

Today we'll be dispensing *thanks*



Today is World Pharmacists' Day, and we're saying a big thank you to all pharmacy workers for everything you do to help keep Aussies safe and healthy every day.

At Priceline Pharmacy, we know this year has been tough for everyone, and pharmacy workers are no exception.

While tirelessly serving their communities throughout the year, our team members have had to deal with some very challenging situations, and we're extremely proud of the way they've handled them.

And we know all pharmacy workers across the country have had to deal with the same challenges too.

That's why today on World Pharmacists' Day – and every other day – we're saying thanks for all your kindness, compassion, patience and hard work. We're proud to be part of the 'phamily'.

The Priceline Pharmacy team

#WorldPharmacistsDay



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PSA honours exemplary pharmacists

PHARMACISTS' Support Service Executive Officer, Kay Dunkley, has been named as the 2020 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Pharmacist of the Year (PotY).

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia SA/NT Branch Vice President, Samuel Keitaanpaa took the Early Career Pharmacist (ECP) of the Year Award, while consultant pharmacist, Debbie Rigby, became the first female to receive the PSA's 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Announcing the winners of the 2020 PSA Symbion Excellence Awards on social media this morning to mark World Pharmacists Day, PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said the trio were worthy winners.

"2020 has been an extraordinary year, one where pharmacists have gone above and beyond to serve the community," he said.

"These three pharmacists have all exemplified a contribution to the profession and maintained the highest standards of commitment and professionalism."

Dunkley said she was accepting the award on behalf of all frontline pharmacists who have been there for their communities throughout the bushfire and COVID-19 crises.

"During the bushfires there were pharmacists who slept in their cars next to the pharmacy and others who organised delivery of medicines via Jet Ski or boat when there was no road access and there were those pharmacists who attended evacuation centres to organise medication," she said.

"Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and pharmacists and pharmacy staff once more found themselves on the frontline dealing with

community members who were anxious, frustrated and fearful, having to completely change the way they work to ensure public safety and remain open when other members of the community went into isolation.

"These are the heroes of pharmacy who are all deserving of this award and I am accepting it on their behalf."

ECP of the Year winner, Keitaanpaa, became the first NT-based pharmacist to win the award.

"The Northern Territory has provided me with so many opportunities to help improve patients' lives and strengthen other health services and professionals around the safe use of medicines," he said.

Rigby told *Pharmacy Daily* that she was "excited and proud to receive the [Lifetime Achievement] Award, made more special as the first female".

Thank you

PRICELINE Pharmacy group is marking World Pharmacists Day by thanking all its pharmacy staff who have worked tirelessly to support their communities through a challenging year.

See today's **cover page** for more.

Sigma appoints first chief pharmacist

SIGMA Healthcare has named Brinley Hosking as its inaugural Chief Pharmacist.

Hosking will be responsible for representing Amcal and Guardian pharmacists to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, pharmaceutical manufacturers and governmental bodies.

She will also take on the role of Group General Manager Health

Services.

"I'm really honoured to be the inaugural Chief Pharmacist for Sigma Healthcare," she said.

"My Health Services team will be focused on designing and implementing health service strategies which empower patients, strengthen practitioner-patient relationships, create stable business models and improve the health of individuals and communities."

Real chemistry

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is celebrating the "real chemistry" the group's frontline pharmacy workers deliver to patients across Australia.

See **page four** for more.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover page from **Priceline Pharmacy** and a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

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*Lopatka L et al., J fur Menopause 2007;2:3-7. Schellenberg et al., Evid Based Complement Alternat Med 2012. Drewe J et al., Phytomedicine 2013;15(20):659-666.





Board makes \$90k PSS pledge

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia will donate \$30,000 annually over the next three years to the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS).

In a statement released yesterday Board Chair, Brett Simmonds said the \$90,000 pledge aligned with provisions in the National Law enabling it to provide funding for a health program for the profession.

"PSS serves an important role in helping pharmacists and students to stay healthy and take care of themselves. It helps ensure that pharmacists and students are supported to practise safely so that they can continue to support the healthcare needs of their community," he said.

"These services are valuable to pharmacists and students who may be affected by experiences in practice, health and well-being concerns, the impacts of natural disasters such as bushfires and flooding, the COVID-19 pandemic and other experiences."

CLICK HERE to donate now.

Hunt's World Pharmacists Day grants

FEDERAL Health Minister, Greg Hunt, is marking World Pharmacists Day with the launch of research grants focused on medication safety and medicines interventions by pharmacists.

In a statement released last night, Hunt revealed the Government had allocated \$25 million for the new Quality, Safety and Effectiveness of Medicine Use and Medicine Interventions by Pharmacists grant program (**PD** breaking news), which will be distributed through the Medical Research Future Fund.

Welcoming the grants, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said the funding would go a long way towards improving healthcare through medicines safety.

"The intended outcome of the research grant opportunity is to reduce the amount of medicine-related harm in the community and help promote the safe and effective use of medicines," he said.

