



## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

## TWC iLearn

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) is delivering more than 1,000 training modules and personalised paths for pharmacists through its iLearn online training platform.

The group's professional development program also includes its annual Masterclass, while pharmacy assistants can boost their skills through the TWC Academy Live event.

See **page three** for more.

## Absentee owners hurt rural pharmacy

**OPPORTUNITIES** to expand pharmacy services in rural and remote areas are being lost as a result of disengaged absentee owners, Bourke-based pharmacist, Peter Crothers, believes.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, the 2019 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Pharmacist of the Year, described issues surrounding absentee ownership of rural pharmacies as a "significant problem Australia-wide".

He noted that these owners tended to focus on cost-cutting and ran pharmacies with the "minimum level of staff", leaving employee pharmacists with little or no capacity to offer professional services, and in many cases not providing important services such as vaccinations and MedsChecks, or taking part in opioid substitution programs.

"They've very low engagement with other [health] providers, and also potential service funders," Crothers said.

"In the last 12 months or so I would've had eight or a dozen groups - consultants, people from the local health district, potential medical services providers - come through here and they've been talking about opportunities.

"The latest group was talking about how they can harness latent mental health resources in the community...once they started talking to us they got incredibly excited, because we see people quite often, people who've got mental illnesses are often on medications, we're quite friendly and accessible, and they got very excited about the opportunity.

"But then they wanted to get what they heard from me verified, so they started to approach other pharmacies, and what they came up against were these incredibly stressed young people trying to run a pharmacy for an owner they've never come across, and they tended to say, 'no, no, don't give me



anything more... I can't actually do anymore'.

"Their owners aren't interested in providing the resources to do the sorts of things that communities need.

"These are great opportunities to get in and do stuff that we're really good at and get paid for it, and I'm enthusiastic about it, but the funders say, 'I'm just not getting the enthusiasm from these other pharmacies'."

## Nova deals

**NOVA** Pharmaceuticals is offering discounts of up to 30% on orders of its hospital-grade MediSOL Disinfectant Spray 300g.

As part of a limited time special offer, pharmacies that order 30 units before 31 Jan 2021 will receive a display on end cap or bin.

See **page four** for more details.

## Another win for Cap Chem Chisholm

**PHARMACY** Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year 2020 winner, Capital Chemist Chisholm, finished the year, taking home the Canberra Local Business Awards Pharmacy of the Year title.

In a post on LinkedIn, pharmacy owner, Rebecca Young, said, "it's a wonderful way to end 2020, and I am very grateful for our lovely patients who supported us

this year".

"It is so rewarding to know that the space we have created and the services we deliver are valued by our customers," she said.

"We strive to uphold the Capital Chemist Group ambition of providing outstanding pharmaceutical health service that focuses on the individual and making real contributions to our community."

## That's it for 2020

**TODAY** marks the final edition of *Pharmacy Daily* for 2020, we wish all our readers and advertisers a safe and merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

The first edition of 2021 will hit your inboxes on 04 Jan filled with the latest pharmacy-related news from across Australia.

Thank you for your continued support through what has been a remarkable year in which pharmacists have been on the frontline for their communities.

## Only one week to go. Get in quick before it's too late!

Rowa offer ends 24 December, 2020. Click for details or email [aurowaenquiries@bd.com](mailto:aurowaenquiries@bd.com)



## TASMANIAN PHARMACY CONFERENCE

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## Guild gets rural voice

FEDERAL Regional Health Minister, Mark Coulton, has announced that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is to have a permanent seat on the Rural Health Stakeholder Roundtable from 2021.

The appointment followed the Guild's involvement in a Rural and Remote Health Stakeholder Special COVID-19 teleconference in Aug.

Guild National President, George Tambassis, welcomed the decision as a recognition of community pharmacists in rural parts of the country.

"The Guild believes the standard of healthcare for regional, rural and remote areas of Australia should be equal to the standards available in metropolitan areas," he said.

"We are guided by the principle that all Australians have a right to equity and access to community pharmacy services.

"The permanent inclusion of the Guild on the Rural Health Stakeholder Roundtable will help us to advance these aims and work with other healthcare professionals and the Government to improve the health outcomes for communities in these areas.

"Regional, rural and remote pharmacies have played a pivotal



role in helping communities through the COVID-19 crisis this year by remaining open, providing masks and personal protection equipment and going out of their way to ensure patients continue to receive their medicines and services.

"This has been done against the backdrop of their own personal and business difficulties faced as a result of the pandemic."

Tambassis added the Guild would use its position within the group to pursue solutions to bolster the rural pharmacy workforce, through Commonwealth Supported Places, and securing waiving of HECS debt for pharmacy students from rural and remote areas.

Meanwhile, a Guild source told *Pharmacy Daily* that a representative has yet to be appointed to sit on the roundtable.

## CWH celebrates retail excellence

DISCOUNT giant, Chemist Warehouse (CWH) has launched its inaugural Retail Awards for Excellence, with an online ceremony held last night.

CWH CEO, Mario Verrocchi, said the awards provided an opportunity to honour the hard work and dedication of staff across the group.

"This year, more than ever, it is important to recognise team and individual efforts for their incredible work to ensure all Australians have access to medicines and healthcare," he said.

"We are thrilled to be able to honour the exceptional performers with these awards, well done to all recipients."

A total of 44 awards were announced during the event, with Queensland pharmacist, Olenka Szewczyk, taking the inaugural Mario Verrocchi National Pharmacist of the Year Award, while the ACT's Kelsey Stephenson was named the winner of the Margaret Kinniburgh National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award.

The group described Szewczyk as "a standout community pharmacist who has made an exemplary contribution to patient care and community pharmacy more broadly".

Szewczyk was lauded for her "care, passion and ability to nurture students, interns and early career pharmacists in addition to providing high quality patient care and professional pharmacy services".



## Dispensary Corner

WE'VE heard of 'no-job, no-play', but in the US NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, wants to offer a new incentive to encourage frontline health workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine, with the lure of tickets to the Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida, on 07 Feb 2021.

In a letter to the Super Bowl Host Committee President, Rob Higgins, the NFL kingpin revealed the League was looking to "honour and thank healthcare workers for their extraordinary service during the pandemic".

"We will also use this as an opportunity to promote the importance of vaccination and appropriate health practices, including the wearing of masks in public settings," he said.

"We are currently discussing with public health officials our desire to invite vaccinated healthcare workers to the Super Bowl as our guests.

"We all know that over the past year, these frontline workers have put their own lives at risk to the benefit of society and we owe them our ongoing gratitude.

"We also know that they will remain essential for months to come to treat those who are ill and administer vaccines.

"We hope that in some small way, this initiative will inspire our country and recognise these true American heroes as we look forward to a better and healthier year."

Wonder if the ALF's Gillon McLaughlin, or NRL's Andrew Abdo, would consider Grand Final tickets for pharmacists?



### THE PHARMACY SALARY AND MARKET REPORT 2020

In this climate, it is more important than ever to stay on top of the key trends and issues that will shape the pharmacy industry.

Our Report for 2020 is now available for the latest on the current state of wages and career opportunities to help inform the decisions you will make over the coming year.

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