

Wed 11th Nov 2020



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### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Direct Chemist Outlet.** 

### Rival the big guys

WITH more than 70 stores across the country, the Direct Chemist Outlet group is helping pharmacies take on the big guys.

The rapidly growing network is celebrating the addition of four Victorian stores over the last two months.

See page four to learn more about the group.

### Vale Reynolds

**AUSTRALIAN** community pharmacy is mourning the passing of the Founding Father of Pharmacy Alliance, Robert Reynolds. who passed away on Mon 09 Nov.

In a LinkedIn post, Pharmacy Alliance has shared its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Reynolds family.

**CLICK HERE** to access an online book of condolence.

### Pharmacy critical to primary care

**PHARMACISTS** are playing a crucial role providing essential health services to keep communities safe and healthy through the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) believes.

In a statement to the 73rd World Health Assembly, which resumed online this week following a de minimis assembly in May, FIP Policy, Practice and Compliance Lead, Zuzana Kusynova, said the profession has demonstrated its value around the world during the ongoing crisis.

She added that temporary measures, which expanded pharmacists' scope of practice during the pandemic should be implemented on a permanent basis.

"Earlier this year, we launched the FIP Development Goals as a key resource for transforming pharmacy over the next decade," she said.

"These goals will serve as a basis for investment in pharmacy healthcare by governmental agencies and funding authorities, and for the planning and delivery of policy initiatives in order to transform primary healthcare (PHC).

"They align with wider global imperatives underpinning the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"This transformation is timely as the COVID-19 pandemic has created an even greater reliance on pharmacists to ensure that people get their treatments and professional advice as part of PHC.

"Pharmacists' scope of practice has increased with new measures speedily adopted by pharmacists' organisations, allowing much needed continuity of pharmaceutical care.

"FIP has called on governments to swiftly authorise such changes.

"One of the expanded roles with which pharmacists have proven to provide an effective and essential public service is vaccination.

"FIP has urged policy makers to recognise and fully harness the potential and convenience of community pharmacies for vaccination, including against COVID-19 once a vaccine is available.

"In addition to community pharmacists' response to the pandemic, pharmacists in hospital, research and laboratory settings are also playing their part, for instance working on clinical trials.

"To support all pharmacists in responding to the pandemic, FIP has published COVID-19 guidance.



"We are planning to supplement this with the latest information on COVID-19 diagnostic tests later this month.

"To conclude, pharmacists across healthcare settings are critical to strong PHC.

"As countries must cope with caring for the acutely ill while maintaining care for chronic patients, many innovative pharmaceutical care practices have been deployed.

"FIP appeals for such innovations to be captured with a view to promoting their wider adoption as PHC systems adapt and move into the pandemic recovery phase and beyond."



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### Policy delivery lag hurts Australians

**DELAYS** in implementing healthcare measures including the National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response are leaving Australians without urgently needed support, Federal Australian Labor Party MP, Emma McBride, believes.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, the registered pharmacist said, "there is a gap and lag between announcements and delivery, and this is hurting Australians".

McBride noted that a recent Senate Estimates hearing was told the National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy announced in Aug 2019 will not be finalised until Jun 2021, while details of the Productivity Commission's report into mental health are yet to be published, five months after it was submitted.

"Before coming to this place, I worked as a pharmacist, for much of the time in acute adult mental health inpatient units," she said.

"Every day I saw firsthand circumstances of people's lives that led to mental health crisis, emergency and acute admission.

"I was part of a team stretched and at times buckling under the strain



of growing demand and scarce resources.

"Minister, I'm not sure if you know what it feels like to be part of a team where you see someone who needs help, and you know that help should be available, but in a wealthy country like Australia we can't provide it.

"Minister, why do we have this narrowcast view of health which means that vulnerable people in acute crisis, particularly in regional and remote Australia, cannot get the help they need when they need it?

"Teams are under extraordinary strain, and people are discharged to the circumstances that made them sick.

"I've seen people discharged to

caravan parks and to caves.

