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PotY 2020 finalists named

COMPETITION for the title of Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) is set to be intense with the finalists for the 2020 title named yesterday (*PD* breaking news).

Judge and Guild National Councillor, Nick Panayiaris, said the five pharmacies in the running for the coveted title have built on the innovation and patient-centric services that have been the hallmark of previous winners.

"Once again this year the standard has continued to rise and the five finalists have shown foresight and adaptability in developing their pharmacies for growth, sustainability – and most importantly, improved outcomes for their patients," he said.

In its 21st year, pharmacies from Western Australia and Queensland have led the way, scooping 12 PotY titles between them, with Clint Flanigan, Jillian Hamit and Mary-Lou McDonald's Moama Pharmacy, in the running to be the fifth NSW-based store to take the title and the third in as many years.

The south-western NSW pharmacy is focused on community engagement, aiming to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of the town.

"We live and breathe the community," Flanigan said.

"We believe it's part of our role to give back in order to make our town a great place for everyone to work and live."

While medication supply and education were core, the pharmacy had implemented health

screening programs, including the development of a sleep apnoea centre.

Wally Maguire's LiveLife Pharmacy Bowen, in Queensland, is aiming to be the sixth from the sunshine state to land the title.

The pharmacy has worked hand in hand with the local community, after the devastating impact of Cyclone Debbie, to become a health hub delivering a range of professional services that previously required residents to take a five-hour round-trip to Mackay or Townsville to access.

Capital Chemist Chisholm, ACT, would be the second Canberra pharmacy to take the title, with proprietor, Rebecca Young, investing in training and up-skilling her team, with the pharmacy becoming a community health hub.

Responding to this year's dramatic influenza season, Elise Wheadon's Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central, WA, took a collaborative approach, working with GPs and local businesses to administer 1,000 jobs in two months.

At Wheatbelt Health Care Pharmacy, Northam, WA, Georgia Bolden has also focused on working with GPs to bolster access to pharmacy services including MedsChecks.

PotY '20 finalists:

- Capital Chemist Chisholm, ACT;
- Moama Pharmacy, NSW;
- LiveLife Pharmacy Bowen, Queensland;
- Wheatbelt Health Centre Pharmacy, Northam, WA; and
- Wizard Pharmacy, Kalgoorlie, WA.

Guild calls for free pharmacy flu vax

PHARMACISTS across Australia need to be given access to provide subsidised vaccinations under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis believes.

Data collected by the Guild found the 2019 influenza season was worse than in 2017, which was dubbed "the worst on record", with 812 deaths as a result of the virus this year.

However, Tambassis noted the infection and death rates were lowest in Victoria, where pharmacists have been able to provide NIP vaccinations since 2017.

"In 2019, Australia has faced the worst flu seasons on record with a 20% increase in the number of reported flu cases compared with 2017," he said.

"This year 812 people tragically lost their lives to the flu nationally and there were more than 302,000 laboratory confirmed cases.

"We must be doing everything we can to reduce this figure, and we know that the only effective way to prevent the flu is through



vaccination.

"Thanks to the affordability and convenience of a 'walk-in' appointment, more than two million Australians chose to get their flu vaccination from a pharmacist this year.

"While the role of pharmacists in mitigating the severity of the 2019 flu season should not be underestimated, we need to be doing all we can to vaccinate more people.

"We need to be doing everything we can to protect people who are most at risk – including groups most affected by the flu like the elderly or people with asthma.

"That's why it makes sense to extend the free vaccine program to community pharmacies, so we can protect those Australians who are most at risk."



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Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news and a full page from **Razor Group**.

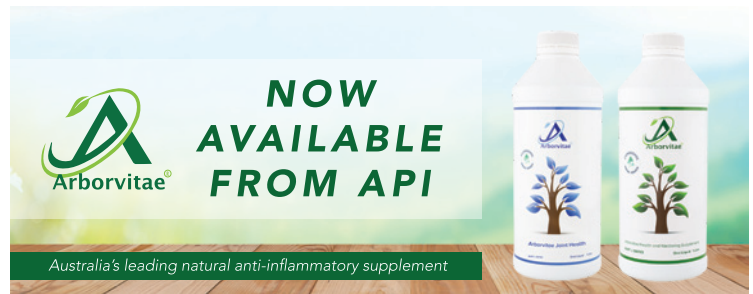


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Dispensary Corner

KNOWN for their battling qualities and refusal to surrender, the British public are gearing up for another winter fighting off flus and fevers.

However, 48% say they will endeavour to outlast their ailment, refusing to seek treatment regardless of how shoddy they feel, a poll published in the *Daily Mirror* reported.

One-in-five Brits said they would use one of a number of "traditional" remedies, including drinking water boiled with onions to cure a chest infection, eating chicken soup and/or drinking a hot toddy to relieve the symptoms of a cold, and putting their head over a steaming bowl of water to ease congestion.

The poll also found pharmacists were the second port of call for those seeking advice on how to tackle a dose of the flu or a lingering cold.

In fact pharmacists were regarded as the most trusted health professionals, but most felt "mother knows best".

No time to waste on workplace harassment

PHARMACISTS are being urged to take immediate action if they are subjected to sexual harassment, following the publication of a report by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) into incidents of abuse in the retail sector.

Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) President, Dr Geoff March, told *Pharmacy Daily* that "any person working in a pharmacy, including employers, has a right to go to work each day and not be sexually harassed".

Responding to the AHRC report (*PD* yesterday) March said employee pharmacists should contact the union for advice if they are harassed by customers or colleagues.

"Any pharmacy worker who is the subject of sexual harassment should take immediate action to have it stop," he said.

"The best options for seeking to have such behaviour cease are very confusing and difficult for someone who has never encountered these issues in the past.

"PPA is experienced in determining the best way to achieve a cessation of the behaviour and for the member to be able to attend work without

being harassed.

"Sometimes a simple discussion with the person who is doing the wrong thing is the best way to go; sometimes there is a need to involve the employer; and sometimes there is a need to go to the police and/or to outside courts and tribunals to get the behaviour to stop."

March called on pharmacy owners to ensure they complied with their legal obligations to protect staff from all forms of harassment.

"Employers should train staff in their obligations on how they should behave with each other and they should have policies and procedures on how they will deal with any issues of sexual harassment and bullying if they should arise," he said.

"An employer who takes no action to protect their staff from sexual harassment and other forms of harassment and bullying leaves themselves open to being charged and found guilty of not providing staff with a safe working environment.

"Significant fines and in some cases jailing are available under the relevant legislation in each state and territory."

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 *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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