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## Pharmacy full scope push via NMP

**THE** newly released revision to Australia's National Medicines Policy (NMP) (*PD* yesterday) "clears the way for independent prescribing by community pharmacists in Australia," according to Pharmacy Guild of Australia Qld Branch President, Chris Owen.

Owen (**pictured**) issued a statement today saying the NMP update is "an important moment in national medicine policy, with the concrete realisation that community pharmacists can and should do more".

"We support the policy framework calling for all Australians to have fair, timely, reliable and affordable access to high-quality medicines and medicines services, which strongly aligns with the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

"Through the extensive network of highly trained community pharmacists, we are already working with the community to ensure patients are well-informed



on the safe and correct use of medicines and their healthcare needs are being met," he said.

"We look forward to working closely with other healthcare professionals to support new and better ways to find and respond to patients' health needs."

Owen said the pharmacy sector had already "shared a glimpse of what we are capable of through our considered and proactive response to the COVID-19 pandemic... the administration of 9 million vaccines in Australian community pharmacies is a phenomenal achievement against the backdrop

of a global health crisis".

**MEANWHILE** the Guild has also updated a specially developed website showcasing the evolving practice landscape at [pharmacyfullscope.com.au](http://pharmacyfullscope.com.au).

The site includes a map of Australia that users can click on to highlight differences in each state and territory, noting that "increasingly state governments in Australia are recognising the valuable work that pharmacists do as part of a patients' healthcare team, while also recognising the need to improve patient access to primary care, especially in rural and regional areas, where patients are waiting three weeks or more to see a General Practitioner".

There's also a "Myths vs Facts" section to address questions and concerns, and a form enabling consumers to send a letter to Federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler, to "let the Government know you want access to more pharmacy services in your state".

### Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus full pages from **Omniceil** and **Glucojel**.

### 24/7 self service

**PHARMACIES** are being invited to invigorate their offering by considering Omnicell's Pharmself24 system, which allows patients to collect items 24 hours a day.

Current tax incentives also apply - see **page three**.

### Taste battle

**TODAY** Gold Cross' Glucojel continues its onslaught against rival jelly beans with another rendition showcasing the social media reaction to alternatives - check it out on the **last page**.

### Latest Raven's podcast out

**RAVEN'S** Recruitment has today released the first episode of season six of the Your Pharmacy Career Podcast.

The program features Chantelle Turner, a pharmacist, leadership coach & emotional intelligence practitioner.

Turner is the founder of TURN Pharmacy Leadership, a coaching business "created by a pharmacist, for pharmacists and people within our industry" with the goal of empowering pharmacists and key staff to become game-changers in their lives, workplaces and communities.

"Through her business values of trust, upskilling, reigniting and nurturing, she aims to bring everyone to the table to find common ground, growth and success for all and at the expense of none," Ravens said.

The podcast is now available at [ravensrecruitment.com.au](http://ravensrecruitment.com.au) and will be published to the various podcast platforms this afternoon.

### Heffernan calls out RACGP inaccuracies

**NSW** Pharmacy Guild Branch President, David Heffernan, has demanded a public correction to allegedly false statements by Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President, Dr Nicole Higgins.

Yesterday Heffernan wrote to Higgins claiming she made "a number of false statements on ABC Radio Illawarra on 19 Dec 2022 regarding the trial of pharmacist treatment for urinary tract infections".

"During the interview you misrepresented a Canadian study on pharmacist prescribing for urinary tract infections.

"You stated that the study showed pharmacists were seven times more likely to prescribe antibiotics," Heffernan wrote.

"This claim is based on a wildly incorrect reading of the data, being based upon a letter about the study referring to the total number of prescriptions provided, not the rate of

prescribing.

"In reality, the study found that 'pharmacist management of uncomplicated UTI is effective, safe and patient satisfaction appears very high'," he noted.

Heffernan's letter also accuses Higgins of making "the false statement that antimicrobial resistance is higher in NZ because of pharmacist prescribing".

"In fact, resistance is lower in New Zealand than Australia and has risen at a slower rate since pharmacist prescribing was introduced," Heffernan said, with his letter also including references to various reports and scientific papers to back up his claims about Higgins' statements.

"I ask that you retract your false claims and issue a public correction...it is imperative that accurate information is provided to the public, particularly when it comes to matters of public health, and from a person in a role as important as yours".

### Cefalexin update

**THE** Department of Health and Aged Care has amended the formal regulation allowing pharmacists to substitute medicines without prescription during shortages, after the issue of a Serious Scarcity and Substitutable Medicine Instrument (SSSI) relating to the antibiotic cefalexin.

The SSSI allows pharmacists to supply different strengths of the medication for oral administration at equivalent dosages for the duration of the shortage, provided specified conditions are met.

See [legislation.gov.au](http://legislation.gov.au).

### US biotech probe

**AMERICA'S** Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a request for information related to a "Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology" - **CLICK HERE**.



### Dispensary Corner

**NEW** Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is supporting a prostate cancer charity by agreeing to auction off the official government transcript of an off-the-cuff comment in which she called a political opponent an "arrogant prick".

Ardern was caught on a "hot microphone" last week during parliamentary question time making the frank comment about rival party leader David Seymour, who heads the right-wing Act party.

Seymour asked a series of questions in the chamber, asking Ardern if she could "give an example of her making a mistake, apologising for it properly, and fixing it".