"Why, in a wealthy country like Australia, in the middle of a pandemic, is the only safe place for someone sometimes a public hospital bed? It's just not right.

"The Productivity Commission report gives the chance to address the issues at the cause—the underlying problems of unemployment, education, housing, the burden of which is carried disproportionately by those in our society who have the least. Where you are born, live and grow up in Australia matters.

"This is urgent; it matters, I know you are genuine and you care.

"What we now need to see is action."

# PharMIBridge expansion

RESEARCHERS from Griffith University and the University of Sydney are recruiting community pharmacists in Gippsland, Victoria, and Northern Sydney, NSW, as part of the expansion of the Bridging the Gap between Physical and Mental Illness in Community Pharmacy (PharMIbridge) Randomised Controlled Trial.

Project co-lead, Dr Claire O'Reilly, said the program will allow researchers to expand the role of pharmacists in providing mental health services.

"The awareness of how pharmacists can help with mental health has been growing, so this project is a great opportunity to expand that and develop a support service for people with more severe mental health problems," she said.

Participants in the ACT and Hunter New England study sites have completed training and are supporting patients.

Pharmacists in the new site can find out more by emailing pharmibridge@griffith.edu.au.

### Qld Guild welcomes D'Ath appointment

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch has welcomed the appointment of Yvette D'Ath as the State Government's new Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

Branch President, Trent
Twomey, said the organisation
was "confident that with D'Ath's
appointment, Queenslanders
who are crying out for community
pharmacies to deliver more local

primary healthcare services will continue to be heard".

"D'Ath has a strong reputation of being engaged and diligent at getting the job done for the people of Queensland," he said.

"Her belief in building an even stronger public health system will benefit all Queenslanders."

Twomey thanked Deputy Premier, Steven Miles for his efforts as Health Minister.

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### Sibling success for TWC Milton

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) Milton has marked a challenging 2020 that has seen the NSW South Coast pharmacy impacted by bushfires and COVID-19, by winning the 2020 Small Business Award for Outstanding Pharmacy in Illawarra and South Coast.

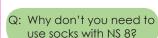
Since taking over the store in late 2018, brother and sister duo, Andy and Leeza Vuong, and their team have delivered significant growth, with sales up 18.28% for the

# Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away both a NS 8 Heel Balm 250ml and NS 8 Deo Foot and Shoe Spray 100ml worth RRP\$37.90

### Get your feet summer-ready!

Give your feet some love with soft, smooth heels and odour-free feet and footwear. NS 8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. Deo Foot and Shoe Spray is a natural treatment with a light, fresh fragrance. Recommended by podiatrists and diabetes friendly.



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financial year to date.

A spokesperson for the TWC Group told *Pharmacy Daily* that the Vuongs demonstrated leadership during the bushfires earlier this year, ensuring patients retained access to medicines when much of the town was closed.

The spokesperson added that the siblings also raised funds to support the Rural Fire Service, and also ran a breast cancer awareness campaign through Oct which raised \$1.200.

Accepting the award, Leeza, praised the commitment of the store's staff during the recent crises.

"Our team innovated our system so we could still reach everybody," she said.

"We delivered for free, accessed roads that weren't easy and we



implemented click and collect and online shopping so that we could still provide services beyond the bricks and mortar store."

The TWC Milton pharmacy was not the only store within the network to start Nov with a win, as TWC Chester Pass Albany, Western Australia, picked up the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Best Business of 11+ employees Award at the weekend.



US PHARMACIST, Hardik Patel, is facing 40 years behind bars after being convicted of 18 charges relating to money laundering and illegal distribution of medicines from his former pharmacy in Virginia.

The Free Lance-Star reported that Patel was busted after repeatedly selling prescription drugs to a police informant, who admitted that he went to police with information about the pharmacist in the hope of easing his own legal issues.

Patel's lawyers claimed he had felt intimidated by the informant and unable to say no, adding he was the victim of entrapment by the police.

# NEW PRODUCTS

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