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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Wizard
- Sigma Healthcare

Make it personal

EMBRACING a patient-centric business model supported by the analytical use of data is the key to significantly increasing brand loyalty, Wizard Pharmacy CEO, Lyndon Dydon, believes.

See **page four** for more information.

Welcome to Amcal Life Clinic

SIGMA Healthcare is celebrating the opening of Amcal Life Clinic Donnybrook.

Owned by Rowan Lowe, the Western Australian store has joined a pharmacy model designed to champion premium pharmacist-led health services with targeted product ranges.

See **page five** for more.

McBride voices aged care concerns

PHARMACIST-TURNED-FEDERAL MP, Emma McBride, is calling on the Federal Government to implement significant reforms in the aged care sector to boost quality use of medicines.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, McBride said the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety had been inadequate, including its \$3.2 billion Budget pledge.

"They've dodged, delayed or outright rejected key recommendations," she said.

"Nothing will change without reforms to the workforce... there was nothing to improve wages [in the Budget] for overstretched, undervalued workers.

"The Government is failing to collaborate with employee organisations, despite the Royal Commission's recommendation to do so.

"At the same time, they're gifting \$3.2 billion to providers, with no conditions to make sure this goes to actual better care or better food, not just improving their bottom line."

McBride said that while Labor supported the *Aged Care and*

Other Legislation Amendment (Royal Commission Response No 1) Bill 2021, she wanted to "further strengthen legislation on the use of restrictive practices, including chemical restraint".

"Some of the most alarming evidence to the Royal Commission related to the widespread sedation or chemical restraint of aged-care residents, often with dementia," she said.

"Evidence from Associate Professor Juanita Breen from Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre at the University of Tasmania, in a study of 11,500 residents in 139 aged-care homes, found that 22% of aged-care residents were taking antipsychotics, 41% were taking antidepressants and 22% were taking benzodiazepines on a regular basis, largely daily.

"As a pharmacist who worked in mental health and psychogeriatrics, and having lost my father to younger-onset Alzheimer's dementia, this is of concern to me and to countless individuals and families across Australia.

"The Royal Commission's interim report titled *Neglect* found that the use of antipsychotics was not



clearly justified in 90% of cases in which they were prescribed and that polypharmacy and chemical restraint have been the norm.

"As the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's *Medicine safety: aged care* report found, more than 95% of aged-care residents had at least one problem with their medicines, and most had three, including dangerous drug interactions and overdosing; 50% of people with dementia were taking medicines with anticholinergic properties, which can worsen symptoms such as confusion; and one-fifth were on antipsychotics, with more than half using the medicine for too long."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

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Reprimanded over S8 record failings

SYDNEY-BASED pharmacist, Hung Kim Tran, must undergo mentoring for a minimum period of 12 months after being reprimanded in relation to failing to ensure his pharmacy's drug register accurately recorded dates that Schedule 8 medicines were dispensed to a patient who subsequently overdosed using them.

A NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard that Tran became a co-owner of Blooms the Chemist Edgecliff in Sep 2015.

As the only proprietor who regularly worked in the pharmacy, Tran was responsible for day-to-day activities.

The Tribunal heard that when Tran bought into the pharmacy, Patient A was a "longstanding customer", who was being treated for chronic pain issues, having suffered spinal issues from a young age.

In Oct 2017 Patient A was admitted to St Vincent's Hospital as

a result of a prescription medicine overdose.

Police seized large amounts of medications from the patient's home, including morphine for injection, fentanyl patches and oxycodone capsules.

The Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) commenced disciplinary action against Tran on the grounds that large quantities of drugs of addiction were dispensed to Patient A over a two-year period without adequate intervention by Tran or pharmacists in his employ.

Following the patient's hospital admission, the NSW Ministry of Health Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit (PRU) conducted a quantitative analysis of the dispensing records for Patient A at the pharmacy, which revealed 2,300 morphine 30mg ampoules had been dispensed between 01 Jul 2016 and 25 Oct 2017, and 160 fentanyl 100mcg patches were also given to

the woman between 19 Dec 2016 and 13 Oct 2017.

Tran admitted he had failed to ensure the drug register was kept up to date and that there were inventory issues at the store, conceding that prescriptions dispensed were not appropriate emergency supplies.

The Tribunal noted that Tran presented as "genuinely remorseful and did not seek to avoid responsibility".

Tran told the Tribunal he had completed the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Ethics and Dispensing in Pharmacy Practice course and wanted to share his learning so his staff would not go through what he has.

The Tribunal reprimanded Tran and ordered him to nominate a registered experienced practitioner who is not associated with Blooms the Chemist to act as a professional mentor for at least 12 months.

Dispensary Corner

CANADIAN pharmacists have once again proven their willingness to go the extra mile to help patients access lifesaving medications.

Pharmacists across Western Canada raced to find a rare drug, which has not been licenced in the country after a one-year-old boy ate raccoon feces while playing in his family's garden.

After discovering that raccoon poop can contain potentially deadly *Baylisascaris procyonis* roundworm eggs, which hatch into larvae that invade host organs, including the eyes and brain, the boy's parents contacted their GP and the province's Poison and Drug Information Service, which advised them to sit tight and see if he developed symptoms.

However, unwilling to waste any time in getting a diagnosis, the parents took a stool sample to a veterinarian, who confirmed their worst fears, with too many eggs to count found in the kid's poop.

The toddler was then rushed to a hospital emergency room where he was prescribed albendazole, which needed to be taken within three days of exposure, however it proved difficult to track down.

