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Climate change hitting health: PSA

TACKLING the impacts of climate change must be a key focus for Federal, State and Territory Governments, and the wider community, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, believes.

With bushfires continuing to burn across the country, Freeman told *Pharmacy Daily* that "there is clear evidence of the impact of climate change... [and] there is no doubt that there will be an increasing detrimental impact on population and individual health".

The PSA President added that continued climate change would fuel greater demand for pharmacists' services.

"It is incumbent on all of us, as individuals, communities, and on governments to meaningfully address the impact of climate change, and from the PSA's point of

view, to minimise the impact that this has on human health," he said.

"The role of pharmacists will become increasingly more important as climate change continues to have an impact on the environment and there is an associated increase in the risk of natural disasters."

MEANWHILE Consumers Health Forum of Australia CEO, Leanne Wells, has also advocated for action on climate change, to combat the health risks associated with environmental disasters.

"Quite apart from the acute care needed immediately for fire casualties, there are the fresh challenges which fire and smoke pose to services for people with chronic illness, mental health issues and the aged," she said.

"The huge and rising cost of health services should energise government and community to



act on the evidence before us to improve our own health and that of our environment.

"The calamitous scale of the fires and the smoke that has carried hazardous particulate matter to communities hundreds of kilometres distant is a direct reminder, if any were needed, of the extensive reach of climate change harms."

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature.

RPS celebrates

BRITAIN'S Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is encouraging pharmacists to talk about their jobs on social media using the hashtags, #WeArePharmacy and #WhatWeDoInPharmacy, as the profession seeks to combat negative publicity.

The RPS has also asked to appear on a British breakfast TV program, *This Morning*, to counter claims made by a journalist on Fri that pharmacist were not trusted by the public and were seen as "pretend doctors" (*PD* 20 Jan).

Sunburn? DermAid!

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Supplements tied to poor outcomes

TAKING dietary supplements during breast cancer treatment could do more harm than good, Australian Medication Safety Services, Principal Consultant, Dr Chris Alderman, warns.

Citing data published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, Alderman warned the use of antioxidant supplements including vitamins A, C and E, both before and during treatment were associated with an increased hazard



of recurrence, while the consumption of iron and vitamin B12 before and during chemotherapy was "significantly associated with poorer disease-free survival".

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Dispensary Corner

INDIAN police have shutdown a Mumbai-based call centre that had been targeting US nationals claiming to be an online pharmacy.

Mumbai police officers swooped on the bogus call centre on Mon following a tip-off, which resulted in the arrest of two men believed to have been the ringleaders of the international scam.

"They would target US citizens through VoIP calls by claiming to be an online pharmacy," a police spokesperson told broadcaster, *NDTV*.

"They would offer to sell Viagra, Cilais and Levitra, generally medicines for sexual problems like erectile dysfunction, at cheap rates.

"Once the sale was made and the payment obtained online, the accused would stop contact with the buyer."

Prosecutors have lodged a case against the two men for cheating and impersonation under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act.

MEANWHILE as the US marked Martin Luther King Jr Day on Mon, anti-vaccination campaigners attempted to hop on the civil rights bandwagon to suggest requiring children to be inoculated against preventable diseases to access free education was comparable to injustices faced by African Americans, in posts on Twitter.

We're not convinced King would have dreamed that his children could get the mumps!

FWC backs rule changes

HONORARY Life Membership of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia will not include "any of the rights or entitlements of membership" to a person who is not otherwise eligible to be a member, under amended rules approved by the Fair Work Commission (FWC) on 17 Jan.

The Guild lodged a notice and declaration setting out particulars of alterations to its rules.

The proposed changes focused on honorary life membership, elections of office bearers of the National Council, the branch executive, and committee election of office bearers.

The changes have been made to "cure ambiguity within the rules" and reflect current practices including members of branch executives being directly elected



by branch members rather than the branch committee.

The revised rules also set out procedures to fill offices vacated as a result of a Branch President being elected or appointed to the office of National President.

Countdown counting up

SUPERMARKET giant, Woolworths, is set to expand its pharmacy network in New Zealand, with four new stores planned for the first half of 2020.

Operating under the Countdown brand, the group will add two new pharmacies in Auckland and one each in Hamilton and Rotorua.

Countdown Pharmacy business manager, Jeremy Armes, said the stores will open between Mar and May, and will adopt the group's script-free policy, which is in place across the country, excluding the brand's Invercargill store, where it will be rolled out later this year following an upgrade to the store.

NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Get that Hawaiian glow all year around with NEW Hawaiian Tropic self tan foams

Infused with the iconic Hawaiian Tropic scent that is guaranteed to ignite your senses and transport you straight to the island; the NEW Hawaiian Tropic Self Tan foams feature a transfer resistant formula that dries quickly to leave you with a flawless glow.

The lightweight moisturising foams are infused with Vitamin E to pamper and hydrate your skin while you tan and the clinically tested formulas provides you with an easy, streak free application.

The NEW Hawaiian Tropic Self Tan Foams are available in shades of light/medium, dark and ultra dark.

Hawaiian Tropic Self Tan Foams are Australian Made, paraben free and not tested on animals.

Stockist: Priceline

RRP: Light/Medium Self Tan Foam 200ml RRP: \$18.99; Dark Self Tan Foam 200ml RRP: \$18.99; Ultra Dark Self Tan Foam 200ml RRP: \$23.99

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