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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Happy Easter

PHARMACY Daily will be taking a brief publishing break over the Easter long-weekend.

We will be back with all the latest pharmacy-related news from Tue 06 Apr.

Have a happy Easter.



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Prepare for lease negotiations: Guild

WESTERN Australian pharmacy owners are being urged to access the latest Pharmacy Guild of Australia LeaseMap comparison report, with one-in-four pharmacies in the State set to enter lease renewal negotiations this year.

WA Guild Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, said the report could help members secure fair outcomes when engaging with landlords in the coming months.

"LeaseMap has an unparalleled amount of data on the community pharmacy rental market in WA and can provide each pharmacy owner with directly comparable rental market data that has been sourced from a large quantity of documented and verifiable lease evidence," he said.

"In providing information which simply is not available from another source, LeaseMap enables WA Guild members to enter their lease negotiations with an in-depth understanding of market conditions."

The 2021 report includes an assessment of the total dollar difference for each lease, as compared with the current market.

"This new feature will assist members to simply and easily



understand whether they're getting a good deal, or how much they should expect to save if they re-negotiate," he said.

"I would encourage all WA Branch members to access the data and critical expertise provided through LeaseMap to assist them to negotiate fair and reasonable leases."

Ngeow added that the Guild has lobbied the State Government to extend the timeframe for tenants to receive support in their disputes with landlords following the end of the 'emergency period' under the *Commercial Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020 (WA)*.



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AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

National ODT stats show need to act

AUSTRALIA needs to implement a national coordinated approach to the management and treatment of opioid misuse, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Following the publication of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW's) National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data Collection snapshot for 2020, which showed a 4.7% increase in client numbers since 2019, Twomey said there was a need to support access to affordable opioid



dependence treatment (ODT).
"Consistent with the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026, the Guild,

through the community pharmacy network, is committed to reducing drug-related harm to individuals and communities, which includes ODT programs in community pharmacy," he said.

"The AIHW report highlights the importance of acting on the Guild's Budget submission which has highlighted access to, and affordability of, opioid dependence treatment.

"Significantly, the report shows the number of patients receiving treatment dosing points has risen by nearly 5% and this should be a concern for everyone and must be acted on as a health priority.

"The report also found 89% of dosing points were in pharmacies and this further underscores the important role community pharmacies play in helping ODT patients.

"The Guild is committed to working with governments, stakeholders and patients to help address this growing problem and I believe acting on our Budget submission is a good start.

"In addition, the commitment by governments at all levels to real-time prescription monitoring means they have the quantitative data that they cannot ignore."

The AIHW noted that NSW had the highest rate of people receiving ODT in the country, with 28 patients per 10,000 people, up from 26 per 10,000 in 2019.

The Northern Territory remained the jurisdiction with the lowest rate of people receiving treatment (six clients per 10,000 people).

The median age for ODT clients was 44 years, with 36% of patients aged 40 to 49 years, while methadone was the most frequently used treatment for 58% of people receiving ODT.

Raven's podcast

RAVEN'S Recruitment's latest Your Pharmacy Career Podcast featuring Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Fellow and PainWISE Managing Director, Joyce McSwan, is now available.

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Face-to-face training is back at TWC

PHARMACISTS and pharmacy assistants from across the TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) network are celebrating the return of the group's in-person training events.

Having shifted to online learning during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic the group marked the return of its face-to-face Masterclass Forum and Academy Live programs last month.

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, said the events have been designed to equip pharmacists and their teams with the skills and knowledge to better connect with their communities, covering topics including respiratory tract infection management and emerging COVID-19 data, biosimilars training and preparation for the release of adalimumab biosimilar products (**PD 31 Mar**), emergency training for the use of oxygen in COVID-19 vaccination clinics, hands-on vial-based vaccine training, and other important clinical updates.

"There has definitely been a real buzz in the air at each of the events, and more importantly, a real eagerness to get back to practical hands-on training," he said.

"I would like to thank all our



supplier partners for their support over the last 12 months and for helping make these events possible."

TWC Belmont Forum owner, Adrian Staltari, said there was an air of excitement among delegates at this week's Masterclass in Western Australia.

"It's strange to think that for most of us it has been over a year that we last saw each other face-to-face at [the] Masterclass in Melbourne in Mar 2020," he said.

"The atmosphere was certainly celebratory and being able to share

our learnings and experiences over the last crazy year as well as receive practical hands-on vial-based training, means we have that extra level of confidence now to face the next critical few months ahead."

MEANWHILE, the Academy Live events cover a range of topics to prepare their pharmacy assistants for winter and beyond including cough, cold and flu and pain management, winter skin conditions and, vaccine hesitancy.

Pictured, the TWC WA team of pharmacists at this week's Masterclass Forum.



Dispensary Corner

DELAYS in the rollout of Ireland's COVID-19 vaccine program are frustrating the nation's pharmacists, leading to a stand-off with health officials at a major vaccination centre.

Despite being on the frontline many pharmacists on the Emerald Isle have yet to be called to be vaccinated, prompting a group to show-up at Cork's Pairc Ui Chaoimh vaccine clinic demanding their COVID jabs.

The incident was sparked after one pharmacist received an appointment last Fri and shared the details on a WhatsApp group.

Irish pharmacists' frustrations have been exacerbated by the "complete lack of clarity" as to when they will begin vaccinating their patients and the public, according to Irish Pharmacy Union Secretary General, Darragh O'Loughlin.

He also warned that further delays in the rollout of pharmacy-based COVID vaccines would see the country fail to meet vaccination targets.



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