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The sachets can be taken with water, juice or as a warm honey and lemon drink.

More details on [page six](#).

## Boundaries needed for pharmacist Rx

JURISDICTIONS implementing measures to expand pharmacists' scope of practice will need to clearly define their roles, Tasmanian Senator, Tammy Tyrrell, believes.

Speaking in the Federal Senate yesterday, the Jacqui Lambie Network Whip voiced her tentative support for the Tasmanian Government's review of pharmacists' scope of practice, to bolster access to healthcare.

"We know that we don't have enough GPs," she said.

"Small towns like Ouse and Campbelltown are losing their clinics.

"People need to access medication and they are struggling to get it.

"That's why I was pleased to hear that the Tasmanian State Government is looking at whether we should expand the powers of pharmacists.

"If allowing pharmacists to do scripts for things like asthma, migraines, oral contraceptives



and chronic illnesses meant that people would get the medicine they need when they need it then this would be a step in the right direction.

"I don't think pharmacists should be able to prescribe everything, it should only be lower-level stuff.

"Maybe it could only be something a doctor had initially prescribed, and you could only get so many repeats before you need to go back to the doctor.

"Pharmacists will also need extra training to do this."

Tyrrell added that authorising pharmacists to prescribe would

not remove the need for patients to visit their GP.

"I think there should be clear boundaries and a line in the sand between pharmacists and doctors," she said.

"It is not a substitute for seeing a GP, and I'm not saying it should be.

"But it's pretty clear that we need to look at outside-the-box solutions when it comes to health in Tasmania.

"People are dying because they cannot get the care they need.

"I look forward to seeing the outcome of the State Government's review."

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## Iron gummies

THE Iron Company is offering Australia's first gummy supplement that provides slow-release iron and vitamin C.

See [page eight](#) for more.

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of news, including a photo page from Wizard, plus full pages from:

- Melrose
- Gluco Beans
- Iron Company




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## Alkaloids of Australia cartel cops fine

**FAMILY-OWNED** pharmaceutical company, Alkaloids of Australia, has been handed a \$1,987,500 fine for its role in a global price fixing cartel by the Federal Court.

The company entered guilty pleas to charges of criminal cartel conduct and price fixing last year (*PD* 16 Nov 2021).

The company, which produces scopolamine N-butylbromide, an ingredient in antispasmodic medications, entered guilty pleas to charges related to colluding with overseas producers on prices, markets and bids for tenders over a seven-year period, driving up prices for consumers.

Alkaloids of Australia's former export manager, Christopher Joyce, was also convicted in relation to the same offences, and was sentenced to two years and eight months imprisonment to be served as an intensive corrections order, including 400 hours of



community service (*PD* 26 Oct 2021).

Joyce was also disqualified from managing corporations for five years and fined \$50,000.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Commissioner, Liza Carver, backed the Court's ruling.

"We welcome these outcomes, which should serve as a strong reminder that criminal cartel

conduct is a serious offence attracting serious consequences, including significant fines, banning orders, and imprisonment for individuals," she said.

"The sentence imposed on Joyce is the longest sentence of imprisonment imposed on an individual under the criminal cartel laws so far."

Criminal cartel laws came into force in Australia in Jul 2009.

## CWH fundraiser

**CHEMIST Warehouse** (CWH) has raised \$1.5 million to support women's mental health, through the Liptember campaign.

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the national campaign is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for women's mental health, harnessing the true potential of the collective, encouraging and inspiring people to listen, share, and learn.

The funds raised in 2022 will be used to support key areas of need, identified by the 2022 Women's Mental Health Research Study.

CWH Director, Mario Tascone, said the group was "thrilled to support" Liptember.

"Their vital work makes a large impact on women and mental health initiatives," Tascone said.

## TGA consults on potential NVP reforms

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking public comment on potential reforms to the regulation of nicotine vaping products (NVPs).

The potential reforms are designed to prevent children and adolescents from accessing NVPs, while supporting access to "products of known composition and quality" for smoking cessation with a prescription.

The consultation process will remain open until close of business on 16 Jan 2023, and



feedback can be submitted via the TGA's Consultation Hub.

