiosity can kill; Opioids cause over 100 hospitalisations



every day; Two-thirds of drug-related deaths involve opioids.

Each have videos, Facebook and Twitter links to help social media savvy supporters spread the messages with the hashtags #RemoveTheRisk and #ReturnYourOpioids.

Pharmacists are urged to be prepared by ensuring they have space in their RUM (Return of Unwanted Medicines) containers.

## SHPA decries funding slash

AROUND \$44m in cuts to hospital pharmacy department budgets will have unforeseen impacts on the care of some of Australia’s most acutely unwell patients, the Society of Hospitals Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) warned yesterday.

The Federal Budget measure that will see a revision to public and private hospital pharmacy pricing on 01 Oct, resulting in a reduction of revenue associated with \$85 medicine dispensing, was executed.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels said, “On behalf of our members with whom we advocated against this change, SHPA is disappointed to see this cut in funding to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) – through a reduction in funds being paid to hospitals – will now become a reality - see [pbs.gov.au](https://www.pbs.gov.au).

“In our liaison with the major parties before the Federal Election and with the re-elected Morrison Coalition Government since, we have outlined a number of crucial aspects of patient care and hospital pharmacy services that will be negatively impacted by this decision, and our focus now shifts to supporting our members and

the broader sector through these changes.”

Michaels said appropriate medicines funding as a backbone of hospital pharmacy services, the PBS Medicines in Hospitals program, will be central to discussions at SHPA’s upcoming Medicines Leadership Forum in Aug.

The SHPA also called for full mitigation of the cuts through changes to funding in the National Health Reform Agreement 2020-25.

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## Bowen to speak at Guild dinner

SHADOW Federal Minister for Health, Chris Bowen, will address the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual Parliamentary Dinner, presenting the Labor Party’s perspective on community pharmacy.

He will appear alongside Minister of Health, Greg Hunt who will make the keynote address (PD 02 Jul).

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## Dispensary Corner

**AGEING** is a far from graceful experience, it creeps up on you when you least expect it.

Your body lets you down, things you could do without batting an eyelid are suddenly much more challenging.

For former Adelaide Crows and Fremantle Dockers player, Tony Modra, one of those moments occurred on Tue, as he graced the hallowed turf of the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The retired footy star was in Sydney with cricketering icon, Merv Hughes, and a cadre of sporting greats from yesteryear to launch Priceline Pharmacy's Priceline Misterhood for the Sisterhood campaign.

The event aimed at getting guys involved in the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation to raise funds for women's health issues, was going well, when Tony's competitive mentality drove him as it had on the footy field during his 165-game career.

Unfortunately for Tony, his body is no longer as finely tuned as it once was, and after a determined start in a 50m dash alongside former Canterbury Bulldogs, Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers five-eighth, Braith Anasta, Maroon's lock, Billy Moore, and West Coast Eagles centre-half-back, Glen Jakovich, Tony blew a hamstring.

For the record, Anasta added the race win to his 2004 NRL Premiership, with Moore claiming the runner-up spot, with Modra miraculously hobbling across the finish-line ahead of Jakovich.

**CLICK HERE** to see the race.

## Pharmacists recognised

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) Samford owner, Karen Brown, told her LinkedIn connections that she is living her dream, after receiving an award from her local Rotary Club.

Brown (**pictured right**), the 2018 TWC Pharmacist of the Year, was presented with The Rotary Club of Samford Valley Pride of Workmanship Awards on Tue night, in recognition of her dedication and commitment to the community.

"I was surprised and humbled to be awarded the Pride of Workmanship Award," she said.

"I am extremely blessed to be living out my dream of being a pharmacist, leading an amazing team and owning a pharmacy



that is a true health hub of the community, in a place my family and I call home."

**MEANWHILE**, Letisha Johnston of TWC Coffs Harbour, secured the NSW North and Mid Coast Trainee of the Year Award over the weekend.

Speaking with the *Macleay Argus*, Johnston (**pictured with her mentor** and TWC Coffs Harbour owner, Tanya Maloney) also said working in pharmacy had been a dream.

"Pharmacy has always been a passion for me since my mum worked full-time in a pharmacy and I've always looked up to my mother," she said.



## GoLean warning

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued an alert about a product labelled GoLean Detox Capsules.

TGA testing found they contain the undeclared prescription-only substances sibutramine and phenolphthalein, with authorities warning they have not been assessed for quality, safety or efficacy as required under Australian legislation.

## API appointment

**PHARMACY** wholesaler Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) has announced the company's General Counsel and Company Secretary, Peter Sanguinetti, will retire on 26 Jul.

Sanguinetti has been with the company for 11 years, and will be replaced by Anne Mustow who most recently was General Counsel and Company Secretary of Bunnings Group.



## Travel Specials

**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 *Flo Travel Nasal Spray*.



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