

Today's issue of *PD Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news.

Guild roadshow rescheduled

THE final Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy Industry Roadshow event will now take place on 11 Oct in Canberra.

The event had originally been due to take place on 22 Sep, but has been rescheduled as it coincides with the National Day of Mourning in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II.



Fund pharmacy to deliver aged care

PHARMACY owners who provide services to aged care facilities are being urged to make submissions to the Department of Health and Aged Care about proposals to embed pharmacy services in nursing homes, by Fri 16 Sep.

Speaking at Pharmacy Connect earlier this month, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Health Economics and Policy Committee Chair, Anthony Tassone, said the Department's consultation paper proposes that aged care facilities should be given funding to employ pharmacists directly.

"What the Guild's saying is 'don't give them the money,'" he said.

"Look at the pharmacies that are already providing outreach services to the aged care facilities through the provision of medications and participation in medication advisory committee meetings and other services - go to the pharmacy."

Tassone warned the Department's proposals threatened to exacerbate the sector's workforce challenges,

by taking pharmacists out of community pharmacy.

"We're highly supportive of the Federal Government wanting to put nurses back in nursing homes - that makes sense," he said.

"But we do not want the unintended consequence of pharmacists coming out of pharmacies, because we are already a stretched and challenged workforce.

"We need to find the right balance here, and pharmacies are already providing services to these aged care facilities, and we don't need the disruption to try chasing and fixing some problem identified in a Royal Commission report that pharmacies can help address."

In a separate session at Pharmacy Connect, Guild WA Vice President, Natalie Willis, noted that the results of a trial of embedding pharmacists into aged care facilities in the ACT "were less than astounding".

"Of course they produced better outcomes," she said.



"We know that if we put a pharmacist in there those [outcomes] are going to be better.

"But they had a lot of problems recruiting pharmacists to actually fill the positions and when they weren't performing clinical services, the directors of nursing and the heads of the facilities just made them do admin.

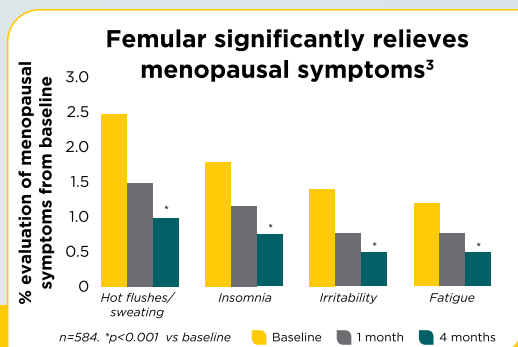
"So they spent a lot of time performing non-clinical and non-pharmacy services.

"If you want bang for your buck as a government, why would you want to be paying a facility to employ a pharmacist to do admin?"

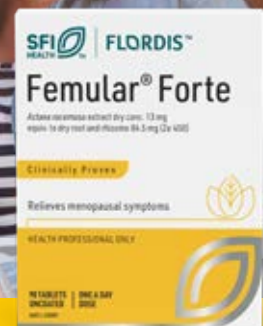
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Medicines shortages set to continue

PHARMACISTS can expect supply chain issues to get worse before they get better, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, warns.

Addressing the Guild's inaugural Pharmacy Industry Roadshow in Sydney last week, Twomey said shortages are likely to continue until the national medicines stockpile is built up by 01 Jul 2023, under the Federal Government's agreements with Medicines Australia and the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) (*PD* 07 Sep 2021).

"The reason it's going to get worse before it gets better is because 90% of the medicines in Australia are made overseas," he said.

"And when we had all of those borders come down over the [COVID-19] pandemic, we couldn't get roof trusses, we couldn't get a whole raft of things, and we couldn't get essential medicines.

"So the Commonwealth Government, in conjunction with

GBMA, has said we are going to create a national medicines stockpile.

"This doesn't mean Albo [Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese] is going to rent a big shed and we're going to put a whole heap of drugs in the shed.

"What it means is if you are a drug company and you want to list a medicine on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, you must keep a minimum of six months [supply] onshore.

"This is a process to build, and as those companies build their reserves what's going to happen is you're going to experience supply shortages and outages.

"They have until 01 Jul - it was 01 Apr - to build this stockpile, so we're going to continue to see shortages and outages until that stockpile is built."