If changes to the regulatory framework are made, suitable transition periods will apply.

## MedAdvisor marks positive start to FY23

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange (ASX) listed medtech firm, MedAdvisor (MDR), is continuing its growth on the back of a strong performance in the 2022 Financial Year, CEO, Rick Ratliff, told investors.

Speaking at the company's annual general meeting this morning, Ratliff said MDR's near-term priorities included completing the integration of GuildLink to drive further scale and efficiencies, and to grow its digital solutions in the US to boost

revenue and improve margins.

Ratliff noted that the business signed an initial two-year agreement with a pharmacy software group that represents more than 10,000 stores in the US, increasing MDR's presence in the US to 30,000 pharmacy locations.

He added that MDR was aiming to complete its roll out in New Zealand to strengthen its market position and grow software as a solution (SAAS) revenue.

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## Long COVID

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) will host a webinar focused on Long COVID and the role pharmacy can play in supporting patients.

The session, which is due to commence at 10pm (AEDT) this evening will include a panel discussion featuring UNSW Associate Professor Lucette Cysique.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## McBride to open APP's Rural Forum

**ASSISTANT** Minister for Rural and Regional Health, and pharmacist, Emma McBride, will officially open the Rural Pharmacy Forum at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) on 23 Mar 2023.

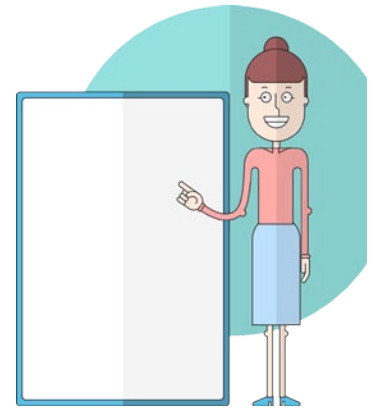
Confirming her attendance at the event, McBride said, "as a pharmacist with over 20 years [experience] and the only pharmacist in Federal Parliament, I'm proud to be opening the Rural Pharmacy Forum".

"Pharmacists are some of the most trusted healthcare professionals in Australia and this forum is an opportunity for us to discuss the important role pharmacists play in delivering healthcare to people living in rural and remote communities," she said.

Pharmacists and Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner - Allied Health and Indigenous Health, Associate Professor Faye McMillan, will also address the forum.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said the forum would provide participants with an opportunity to hear how rural pharmacists are adapting to provide innovative services to their communities.

"The forum provides a great opportunity for all pharmacists to learn more about developments in this sector of our profession, and I am especially excited by this year's theme of innovation and access which is so timely," he said.



The 2023 event will also see the return of the *Why I Love Rural Pharmacy* video competition, with the theme "Rural pharmacy - exploring challenges, hidden opportunities".

Entrants must be an employee or owner of a pharmacy in zones two to seven on the Modified Monash Model.

**CLICK HERE** for more information about the competition.

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The role is based in Macquarie Park, Sydney with WFH on Fridays.

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- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

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## CHP Australia announces new Board

**CONSUMER** Health Products Australia (CHP) Independent Director and Chair, Phil Lynch, has been reappointed, following the organisation's annual general meeting last week.

Aspen Pharmacare Australia Head of Consumer OTC, Alison Holland, and Haleon Area General Manager, Anish Patel, were also reelected as Board Members, with Viatrix Country Manager Australia, Sylvain Vigneault, being appointed to the Board to fill a

skills-based vacancy.

The new Directors will join the existing Board members, including Vitex Pharmaceuticals CEO, Dr Aniss Chami, iNova Pharmaceuticals Managing Director (MD), Andrew Jenkin, Ego Pharmaceuticals MD, Alan Oppenheim, Reckitt ANZ Health Regional Director, David Rankine, Johnson & Johnson Consumer ANZ MD, Nadia Yu, and Bayer Consumer Health Cluster Head ANZ, Jonas Marques.

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## Wizard crowns its winners

WIZARD Pharmacy celebrated its successes at their annual 2022 Awards Night at Optus Stadium.

