

Pharmacist makes a loss working

AUSTRALIA'S healthcare workforce is being limited by the Federal Government's lack of support for childcare, an Australian Labor Party MP believes.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, Bendigo MP, Lisa Chesters, said pharmacists and nurses were being forced to choose between taking a financial hit to provide services for their communities, or miss out on working due to the cost of childcare.

"A pharmacist spoke to me,"

Chesters said.

"She said that during the pandemic, her employer asked her to work more hours.

"She has two children in early childhood education...she actually paid to work.

"She thought it was her duty to work - it was a pandemic - but it cost her family money to ensure that she turned up and did her role as a community pharmacist.

"A nurse for whom I raised a question in parliament, said she would like to take a third and fourth

day, but can't [because of the cost of childcare].

"These are people that the Government are saying are high income earners.

"Their means test is too mean... it is excluding nurses from taking that extra shift and the pharmacist from working full-time."

Chesters' comments echo claims made by Professional Pharmacists Australia President, Dr Geoff March, who told *Pharmacy Daily* that childcare costs were "a barrier for many pharmacists wanting to return to their careers after having children" (PD 13 Oct).

"Pharmacists have been on the front line of the fight to keep our community healthy and safe," he said.

"For a short period, they were able to see what life would be like if they could earn a living wage without the burden of childcare fees [when the Government funded free childcare services]."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from Flo.



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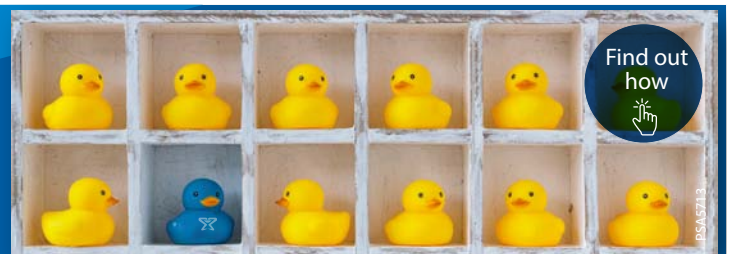
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AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Pain training

GUILD Learning and Development has launched a new CPD-accredited training module for pain management.

The *Use of topical agents in pain management*, online course developed in partnership with GSK has been accredited for one hour of Group 1 CPD, which can be converted to one hour of Group 2 CPD by completing an assessment.

Let the air Flo

WITH spring in the air, pollen and other irritants are impacting patients' breathing and in some cases affecting their sleep and it may be time to try a Flo isotonic nasal saline spray or sinus wash to clear out any excess mucus and wash away germs.

See **page five** for more details about the Flo range.

Boosting scope benefits all: Guild

QUEENSLANDERS want to see pharmacists empowered to do more to support their healthcare needs, a survey of voters in four marginal Queensland State Parliament seats reveals.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Trent Twomey, said the poll highlighted the need for pharmacists to be allowed to work to their full scope of practice.

"We know community pharmacists are prevented from practising to their full scope of clinical training; this needs to change," he said.

"These results further prove that Queenslanders are crying out for more and better services.

"We are determined to deliver for Queenslanders and their families."

Twomey added that pharmacists' efforts to support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the profession's potential to play a greater role in primary healthcare.

"This year alone Queensland community pharmacies have been involved in enhanced home delivery services, vaccination administration, medication substitution and continued dispensing arrangements, which demonstrates our ability to offer a wide array of primary healthcare solutions to the public," he said.

"The State's vast network of almost 6,000 practising pharmacists stands ready to continue supporting Queenslanders.

"Community pharmacist vaccinators are already trained to deliver vaccinations and are well-placed to conveniently and safely roll-out a COVID-19 vaccine and should be given a leading role."

With the state set to go to the polls on Sat, Twomey said the Guild had received commitments to support the profession from the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal National Party of Queensland and minor political parties.



"The Guild welcomes their commitments to the people of Queensland during this election," he said.