Twomey added that price increases on hundreds of low-cost, high-volume products, which come into effect from 01 Oct, are



exacerbating current shortages (*PD* 18 Jul).

"Because the price is going up, a lot of people have stockpiled those medicines," he said.

"So it's created a short-term gap in the supply chain as well."

MEANWHILE, the Guild has advised pharmacies to review their pricing of medicines impacted by the price increases, to avoid losing out as a result of the changes.



Dispensary Corner

THE family that plays together may well stay together, but so does the family that commits healthcare fraud in the US.

Florida-based pharmacist mother-and-daughter team, Mirosis Gonzalez (58) and Berioska Sosa (32) are facing the possibility of sharing a cell after being indicted for "fraud and kickback crimes".

Prosecutors from the US Attorney's Office Southern District of Florida said that between Aug 2016 and May 2020, the duo paid kickbacks and bribes to marketing and telemedicine companies in exchange for their referring Medicare beneficiaries, as well as doctors' orders and prescriptions, to their pharmacy.

"According to the allegations, Gonzalez and Sosa submitted over US\$12 million in false claims to Medicare and Aviva Care Pharmacy [the pharmacy they owned] received payments totalling more than US\$8.4 million," prosecutors said.

The indictment charged Gonzalez and Sosa with health care fraud and wire fraud, health care fraud, conspiracy to pay health care kickbacks, and payment of kickbacks.

Prosecutors stressed that the Gonzalez and Sosa must be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

bDMARDs quick reference guide PBS listed information:

Rheumatology
dermatology
gastroenterology



[View here >](#)



Wheadon wins Goldfields gong

KALGOORLIE-BASED Wizard Pharmacy franchisee, Elise Wheadon, has taken out the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Business Person of the Year Award.

Wizard Pharmacy staff member, Tia Price, also took home the Chamber's Retail and Customer Service title.

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Shut up shop for Queen



PROPRIETORS are being encouraged to consider the needs of their communities when deciding whether or not to open their pharmacies on 22 Sep for the National Day of Mourning.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said he and his wife - former Australasian College of Pharmacy President, Georgina Twomey - planned to close their pharmacies on the day to pay their respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Twomey said it was important for Australians to be able to take time to reflect on the life of the monarch.

"The Queen has been a very big part of all our lives for a very long time," he said.

"Obviously it is for individual [Guild] members to decide whether they wish to trade or not.

"Georgina and I will be closing all our sites on Thu (22 Sep) as a mark of respect.

"Each pharmacy should make their own decision based on the views of their community."

Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, has also confirmed he will close his store next Thu, but he would ensure the pharmacy is open on the AFL Grand Final Eve public holiday .



Weekly Comment

Pharmacists most accessible healthcare providers

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Kavita Nadan, Co-founder, Locumate.**



weeks to see a GP, a community pharmacist can be the most accessible healthcare provider for an individual. Working alongside allied health professionals, GPs, physiotherapists and others, the role pharmacists play is central (and expanding) in an individual's overall care plan.

OVER 90 per cent of Australians have used a community pharmacy in the last 12 months (*The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Orima Research Community Pharmacy 2025 Report*). And with about 6,000 community pharmacies spread across the country, it has never been more important to provide people access to services they want and need.

In regional areas especially, where it can sometimes take

Our community of locum pharmacists has helped continue the accessibility and availability of pharmacy care, by contributing to the vaccination rollout, filling in for long-term and last-minute shifts, and providing resourcing for pharmacies with staffing shortages due to sickness or isolation.

If you're looking for locum pharmacists for your pharmacy, check out our locum network on [Locumate](#).

Higgins named RACGP President-elect

MACKAY-BASED GP, Dr Nicole Higgins, will succeed Dr Karen Price as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

Higgins topped the poll after preferences, claiming 2,767 votes.

"I am honoured to be taking on the RACGP President role, and look forward to working with members, other GPs and stakeholders on healthcare, including the government in the months and years ahead," Higgins said.

"General practice is the most cost effective way of keeping Australians healthy – GPs save lives, and prevent illness.

"For too long, the role of general practice has been undervalued, oversimplified and defunded.

"Without general practice, the system fails."

Higgins will officially assume the Presidency of the RACGP at the organisation's annual general meeting on 24 Nov, when Price's two-year term as President comes to an end.

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