



## Today's issue of PD

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

## Guild welcomes HIV self-testing

**THE** rollout of HIV self-tests through community pharmacy (**PD** 30 Nov) will boost testing rates and help deliver better health outcomes for patients, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Marking World AIDS Day today, Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the move was consistent with a broader shift in focus of healthcare from treatment to preventative action.

"The more we can do to prevent health concerns arising in the first place, the better the outcomes for all – from the patient to the wider healthcare system," he said.

## New meds training support 'vital'

**ADDITIONAL** support needs to be provided to ensure community pharmacists have access to up-to-date information about novel medical technology, pharmacist-turned Federal MP, Emma McBride believes.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, the Shadow Assistant Health Minister, noted that pharmacists have been calling for adequate training prior to the introduction of new medicines to the Australian market.

"This is vital," McBride said.

"As I said before, pharmacists are some of the most trusted and relied upon healthcare professionals in our communities, and they're well-placed to support patients who need highly specialised medicines, and new and evolving therapies.

"But they need to be properly supported, with timely access to the most up-to-date and evidence-based information to protect the health and best interests of their patients."



McBride added that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia had said that "pharmacies often are presented with very little incentive to stock or be involved in supplying high-cost specialised medicines", in its submission to the Health, Aged Care and Sport Committee.

"This must change so that all Australians can access the care they need," she said.

"I would like to put my full support behind pharmacists and other allied healthcare workers being properly supported in the work that they do.

"It's essential that all healthcare professionals are able to work to the full scope of their practice, to make sure that all Australians can get proper health care - especially those Australians living outside of major cities."

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## Pharmacy seeks new premises

**NEWBERY** Chemists, in Wallaroo, South Australia, is hoping to secure temporary premises after a fire caused significant damage to the pharmacy on Mon (PD 29 Nov).

The pharmacy group's General Manager, Tim Gross, told the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* that the blaze was "devastating", damaging the store's new sleep apnoea and vaccination facilities.

"I'm hoping we can secure a lease for a new Wallaroo premises, so we can move our Wallaroo services to a temporary site," he said.

"There'll be no jobs lost in the process and we'll have staff back at our (Moonta and Kadina) sites to deliver the same services for our valued clients.

"I had a meeting with our Wallaroo staff - they have been absolutely wonderful.

"Tough times like these make you realise how great your team really is."

Emergency services were called to the blaze at 5.50am on Mon, with toxic smoke coming from the pharmacy, before it was brought under control around 1pm.

## Pharmacy not properly recognised

**AUSTRALIA'S** community pharmacy network will play a critical role in supporting the COVID-19 booster vaccine campaign, and \$16 a shot is not adequate remuneration, Federal MP, Emma McBride, says.

The Shadow Assistant Health Minister, and pharmacist, told the House of Representatives that pharmacists have been administering booster doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine "at a rate of 3,000 jabs a day", but warned that cost pressures could force pharmacies to step back from the booster rollout.

"As a pharmacist of over 20 years, I would like to personally recognise the contribution of pharmacists to helping keep Australians safe, and I was pleased to join those efforts as a volunteer immuniser at Kanwal Village pharmacy in my electorate," McBride said.

"It's a critical role and is becoming more vital as we face emerging variants.

"But, unfortunately, pharmacists aren't always properly recognised for the work they do.

"Given the training, compliance requirements and time taken for pharmacists to support the vaccine rollout I don't know how the Government can justify their remuneration.

"According to the Government's



own schedule of payments, pharmacists are paid as little as \$16 for first doses, \$26 for second doses and \$16 for boosters.

"Healthcare workers doing the same job deserve to be paid the same.

"Pharmacists are some of the most trusted and most accessible healthcare professionals out in our communities, and there are around 70 towns in Australia that have no GP or other health service but do have a pharmacy.

"These communities and communities across Australia rely on pharmacists, and pharmacists deserve proper remuneration—same job, same pay."

McBride noted that the administration of the Pfizer vaccine was more time consuming with "27 different requirements" to be met

before they were able to provide the jab.

"The current arrangements don't reflect the costs associated with ordering, handling and dispensing these vaccines," she said.

"This needs to be properly addressed."

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## APP2022 trade show sold out

**ALL** 420 available trade stands for the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP2022) trade show have been booked.

APP2022 Convenor, Kos Slavos, said that while the exhibition spaces were sold, "there's still time [for delegates] to take advantage of the earlybird rates".

Slavos added that a 100% COVID-19 refund would be available to delegates who are unable to attend due to lockdowns or restrictions.

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## Dispensary Corner

**PEOPLE** make poor decisions when they're overtired, but running off without paying for more than \$500-worth of medications is inevitably going to be a bad idea.

Just as the Maryland, US, resident, Marc Shutta, who is facing up to six months behind bars after snatching erectile dysfunction and insomnia medications from a Giant grocery store pharmacy, after being told his health insurance would not cover his prescriptions for the medicines.

Having provided his insurance details before executing his somewhat poorly thought out plan, the pharmacy's team were able to provide them to local police, who made two attempts to call Shutta, before resorting to sending a text message to inform him that "he had until the next day's business to do the right thing and bring the medication back to the store".

However, Shutta passed up the opportunity to get away with a slap on the wrist, and did not return the prescription pills, or even respond to the calls and message from the police, which led to his subsequent arrest.



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