

## Landlords force pharmacy closures

**RENTAL** demands from some landlords are putting pharmacies out of business, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries' (API) CEO, Richard Vincent, believes.

Addressing shareholders at the group's annual general meeting on Wed, Vincent said API's Priceline Pharmacy network had continued to grow in the year to 31 Aug 2019.

However, he raised concerns about rental issues impacting the sector.

"At the end of the financial year we had 488 stores in the network, a net increase of 13 stores, after [the] closure of seven company stores where landlords' rental demands were a barrier to an acceptable return," he said.

Despite the store closures, Vincent told investors that Priceline Pharmacy like-for-like sales had "continued their forward momentum, reversing the negative

trend" of 2018, finishing the year 0.7% up on the prior corresponding period.

The Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) listed business recorded a net profit after tax of \$56.6 million for the year, up 17.4%, with revenue from its pharmacy distribution business up 4.2% on 2018.

Vincent said "there is every indication" that the Federal Government will continue to support the Community Service Obligation (CSO) in the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA).

He also welcomed AstraZeneca and Pfizer subsidiary, Upjohn's decisions to return to the CSO system.

"I applaud their leadership," he said.

"That all major suppliers have returned to the CSO system is



indicative of its superior efficiency and their return will provide additional volume for API."

API closed the financial year with a reported net debt of \$199.1 million, up from \$55.9 million in 2018, which Vincent attributed to the company's stake in rival wholesaler, Sigma Healthcare, which was sold off in Dec (*PD* 17 Dec 2019).

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news.

### Meds labelling

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is proposing new labelling requirements to deliver greater transparency of medicine formulation, following a public consultation.

The proposed changes would apply to medicines and biologicals listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, requiring excipient names to be displayed where these ingredients are not present in flavour, fragrance or colour proprietary ingredient mix.

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### Sexual assault in Melb pharmacy

**VICTORIA** Police is appealing for public assistance following an alleged sexual assault at a Melbourne CBD pharmacy last week.

Investigators said the female victim was in a Bourke Street pharmacy on 15 Jan when the alleged incident occurred.

"While inside the store, she was followed by a man down an aisle," the police said.

"The victim stopped to let the man past and he sexually assaulted her.

"She alerted a security guard at the store and the offender fled the scene."

Victoria Police has released CCTV footage of a man they believe may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Anyone with information related to this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential crime report at [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au).

**CLICK HERE** for CCTV images.



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## Dispensary Corner

**OHIO-BASED** doctor, Nicole Baldwin, has become a viral sensation after posting an immunisation-pushing dance video on TikTok.

Aiming to dispel myths propagated by the now discredited Dr Andrew Wakefield, linking vaccinations to autism, the video shows Baldwin dancing to the song Cupid Shuffle, with the doctor pointing to the words "vaccines prevent: measles, polio, pertussis, hepatitis, influenza, HPV, meningitis, mumps", as they appear around her, before pointing out that "vaccines don't cause autism".

Despite years of training and mountains of clinical evidence supporting the use of vaccinations, anti-vaxxers have labelled Baldwin, "uneducated".

Responding to the video, those devoted to misinformation have slammed the video on social media, with one Twitter user claiming, "vaccines destroy every ones life (*sic - yeah, they separated everyone into two words, and failed to use an apostrophe*), one day you will answer to a higher power for being wilfully ignorant (*oh the irony*) and advocating on the wrong side of history".

Another simply told the paediatrician, who spent four years in college, four years in med school and three years of paediatric residency, along with 13 years of continuing professional development to "educate yourself woman".

Well at least they're classy!

## PC meds safety fail: PSA

**PHARMACISTS** should be engaged in the delivery of mental health care to improve medication safety, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, hit out at the Productivity Commission's (PC) failure to address the issue of medication safety and the role of pharmacists in its Draft Report on Mental Health.

"Medicines are a major treatment modality in most mental illnesses so it is disappointing the PC report failed to question how we can improve medication efficacy and safety," he said.

"Utilising the medicine expertise of pharmacists in the multidisciplinary care team, tailoring medication therapies and reviewing patients' medication management can positively impact adherence, effectiveness of medicines prescribed and safe use of medicines.

"Access to health care is vital for people dealing with mental health illness, yet there are a range of barriers that can limit people's access to a general practitioner."

Freeman said research published last year showed pharmacists regularly engaged with patients




at risk of suicide, with one in 10 pharmacists saying they interacted with an "at risk" patient 10 or more times a year.

"Enabling pharmacists to recognise potential signs and symptoms of mental ill-health, support patients and refer on to GPs or emergency care, has the potential to not only improve outcomes, but potentially save lives," he said.

"We have called on governments across the nation to provide funding to increase pharmacist mental health first aid training and reiterated this recommendation in our response to the Productivity Commission.

"PSA does not believe we can address mental health challenges without considering quality use of medicines (QUM) and hopes the PC's final report will tackle this vital issue."



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## Aus Day break

**PHARMACY Daily** will not be publishing on Mon, due to the Australia Day public holiday.

We will be back with all the latest news affecting the Australian pharmacy sector on Tue 28 Jan.

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**01 - 02 Feb:** SHPA Extension Seminar in Surgery and Perioperative Medicine, Brisbane; Early Bird until 10 Jan: [www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020](http://www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020)

**08 Feb:** SHPA Masterclass in Clinical Medication Management, Adelaide; Early Bird until 17 Jan: [www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020](http://www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020)

**06 - 08 Mar:** NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2020; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; Save the date - registrations open 2 Dec: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**19 - 22 Mar:** APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; Early bird registrations now open: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

**06 May:** APC & ANMAC Interprofessional Colloquium 2020; QT Hotel, Canberra; for more info visit: [www.ipcolloquium.com/](http://www.ipcolloquium.com/)