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One pharmacy town set to lose store

PATIENTS living in the rural Western Australian town of Mullewa will have to make a round trip of almost 200km to access medicines when the only pharmacy in the area closes next month.

Mullewa La Croix Pharmacy owner, Michael Ibrahim, told *The West Australian* that the town's declining population meant the business was no longer viable.

Ibrahim said he had tried to give the pharmacy away, but could not find anyone willing to take on the business in the town which had a population of 447 when the last census was taken in 2016.

With the pharmacy closing on 10 Jan 2021, the nearest pharmacies will be in Geraldton to the west, or south to Morawa - both close to 100km from Mullewa.

"It's going to have a huge impact on people who don't have a car and people who can't drive," he said.

The announcement of the pharmacy's closure comes just over a year after Ibrahim was forced to close another pharmacy he was



co-owner of in Mount Magnet (*PD* 02 Dec 2019).

At the time the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) warned that more pharmacies would go out of business if there was not a Rural Pharmacy Viability Package included in the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) (*PD* 04 Dec 2019).

"[There is] inadequate recognition of the higher per-patient dispensing and non-dispensing workload faced by

rural pharmacies, soaring labour costs, inadequate recognition of patient-centric collaborative care already being provided by rural pharmacies, funding models that undermine the professional role and commercial viability of rural community pharmacies," a RPNA spokesperson said.

The 7CPA included an allocation of \$24.6 million for rural support programs, including a 10% increase in the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (*PD* 18 Jun).

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Direct Chemist Outlet**.

PIC opportunity

DISCOUNT Chemist Outlet (DCO) Bega and Sapphire Marketplace is looking for a pharmacist-in-charge (PIC) to join its team.

Candidates will be able to access relocation allowances and business opportunities with the DCO group encouraging pharmacy ownership through partnerships.

See **page three** for more details.

Queensland Guild honours Owen

FORMER Australian College of Pharmacy (ACP) President, Chris Owen, has been awarded the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President's Award.

Owen, who is also a Guild National Councillor, played a significant role in transitioning the ACP into the Guild's Queensland Branch earlier this year (*PD* 21 Jan).

Presenting the Award, Guild Queensland Branch President, Trent Twomey, hailed Owen's commitment to the profession.

"Chris has been a community pharmacist for over 15 years. He has not only represented Queensland Guild members for many years but has supported Australian community pharmacies as National Councillor for more than three years," Twomey said.

"Chris was also recognised for his work in stabilising the ACP, growing its member base and

working toward its mission of educational excellence.

"Chris has implemented an industry-leading CPD guarantee for members, gained state-based funding contracts and admitted more Fellows to the College's ranks."

Accepting the award, which has been presented to just over 20 previous Guild members over the last 90 years, Owen said he focused on supporting the organisation's efforts to ensure pharmacists work to their full scope of practice.

"I love our profession and I am passionate about seeing us move forward and exceeding our patient's expectations," he said.

"Practising at full scope will facilitate better outcomes, patients going without necessary healthcare, reducing avoidable hospital admissions, and increasing access to primary healthcare services."

CWH to float?

DISCOUNT pharmacy group, Chemist Warehouse (CWH), is preparing an initial public offering in early 2021, *The Australian* reports.

The *News Corp* publication said the business had been working with advisory firm, Rothschild, to prepare the company structure to be listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

The paper reported that CWH could be worth up to \$6 billion should owners, the Gance and Verrocchi families follow through on the move to float the business.



Recognising Anxiety: Training for NSW Pharmacists and Pharmacy Staff

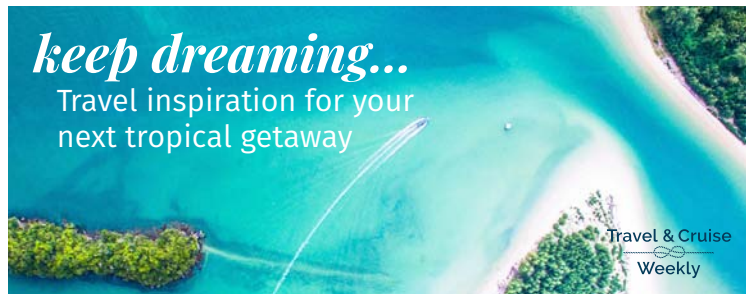
Anxiety is the most common mental health condition in Australia, with 1 in 4 Australians experiencing anxiety at some stage in their life.

