



Mag-Sup
High absorption magnesium

Pharmacy only.

50's PBS & RPBS Listed

Available in 50's, 100's and 250's from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

Always read the label. Follow the directions for use.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Flu vax uptake concerns grow

HEALTH professionals will need to remind patients that influenza is a serious condition, to boost vaccination uptake, infectious diseases expert, Professor Robert Booy, believes.

Booy said the results of a survey commissioned by vaccine producer, Seqirus, showed many Australians seemed to be downplaying the risks posed by flu viruses.

The survey found close to 30% of Australian adults do not intend to get vaccinated this flu season.

"For the last two years, we've had next to no flu, and vaccination rates have been low as well," he said.

"As a consequence, the level of community protection has dropped significantly.

"People need reminding that we've had some bad flu seasons in the past."

NPS defunding move not so wise

FEDERAL Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg's decision to strip funding from NPS MedicineWise may come at a cost to patient safety, the independent agency warns.

A spokesperson for NPS told *Pharmacy Daily* that the decision to defund the service announced in last week's Federal Budget came without "any prior warning".

"From 01 Jan 2023, a number of quality use of medicines (QUM) functions currently delivered by NPS MedicineWise will be transferred to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)," the spokesperson said.

"[And] NPS MedicineWise will no longer receive any uncontested funding from the Department of Health to support QUM."

"Since NPS MedicineWise was created in 1998, through our education programs and services, we have delivered QUM improvements benefiting Australians where the need is greatest.

"NPS MedicineWise has demonstrated over \$1.1 billion in direct savings for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medicare Benefits



Schedule (MBS).

"More importantly, these programs have resulted in demonstrable improvements in patient care and health outcomes for Australians.

"The defunding of an independent agency that has the singular focus on QUM risks a dilution of focus on QUM.

"We are disappointed and concerned with what this means for Australia at a time when quality and safe use of medicines is listed as a National Health Priority.

"The NPS MedicineWise model of a national implementation body at arm's length from government

remains as important today as it was 24 years ago.

"Our track record demonstrates the success of this approach to achieving national policy objectives, improved prescribing and health outcomes, consumers as partners in their healthcare, and PBS and MBS sustainability."

Commenting on the decision on Twitter, former NPS Adverse Medicine Events Line Operational Manager and Senior Pharmacist, Dr Geraldine Moses, said it was "unbelievable", while Queensland University of Technology, School of Clinical Sciences Head, Professor Lisa Nissen, called the move "insanity".

SIMPLIFY AND STREAMLINE ePRESCRIPTIONS



FIND OUT HOW

Chat to our team today!
1300 700 921

eRx script exchange Medview

ELACTALYTE



Launch deal with \$60 e-voucher available.

Speak to your Nova TM or Clear Sales TM today on (02) 8255 3030

LIMITED TIME OFFER

NOVA PHARMACEUTICALS



With fully integrated e-Prescriptions, dispensing has never been easier.

Contact us today to find out how to start dispensing with Dispense Works.
www.posworks.com.au | enquiries@posworks.com.au | 07 3277 9488

DISPENSE WORKS

PHARMACY SOFTWARE

APP OFFER EXTENDED

Upgrade today and receive a **FREE MEDADVISOR FLOOR STAND** valued at \$75.



Van Rooijen scoops PSA SA PotY title

PORT Lincoln-based community pharmacist, Kylie Van Rooijen, has been named as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) South Australian 2022 Pharmacist of the Year (PotY).

Speaking at the PSA's SA Pharmacy Awards Conference in Adelaide last week, PSA SA Branch President, Robyn Johns, hailed Van Rooijen's contribution to the profession in the State over the last 30 years.

"As a key member of the PSA and Country SA PHN project, Kylie also works in the Boston Bay Family Health Clinic where she provides a range of services including medication reviews, advice and education, and liaison between the general practice, hospitals and community pharmacy," Johns said.

