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## PSA hands NSW gov Budget wish list

**POLITICIANS** in NSW are being urged to support the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice to bolster public health outcomes.

In its pre-Budget submission, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW Branch called for pharmacists in the state to be allowed to provide a broader range of vaccinations and for pharmacists to be allowed to administer influenza vaccinations to children aged 10 and older.

NSW Branch President, Professor Peter Carroll, said cutting the age barrier to pharmacist-administered flu vaccinations could boost immunisation rates.

"Children are particularly susceptible to the flu, yet studies suggest less than a third are being immunised each flu season," he said.

"Parents can face hurdles to accessing a GP and getting their child vaccinated, so we must do more to increase uptake of this vital health intervention.

"Most Australians visit their pharmacist around 14 times a year... this high level of accessibility, combined with the trust consumers have in the profession, will encourage more people to get

immunised."

With an expanded range of vaccines, Carroll said pharmacists could help boost immunisation rates and ease pressure of GP clinics and hospital emergency departments.

The PSA also called on the State Government to allocate funding to support pharmacist management of "non-urgent or low urgency medical conditions" and triage services to support better use of health care resources in NSW.

"More than 10% of emergency department presentations in NSW are considered non-urgent, [and] 70% of these presentations occur during the typical business hours of a community pharmacy," Carroll said.

"Pharmacists have the skills and training to perform these functions safely and effectively.

We estimate up to 331,233 thousand emergency department services in NSW are transferrable to community pharmacy, which would save the health system between \$131m and \$439m a year."

The PSA urged politicians to act on repeated calls from coroners to introduce a mandatory real-time prescription monitoring system



to combat pharmacist and doctor shopping.

"Deaths from prescription medicines have outpaced deaths from illicit drugs," he said.

"There is no real-time monitoring of prescription products in general practices and community pharmacies in NSW, therefore there is no way of identifying and helping those people who may be doctor shopping to obtain multiple prescriptions or require referral to support pathways."

Carroll also praised the State Government's proactive steps in issuing emergency dispensing orders to allow pharmacists to support patients.

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news.

## SHPA offers help

**HOSPITAL** pharmacists, technicians and students affected by the bushfires across NSW are being urged to contact the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

In a message to members, SHPA NSW Branch Chair, Aryan Shahabi-Sirjani, expresses the Society's sympathy to those affected by the crisis.

"Thank you to all pharmacists, technicians and students who have served their communities of our profession to the wellbeing of all people," he said.

"While there is uncertainty of the progress of conditions for the remainder of the summer, we are hoping many affected communities are now on a recovery pathway.

"With this we understand many hospital pharmacists are experiencing incredible amounts of emotional, physical, financial and workforce stresses.

"I'd like to reinforce that the SHPA NSW Branch and the Society as a whole, are here to support members throughout all times of need."

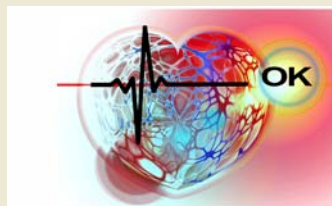
The Pharmacists' Support Service is also available to help those in need on 1300 244 910.

## DDS tops 100,000 health checks in 2019

**DISCOUNT** Drug Stores (DDS) has exceeded its goal of performing 100,000 health checks and interventions in 2019, as part of its Wellness Revolution campaign.

The campaign, which saw DDS stores encourage patients to sign up to its in-store health services, was developed to "improve the landscape of customer health and wellbeing" by "empowering patients to take greater control of their wellbeing".

The campaign resulted in an increase of 41,242 consults performed by pharmacists from 2018, which added up to a total of 137,519 health checks and interventions, with flu vaccinations, medication reviews and asthma inhaler technique



checks the most commonly performed consultations.

"We developed Wellness Revolution to further our work in the clinic and consultation space, helping patients combat chronic and prevalent health conditions impacting Australians today," said Discount Drug Stores Pharmacist, Nicky Muscillo.

