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Black Dog Institute

Suicide Prevention Training for Pharmacists in regional to remote Australia



Suicide has a devastating impact on families, friends and whole communities.

This training aims to increase pharmacists' skills and confidence in:

- Recognising signs warranting further exploration for suicidality
- Talking with someone who may display suicidal signs and symptoms
- Understanding of the various referral options.

Accreditation

PSA for 5 Group 2 CPD Credits
No: CX20047

Date of workshop
26th November 2020

REGISTER NOW

Want to hear more about Black Dog Institute's training? Sign up to our monthly newsletter.

SIGN UP

NSW budgets for RTPM

FUNDING is set to be made available to deliver a real time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system in NSW.

The move announced in the NSW 2020/21 Budget is part of the State Government's pledge to invest \$29.3 billion in recurrent and capital funding in the NSW health system.

Welcoming the announcement, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, said the implementation of an RTPM system would "better inform clinical decision-making and improve medicine and patient safety".

"Deaths from prescription medicines have outpaced deaths from illicit drugs in Australia and RTPM will reduce inappropriate multiple prescribing events, reduce fraudulent prescribing and improve quality of care by facilitating a patient-centred approach," she said. Felkai also backed the NSW

Government's \$55.9 million investment to increase support for palliative care services.

"PSA has worked alongside the Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) in supporting palliative care education for pharmacists who play a vital role in increasing access to core medicines for anticipatory prescribing, and work as part of a multidisciplinary team to support end of life care," she said.

The Budget also included \$1 billion for the purchase of personal protective equipment for frontline health workers, and \$169.4 million over four years for mental health.

Brush up on dental health

ORAL health is about more than keeping those pearly whites shining, with gum and dental health being linked to cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and COPD.

Oral hygiene expert TePe has a range of products designed to assist with maintaining good dental health.

See **page four** for more.

Today's issue of PD

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



Free Webinar

12 DIGITAL TO-DOS OF CHRISTMAS

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Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

shpa

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Four new learning modules to support regulatory changes and best practice in pain management.

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PSA5710



Time to back pharmacy schools

COMMUNITY pharmacy owners are being urged to work with their local universities to encourage students to pursue careers in the profession.

Welcoming James Cook University's decision to expand its pharmacy program to offer it at the institution's Cairns campus, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Trent Twomey, said it was important for the owners to promote the profession to young people.

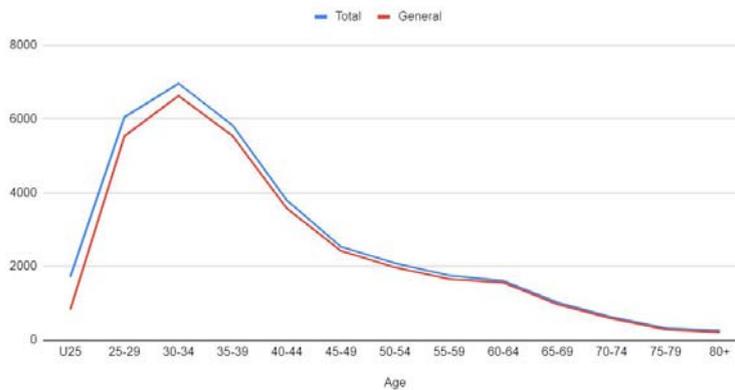
With Pharmacy Board of Australia registration data for the quarter to 30 Sep showing the number of pharmacists aged 25 years and under being at its lowest level (835) since Dec 2013 (612), Twomey said the demographic issues within the profession needed to be addressed.

"At the moment the demographics of pharmacy are on a bell curve, with my age group (35-39 years) near the top," he said.

"We would prefer that to be more of a pyramid shape."

Twomey noted that other areas of the economy have boomed over

Pharmacy Board of Australia registration numbers by age group as of 30 Sep 2020



the course of the last two decades, which has been a factor in the decrease number of graduates under the age of 25 years entering the profession.

However, he said the COVID-19 pandemic was revitalising interest in healthcare training amongst high school students.

"We're seeing year 12 graduates and postgrads look to health and community service courses," he said. "At James Cook University [the

pharmacy intake for 2021] is the biggest they've had in many years."

While Twomey said the pharmacy workforce was likely to be boosted by the fallout from COVID-19, he encouraged owners to "assist their local universities to recruit students".

"It's important that they promote the profession to students and pharmacy technicians [to encourage them to study pharmacy]," he said.

Blood brothers

FEDERAL Health Minister, Greg Hunt, and Opposition Health Spokesperson, Chris Bowen, have put political differences aside to support the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood appeal for blood donations.

In an urgent plea issued yesterday, Lifeblood said the nation's stock of O+ and A+ blood had dropped to two days' supply.

In a tweet posted by Bowen yesterday, he said he had joined forces with the Minister "to give blood and ask people to join us".

"We might not agree on everything, but there's no arguing that blood saves lives," he said.

