

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

NPS webinars

RECORDINGS of webinars published by NPS MedicineWise are now available online covering a range of conditions including, asthma, opioids and anxiety. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.



mentally healthy for
mental health
COMMUNITY PHARMACY PROGRAM

Suicide Prevention: Training for NSW Pharmacists and Pharmacy Staff

Improve your knowledge and gain confidence to support your community

People experiencing mental illness often face a greater risk of suicide than people with good mental health. However, those experiencing suicidal thoughts and/or behaviours often find it difficult to approach or engage with appropriate services due to reasons including stigma, fear, lack of resources and lack of knowledge.

As part of the NSW Government funded Mental Health Community Pharmacy Program, a range of various learning opportunities are available for pharmacy staff to complete.

- 2021 courses now available
- Free to all NSW pharmacy staff
- CPD accredited: Available upon successful completion

[Click here to Register and Don't Miss This Opportunity](#)

Meds shortages drive TGA site visits

ACCESSING information about medicines shortages is the main reason pharmacists visit the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) website, the regulator's 2020 stakeholder survey reveals.

The survey found 92% of pharmacist respondents reported visiting the site in the last 12 months, with 69% reporting they logged on at least once a month, while 8% said they hadn't been on the site in 2020.

While a similar proportion of other non-pharmacist health professionals reported visiting the TGA site over the course of the last 12 months, 40% said they had been just once.

Close to two-thirds of pharmacists said they had been to the site for information about shortages, while 37% said they had sought information about health professionals, and 36% went to the site for product details.

One-in-five pharmacists visited to report problems and adverse events, with the same proportion saying they went for TGA news

and for access to educational materials.

The survey found 31% of pharmacist respondents went to the TGA for information related to COVID-19.

When it came to pharmacists' perceptions of medicines shortages information on the TGA site, 88% reported that it was helpful, and 92% said it was trustworthy.

Reviewing the TGA's performance in 2020, 64% of pharmacist respondents felt the regulator



responded effectively to COVID-19, compared to 49% of other health professionals and 40% of consumers.

Meds shortage database update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated its database of section 19A approvals to import and supply medicines to address medicine shortages today.

Under the latest update the TGA has approved the importation and supply of DAWA Ltd's carbimazole 5mg tablets until 31 Mar, due to a critical shortage of carbimazole neo-mercazole 5mg tablets. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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- ✓ Contains a moisturiser to help soothe dry skin
- ✓ Dissolved hydrocortisone to work fast

* Consult a doctor before use on children under 2 years of age.

¹ Due to corticosteroid responsive skin conditions

DermAid 1.0% w/w: ASK YOUR PHARMACIST – THEY MUST DECIDE IF THIS PRODUCT IS RIGHT FOR YOU.
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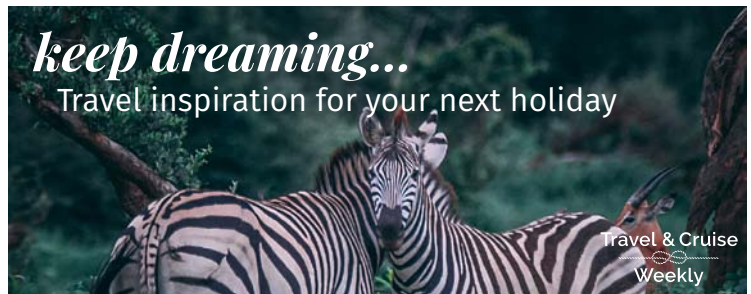
DARWIN INFORMATION SESSIONS
MONDAY AND TUESDAY NEXT WEEK

CONTACT | Lyndon Dyson - 0417 937 999

“The entire team at Wizard Pharmacy Services has blown me away by their commitment to provide the best pharmacy support system in the market. I wish I'd joined sooner!”

ANDREW STENT
WIZARD PHARMACY FRANCHISEE
JOINED 2020





Race on for Guild branch presidencies

PHARMACY Guild of Australia members in NSW and the Northern Territory are set to go to the polls to elect Branch Presidents for the next three years, with the presidencies of the other State and Territory Branches already decided.