Recognising Anxiety: Training for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Staff is a highly interactive virtual workshop, giving learners the knowledge and practical strategies to better support and address anxiety disorders with their patients and their community.

This course is one training opportunity available as part of the Mental Health Community Pharmacy Program and is funded by the NSW Government.

- 2021 courses now available
- Free to all NSW pharmacy staff
- CPD accredited: Up to 4 Group 2 CPD credits available upon successful completion

[Click here to Register and Don't Miss This Opportunity](#)



Board changes rege exam format

INTERN pharmacists taking their registration examination in 2021 will be the first to sit a new shorter format.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia released details of the revised exam framework yesterday.

From 01 Jan 2021, written and oral examinations will take place three times a year - in Feb, Jun and Oct - in line with the current oral examination schedule.

The duration of the written exam will be reduced from three to two hours, while the oral assessment will be 35 minutes long, 10 minutes shorter than the current duration.

Candidates will be required to have completed 75% of the approved supervised practice hours required for general registration by the respective examination date to be eligible to sit them.

Interns will no longer be required to pass the written exam to be eligible to sit the oral assessment, and will be able to sit either or both



exams during the same period.

Candidates will be required to successfully complete both exams within 18 months to be eligible to apply for general registration.

The Board said the changes were "informed by the outcomes of the Intern Year Blueprint project".

"These changes are in line with the Board's strategic objective of efficient and effective regulatory

functions, and the objectives of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme)," the Board said.

"This includes the National Scheme objective of protecting the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered."



THERE are plenty of days when the Dispensary Corner team thank their lucky stars that their job involves publishing the news and not something else.

Today is one of those days, after it emerged that four lions at Barcelona Zoo in Spain had tested positive for COVID-19.

While readers may have ethical issues with zoological gardens, imagine being the poor unfortunate sent into the enclosure to take the swabs, with little more than latex gloves and a face mask for protection!

Media reports have confirmed the testing involved the same process as for humans - a swab down the throat, then up the nose.

Spanish authorities have confirmed that two staff members at the zoo have also tested positive for the virus, as investigations into how the big cats caught the virus continue.

The Veterinary Service of Barcelona has contacted experts at Bronx Zoo in New York for advice, with the American zoo the only other place where large felines have contracted COVID-19.



Antidepressant safety review

AN INVESTIGATION into antidepressant use and risk of suicide in young people in Australia has found current evidence was insufficient to conclude that a causal relationship exists between prescribing the medications and youth suicide.

However, the authors of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's review said there was a need for further analysis of prescribing data, and new clinical guidelines for GPs around the management of depression should be issued.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a Plunkett's 99% Pure Certified Organic Aloe Vera set worth RRP \$51.80 including their 99% Pure Aloe Vera gel and 99% Pure Aloe Vera spray.

Aloe Barbadensis 'nature's medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Australian made, Plunkett's 99% Pure Aloe Vera is fragrance, colour and alcohol free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to soothe, cool and restore dry, damaged skin. To learn more click [HERE](#).



Q: Does Plunkett's 99% Pure Aloe Vera contain any fragrance?

To win be the first to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

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OUTLET**

Discount Chemist™



WORK & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Direct Chemist Outlet Bega & Sapphire Marketplace are looking for a full time pharmacist in charge to work with Rachel Moran and a dedicated team!

The position comes with a generous salary, accommodation and relocation allowances. Direct Chemist Outlet is a group that encourages pharmacy ownership through partnership and a terrific business opportunity will be offered to the suitable candidate.

Please call our General Manager Sarah Brooks on **0422 070 730** or Ian Tauman on **0417 113 851** or email application to sarah@directchemistoutlet.com.au