"These results demonstrate the trust our patients and customers have in our profession to support their healthcare needs."

## FIP earlybird

**EARLYBIRD** registration for the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP's) World Congress in Seville, Spain, is open.

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## Dispensary Corner

**PHARMACISTS** are experts when it comes to medications and stimulants, and that knowledge leaves them open to more severe punishment when they are caught with illicit substances.

So when a group of amateur rugby players were hauled before an Irish court after being busted in possession of cocaine, the pharmacist amongst them was handed a jail sentence.

Despite "the emotional pleas" of his father, Sean O'Leary (27), earned a 30-day stint behind bars having pleaded guilty to possessing €70 (\$113) worth of the illicit drug, at the Kinsale Sevens tournament in Cork last May, the *Irish Examiner* reported.

Judge James McNulty told the court that possession of the drug was "not a trivial offence", adding O'Leary's training as a pharmacist meant he should know better than most the risks associated with ingesting "something that came from God knows where, made by God knows who".

"O'Leary is an example of a gifted, privileged, spoilt generation," McNulty said.

While O'Leary landed a month in jail, carpenter, Thomas Bambrick, escaped with a €1,000 (\$1,620) fine having been busted in possession of €80 (\$130) worth of the cocaine.

McNulty slammed the men saying that through their decision to "buy cocaine for their amusement" they were "supporting what is literally a murderous business".

## Beauchamp calls time

**COMMONWEALTH** Department of Health (DoH) Secretary, Glenys Beauchamp, will stepdown from the position on Fri (**PD** breaking news).

Both the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, praised Beauchamp's leadership of the Department over course of her 28 months in charge, and throughout her 21 years in the Australian Public Service.

In a statement PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, thanked Beauchamp for her contribution to healthcare.

"Over her distinguished career, Beauchamp has been an advocate for the community and in her role leading the Department of Health has been dedicated to improving health care and outcomes," he said.

Guild National President, George Tambassis, described Beauchamp as an outstanding leader.

"Our dealings with her have shown Beauchamp to be totally committed to the principle of



universal health care and to ensuring that all Australians have equitable access to the medicines they need," he said.

"She has been instrumental in driving the availability of funding for many medicines and also has been a figurehead in pushing for more mental health services to be provided to communities across all of Australia."

Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, has been recommended as Beauchamp's successor.

## United in support of bushfire victims

**THE** team at United Chemists Wodonga, located near the southern banks of the Murray River in Victoria, have worked closely with the local community to lend a helping hand to those affected by the bushfires, raising funds for local firefighters and collecting needed items for relief centres.

The staff, some of who had to evacuate their homes due to the fires, delivered \$1,000 worth of stock donated by Scaffidi Group to local relief centres at Tallangatta Memorial Hall and Corryong High School.

They then listed the items



required by the relief centre, including Band-Aids, antiseptic creams, toothpaste, nappies, feminine hygiene products, and more, which the community banded together to donate.

The staff at United Chemists Wodonga then transported the stock to the relief centre as the items came in.

## 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*.

## Travel & Cruise Weekly

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### Bench Africa deals

**AUSTRALIAN-BASED** Africa travel expert, Bench Africa, is offering savings on a range of its 2020 itineraries, including 10% off the nine-day Nile Discoverer trip for travel between 02 May and 12 Sep, resulting in a price of \$3,095ppts.

Travellers can also save 18% on the seven-day Best of Egypt itinerary for travel between 01 May and 14 Sep, now selling for a price of \$1,870ppts.

The savings will apply to new bookings until sold out - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

### AAT Kings NT savings

**TRAVELLERS** can save up to \$315 per person on AAT Kings' Top End itinerary thanks to its Solo Traveller Deal, allowing guests to experience "vibrant Indigenous culture, friendly local characters and magnificent landscapes".

Applies to departures between 10 May and 20 Sep 2020 until sold out - call 1300 556 100 for more info.