In NSW, incumbent Branch President, David Heffernan, will seek to retain the position in a race against Branch Vice President, Paul Jones, and Tim Hewitt, who is returning to the Branch Committee for the first time in six years.

The NT Branch will see Peter Hatwell and Travis Linsay, vie for the Presidency, with current President, Terry Battalis, stepping down.

The Australian Electoral Commission has confirmed the presidencies of the six other branch committees have not been contested with five current Presidents retaining their positions - Simon Blacker (ACT), Nick Panayiaris (South Australia), Trent Twomey (Queensland), Anthony Tassone (Victoria) and Andrew

Ngeow (Western Australia), with incoming Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne trading places with John Dowling, who will become Branch Vice President alongside Katie Hayes.

NSW is the only branch where members will be asked to cast their votes for each available Committee position, with six candidates - Mario Barone, John Black, Catherine Bronger, Judith Plunkett, Rick Samimi and Adele Tahan - running for three Vice President positions, with Black the only one of that group not putting his name forward for one of two National Councillor roles.

Plunkett and Tahan have also been nominated to run for the state's three Alternate National Councillor slots, with Robert King and Luke van der Rijt also standing for those positions.

Current Victorian Vice Presidents, Grace Chong and Kin Chong, are running alongside Paul Krassaris, Angelo Pricolo and Marylin



Tsitonakis, for the state's three Vice President positions.

Grace Chong will also go head-to-head against Krassaris to represent the State on the National Council.

The three South Australian Branch Vice President positions are being contested by Marc Apolloni, Irfan Hashmi, Gregory Scarlett and Paul Simmons.

Apolloni, Hashmi and Scarlett will also run-off to represent SA on the National Council, with Hashmi, Simmons, Matthew Gillespie and Rabia Kajani competing for two Alternate National Councillor roles. Polling opens on 20 Jan.

Pharmacists' CAM uncertainty

PHARMACISTS are ideally placed to interact with consumers wanting to use complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) but may lack the practice knowledge and skills to appropriately advise them, a study reveals.

Researchers found Australian pharmacists were generally positive about CAM, however, "they displayed a degree of uncertainty, particularly about efficacy and safety, that pointed toward a lack of confidence and a desire for better education".

The paper published in *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine* noted that few studies explored the use of CAM for specific physical-health conditions and even fewer addressed their use for mental health.

Updated WADA list now in force

PHARMACISTS and other stakeholders are being urged to review the updated World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2021 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, which came into force on 01 Jan.

The list designates which substances and methods are prohibited both in and out of competition, and which substances are banned in particular sports, WADA Director

General, Oliver Niggli said.

"WADA kindly asks athletes, their entourage and other stakeholders to review the list carefully, and to take particular note of this year's modifications to avoid inadvertent use of substances and methods that are prohibited in sport for 2021," he said.

The list is available [HERE](#), while a mobile-friendly version can be accessed [HERE](#).

Darwin pharmacy sells lucky lotto ticket

DARWIN'S Bardens Pharmacy is gaining a lucky reputation, after selling a winning ticket for last weekend's TattsLotto draw.

The mystery winner has yet to claim their \$1.4 million prize, as one of seven division one prize winning tickets.

The pharmacy's manager, Ashleigh Hutson, told *news.com.au* that the store had sold three division one winning tickets over the last six years.



"We hope the winner checks their ticket soon so we can celebrate with them," she said.

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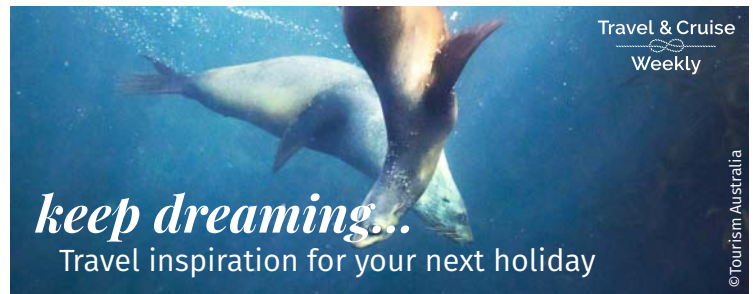
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These medicines may not be right for you. Read the label before purchase. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, talk to your health professional.



