

Carefully **CHOSEN** BY **MOTHERNEST**



What is propolis?

Propolis is an anti-bacterial substance that bees produce to protect the beehive from the elements and to disinfect and kill bacteria present in the bee hive. Propolis contains natural polyphenols called flavonoids.

Why Propolis is important?

Propolis is rich in amino acids which are important for immune health and has a high Vitamin content including Vitamin A, B1, B2, B3 and Biotin. Propolis may relieve symptoms of colds, flu, and sore throats.

What are Flavonoids?

- Flavonoids are a diverse group of phytonutrients (plant chemicals) found in almost all fruits and vegetables.
- Flavonoids are important because they are **powerful antioxidants** with **anti-inflammatory** and **immune system** benefits.
- The **flavonoid content** is often used as a criterion to evaluate **the quality of propolis**.

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Community pharmacy not first choice

PHARMACY graduates are no longer looking at community pharmacy as their first choice career path, Ravens Recruitment General Manager, Heidi Dariz, has revealed.

Releasing Ravens' 2019 *Pharmacy Market and Salary Report*, Dariz noted that despite pay rates rising across the industry, employee pharmacists are looking for opportunities in non-traditional roles.

"Over the past 12 months we have seen the demand for pharmacists in all sectors increase, although pharmacist shortages are still most critical in our rural and remote communities within community and hospital pharmacy," she said.

"We have also seen an increasing gap between the skills employers want and the skills job seekers possess.

"Demand for pharmacists who are able to develop, provide and implement professional

services programs has increased as community pharmacies' focus increasingly looks to provide a point of difference surrounding value and service in a market where customer spending is primarily driven by price point.

"We have had an increasing number of candidates interested in other career paths within pharmacy, including working in the pharmaceutical industry, within aged care and as pharmacists in GP clinics and we expect this trend to continue into the future."

Data released by Ravens found pharmacists who are willing to leave the major metropolitan areas can land the greatest financial rewards, with pharmacist managers in regional and rural parts of Queensland and the Northern Territory, including Darwin, taking home salaries of up to \$152,000 plus superannuation, while those in non-management roles reported incomes of up to \$101,000.

Pharmacist managers in rural and



regional parts of Western Australia and South Australia reported taking home between \$103,000 and \$140,000, with those in NSW and the ACT earning between \$120,000 and \$135,000.

Canberra pharmacies offer the highest salaries of all the major capitals, for pharmacists in charge (\$102,000), managers (\$110,000) and interns (\$57,000), while Sydney offered the highest salary for pharmacists in non-management positions (\$84,000).

However, pharmacists in Perth reported the lowest incomes across all categories.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, a front cover wrap from **Mothernest** and a full page from **Iberisig**.

Mothernest buzz

MOTHERNEST Health Products is today showcasing its range of propolis-based products - see the **cover page**.

Folate foods law

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released an amendment to its Declared Goods instrument, defining any foods containing folic acid, folinic acid, levomefolic acid or any other form of folate as 'therapeutic goods', regardless of folate levels present.

This means that advertising, claims and labelling of these items are now subject to the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

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Victoria the vax standard: Dowling

VICTORIA'S pharmacist vaccination rules should be the model that all other states and territories follow, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, John Dowling, believes.

Writing in the *Hobart Mercury* last week, Dowling praised the Tasmanian State Government's decision to lower the minimum age pharmacists could administer the influenza vaccine to 10 (**PD** 20 May), but stressed the need for pharmacists to be empowered to do more when it comes to vaccine preventable diseases in the wake of Australia's worst flu season, which claimed the lives of more than 800 people.

"I'm proud of the role community pharmacists played in vaccinating Tasmanians," he said.

"Without our work the toll would likely have been higher.

"Tasmanian Health Minister, Sarah Courtney, should also be congratulated on making

vaccinations more readily available by lowering the age children can be vaccinated in pharmacies.

"This makes it easier for busy parents to pop into their local pharmacy without making several appointments, particularly with yearly vaccinations like the flu.

"While Tasmania and Western Australia are making great steps in bolstering immunisation rates, it is the Victorian Government that is at the forefront.

"Victoria has included pharmacies in the provision of free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program for those aged 65 and over - one of the highest risk groups for flu," Dowling noted.

"This pragmatic approach is bolstering flu vaccination rates.

"In Tasmania and every other state in the country, this is only available through general practitioners, after the hassle of making an appointment and in many cases paying for a



consultation.

"This year Victoria's flu rate was significantly below the national one, when adjusted for its population.

"We should be looking at this success in protecting the elderly here in Tasmania - our pharmacists stand ready to help.

"Doing so is a cost-effective way of reducing the disease burden on our state's hospital system but, most importantly saves lives."