When pharmacist, Bryce Barry, heard about the need to get the script filled he got to work contacting suppliers to no avail, before turning to a friend, Dawson Bremner, in Vancouver, who had opened a compounding pharmacy there.

Bremner then turned to a pharmaceutical representative, who mass emailed his client list across the country, with Calgary-based Script Pharmacy coming to the rescue.

Despite having not compounded the anti-parasitic medication in more than a decade the pharmacy was able to deliver the drug within 56 hours and save the child's life.

Tambassis appointed to Kings board

FORMER Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, is set to join the board of logistics firm, The Kings Group, as a non-executive director.

The announcement of his appointment came two weeks after he took up a similar position with pharmacy wholesaler, Australian

Pharmaceutical Industries (API) (PD 07 Jun).

Kings has been a partner of the Guild since 2016, and Tambassis has urged metropolitan-based pharmacies to consider using the company's same-day Pharmacy to Home Delivery Service to help protect staff from potential exposure to COVID-19 (PD 15 Apr 2020).

NSW COVID-19 exposure sites

PATIENTS who visited five Sydney pharmacies are being advised to get tested for COVID-19 and isolate until they receive a negative result.

The list of potential COVID-19 exposure sites linked to the latest outbreak in the city include three Chemist Warehouse stores - Bondi Junction between 5.30pm and 6pm on 16 Jun, the Birkenhead Point outlet in Drummoyn from 1.05pm until 1.20pm on 15 Jun, and the George Street store in the CBD between 1.45pm and 2.15pm on 15 Jun.

Birkenhead Point's Priceline Pharmacy has been listed as a casual contact location from midday until 12.10pm on 15 Jun, as has the TerryWhite Chemmart store at East Village Shopping Centre, Zetland, with shoppers who visited the mall between 11.45am and 12.15pm on 14 Jun also advised to get tested and self-isolate.

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'Side hustle' slur enrages pharmacy

BRITISH pharmacists are voicing their frustration at a right-wing blogsite's portrayal of a pharmacist-turned MP's declaration she is working locum shifts at a pharmacy as a "side hustle".

In a declaration of employment and earnings, Labour MP, Taiwo Owatemi, revealed she had been working "on an ad hoc basis, as required" at a pharmacy since 05 Jun.

However, the *Guido Fawkes* site said Owatemi had "admitted to actively selling drugs", with the post featuring an image of the MP as a character from *Breaking Bad*.

The Pharmacists's Defence Association (PDA) noted the blog had attracted mainstream media coverage, with *The Times* suggesting that the MP's decision to practise during the COVID-19 pandemic was the "equivalent of a Sat job in a supermarket".

Responding to the criticism of Owatemi, PDA Chair, Mark Koziol, issued an open letter defending the

MP's decision to locum.

"We know from our peer organisations worldwide that in every national lockdown access to community pharmacies has been at the core of keeping societies operating while tackling this pandemic, by remaining open to patients," he said.

"Community pharmacies are often in small premises where employees have difficulties in socially distancing, but they have been a front line in the nation's response, on many occasions providing patients with the medicines they need to stay alive.

"Perhaps unsurprisingly, in a pattern also seen amongst other front line healthcare professions eager to serve the public, several community pharmacists have died during this pandemic from COVID-19.

"There are multiple examples of doctors that become MPs continuing to practice, including some who have served in cabinet,



and quite rightly as health professionals they will also have a requirement to keep their practice current.

"However, we cannot recall any of those MPs being criticised for doing so in any form, let alone in the way some of the attacks on Owatemi have been phrased.

"That an MP should continue to practice and care for patients in the middle of a pandemic should be praised, not condemned."

Guild Update

Closing The Gap ChangeX

The Department of Health has released information about the changes to the CTG Co-payment Relief, effective 1 July. The changes include:

- Introduction of a centralised patient registration database managed by Services Australia.
 - Hospital PBS prescriptions can be dispensed as CTG by community pharmacies and private hospital pharmacies.
 - It is no longer mandatory for prescribers to annotate CTG on prescriptions, however it is recommended to alert pharmacies when dispensing.
 - New PBS Online alerts added for CTG dispensing and claiming to send an alert if patient status is submitted incorrectly compared to patient registration.
 - CTG claiming is based on date of dispense and not the date on prescription. This means that existing PBS prescriptions and repeats can be dispensed as CTG after a person has been registered.
 - Pharmacists can confirm if a patient is listed on the CTG register through HPOS. Members should ensure that the pharmacy, owner and pharmacist staff members have linked their PRODA to HPOS.
- Further details can be obtained [HERE](#).

TGA issues vaping guidance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released its *Guidance for Therapeutic Goods (Standard for Nicotine Vaping Products) Order 110 2021 (TGO 110)* and related matters.

The guidance provides details about the minimum safety and quality requirements that apply to unregistered products under the order, which comes into effect from 01 Oct, to health practitioners, customers, importers and other sponsors

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Co-administered flu and COVAX safe

PATIENTS may not need to make two separate visits to health professionals to receive influenza and COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) in future, results from a Phase III clinical trial reveals.

While current Australian guidelines require patients to wait 14 days between flu and COVAX shots, the UK-based study conducted by Novavax and Seqirus suggested that the safety and efficacy of both vaccines was retained when co-administered.

In a statement, Novavax President of Research and Development, Gregory Glenn, said the need to receive the



vaccines on separate occasions was "burdensome" for patients.

"These results demonstrate the promising opportunity for concomitant vaccination, which may improve the uptake of both vaccines," he said.

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Lyndon Dyson FOUNDER & CEO

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Jenny Hall - 0419 969 471

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