Lifeblood Executive Director, Cath Stone, said 31,000 donations are needed each week to maintain supplies and the organisation had seen a decline in donors making appointments recently, with an increase in cancellations and donors not turning up.

Amazon launches online pharmacy

E-COMMERCE giant, Amazon, is expanding its healthcare offering in the US with the launch of an online pharmacy.

The new service will allow patients to order prescription medicines online and have them delivered to their preferred address, while also delivering 24/7 access to pharmacists who can support patients with questions about medications.

Amazon Prime members will also be able to access savings of up to 80% on generic and 40% on originator medications, when

paying without insurance.

Amazon Pharmacy Vice President, TJ Parker, said the group wanted to bring its "customer obsession to an industry that can be inconvenient and confusing".

"We work hard behind the scenes to handle complications seamlessly so anyone who needs a prescription can understand their options, place their order for the lowest available price, and have their medication delivered quickly," he said.

CLICK HERE for more.

AHPRA advertising guidelines released

PHARMACISTS are being urged to check and correct their advertising to ensure it complies with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) revised guidelines.

AHPRA CEO, Martin Fletcher, said health professionals have an obligation to advertise "responsibly and support members of the community to make informed choices about their healthcare".

"When preparing their advertising, a health practitioner should always put the public

first and ensure their advertising is not false, misleading or deceptive," he said.

"Releasing the revised guidelines today gives health practitioners and other advertisers time to ensure their advertising is compliant before the guidelines come into effect."

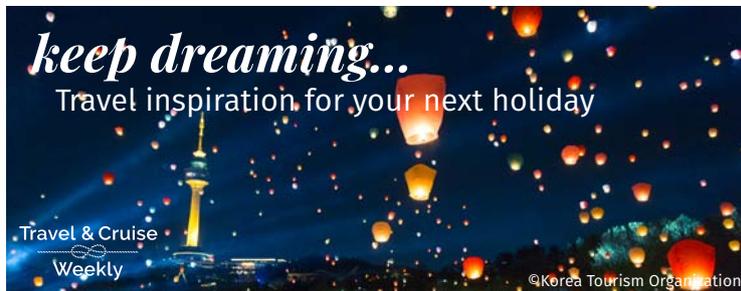
Changes to the guidelines include requirements to provide more content about testimonials and claims.

The guidelines come into effect on Mon 14 Dec.

CLICK HERE for more.

Our time for giving starts next week.

The countdown is on.



Dispensary Corner

NOT usually thought of as something to sing about, erectile dysfunction is set to become the unlikely theme of an upcoming movie musical about the development of Viagra.

Movie mogul, Spike Lee, is directing the production, apparently based on an article in *Esquire* magazine titled 'All Rise: The Untold Story of the Guys Who Launched Viagra'.

Featuring original songs from Tony Award-winning writers, Lee said he was thrilled to finally be directing a "dancin', all singin' musical" about sildenafil.

It's somewhat of a departure for the director whose previous movies include *Malcolm X*, *Jungle Fever*, *Inside Man* and the Oscar-winning *BlacKkKlansman*.

COULD this be the perfect recipe for cardiovascular issues?

Combining alcohol with meat, a new beer is being launched by US restaurant chain Waffle House which is - believe it or not - infused with bacon.

Developed by Georgia-based Oconee Brewing Company, the new beverage (pictured) is creatively titled Bacon & Kegs, is dark red in colour and blends the "malty sweetness of the base beer with salty, savoury and smokey bacon extract".



SSRI script volumes on the rise

DATA from the Capital Chemist Group shows an 8.6% rise in prescription volumes for selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) for the year to date, potentially showing the impact of the bushfire and COVID-19 crises.

The increased use of SSRIs has seen the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) grant temporary Section 19A approval for two brands of fluoxetine, due to shortages of products registered for use in Australia.

Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, told *Pharmacy Daily*, that shortages of fluoxetine had prompted his team to start researching alternative brands and to conduct a data analysis across the group's 47 store - a number of which were in bushfire affected regions.

"I ran volume reports on the six SSRIs available in Australia, which represents about 120 different pack sizes, brands, dose forms and the like," he said..

"We have a unified POS system with strict attention to clerical accuracy which allows patterns to be really clearly seen; and over several hundred thousand scripts over the 11 months of 2020 I count these to be statistically significant."

The analysis revealed script volumes for four of the six SSRIs had increased over the 11 months of the year-to-date, with escitalopram scripts up 13%, fluoxetine volumes rising 12.4%, fluvoxamine rising by 4.6% and sertraline up by 11%.

Topp said script volumes for paroxetine had remained static, while citalopram was down by 9%



so far this year.

"2020 has been a hard year for mental health in Australia," he said.

"Fluoxetine growth had increased by about 25% recently, probably due to our stronger supply lines.

"However, 8.6% script volume growth amongst SSRIs, is roughly double script volume growth... throwing some light on the mental health challenges experienced by Australians this year."

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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

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Magnesium Sulfate is known to assist:

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Simply dissolve the granules in the bath and relax.

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- COPD
- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Low birth Weight

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