

4 ways to help build strong bones



Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2
Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Jobs growth forecast

HEALTHCARE is expected to be the fastest growing sector in Australia over the next four years, with the National Skills Commission forecasting that 301,000 new health jobs will be created by Nov 2026.

The Commission's overview of the pharmacy sector, released in May, found that the median weekly wage for a pharmacist was \$1,980, with one-in-four pharmacists earning more than \$2,548 a week, with the average pharmacist working 43 hours a week.

MEANWHILE, the average pharmacy assistant earns \$919 a week.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Budget will tell of Govt's priorities

NEXT month's Federal Budget will give a clearer picture of the Albanese Government's priorities when it comes to healthcare, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Speaking at the Guild's inaugural Pharmacy Industry Roadshow in Sydney earlier this week, Twomey said the new Government would need time to "find their feet".

"To be honest, they're being exceptionally lovely, they're answering all our phone calls, but they haven't had to do anything yet," he said.

"What we're waiting on is to see the whites of their eyes with next month's Budget.

"Really, when you see how somebody spends money you actually start to see where somebody's priorities are.

"It's all very well and good to say you're supportive of a highly skilled, highly trained workforce... well where's the money to upskill



pharmacists and pharmacy assistants, so they can be highly skilled, highly trained and highly paid?

"They're saying all the right things, they answer my calls when I call, but I'm looking forward to seeing the Budget."

During the Roadshow event, Twomey outlined the Guild's pre-Budget submission, which included \$348 million for a national Opioid Dependence Treatment Program (*PD* 08 Sep), \$201.5 million to

support "various initiatives for the pharmacy workforce", and a \$1.3 billion investment in "a comprehensive aged care package" to support pharmacies to help patients age "with dignity" in the community.

The Guild's submission also included \$35 million for the administration of National Immunisation Program vaccines through community pharmacy, which would be paid through the Pharmacy Programs Administrator.

Choose Ferro-grad C[®] first




Australia's most widely used brand to treat diagnosed iron deficiency in the last 10 years[#]

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

For use when you have been diagnosed as iron deficient and your doctor has recommended a therapeutic oral iron supplement.


#Most widely used brand of therapeutic oral iron supplement, based on cumulative total of IQVIA sales data in the last 10 years. Ferro-grad C contains ferrous sulfate 325 mg (equivalent to 105 mg elemental iron) and sodium ascorbate 562.4 mg (equivalent to 500 mg Vitamin C). Ferro-grad C is a Viatrix trademark. Copyright © 2022 Viatrix Inc. All rights reserved. Viatrix Pty Ltd. Tel 1800 314 527. FGC-2022-0056. Prepared April 2022.





2022 AMH CHILDREN'S DOSING COMPANION IN BOOK OR ONLINE. ORDER NOW.

To find out more go to www.amh.net.au



Guild seeks consistent fluvax plan

NEGOTIATIONS to secure a nationally consistent influenza program are ongoing between the community pharmacy sector and the State and Territory Governments.

With the deadline for ordering vaccine stock looming, Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, told delegates at Mon's Pharmacy Industry Roadshow, that the organisation was pushing State, Territory and Federal officials to "get their act together so we can order [vaccines] now", to avoid the supply issues seen during this year's flu jab program.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, added that governments across the country were "acutely aware we have to place our orders this month".

"What we've asked for is a decision by the end of Sep, on the structure of the program," Twomey said.

"We've asked for it to be a



nationally consistent program, so by 01 Apr 2023 - hopefully Mar - [we can be ready].

"We won't have the MedAdvisor/GuildCare debacle, because it'll be one platform, which will be a good thing from a systems integration point-of-view.

"I doubt there will be a Commonwealth-funded program, so what we're aiming for is to get

answers from the states earlier, so we can have national consistency, even though it'll be state-funded."

With an election scheduled for the third week of Mar in NSW, Heffernan added "it's a very good time to give the Government a nudge".

The Guild officials noted that community pharmacies delivered close to one-in-four of all flu shots given this year.

Rural experience not to be missed

PHARMACY students and early career pharmacists are being urged to take any opportunity they get to work in regional and rural Australia.

Speaking on the latest episode of the Raven's Recruitment *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast, Pharmacy Guild of Australia SA Branch President, Nick Panayiaris, said working in regional areas took his skills to "another level".

"If you can create an opportunity to work in regional Australia... it's one of the most rewarding experiences - not just from a personal point-of-view, but from a professional point-of-view as well," he said.


"You learn so many skills and you gain so much confidence in regional Australia.

"I strongly advocate for everyone, if they get an opportunity, to go and work in the country for a year or two."

Panayiaris also outlined his career, which saw him spend seven years as an employee pharmacist working in various locations around SA, before taking his first steps into ownership in 1997.