Pharmacy Depot case appeal fails

DEFENDANTS in the long-running Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme fraud case involving the collapsed Pharmacy Depot in Hurstville, Sydney (**PD** 18 Jan 2016), have had an attempted appeal thrown out of the Supreme Court of NSW last week.

Zeinab Youssef and Hussein Mohamed Ali Haidar had been accused of buying a property from the proceeds of crime, such that the property had a restraining order on it, preventing anyone from accessing its equity (**PD** 05 Jun).

Youssef had sought to have the restraining order repealed, however the attempt was refused, with Supreme Court Judge, R A Hulme, dismissing the appeal on the basis that the purchase was indeed funded from the proceeds of crime - for more details **CLICK HERE**.



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Dispensary Corner

RUNNING a busy pharmacy can suck up all your time.

There are a lot of moving parts that need to be kept going, and it's easy to be so wrapped up in your work that you forgot to inform others of what to expect.

Just ask 2019 University of Technology Sydney/ AstraZeneca Innovative Pharmacist of the Year Award winner, Brad Butt, of Cooleman Court Pharmacy, Weston, ACT.

In 2012 the busy father of two was setting up his award-winning Men's Health Down Under program for patients with urological conditions, while at the same time managing his pharmacy.

As part of his efforts to provide the equipment his patients required, Butt had organised for a shipment of somewhat esoteric specialist devices to be delivered to his home.

"I knew they were coming, but I hadn't told my wife," he told enraptured attendees at the UTS Pharmacy Gala Dinner last week.

"She got a knock on the door - the three-year-old is in her arms and the one-year-old's in the cot trying to sleep and the gentleman says, 'sign here, I've a delivery for you', she asks 'what is it?'"

"He says, 'haven't the foggiest' and he proceeded to carry up half a dozen boxes that are clearly marked 'VACUUM ERECTION DEVICE'.

"You could well imagine I had a phone call within five minutes asking 'what are you doing?'"

Pharmacist numbers rise

THE number of pharmacists registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia is continuing to increase, the latest data from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) reveals.

Despite reports of shortages of pharmacists for roles in community pharmacies across the country (*PD* 01 Oct), AHPRA's quarterly update showed the number of general registrants climbed by 89 in the three months to 30 Sep, compared to the Jun quarter.

The growth in general registrants was fuelled by an increase in registrations from 31,955 in Jun to 32,035, while the number of pharmacists with provisional registration fell by 37 in the quarter, and those on limited registration dropped by one.

The latest data also revealed the number of pharmacists holding

Pharmacist Rx

PHARMACISTS in Wisconsin will be empowered to prescribe oral contraceptives and hormonal contraceptive patches under State legislation designed to improve access to birth control.



non-practising registration had increased from 1,116 to 1,145 over the three-month period.

The AHPRA figures indicated a decline in the number of pharmacists under 30, which fell by 284 over the quarter, while the number aged over 65 years climbed by 56 in the last quarter.

The profession's gender balance remained at 62.8% female, in line with the last three quarters.

Walgreens seeks private equity buyer

INTERNATIONAL pharmacy chain, Walgreens Boots Alliance, is considering going private as its share price slumps.

The NASDAQ-listed business has seen its stock slip 10% this year, with *NBC* describing it as the second-worst performing business on the exchange behind Pfizer.

Newsagency *Reuters* has reported that Walgreens Boots Alliance has approached a number of major private equity firms with the view to putting together the largest leverage buy-out in US corporate history.

Reuters said the US pharmacy group, which merged with Boots Alliance in the UK in 2014, has engaged investment bank, Evercore Partners Inc to seek out



potential buyers.

However, the agency claimed a number of private equity firms have pushed back due to concerns over Walgreens' prospects and the challenges it faces.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Rachelle Frain, GM, myPak Solutions.**



Make DAA's an essential part of professional services

LAST week, I explained why a rapidly growing and aging population will live in the community for longer. They need your care and as community pharmacists, you're the most trusted Australian healthcare professionals!

Up to 25 percent of patients are non-compliant with their medication regime. Many are a significant part of some 230,000 people admitted yearly to emergency departments at hospitals nationwide.

Numerous studies show pharmacist intervention can lead to better patient medication compliance.

myPak Solutions complete DAA medication management system streamlines the entire process. It combines Australia's leading DAA software with a huge range of medication blister packs and surprisingly compact robotic automation to drive significant workflow efficiencies.

Our customers say our solution boosted staff morale, reduced staff stress levels helping to avert near misses and medication errors. They now focus on growing professional services.

Our complete DAA solution delivers 4 of PGA's 9 growth pathways to become a Community Health Hub by 2025: medication management, digital enablement, automation and operational efficiencies.

Next week, I'll explain how our complete DAA solution helps you transform your DAA services to grow your business.

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