

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Hosking departs Sigma role

AFTER almost five years with Sigma Healthcare, the group's Chief Pharmacist, Brinley Hosking, has resigned from the role.

In a post on LinkedIn, Hosking announced she will be taking up a position with health insurer, Medibank, "very soon".

A spokesperson for Sigma told *Pharmacy Daily* that Hosking has been "instrumental in leading our COVID-19 response initiatives and further strengthening our broader vaccination services across our retail brand networks".

"We wish Brinley all the best in her future endeavours," the spokesperson said.

"A replacement regarding Brinley's position will be announced in due course."

MEANWHILE, Medibank has announced the return of its free flu jab program for clients through Amcal pharmacies.

Staff need protection

PHARMACY owners need to engage with staff about how they can prevent incidents of workplace violence, following the assault of a pharmacist in Western Australia last week (*PD* 11 May), Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) believes.

PPA CEO, Jill McCabe, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the union was "appalled to hear the report of a pharmacist being assaulted in Geraldton, by an aggressive customer".

"Aggression, abuse and violence against pharmacists or any other front-line health workers is completely unacceptable," she said.

"Pharmacists experience serious psychological and physical harm as a result of aggression, verbal abuse and violence and measures must be taken to prevent work-based abuse and violence from occurring.

"Obviously offences related to violent behaviour must be reported to the police and individuals who undertake aggressive or abusive behaviour towards frontline staff like pharmacists, should be subjected to the full force of the law.

"However, as these matters also relate to workplace health and safety, they must also be reported to relevant workplace health and



safety authorities.

"Pharmacy owners must also recognise they have legal obligations to provide and maintain safe and healthy workplaces - and that includes workplaces that are free from work-based abuse and violence.

"Pharmacy owners must identify the risks of work-based abuse and violence in pharmacy settings and take action to eliminate or reduce these risks.

"They must also consult with pharmacy staff about the risks and measures that are needed to prevent work-based violence from occurring in pharmacy, which could include increased security controls."

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Bianco I et al., J Am Geriatr Soc 2012; 60:1100-1.

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Sigma seeks to rebuild confidence

SIMPLIFYING Sigma Healthcare's business model and rebuilding consumer confidence in its wholesale capacity are key priorities for the group's new CEO, Vikesh Ramsunder.

Addressing the company's AGM today, Ramsunder noted that the implementation of its new Enterprise Resource Planning system (ERP) last year had impacted its wholesale operations.

"I have been at Sigma for three months and have formed a clear understanding of our challenges and the work we need to do to improve our performance," he said. "We have clearly had ERP implementation challenges, which

have impacted service delivery. "I know what truly matters to our customers is for Sigma to have stock available, to consistently deliver on time, and to deliver in full - this is now my number one priority.

"We have certainly started to make progress in this area, but there is much work to be done to ensure consistent execution daily.

"Sigma has a long history with wholesaling at its core, we need to return the Sigma wholesale business to one that is again trusted to deliver on time and in full.

"Secondly, the Sigma business is more complex than it needs to be.

"I am very focused on creating a simplified business model and



eliminating the complexity within our structures and processes so it is easier for our customers and suppliers to do business with us."

Ramsunder added that he would not be providing guidance for the 2023 financial year, but said the company expects "to return to profit", after recording a net loss after tax of \$7.2 million in FY 2022.



Dispensary Corner

QUICK-THINKING Ohio-based pharmacy student, Mitchell Webber, has used his training to save a colleague's life.

The third-year student at Cedarville University was working as a groundskeeper at Beaver Creek Golf Club last month, when a call came over the radio that a co-worker had been found bleeding and disorientated, local broadcaster, WLWT5 reported.

Webber raced to the scene on a golf cart and used advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) training he had received as part of his pharmacy education to assist his colleague.

"When you're a pharmacist, you hope you never have to use the ACLS training," he said.

"Praise God that I was able to get there in a somewhat timely fashion and do my best to help out in whatever way I could."

The University's Dean of Pharmacy, Dr Jeff Bates, said Webber's quick response was an example of why the school's graduates were highly sought after by employers.

FIP Ukraine guide

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released an information guide to support countries to engage Ukrainian pharmacists and pharmacy technicians into their health workforce.

The document provides details about Ukrainian regulatory requirements and practice standards.

CLICK HERE for more.

Pharmacist knowingly spread herpes

SOUTH Korean celebrity pharmacist and Youtube star, Yakult (Park Seung-jong) has received a suspended sentence for deliberately spreading herpes, to a number of women.

The allegations first emerged, when a woman sued the pharmacist in Jun 2020, claiming he had ignored her request to use a condom, and she was subsequently diagnosed with

the herpes virus.

Uijeongbu District Court Judge, Kim Min Joo, said Yakult's actions had been "deliberate" and "as the accused had the herpes 2 virus, and the victims showed early signs of the virus, it is impossible to deny the relation".

Yakult was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

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