In 2009 he was "tapped on the shoulder" to stand in the Guild SA Branch Committee elections, which started his career in the Guild.

CLICK HERE to listen to the latest episode of the *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast.



Dispensing and counselling checklist
Biologic and targeted synthetic DMARDs

Inflammatory arthritis, IBD, plaque psoriasis

[View here ▶](#)



No deal for RHC

RAMSAY Health Care Limited (RHC) has announced the termination of negotiations with IHH Healthcare Berhad, over the sale of Ramsay Sime Darby Health Care Sdn Bhd.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, RHC said it was confident that the business "stands in good stead", and it remained "committed" to the venture.



Get up to **12.5% OFF***
Ask us how!

Ultra Nature Selancy
Optimal health for Mum & Baby

- ✓ A true 1-a-day Gel Liquid Capsule - Easier to swallow + absorbed faster
- ✓ Contains Omega-3 (DHA + EPA)
- ✓ Very Healthy Profit Margin (> 30%)

ORDER NOW



*Terms and conditions apply

Dispensary Corner

PHARMACY regulators usually investigate misconduct, but in a rare role reversal, the Alabama Pharmacy Board is being put under the microscope for its actions.

The US State's Attorney-General, Steve Marshall, has stepped in to take over a case involving a pharmacist who was previously "caught up in a Federal sting operation targeting online painkiller distribution", and served three years behind bars, the *Alabama Political Reporter* revealed.

Marshall's office has dismissed charges against pharmacist, Billy Flint East, who was suspended from practicing by the Board in Mar for failing to obtain a proper clearance from the US Drug Enforcement Agency because of his previous conviction for unlawfully dispensing prescription medications.

East's lawyer noted that his employer, Brooklere Pharmacy, had been given the all-clear to hire him by the Board, before it moved to suspend him.

Reinstating East's license, Marshall said "credible allegations have been made about the handling of this matter by employees of the Alabama Pharmacy Board, which are now under investigation".

It is believed the Attorney-General's intervention in East's case may be the first of a number of similar actions, with Marshall looking to prevent regulators from overstepping their authority.

No magic bullet for workforce crisis

MULTIPLE levers need to be pulled to resolve Australian pharmacy's current workforce crisis, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, says.

Speaking at Pharmacy Connect last week, Twomey said there was "no magic bullet to solving the problems that are facing the Australian pharmacy workforce".

"Every workforce is having problems," he said.

"Every workforce has experienced stagnant wages... whether it's butchers, bakers or candlestick makers, no one can get staff.

"There are multiple levers that need to be pulled, and the Guild is working with the Council of Pharmacy Schools, we're working with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), the employee unions and with governments of all levels, to ensure that at the end of it we have a better paid, better skilled and more productive workforce than the one we currently have.

"But to do that we're not looking at it solely through the prism of proprietors.

"We have to look at it first and foremost through the prism of patients, and just as importantly through the prism of practitioners.

"We're working with the Council of Pharmacy Schools to ensure that the pharmacy programs are meeting the workforce requirements of Australian community pharmacies, which means we need more graduates in regional areas.

"We need to ensure the graduates are graduating with all the skills and knowledge necessary to perform all of these full scope of practice tasks that we're talking about.

"You shouldn't have to go and do a vaccination course after you leave university - universities should be training pharmacists to vaccinate.

"This is a natural part of the evolution of our profession - those things didn't exist when I went through university."



Twomey noted that changes in the curriculum would take time to filter through, and that skilled migration would play a critical role in boosting workforce numbers.

He added that over the last two and a half years, the community pharmacy sector has lost staff to hospital pharmacy, and was unable to backfill those positions through skilled migration.

NSW owners open to Council fee bump

FRUSTRATED pharmacy owners in NSW have offered financial assistance to the Pharmacy Council of NSW to accelerate the approval of transactions.

Speaking during a workshop session with the Council, Pharmacy4Less CEO, Feras Kareem, said the current pace of service from the regulator was "too slow".

"We are prepared to pay, but [we're] only going to pay for a service that's efficient," he said.

"I think the frank truth of it is, if it was just one banner group [being held up] you'd say 'okay',



except everybody's banked up at the Council at the moment."

Kareem said that every week counted when it came to a sale of a pharmacy, and the Council's "speed of service has got to improve".

TWC celebrates

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is celebrating news that two of the network's pharmacy assistants are among the finalists for the 2022 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award.

TWC Executive General Manager, Nick Munroe, said the group was proud to see South Australian, Paige Ross, from Christies Compounding TWC, and TWC Rosney Park, Tasmania's Terri Bakker, take out their respective State titles (*PD 29 Aug*) ahead of the national final next month.