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NSW Budget missed opportunity: PSA

PHARMACISTS recruited by NSW Health, as part of a State Budget announcement, should be allocated to different areas of practice and "not just hospitals", the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

Responding to yesterday's 2019/20 State Budget announcement, PSA NSW Branch President Professor Peter Carroll, said the State Government needed to invest in harnessing the accessibility of community pharmacy, to reduce pressure on hospital services, particularly outside of Sydney.

"Rural and regional Australia deserve better access to health services and medicines." he said.

"Community pharmacists are accessible and have the skills and expertise to create better access to medicines and health services, particularly in these regional areas.

"There needs to be a focus on models of care outside the hospital system to better service the needs of these communities."

With the Budget set to deliver a surplus, Professor Carroll expressed disappointment that the Government had not found the money to fund a real time prescription monitoring system to combat the cost of hospitalisations stemming from medicine-rated harm.

"Medicine safety is a health priority and it is disappointing to see that there is no investment by the NSW Government in a real time prescription monitoring system in NSW, which will aid clinical decision making and provide an opportunity to identify and appropriately manage patients misusing specific prescription medications.

"All states, except NSW and WA, have either implemented or set strategies to introduce a real time



ces: 1. Australian Medicines Handbook (online). Dermatological drugs, Tables: Comparison of oxt dated 2018.July: cited 2018.July 25). 2. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Der dic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2018 July 25]. 3. Kloxema Cream Approved Product Inf ncy and uses of topical corticos matology, version 4. Dermatitis: rmation, 12 September 2017. recommending please review full Product Information ber

monitoring system. However NSW continues to fall further behind despite experience internationally and locally that when such systems are implemented they have the desired effect in reducing harm."



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly Health & Beauty feature plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

Support Tu Fund

PHARMACY Daily readers looking to support the Andrew Tu Fund (PD 06 Jun) can now easily donate to the crowdfunded memorial scholarship fund by CLICKING HERE.

Time to talk about lease arrangements

PHARMACY owners and managers operating stores in shopping centres are being urged to take advantage of market conditions to secure better lease agreements.

Retail rental expert, Phil Chapman, of Lease1, noted that with valuations across the Australian real estate market in decline, and shopping centre's experiencing a sharp drop in values, pharmacies could have an opportunity to secure an improved deal on their rent.

"Retailers should be renegotiating lower rents in line with sales decline and shopping centre values," Chapman said.

The situation looks particularly dire for retailers located in smaller, regional shopping centres.

"According to Vicinity, the nation's largest retail landlord, its own portfolio of 66 centres lost about 1.3% of its valuations but a large proportion of those losses were incurred by its 43 regional malls (along with its five neighbourhood centres)."

With the rise of online retailing impacting bricks and mortar retailers and shopping centre landlords alike, Chapman said renegotiating leases may be beneficial for both parties, giving pharmacists the opportunity to off-set declines in dispensary income.

Chapman warned that landlords and tenants will continue to face tough choices over the coming months.

"Negotiating for the reduction of lease rates isn't going to be easy for both parties, but it can likely be a crucial first step to the survival of the entire shopping mall sector," he said.



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Pharmacist education needs refresh

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy schools need to increase their focus on complementary medicines category in their curricula, former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Kos Sclavos believes.

Speaking at a trade media event hosted by Metagenics, last week, Sclavos said evidence-based natural health products offered a significant opportunity for the community pharmacy sector to grow, already valued at \$1.78 billion a year.

He said it was important for pharmacy staff to "speak with confidence" when recommending products such as probiotics, but warned that many graduates were likely to have had minimal exposure to natural medicines during their pharmacy degree.

"There's a lot of research [about the benefits of probiotics], and a lot of this research isn't that new, but it's not in the pharmacy curriculum," he said.

"So we've got recent graduates who've all the confidence in the world, but they're not aware of the facts [about probiotics].

"They feel like they know it all and it's hard to say to them, 'hold on, there's a whole space, a major category of pharmacy you need to know more on."

Sclavos said acceptance of the benefits of probiotics by some older pharmacy owners, was a challenge for growing the category.



"[However], I think it starts at the universities. where I'm not convinced all the heads of schools understand that this is something that should be core [to the curriculum]," he said.

He added that manufacturers needed to get their products onto the shelves of pharmacy schools' mock stores.

"They've all got mock pharmacies, they've got the video cameras, they record the pharmacists in their last year [when] they're doing counselling sessions," he said.

"So having it on the shelf will get these kids more familiar with the product and that's an opportunity for the profession."

Meanwhile, Metagencs will launch its new Activ-vial packaging to deliver fridge-free probiotics, from 01 Aug.

The company revealed the probiotic category has experienced significant growth in the last 12 months, however just 17% of Australians have reported using probiotics compared to 73% who have taken a vitamin.

PBS processes

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has updated its **PBS Process Improvements** page to include guidance for pre-submission meetings, for intent to apply and for positive recommendation pathways.

