

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

PDL vacancy

PROFESSIONAL indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) is seeking to fill a vacancy for a Professional Officer.

The successful candidate would ideally have a strong understanding of pharmacy procedures and regulations, particular in Victoria, with previous ownership or management experience seen as "desirable but not essential".

The role will involve providing support and advice to PDL members in relation to notifiable events, mentoring pharmacists as part of the organisation's mentoring program and other duties.

Email, PDL CEO, [David Brown](#), to apply by 02 Dec.

Union backs 'responsible' Budget

THE Federal Government's first Budget is being backed by the union that represents employee pharmacists, Professionals Australia (PA).

In a newly released analysis of the Budget, PA CEO Jill McCabe described it as "economically and socially responsible", in the face of slowing GDP, persistent inflation, rising interest rates and falling real wages.

This budget includes necessary repair measures given the structural budget pressures that have been inherited and includes \$28.5 billion in budget improvements.

"While exercising spending restraint, the government's new spending is focused on high priority, targeted investments, which will relieve some cost-of-living pressures on Australian families and help drive a stronger and cleaner economy.

"Following the legislated emissions reduction target of 43%



Hartley's Gripe Water helps reduce colic and wind in infants.

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by 2030, it is pleasing to see the Government is acting on climate change and funding initiatives to generate cleaner and cheaper energy. It is also investing in priority Australian industries through the National Reconstruction Fund and nation building infrastructure projects, which will generate more skilled jobs in Australia.

"The Government's strong commitment to gender equality will be given effect by funding initiatives to improve women's economic participation and close

the gender pay gap, which will also drive greater productivity and fairness in the workforce.

"The budget recognises that changes are required to the workplace relations system to strengthen job security and reinvigorate workplace bargaining so that better pay outcomes are achieved.

"The Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill which was introduced to Parliament by the Albanese Government on 28 Oct 2022 will deliver these sorely needed workplace reforms."



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CWH mental health support

DISCOUNT pharmacy giant, Chemist Warehouse (CWH), is continuing to support women's mental health charity, the Liptember Foundation.

The group raised \$1.5 million through its 2022 Liptember campaign, which encourages people to start the conversation surrounding mental health by wearing brightly-coloured Liptember lipsticks, sold through CWH stores.

Liptember Founder, Luke Morris, said the funding was critical to help the organisation to "support the one-in-two Australian women suffering from mental illness and address the national mental health gender gap".

CWH Director, Mario Tascone, said the group was committed to supporting Liptember "in any way" to ensure it can continue to provide services to patients.

Wizard recruit to drive expansion

WESTERN Australia-based pharmacy group, Wizard Pharmacy, is upping its expansion plans with the recruitment of former API State Manager for Priceline Pharmacy in the ACT, NT, South Australia, WA and regional NSW, Edwin van der Graaf.

Van der Graaf's appointment as Wizard's National Franchise Acquisition Manager, came after the group announced it had engaged consultancy firm, EY Strategic Advisors Australia, to assist in acquiring a strategic growth investor to support its continued expansion across the country (**PD** 17 Oct).

Wizard Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, said that van der Graaf would play a significant role in supporting the group to meet its target of having 100 stores nationwide by 2027.

"With Edwin on board, we are confident of our growth strategy to introduce the Wizard Pharmacy complete pharmacy platform to even more pharmacy owners across



Australia," she said.

"We're delighted to have Edwin join the Wizard Pharmacy family and look forward to supporting him in achieving great success in his role."

Van der Graaf said that he was looking forward to working with the group to make "Wizard Pharmacy the nationally recognised brand it deserves to be".

"I'm excited to join Wizard Pharmacy as they are an incredibly innovative and customer-focused company with an agile Support Office that has delivered incredible

results for franchisees and patients alike," he said.

"They offer a high level of support and reporting ability that supports franchisees with personalised opportunities rather than just 'reading the news' and following the pack.

"Their world-class systems and tight inventory control ensure efficiency and results for teams, while their unique equity share model really sets them apart from other pharmacy brands in the eyes of the franchisee."