"A self-proclaimed medication translator, Kylie reconciles hospital discharge summaries with general practice health records and conducts patient consultations, helping to reduce the possibility of medication problems. Such problems include treatment

courses not being completed, or a person failing to restart taking vital medications which they were taken off during their hospital stay.

"Kylie believes that it is imperative for pharmacists to keep up-to-date with practice guideline and regulatory changes, and through this role, she can ensure that this information is easily accessible for GPs and registrars, freeing up their time to focus on patient care.

"A fierce advocate for equity in healthcare, Kylie works at the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Centre, in a role she created for herself.

"Determined to make a difference to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the impact she has had on their patients and practice has been significant, so-much-so that the clinic opted to keep her on two days a week.

"Also training as a diabetes educator, Kylie's commitment to furthering pharmacy practice in SA has been exceptional, attracting and inspiring future generations of pharmacists."

During the event aged care and



palliative care pharmacist, Julian Soriano, was named as the Branch's Early Career Pharmacist.

The PSA also honoured two interns, with University of SA's Lauren Fraser, taking home the Intern of the Year Award, while SA Pharmacy's Mikah Peterson was awarded the Branch's Gold Medal for her research while in the final year of her training with the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network's Medication Safety Committee.

University of SA's Adjunct Associate Professor Kingsley Coulthard, was also honoured for his service to the profession over a career spanning more than 50 years.

MDR looks to US for group CEO

MEDADVISOR (MDR) is set to recruit a US-based successor following CEO, Robert Read's announcement of his intention to retire.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning, MDR said that with close to 80% of revenues and earnings now sourced in the US, following the acquisition of Adheris (**PD** 19 Nov 2020), a US-based CEO would "best deliver on the next phase of MDR's growth".

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the past seven years building MDR from a small software business in Australia with less than \$1 million in revenue, into a global healthcare software provider with operations in four countries ... supporting thousands of pharmacists... and generating over \$70 million in annual revenue," Read said.

"I look forward to assisting in an orderly and smooth transition of the CEO role."

Blooms pharmacist wins APP top prize

BLOOMS The Chemist Bathurst Armada pharmacist, Alissa T, has landed the top prize, a Mazda CX-30 G20 Touring SUV, from the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP).

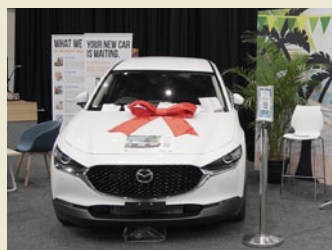
Alissa said she was "surprised and in shock" when she received a call from event organisers letting her know she had won the car.

"I never win anything," she said. "When I entered, I never thought that I'd actually win.

"I've been working in community pharmacy since my third year of university in 2014.

"Being a small regional town of around 45,000, the Bathurst community relies heavily on their local community pharmacy."

"It's very exciting working in community pharmacy in one of the fastest growing regional cities in NSW, as I've been able



to see patients get better health outcomes through access to better primary healthcare over the years."

"I love working in community pharmacy and have been with Blooms the Chemist my entire career."

"I've been able to see families grow and support them on their health journeys, worked with local nursing homes and supported patients and their families during the transition from home living to living in aged care facilities."

Herbal medicines firm cops more fines

SYDNEY-BASED company, Shen Neng Herbal Medicines Group Pty Ltd, has been issued four infringement notices totalling \$53,280.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) alleged the firm contravened the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* by breaching a condition of listing and failing to provide information to the regulator when it was required to do so.

"The listed medicines framework allows sponsors to supply low-risk complementary (listed) medicines to consumers without pre-market approval, provided certain conditions specified in the Act are met," the TGA said.

"It is alleged Shen Neng failed to comply with a condition of listing by failing to notify the TGA of the manufacturer of two of their medicines within the

required timeframe.

"Failure to comply with a condition of listing reduces confidence that the safety, quality and efficacy of listed medicines are maintained at an appropriate standard.

"Shen Neng also allegedly failed to comply with two notices from the TGA requiring it to provide information in relation to its medicines.