"This is on the back of the PSA's seminal *Medicine Safety: Take Care* report which showed 250,000 Australians are hospitalised each year and another 400,000 present to emergency departments as a

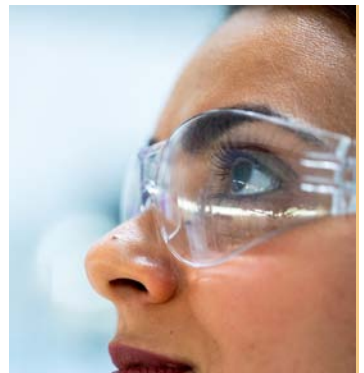
result of medication error, misuse and misadventure, costing Australia \$1.4 billion in hospital admissions.

"The Health Minister's commitment to the PSA to progress the National Health Priority Area included progressing research initiatives that would seek to improve medicines safety and the quality use of medicines.

"I am pleased that the Minister was able to finalise this announcement to coincide with World Pharmacists Day."

Hunt also confirmed the Federal Government has extended both the emergency Continued Dispensing measures (**PD** 21 Sep) and the Home Medicines Service until Mar 2021 (**PD** 18 Sep), noting the heroic efforts pharmacists have made to support their community through what has been a challenging year, as well as confirming changes to the Dose Administration Aid program and Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance will start on 01 Jan 2021.

"On World Pharmacists Day, our Government acknowledges the outstanding work of Australia's pharmacists and pharmacy staff in communities across the nation," he said.



"Community pharmacies have kept their doors open to support Australians throughout some of the most challenging times in our recent history, including bushfires, floods, drought and a global pandemic."

Shadow Health Minister, Chris Bowen, also praised the efforts of pharmacists in ensuring patients have been able to access vital medicines during back-to-back emergency situations.

"If anything good comes out of COVID-19 it is that it increases the understanding and importance of public health and community pharmacy as we come through the crisis and out the stronger on the other side," he said.

Berry the pick of Life Pharmacy Group

LIFE Pharmacy Group (LPG) has named Erindale Pharmacy's Beth Berry (**pictured**) as its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

The award recognised Berry's leadership, mentorship and ongoing support of her team, the Erindale community and beyond over the last 30 years.

An LPG spokesperson heralded Berry as "the perfect example



of the community pharmacist", adding her professionalism was a model of practice others strive to emulate.

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Use pharmacy to boost vax access

PHARMACISTS are an invaluable resource for driving immunisation uptake, TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, believes.

Marking World Pharmacists Day (today) Hart expressed his pride in the success of the group's pharmacist immunisers, who have administered more than 550,000 influenza vaccinations in 2020.

"We are already in an incredibly strong position to make a huge impact on the lives of Australians next year if and when a COVID vaccine is rolled out," he said.

"We welcome the comments from the Prime Minister, that the COVID-19 vaccinations will be free to the public, and we look forward to understanding the role that pharmacists will play in supporting what will be one of the most essential public health services in recent times."

Hart added that TWC has been preparing to boost its capacity to meet the anticipated increase in demand for pharmacist vaccination services when a COVID vaccine becomes available.

"We continue to partner with the PSA on training to increase the volume of pharmacist immunisers,



which are now already over 1,000 across the network," he said.

"We will also be stepping up our workplace and community vaccination programs to expand our reach into the community."

The group also acknowledged the efforts of South Australian pharmacist and TWC Cumberland Park owner, Irfan Hashmi, in his 'Healthy Communities' vaccination push to provide free flu shots to vulnerable members of local multicultural communities.

"I am incredibly proud that this year our 'Healthy Communities'

initiative meant we could deliver more than 1,000 free flu vaccinations with 23 clinics, both in the pharmacy and out in the community," he said.

"Community Pharmacists are already one of the most accessible health professionals so any vaccination program that creates better access and increases vaccination rates will go a long way to helping improve herd immunity."

Pictured, husband and wife team, Sofia and Irfan Hashmi, from TWC Cumberland Park.

Dispensary Corner

REDUCE, reuse, recycle, it's a message we hear every day, but as the ABC's *War on Waste* has noted there are some products that are more recyclable than others.

For many of us condoms would have been in the non-recyclable items, but it seems one man's trash is another man's treasure in Vietnam, where an enterprising and somewhat questionable business has been caught giving the contraceptive sheaths a second life.

Broadcaster *Vietnam TV* has revealed that police swooped on a warehouse this week where the illicit recycling operation was taking place, netting an estimated haul of 345,000 previously tried condoms, weighing in at 360kg.

A woman detained during the raid outlined the process used to return the contraceptives to their former glory, by initially boiling and drying them, before reshaping the condoms using a wooden phallus, after which they were repacked and resold.

The woman said she received the equivalent of 24 cents of every kilo of the products she recycled making, giving her a total of \$86.40 for her efforts - assuming she had a hand in cleaning all 345,000 of the laundered condoms.

Vietnam TV was unable to confirm how many of the recycled latex sheaths had been returned to the market, or where the environmentally-minded individually behind the scheme had sold them.

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Aus Post HDS

AUSTRALIA Post's Pharmacy Home Delivery Service (HDS) will continue until 31 Mar, following the Federal Government's announcement of continued funding for home medicine deliveries (**PD 18 Sep**), the company announced this morning.

Over the last six month the service had delivered medicines to more than 24,000 patients.



WORLD 25 SEPTEMBER PHARMACISTS DAY

Happy World Pharmacists Day
to all our amazing
TerryWhite Chemmart Pharmacists!

In what has been a particularly challenging year,
thank you for continuing to deliver *real chemistry*
every day to communities across the country.



**TerryWhite
Chemmart.**

that's real chemistry