



CMA slams Channel 9's "fake news"

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia (CMA) has rebuked a recent Channel 9 report which claimed a number of complementary health products had failed to meet safety standards as "fake news".

CMA CEO, Carl Gibson, issued a formal complaint demanding the network retract its broadcasting and issue a correction and an apology.

On Wed, the network's news reports announced that some products tested by the Therapeutic Goods Administration contained prohibited substances.

Gibson claimed that 9 even supplemented their reporting with "made-up" products

"It's time to put a line in the sand with these fake stories, which damage our industry's reputation, and Channel 9 needs to apologise for this irresponsible, inaccurate and fake news story," he said.

Appearing on 9's website on the



same day as the news broadcast was a companion article, which contained the **pictured** graphic, which features a fictitious product, "Caruso's Natural Health's Fat Away".

"In Australia, complementary medicines are regulated to the highest standards in the world," Gibson said.

"Before a product may be sold

it is required to be entered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and obtain a listing or registration number."

Gibson added all complementary medicines made in Australia are produced in pharmaceutical level GMP licensed facilities, which require validation of all substances to ensure the purity of the products.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

Aus Day Honours

MAXWELL Page, Bruce Sunderland and Jocelyn Watson are the three pharmacists who have been recognised in the Australia Day Honours.

Sunderland and Page, both from Western Australia, were awarded as Members of the Order of Australia, with Sunderland recognised for his service to education, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector, and Page, a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, acknowledged for his service to performing arts.

Watson, a Tasmanian, was honoured for her service to the community of Launceston, in addition to playing a mentor role to many younger pharmacists, in particular in her role on the Pharmacy Board of Tasmania.

The trio were congratulated by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, with National President Dr. Chris Freeman hailing their commitment to the profession.

"Each pharmacist recognised on Australia Day represents the contribution members of our profession make to their local communities," Freeman said.

New coronavirus fact sheet available

PHARMACISTS are being urged to transfer those who are suffering from severe respiratory illness to emergency departments for coronavirus investigation, the Department of Health has advised.

All patients showing symptoms who recently travelled to China should be considered, and pharmacists should contact their state or territory public health

unit for advice on suspected cases, including diagnostic testing and specimen collection.

For more, including the identifying of symptoms, exposure history and action plans, see the fact sheet posted on the Department's website - **CLICK HERE** to access.

Thus far, there have been five confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in Australia.

Sigma board apt

FORMER Medibank Private and Healthscope Chief Financial Officer, Michael Sammells, will join the board of Sigma Healthcare as a Non-Executive Director on 01 Feb.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange the company noted Sammells has expertise in investor relations, mergers and acquisitions, and accounting.

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Dispensary Corner

LONDON-BASED pharmacy worker, David Ihenagwa, will reside at Her Majesty's leisure for up to six years after being convicted of selling Prescription-Only medicines to gangsters.

Croyden Crown Court heard Ihenagwa had worked as a company secretary at his mother's pharmacy in east London, and used the position to supply a range of pain, anxiety and sleeping pills to criminals.

The 40-year-old pleaded guilty to five charges of supplying Prescription-Only medicines to illicit drug dealers between Sep 2015 and Apr 2016.

The charges stemmed from a Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) investigation, which exposed Ihenagwa's criminal behaviour when officials seized more than 13,000 codeine phosphate tablets at an address in Stoke-on-Trent in Jun 2016, and linked the medicines back to the pharmacy.

The government Agency found Ihenagwa used his position in his mother's pharmacy to buy the medicines from a wholesaler.

The MHRA investigation found Ihenagwa had been buying the drugs in quantities far larger than would normally be dispensed from a community pharmacy.

Further investigations revealed the enterprising pharmacist's side hustle had seen the medicines shipped across the UK.

KI Koalas cop cream



SOUTH Australia-based National Pharmacies is donating much-needed Flamazine Cream to treat koalas and other injured wildlife in the bushfires on Kangaroo Island.

Used to treat severe burns and prevent infections, National Pharmacies has provided the cream to Kangaroo Island Veterinary Clinic and Kangaroo Island Wild Life Park.

"The Kangaroo Island Veterinary Clinic is going through a tube of Flamazine a day, and the Kangaroo Island Wild Life Park is using three tubes a day for the injured koalas,"

revealed National Pharmacies Chief Pharmacist, Robyn Johns.

"The vets at the Kangaroo Island Veterinary Clinic are working closely with the Kangaroo Island Wild Life Park...we are continuing to stay in contact with the KI vet and animal hospital to monitor their future supply and support needs. We are pleased to be able to assist wildlife in need as part of the bushfire recovery effort."

Pictured, an in-need friend gets a helping hand.



Guild Update

APP Highlight

A **NEW** format will be introduced at APP2020 which will see the Rural Pharmacy Forum 2020 and the Indigenous Health Forum combined into an all-day Rural Pharmacy and Indigenous Health Stream.

The theme of this first stream will be The Art of Engagement which will examine how community pharmacy practice involves the need for community and stakeholder engagement to ensure the services provided meet the needs of the community, as well as advocating for the things the pharmacy needs to support a sustainable health service.

This one-day program will encourage participants to explore, discuss, challenge, share and develop ideas to promote engagement with diverse stakeholders including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and non-Indigenous communities, Primary Health Networks, Local Government, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, and other health professionals.

The Indigenous Health Forum is a cultural awareness training session which will focus on engaging with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations in a culturally appropriate manner.

The conference runs until 22 March and program and registration details are available [here](#).



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