"Under the Act, sponsors of listed medicines must provide information requested within specified timeframes to allow the TGA to conduct post-market compliance reviews of their medicines."

The TGA added that Shen Neng was previously issued infringement notices totalling \$100,800, in Oct 2020 in relation to a number of alleged breaches relating to supply, labelling and pharmacovigilance.

2022 AMH AGED CARE COMPANION IN BOOK OR ONLINE. AVAILABLE 28TH APRIL.

To find out more go to www.amh.net.au



Dispensary Corner

PHARMACY location and ownership rules can be challenging to get your head around, with some legislation open to interpretation.

Just ask Maltese pharmacy owner, Jane Mifsud, who received the green light to open a new store in the rural village of Burmarrad, on the Mediterranean island nation's east coast, after 15 years of trying, the *Times of Malta* reports.

Superior Court Justice, Robert Mangion, ruled this week, that local health authorities misinterpreted legislation which restricted pharmacy permits to towns, when they rejected Mifsud's application in Apr 2008.

Mifsud lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman, who ruled in her favour in 2011, recommending the application be processed as soon as possible.

However, it took another 11 years for the pharmacy to be approved, after public health officials insisted that the recommendation could not be implemented because the Ombudsman had erred in its definition of what constituted a "town".



Wizard network grows

AWARD-WINNING pharmacy owner, Elise Wheadon (pictured), is set to double the Wizard Pharmacy group's presence in the Western Australian town of Kalgoorlie next month with two pharmacies joining the brand.

Wheadon, whose Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central, took out the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Excellence in Professional Innovation Award in 2019, and was a finalist for the coveted Pharmacy of the Year title this year, is bringing two former Guardian Pharmacy stores under the banner.

She said the addition of the two pharmacies to the group would allow her growing team to "provide first practice care to the Kalgoorlie community throughout four easily accessible locations".

"These locations - Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie City (at the



Kalgoorlie Shopping Centre) and Wizard Pharmacy Hannans (in Hannan's Boulevard Shopping Centre) will allow us to offer a wider more specialised range of health services to the community, while giving us the additional resources to continue our work in delivering positive health outcomes for the wider regional and Aboriginal communities," she said.

Guild hails outgoing Tassie Premier

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Tasmanian Branch has thanked the State's outgoing Premier, Peter Gutwein, for his support of the profession during his term in office.

Guild Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, hailed Gutwein as "a man of integrity" following his shock decision to quit politics yesterday.

O'Byrne lauded Gutwein for his willingness to meet, discuss and act on the issues impacting community pharmacy, noting that the role of pharmacists has expanded substantially in providing healthcare services to their local communities during his time as Premier.

"We have always found Gutwein

to be a man of integrity and down to earth common sense," she said.

"We have very much appreciated his willingness to listen and assess each issue on its merits.

"His recognition of the important role community pharmacists play within their local communities has been much appreciated.

"We thank Gutwein for his unwavering support of the important role community pharmacy plays in the provision of healthcare services to Tasmanians and wish him and his family all the very best for the future."

Gutwein will remain as Premier until the Liberal Party elect his successor later this week.

Guild Update

HIV self-testing education

GUILD Learning and Development has partnered with Atomo Diagnostics, manufacturer of HIV self-tests, to develop education on HIV self-testing with a new online module on this topic titled 'HIV self-testing and community pharmacy'.

Completion of this learning will equip pharmacists with knowledge about HIV self-testing and serve as training for pharmacists to supply HIV self-test kits as per the TGA requirement that training is completed prior to supply.

This module aims to increase pharmacist confidence in supplying HIV self-test kits and responding to consumer queries.

Guild Learning and Development thanks Atomo Diagnostics for its financial and subject matter assistance in developing this course.

Pharmacists who wish to order self-tests can do so directly through Atomo Diagnostics by emailing sales@atomodiagnosics.com.

To enrol in this course please visit gilded.guild.org.au.

For more information please contact Guild Learning and Development on 1800 049 056 or email learninganddevelopment@guild.org.au.