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Workforce issues must be addressed

HECS waivers and student subsidies for students in rural areas and the extension of the COVID-19 pandemic register are among the strategies needed to strengthen the pharmacy workforce going forward, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), believes.

In its pre-Federal Budget submission, the SHPA noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had “seen an unprecedented demand for hospital pharmacists throughout the healthcare system with pivotal roles in the supply of critical medicines, assisting extending the delivery of appropriate healthcare, and vaccination programs amongst some of the critical roles”.

“In order to continue to achieve the national medicines policy’s objectives SHPA recommends extending the national pandemic response sub-register for pharmacists practising within their full-scope beyond Sep 2022 and beyond Apr 2022 for the COVID-19 vaccination sub-register,” it said.

“SHPA strongly supports the current sub-register established by AHPRA and the National Pharmacy Board of Australia which fast-tracks the return of experienced

and qualified pharmacists to the workforce due to outbreaks of COVID-19 variants.

“SHPA also congratulates the Health Minister’s involvement in this, however, SHPA foresees the ongoing need for this sub-register beyond 2022 and requests the Government urgently act to facilitate an extension to increase the degree of certainty around workforce planning within the healthcare system.

“SHPA also recommends support for increasing the uptake of accelerated graduate-entry pharmacy students in Master of Pharmacy courses, which is essential for a timely increase in the output of pharmacy students through these accelerated and validated education programs, which typically can throughput successful students in two years compared to four years.

“SHPA recommends increasing student subsidies for these accelerated university placements to attract student candidates and strongly recommends the waiver of HECS fees for all regional, rural and remote areas where currently there is a large shortfall and difficulty in recruiting students in these regions,



where in recent times pharmacy schools have had to close.”

The Society has also called on the Government to support an updated Pharmacy Workforce Planning study to provide clarity on the projected needs and growth for the sector in light of the expansion and dependence on pharmacy services during the pandemic.

Today’s issue of PD

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

- Good Price Pharmacy
- Johnson & Johnson

Change at COO

CORUM Group (COO) Chair, Nick England, is set to take on the role of interim CEO, following the resignation of CEO, Julian Sallabank.

Sallabank has left the company to resume his former role as Managing Director of the Tegman Medical Research Impact Fund.

England thanked Sallabank for his service to the company.

Meta action call

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is calling on social media giant, Meta, to clamp down on anti-vaxxers responsible for death threats against a Gold Coast-based GP.

The practice’s social media pages were flooded with threats after two children experienced fainting episodes while under observation after having COVID-19 vaccinations.

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Dispensary Corner

DECLARING victory before you are certain a foe has been vanquished can lead to adverse events, including making you look somewhat foolish.

Think George W Bush's 'Mission Accomplished' speech about the war in Iraq in 2003, only for US troops to remain on the ground for several years attempting to finish the job.

Now it appears British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson's declaration that the UK has triumphed over COVID-19 may have come a little too soon, with his Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, testing positive for the pandemic virus, shortly after speaking during a packed sitting of the House of Commons yesterday.

Truss, who has been touted as a potential successor to the controversy-mired Johnson, was seated amongst a largely maskless frontbench, and next to Home Secretary, Priti Patel.

Savings are in pharmacy

FUNDING a "common ailments" treatment scheme through community pharmacies could deliver healthcare savings in excess of \$1 billion a year, Consumer Healthcare Products Australia (CHP), believes.

CHP noted that researchers from the University of Technology Sydney had found there was "good evidence that the clinical advice provided by community pharmacists regarding symptoms of minor illnesses will result in the same health outcomes as if a patient went to see their GP or attended the emergency department".



In its pre-Budget submission the organisation backed calls for \$10 million to be allocated to fund complementary, grant-based and self-care initiatives, over the next five years.

"Self-care for health is an evidence-based, complementary component of health that can help governments foster a more resilient and self-sufficient health population; capitalise on Australians' capacity to take greater responsibility for their health outcomes; and ensure the

sustainability of essential frontline healthcare services," the CHP submission said.

"Empowering individuals to take greater responsibility for their physical and mental health management and outcomes should be a defining characteristic of Australia's health and care systems, services, and supports.

"However, as our current healthcare system and culture is not structured to facilitate Australians assuming this responsibility, we believe through prioritising greater self-care policymakers can help all Australians to become an informed advocate for, and active participant in their own health."

Guild Update

APP2022

THE premier conference event for Australian pharmacists, APP2022, is just seven weeks away.

APP2022 will draw pharmacy owners, pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and pharmacy staff from across Australia.

From 24 to 27 Mar on the Gold Coast, APP2022 will offer an ideal setting to refresh knowledge, reconnect with colleagues and peers, and view the latest industry innovations and product developments.

Alongside the conference, a trade exhibition will build on the success of the 2021 event with over 400 stands and 200 suppliers.

Through the exhibition, delegates can connect with like-minded primary healthcare providers, trusted suppliers and other pharmacy industry heavyweights.

Academy Award-nominated screenwriter and novelist Luke Davies will be joining the speaking line-up, in the Harm Minimisation stream.

Luke extracted himself from his downward spiral, in part, by the relationship he maintained with his community pharmacist.

APP2022 is a COVID Safe Event and attendees can book with confidence with APP's 100% Refund Guarantee.

Win with Crampeze

Crampeze and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away a \$50 Woolworths gift card each day.

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Name two symptoms of muscle cramps?

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US appointee joins MDR Board

US-BASED population health expert, RaeAnn Grossman, has been appointed to the Board of MedAdvisor (MDR) as a non-executive director, by the medtech firm's largest shareholder, Cotiviti.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, MDR Chair, Chris Ridd, said that Grossman would "add significant insight, interest and alignment" to the Board, as it grows its US business.

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EDITORIAL
Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue
Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au
BUSINESS MANAGER
Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)
Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au



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