Thunderstorm asthma info update

THE National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has released an updated thunderstorm asthma information paper ahead of forecast high to extreme pollen levels in Victoria.

NAC Guidelines Committee Chair, Professor Nick Zwar, urged health professionals to be aware of the risks around thunderstorm asthma.

"Thunderstorm-triggered

asthma is more clinically important to highlight than thunderstorm asthma epidemics so that information is now right at the start of the paper," he said.

"As a safety precaution in south-eastern Australia over the coming weeks, people with seasonal allergic rhinitis should be given preventive advice about thunderstorm asthma."

CLICK HERE for the paper.



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Dispensary Corner

NOV rolls around each year and men around the world adopt quirky facial hair to raise funds to support a variety of health campaigns.

As always members of Australia's pharmacy sector will be carefully grooming moustaches - not necessarily with the full backing of their better halves - as part of the annual Movember madness.

Pharmacy of the Year winning proprietor from Cooleman Court Pharmacy and Men's Health Downunder founder, Brad Butt, is taking part in his sixth Movember with the aim of putting "a rocket up men's health, and getting some conversations started".

RSM Australia Health Services Leader and pharmacy business specialist, Peter Saccasan, is also lending his face to raise funds and awareness for mental health services and men's health.

While Butt and Saccasan are representing the community pharmacy sector this Movember, *Pharmacy Daily* Editor - and father of primary school-aged children - Nick O'Donoghue, has opted against reprising his 2020 mo-growing fundraising efforts for the Pharmacists' Support Service this year.

"In 2020 some of the mothers in my daughter's class WhatsApp group were complaining about a 'suspicious-looking man' hanging round the school," he said.

"It turned out they were talking about me, so I'll give it a miss this year."

Gender awareness education needed

PHARMACISTS' lack of knowledge about gender affirmation therapies may affect transgender and gender diverse (TGD) patients' confidence in accessing care through pharmacies, new research reveals.

A study by James Cook University published in *Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy*, found TGD patients faced "major challenges of accessing care from pharmacies included anticipated anxiety of accessing care, healthcare system constraints, compromised privacy and confidentiality at the pharmacy, and being challenged about their gender".

The authors noted that many of the participants in the study expressed concerns about being "outed" to other customers or pharmacy staff due to a perceived lack of privacy within a store.

"When I first started to transition, I wasn't presenting female, and this caused some consternation with the pharmacist," a transwoman said.

"Wanted to know if I was the person on the prescription if - why I wanted the hormones.

"They were quite loud about it, and it was quite embarrassing.

"This was all done in a very public manner in a very public place.

"It was excruciating, to be quite honest."

Participants expected pharmacists to educate themselves about TGD people to avoid the need for inappropriate personal questions.

"Don't ask me invasive questions; obviously, they need to ask have you had this before, do you know about the side effects," a transman said.

"So, they normally do that for most of my medicine, so like normal medical questions, they'll ask.

"That's their job. Nothing like invasive that you wouldn't ask a person."

Other respondents urged pharmacists to be aware that while transitioning is complex "pharmacists should know that being transgender is not an illness".

The authors said that pharmacies could develop and display their non-discrimination policies to indicate their support for people with diverse gender identities and sexualities.



"These little signs of inclusivity are important for TGD people to feel safe and welcomed and may ease the anxiety of accessing care from pharmacies," they said.

"Being a multicultural society, Australian pharmacists may be aware of the cultural differences and that they are required to provide care to all clients respecting the clients' cultural backgrounds.

"Education about gender terminology and gender affirmation therapies for TGD people has enhanced pharmacists' and pharmacy students' attitudes and knowledge of providing care to TGD people."

Hunt for bandit

A **MANHUNT** is underway in Townsville following an armed robbery at a pharmacy.

The knife-wielding bandit held-up the store on Burnda St in Kirwan on Tue morning, and made off with an unspecified quantity of prescription medications.

A spokesperson for Queensland Police confirmed that no one was injured during the incident, adding that investigations were ongoing to apprehend the perpetrator.

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