As she sat down after answering, Ardern turned to her ally Grant Robertson, saying "he's such an arrogant prick", with the remark picked up on her microphone.

After later texting Seymour to apologise, she joked in Parliament that she stood by all her statements - including "insults and apologies".

"In the spirit of a Kiwi Christmas, two political foes have united to raise money for a good cause," according to the auction website, which is selling off a copy of the parliamentary record which has been signed by both Ardern and Seymour.

Bidding for the unique item has already apparently reached NZ\$50,000.

The auction is titled "Ardern, Seymour join forces for pricks everywhere", and offers are being accepted until today.

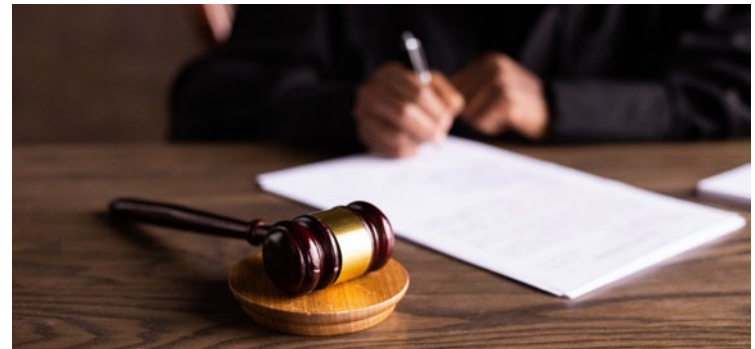
## Conditions imposed on NSW pharmacist

THE NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has ordered that a pharmacist be subject to supervision with restricted dispensing of Schedule 8 and 4D drugs, in a ruling handed down earlier this month relating to a case prosecuted by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).

It was alleged that the registered pharmacist, who graduated from the University of Newcastle in 2005, failed to report the loss of 58 drugs to the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit between Nov 2014 and Jan 2019, while working at Lisarow Chemist Outlet on the NSW Central Coast.

The pharmacist was also accused of failing to conduct compulsory inventory checks for methadone on three occasions, as well as having "dispensed diazepam on multiple occasions to a person with whom she had a personal connection, in circumstances where she knew that person was a participant in an opioid program," the HCCC said.

Multiple entries made by the pharmacist in the drug register were alleged to be illegible, incorrect, incomplete or



misleading, with the pharmacist also accused of making a number of adjustments to the register without recording sufficient explanation.

She was also alleged to have had printed pharmacy address labels, patient prescriptions and drug printouts at her home.

Testimony during the hearing noted the pharmacist had suffered a mini stroke in 2015, with the Tribunal accepting that she continues to suffer from the continuing effects of the episode.

However some of the allegations relate to conduct both before and after the stroke.

The Tribunal's decision found the allegations proven, ruling

that the pharmacist was guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

She's required to practise with supervision for a period of 12 months, complete no less than 152 hours of supervised practice, and successfully complete an oral examination on pharmacy law and ethics within the next year.

The Pharmacy Council of NSW must be advised within seven days of any change of employment, and the pharmacist was also ordered to pay the HCCC's costs.

The Tribunal also ordered that the names and addresses of the witnesses listed in the complaint to the HCCC not be disclosed.

### Oxycodone theft

**POLICE** in Oklahoma City, USA have arrested a man who allegedly robbed a Walgreens store, making off with 1,000 oxycodone tablets.

Officers said the offender was waiting at the window of the drive-through pharmacy when it opened, threatening a staff member who gave him the pills after getting them out of a three-minute time delay safe.

He was arrested a short time later after CCTV footage helped identify the thief's car.

### PBS spending up 6.7% to \$14.7 billion

THE Federal Health Department this morning released its *PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Report* for the period 01 Jul 2021 through to 30 June 2022, revealing Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) spending under Section 85 and Section 100 was \$14.7 billion.

That was a 6.7% increase on the \$13.8 billion for the previous year - despite total PBS subsidised prescription volumes up by less than 1% to 215 million for the year.

The majority of spending went to concessional cardholders - \$9.3 billion or 64.4% of the total, a declining proportion compared to the 66.3% in 2020-21.

The average dispensed price (patient payment plus Government benefit) per prescription of PBS subsidised medicines increased to \$74.63 in 2021-22, up 5.6%.

There were 925 different medicines in 5,178 brands listed on the PBS as at 30 Jun 2022.

More at [pbs.gov.au](https://pbs.gov.au).

Invigorate your pharmacy with exciting new technology for 24h patient collection and benefit from tax incentives available

### Pharmself24





# MONEY CAN'T BUY TASTE

Kim Jarratt

omg. These are disgusting. I still have a packet at home for you to try

Angel-Rose Cole

Kim Jarratt agree, they're almost inedible!

Barbara White

One word "disgusting"

Barbara White

They are vile 🤢

Wylie Cooper

Yep they are disgusting. Always bought the big bag of glucogel jellybeans and now they have been replaced with these awful ones. Wont be buying them anymore.

Jane Blackman

This new brand is disgusting 🤢

Monterrose Brennan

Karina Corrie - Sutton would rather eat arm pit

Michelle Smith

These are terrible bring back the others

Lorraine Morgan

Not nice at all. Bring back the other Jelly bean

Billy Green

Go back to old jellybeans, these are 🤢



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