"Simply put, a community pharmacist practising to their full scope means better patient outcomes, patients don't go without necessary healthcare, less avoidable hospital admissions, and access to primary services are increased across Queensland."

"Full scope community pharmacists are a big win for patients.

"Queenslanders know this and it's reflected in these survey results."



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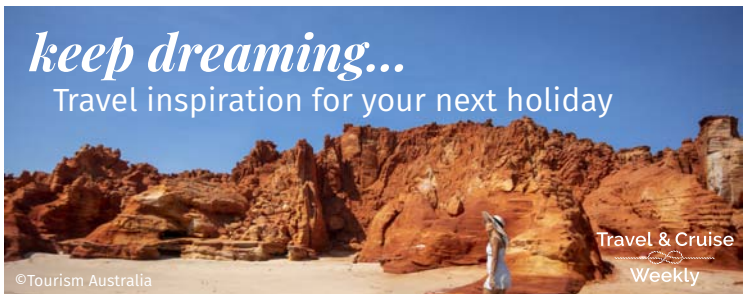
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Standard critical for clinical trials

MAINTAINING the integrity and safety of clinical trials conducted in Australia is critical in the race to deliver a viable and sustainable COVID-19 vaccine, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

Releasing the SHPA's *Standard of practice in clinical trials for pharmacy services*, the Society's Clinical Trials Chair, Peter Slobodian, said the revised document was designed to support best practice.

"Pharmacists are essential to clinical trials, not only to meet regulatory requirements related to the storage, dispensing and supply of investigational products but also to ensure their safe and ethical use – this has never been more important as safety and efficacy must remain central to the push toward coronavirus vaccination," he said.

"To meet trial requirements, clinical trials pharmacists are sometimes involved in the importation of unregistered

medicines and the SHPA Clinical Trials Leadership Committee has provided detail on available permit options to ensure cutting-edge treatments can be safely secured for use in Australian hospitals.

"To support best practice regarding access and security, the 2020 standard highlights consideration around the role of interactive voice/web response system (IxRS) software and electronic accountability records for the first time."

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the new Standard's guidance on research involvement is timely given recently announced Federal Government investment.

"The Clinical Trials Standard's advice on research involvement provides further guidance for pharmacists seeking to have a greater impact on patient care through this important practice domain," she said.

"Following the establishment of the \$25 million Quality, Safety



and Effectiveness of Medicine Use and Medicine Intervention by Pharmacists fund, as announced in the 2020 Federal Budget, SHPA members and their hospital colleagues are ideally positioned to maximise these opportunities to improve safe patient care."

The Standard has been published in the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

Priceline names ambassadors

SELF-CARE entrepreneur, Lindy Rama-Ellis, and Melbourne GP, Dr Preeya Alexander, have been named as Priceline Pharmacy's new brand ambassadors.

Rama-Ellis, whose FIG Femme women's intimate self-care range will be exclusively stocked by Priceline, said "I always shop at Priceline, so to not only come on board as an ambassador, but also to be able to walk in and shop FIG Femme from Priceline's shelves is a dream come true".

Alexander said the decision to work with Priceline Pharmacy was based on mutually shared values, particularly their focus on preventable health.

"We're very aligned in providing people with easy to understand, evidence-based health information," she said.

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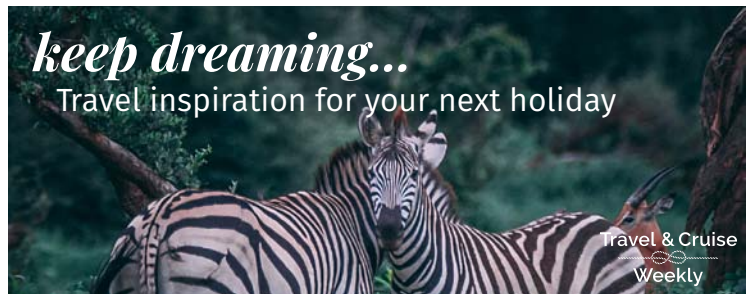
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UK pharmacy's foodbank pledge

A BRITISH pharmacy is doing its bit to help disadvantaged families put food on the table by donating this week's earnings to a local foodbank.