The site also explains costrecovery and updates the PBAC calendar - see pbs.gov.au.

Accused robber to face trial

A SUSPECTED pharmacy bandit is set to go to trial after a Victorian County Court ruled that "coincidence evidence" linking the man to five armed robberies is admissible.

The robberies occurred between Feb and Jul 2017, and saw two pharmacies targeted, in the Melbourne suburbs of Deer Park and St Albans.

The Court heard a man armed with an imitation gun entered a pharmacy in Deer Park on 21 May 2017, and signalled that he wanted the pharmacist to open the till.

During this robbery, personal money was taken from the pharmacist and an attempt was made to take cash from a pharmacy assistant.

It was noted that the robber had a "European accent" and "the accused speaks with a Spanish accent".

Victims at the second pharmacy reported the attacker spoke with an Australian accent.

The Crown presented evidence, including clothing matching those worn by the robber and an imitation gun found at the house of a friend of the accused's.

Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser and Facial Cleanser.

John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser is a concentrated serum with Eventone Complex[™] – a blend of multiple actives to visibly lighten dark spots and boost your skin's health and radiance, plus it's easy to incorporate into your daily skincare routine with guaranteed results. RRP

answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.

In which country is John

Medlab second NanaBis trial approval

AUSTRALIAN-LISTED medical life sciences company, Medlab Clinical (MDC) has received Human Ethics approval for a second NanaBis trial, which will be an observational study.

NanaBis is Medlab's patented, cannabis-based medicine, presently being trialled at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney.

The data collected from the new study is aimed at providing support in accelerating the regulatory process.

Medlab aims to roll this trial

out to 2,000 patients, making it one of the most significant cannabis trials to date.

Medlab CEO, Dr Sean Hall, explained, "This trial is very important to us as it allows MDC to leverage the Australian Special Access Scheme (SAS), follow the patients closely, but more-so publish and use the forth-coming data to bolster all our regulatory efforts as it relates to NanaBis."

Costs will be partly met by participants who are given NanaBis at a reduced price.

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To win, be the first from WA to send the correct com.au

Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser made? Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kaye Hazel.



GUILD PHARMACY OF THE YEAR

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Dispensary Corner

FITNESS trackers are offering more and more features, such as measuring heart rate, steps, location and even blood pressure in some cases.

But a US inventor has taken it to the next level by adding some negative reinforcement too - in the form of an electric shock for users who don't do the right thing for their health.

The Pavlok wristband (below) allows users to zap themselves when they find themselves lapsing into bad habits - and they can also give friends access via a smartphone to administer the shock remotely.

The latest version of the product claims to be able to detect when a user has their hand near their mouth to bite their nails, or if they don't use the right push-up posture.



SOME people will do anything for chocolate - but perhaps this is taking it a bit far.

A 120-year-old box of confectionery dating from the Boer War has gone on sale in NZ and is expected to attract bids of up to \$800.

The recipient of the gift, labelled "South Africa 1900" never ate the contents - but in the online photos the sweet treats look just a little rancid.

Health, Beauty and New Products

New Bondi Sands Body Moisturiser : Anti-Inflammatory Throat Sprays

- With winter's cold drying air sucking the
- moisture from every pore of the skin,
- new Bondi Sands Body Moisturiser
- comes to the rescue. It's a tan-friendly
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- congestion. Symptoms of a chesty cough include the presence of sticky mucus or phlegm after persistent coughing, a wet, productive cough, a sore throat and frequently, a pain in the chest as the muscles strain from persistent coughing. Read the label; use only as directed; if symptoms persist consult your health
- professional.
- Stockist: 1300 9 ARROW (27769)
- **RRP**: \$8.50 50 pack, \$13.80 100 pack
- Website: www.chemistsown.com.au



feature with all the latest health,

in this feature should emai newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au



New to Nova Pharmaceuticals are two Anti-Inflammatory Sore Throat Sprays. They provide relief of painful inflammatory conditions of the mouth and throat including pharyngitis, mouth ulcers, radiotherapy induced mucositis

and post-surgical inflammation, including that due to tonsillectomy and dental surgery. The multi directional spray nozzle allows application directly onto the sore, inflamed area for fast relief. Read the label; use only as directed; if symptoms persist consult your health professional.

Stockist: Pre-order now through DHL and API RRP: \$11.45 (30ml Reg) \$11.95 (15ml Max Strength) Website: www.novapharm.com.au

Hydra Set Setting Powder

HYDRA SET TRANSLUCENT DOSE SETTING POWDER DB

Designer Brands (DB) Cosmetics has released to the market its new Hydra Set Translucent Setting Powder to build with the

rest of its range.

This setting powder is a unique 'wet' feel powder to set liquid and cream products. Upon application the powder gives skin a cooling sensation, while its silky smooth texture creates an airbrushed finish. The powder is infused with aloe vera, green tea and hyaluronic acid.

Stockist: 03 8544 8000 RRP: \$16.99 Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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