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Dispensary Corner

IT APPEARS that personal hygiene was high on the agenda of the rioters in Washington D.C. last week - along with their attempts to influence the outcome of the US election.

Smashed windows, ransacked offices and abandoned flags weren't the only things they left behind: some of the pro-Trump supporters who forced their way into the Capitol apparently also brought along some deodorant - because unseating a government is sweaty work.

The B.O. buster was revealed in a tweet by a *Washington Post* reporter in the aftermath of the invasion on 06 Jan.

"Left by the mob: a lonely can of AXE body spray," was the caption posted by Mike DeBonis, along with a photo of the antiperspirant among some of the debris (pictured).

Quick to distance itself from the incident, the official AXE Twitter account came back with: "We'd rather be lonely than with that mob. AXE condemns yesterday's acts of violence and hate at the Capitol...we believe in the democratic process and the peaceful transition of power."

Others also weighed in, with one commenter noting "AXE body spray is taking a stronger stance on American democracy than are many Republican members of Congress".



Wizard celebrates growth

WESTERN Australian group, Wizard Pharmacy, celebrated its top performers over the last 12 months this week, with Wizard Pharmacy Cannington claiming its 2020 Pharmacy of the Year award.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 the group grew by 35% over the last 12 months, with the Cannington pharmacy recognised for its consistent success in meeting performance goals and embracing the Wizard Customer Success cultural change program.

Accepting the award, Wizard Pharmacy Cannington Pharmacist Manager, Esther Ho, noted the store's success had been based on teamwork and supporting patients.

"COVID definitely set a different tone for the year compared to previous years with a greater need for patience and empathy towards our customers' needs and emotions," she said.

"We dealt with the year's ever-changing nature with great tenacity, focusing on strengthening our customer service and helping each other to grow as a team and also as individuals."

Wizard Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, praised the Cannington team's efforts to positively impact



their community throughout the pandemic.

"The leadership team demonstrated consistent commitment to their operating rhythm and consistently delivered on their Customer Success behaviours, resulting in outstanding results for this Wizard franchise," she said.

"All team members embraced their own development and maximised the use of the Wizard Training Academy to grow their skills and confidence - it has been truly overwhelming to see the results."

Wizard Pharmacy Shelley's Amrith Dhillon, was named as the group's Pharmacist of the Year, with Wizard Rossmoyne's Jaclyn Jensen taking the Team Member of the Year title, and Wizard Joondalup's Toni Little winning the Pharmacy Leader of the Year Award.

Pharmacy vax boosts youth uptake

INFLUENZA vaccine campaigns delivered through community pharmacies can help reach younger at-risk patients, research reveals.

A study of the 2013/14 Welsh national pharmacy influenza service, found the program was able to reach younger groups that traditionally have a low uptake of the vaccine, in greater proportion than other campaigns.

Pharmacies' extended opening hours and urban locations were positively associated with the number of vaccines administered, the authors said.

The pharmacists involved in the service reported that they were aware of the potential for conflict with GPs and moderated their behaviour to mitigate such risks.

The study was published in the *British Journal of General Practice*.

Guild Update

Active Ingredient Prescribing

FROM 1 February 2021, the Australian Government is mandating that prescribers must include the active ingredient names when preparing prescriptions for PBS and RPBS medicines.

This will mean that from February onwards, patients will be provided with prescriptions based on the active ingredient, rather than the brand name of the medication.

Exceptions to this arrangement include:

- Handwritten prescriptions
- Paper-based medication charts in the residential aged care sector
- Medicinal items with four or more active ingredients; and
- Other items excluded for safety and practicality reasons.

The Guild is working with the Government to resolve potential issues if pharmacists are presented with non-compliant scripts after 1 February 2021.

The Guild encourages Members to contact their local prescribers to discuss this change, and for the prescriber to ensure they have updated their prescribing software, so that only compliant scripts are printed after 1 February.