The Coventry-based Vantage Chemist announced plans to support families affected by the British Government's refusal to extend free school meals for children in England over the mid-term break, on Mon.

"With the loss of free school meals support for this half term week, especially in these most difficult of times, we at Vantage can't let our local community suffer like this," the store's owners said in a post on Facebook.

"We are pledging to donate the proceeds of our takings this week to Coventry foodbank, to directly help those in need in our community."

The store is also providing support



for families who rely on the free school meals by offering discounts on children's medication, cold and flu treatments and toiletries.

The store's owner, Gurbaksh Singh, told *Chemist and Druggist*, that the pharmacy had launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise money for the city's foodbank, after the Government blocked efforts to extend free school meals during school holidays until Easter 2021,

last week, which has raised £240 (\$442) to date.

"Our local community is in an impoverished area, so if we can help children thrive, it will help [improve] things in the future," he said.

"The community is the main part of our role; we [want to help] the local population here. In a modern world, I think some people forget that we're here to look after our community."



GETTING a good night's sleep is important and for those slumber-deprived, a trip to a pharmacy is often a first port of call when counting sheep fails.

However, rarely would you expect a patient to arrive in store asking for a pill or potion to tackle the terrifying threat of monsters under the bed.

Well, after countless nights where her seven-year-old son scrambled into bed beside her, that is exactly what Canadian mum, Heather Garfield, did after initial efforts to create a homemade "monster spray" failed to convince.

At the Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacy in Prince George, British Columbia, Garfield found a willing accomplice in manager, Jepak Patel.

"She told me that she had one kind of weird request," Patel said.

"I wanted to help her...I really loved the idea".

Together the duo created secret concoction to keep monsters at bay, coming in a spray bottle complete with a label including the boy's name and directions for using the potion.

Speaking with *Radio West*, Garfield revealed the specially compounded product has had mixed results with the youngster continuing to barge into her room late at night fearing beasts beneath the bed, before settling back to sleep.

The child has also displayed impressive logic, concluding that "if monster spray is real that means monsters are real".

Pharmacist admits stockpiling meds

A US pharmacist's efforts to stockpile hydroxychloroquine and other medicines for personal use has seen her fined US\$5,000 and ordered to do 100 hours of community service.

Tamara Jo Nyachira, admitted forging prescriptions for codeine, butalbital, acetaminophen and caffeine combination, Fioricet, amoxicillin clavulanate potassium, and anti-malarial and arthritis drug, hydroxychloroquine, to treat herself and her family if they were directly exposed to COVID-19.

Nyachira, who worked for a major pharmacy chain in stores across Missouri, admitted that her stockpiling had played a

part in creating shortages of medicines.

In a filing made on 10 Jun, the US Attorney's Office Eastern District of Missouri, noted that Nyachira was facing a potential three-year jail term, and a US\$250,000 fine.

At the time of the indictment, US Department of Health and Human Services Special Agent, Curt Muller, said Nyachira's actions had limited the availability of medications for "patients legitimately reliant on these drugs".

"We are dedicated to working with local, state, and federal officials to hold accountable individuals who engage in such illegal activities," he said.

Kelly crackdown

FEDERAL Opposition Health Spokesperson, Chris Bowen, has hit out at Liberal backbencher, Craig Kelly, for promoting "dangerous disinformation about hydroxychloroquine" both in Parliament and on social media (*PD* 21 Oct).

Bowen noted that nine of the 25 speeches made by Kelly in the House of Representatives over the last six months have promoted the use of the anti-malarial for the treatment and prophylaxis of COVID-19, while 63 of 152 Facebook posts by the NSW MP have "undermined the medical advice on hydroxychloroquine".



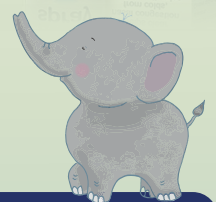
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