Four hundred Wizard Pharmacy team members enjoyed a sit-down dinner as Wizard CEO Lyndon Dyson and COO Sally Parker announced the group's winners.

Wizard Pharmacy Mount Pleasant won Pharmacy of the Year, while Maxwin Chong from Wizard Pharmacy Cannington was awarded Pharmacist of the Year.

Entertainment included Australia's Comedy Hypnotist Matt Hale and the sold-out Starlight Children's Foundation raffle, with funds going towards the group's Starlight Giving Tree appeal over the Christmas period.



**PHARMACY** of the Year, Wizard Pharmacy Mount Pleasant.



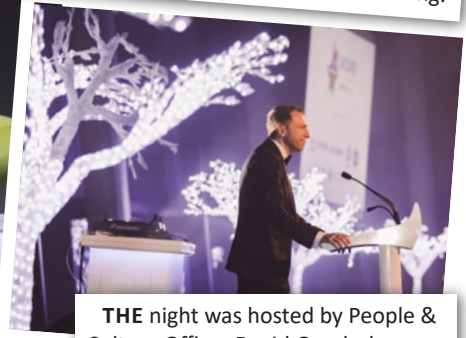
**PHARMACIST** of the Year, Maxwin Chong.



**SUPPLIER** of the Year, Jade Keppell from Metagenics.



**DRAWING** the sold-out Starlight Giving Tree raffle with Starry.



**THE** night was hosted by People & Culture Officer David Gooderham.



**THE** Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie team.



**INTERN** Pharmacist of the Year, Alice Muge.



**TEAM** Member of the Year, Emma Ewers.



**AUSTRALIA'S** comedy hypnotist Matt Hale provided entertainment.



**LEADER** of the Year Breannah Board-Smith.



**THE** Wizard Pharmacy Riverton POD.



## Dispensary Corner

**TOO** much wine may cloud the memory, but research from Chicago's Rush University Medical Center suggests drinkers may have a slower rate of cognitive decline than those who shun the beverage.

The study published in the journal *American Academy of Neurology*, reported that foods and drinks containing antioxidant flavonols found in fruits, vegetables, tea and wine had beneficial effects on health.

"It's exciting that our study shows making specific diet choices may lead to a slower rate of cognitive decline," author, Thomas Holland said.

Holland added that while the study showed an association between higher amounts of dietary flavonols and slower cognitive decline, it did not prove that they directly caused a slower rate of memory decline.

Despite Holland's assertion that the association between flavonol consumption and a slower rate of cognitive decline was not definitive, the *Pharmacy Daily* team will be raising a glass or two this evening as a precautionary measure.



## Qld store takes Star Pharmacy's PotY

**STAR** Discount Chemist, Banksia Beach, Queensland, has been named the Star Pharmacy Group's 2022 Pharmacy of the Year (PotY).

The PotY title was presented to Pharmacy Manager, Nandita Anand, and the Banksia Beach store's team at the Star Pharmacy Group's 2022 Centre of Excellence conference in Adelaide last week.

The conference was focused on "connecting communities", identifying how the group can foster deep ties with their patients, and the importance of nurturing peer-to-peer relationships.

Keynote speakers included Dr Tom Nehmy from Healthy Minds with advice for building resilience in challenging times and prioritising well-being to develop a robust psychology; Social entrepreneur Simon Griffiths from

Who Gives A Crap then spoke to success and failure, the learning opportunities they present and the important role organisations can play in social change.

The group also welcomed case studies from several of their team members on successful community engagement projects, new health service initiatives and more.

In addition to the PotY Award, the group presented individual honours to star performers, with Star Discount Chemist Park Holme's Cathy Doan being named Pharmacist Manager of the Year.

Star Discount Chemist Pasadena's Peng Hor was awarded the group's Preceptor of the Year, with VJ Ang from Star Discount Chemist Kilkenny being presented the Intern of the Year title.

Star Discount Chemist Aitkenvale



landed two awards, with Rebecca Galbraith claiming the Retail Manager of the Year crown, and Christina Garcia taking the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year title back to the Queensland store.

Star Pharmacy Group Compliance and Training Manager, Simonne Cameron, took out the National Support Office Employee of the Year Award.

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