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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from Direct Chemist Outlet.

Direct in Sydney

DIRECT Chemist Outlet now has 96 stores nationally, but none in Sydney, creating an opportunity for interested proprietors - see page four.

Cannabis hub

NPS MedicineWise has released new resources to help health professionals navigate the prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis.

NPS' medicinal cannabis hub includes details of approved products as well as pathways that prescribers can use to access other items they consider clinically appropriate for their patients - nps.org.au.

Pharmacy joins flood support push

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild are part of a coalition of healthcare organisations which have today called on Federal and State support for the creation of a Northern Rivers healthcare businesses flood recovery grant.

A media conference in the northern NSW town of Lismore saw the Guild, PSA and several doctors groups including the AMA and RACGP issue a joint call, with Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, saying it was vital that health services were appropriately recognised for their role in helping communities affected by disasters.

"We have seen through floods and fires how community pharmacists have gone above and beyond to help their communities," Heffernan said.

"They have stayed open, worked by candlelight and found innovative ways to get medicines to patients... working with other health

professionals they have ensured patients get the best care they can in extreme circumstances."

PSA NSW President Chelsea Felkai backed the campaign, saying pharmacists in the Lismore region had shown their passion for their patients during the crisis.

"We've seen pharmacists on the back of jetskis trying to get medicines to people who need them - that's how dedicated they are," she said.

The Rural Doctors Network Flood Recovery Grant Proposal "would allow pharmacists to get back to doing what they do best - providing expert health advice to the community".

"Many of these pharmacists have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of stock, and some have lost their pharmacies altogether," Felkai noted.

"We cannot support the health of our communities if the government doesn't support us," she added.

Felkai also urged the permanent

adoption of measures such as one-month emergency supply arrangements to allow patients to more easily access medications in the event of a disaster.

The current temporary emergency supply authority in NSW expires at the end of this month, while Felkai said Commonwealth continued dispensing arrangements are "not fit for emergency purpose".

"Emergency supply is a last resort, but giving pharmacists the ability to continue providing medicines in these situations is vital to public health, especially during disasters."

The grant proposal from the NSW Rural Doctors Network urges governments to create a program open to all 2022 flood-affected primary health, health practitioner and health services businesses, with a maximum grant amount to cover their losses (including lost income) with an approval process providing "urgent and immediate security and certainty for these businesses to rebuild".

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TWC hails its suppliers



TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) this week paid tribute to the “dedication and commitment of a strong supplier network”, with more than 250 supplier partners attending the group’s Partners in Excellence forum in Melbourne.

TWC Executive GM, Nick Munroe, praised the adaptability of the organisation’s pharmacy network and suppliers alike, particularly over the last 12 months “as together we have navigated the changing landscape of pharmacy”.

The event saw the release of the latest results from the annual Advantage survey measuring supplier satisfaction, which saw TWC climbing to second place - a significant improvement on previous rankings of 12th in 2019, 8th in 2020 and 4th in 2021.

“We are humbled by this recognition from our suppliers, who should themselves be acknowledged for their strong, collaborative approach with TerryWhite Chemmart in building customer-centric strategies which

has reinforced the commitment and ongoing success of our network partners,” Munroe said.

The forum highlighted the contribution of Sanofi, Pharmacare, J&J and Ego which all took out Supplier of the Year awards, and also saw the new TWC digital health and dispensary excellence programs introduced to the supplier network.

Attendees also heard from international guest speaker Chelsea Pottenger who presented on productivity, mindfulness and wellbeing with the intention of nurturing and supporting leadership.

Pictured at the event are, from left: TWC Executive General Manager Nick Munroe; David Tuffin from Blackmores; Mindfulness and Performance Coach Chelsea Pottenger; TWC General Manager Merchandise Rowan Howarth; Tracy Waye from Sanofi; TWC Head of Ethicals Matt McLoughlin; Simon Martin from Sanofi; and Steve Edwards from Advantage.

Vale Will Delaat

FORMER MSD Australia
MD Will Delaat has died, just six weeks after he resigned as a Director of ASX-listed Pharmaxis Limited.

Delaat was head of MSD for 11 years prior to his retirement in 2008, with his extensive industry career also seeing him serve two terms as Chair of industry peak body Medicines Australia (MA), with the organisation’s current CEO, Elizabeth de Somer, paying tribute to his contribution.

“Will Delaat championed big thinking and passion for bringing innovative medicines to Australia, and his well-respected leadership greatly benefited Australia’s health system and the patients that rely on it,” she said.

As well as roles with MSD in Australia and Europe, Delaat also worked with AstraZeneca, with colleagues hailing his ability to bring people together.

GP alleged to have backdated scripts

THE NSW Health Care Complaints Commission has today published the outcome of a hearing in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal which found that a doctor named Edwina Guard was guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

The case followed allegations that Dr Guard was working as a GP in Macksville and Bowraville between Feb 2018 and Oct 2019 when she improperly backdated a prescription for Targin and Endone, breached conditions of her registration and failed to respond to a request for information from the Commission.

Prior to the alleged backdating, the Medical Council of NSW had imposed a condition on her registration that Dr Guard not practise medicine, after a series of more than 20 complaints between 2002 and 2019.

The Tribunal will determine protective orders following a Stage Two hearing of the case.

bDMARDs quick reference guide PBS listed information:

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Albury compounder plots national network

BORDER Compounding Pharmacy in Albury, NSW has rebranded as Formulae, with owner Ben Eshelby saying the change “provides a platform for a national network of compounding pharmacies committed to providing a range of individually tailored health, wellness and skincare solutions”.

Since launching almost a decade ago, the pharmacy has worked with local doctors, specialists and other health professionals to provide patients with “personalised health solutions, rather than mass-produced pharmaceuticals”.

The rebranded Formulae Albury is the founding member of the new group, with Eshelby joined by compounding pharmacist Andrew Middin and the pharmacy’s GM Joe Wilkie who are together “committed to combining their understanding of chemistry, pharmacology, physiology and anatomy with their commitment to personalised health, to improve the wellbeing of both their local and extended community”.

Eshelby said Formulae was committed to supporting people looking for a solution to their health issue or “wanting to perform optimally as a human”.



“By creating a collaborative community of like-minded professionals, Formulae will be able to guide people and help them discover health options that may never have previously been considered,” he said.

A newly launched website at formulae.com.au boasts that “Formulae is the only collective of compounding pharmacists in Australia”.

“We are committed to being the new standard in compounding that’s focused on helping all people thrive,” the site adds.

Others in the network include anti-aging health practitioner Mary-Lou Condon who operates The Compounding Lab in Albion, Qld, and Chris Testa, described as “a

highly experienced and respected second-generation compounding pharmacist with a keen interest in maximising a healthy lifespan for patients”.

Formulae-branded capsule bottles (pictured) are 100% compostable as part of a commitment to reducing waste in line the group’s vision to “revolutionise pharmacy and skincare”.

Testa operates pharmacies in Tugun and Maroochydore, Qld.

The group is seeking other members, with the site saying “if you are a compounding pharmacist who believes in treating people as the individuals they are and wants to collaborate with other like-minded pharmacists, we would love to talk to you”.



Dispensary Corner

MUCH has been made of former Hollywood heartthrob-turned-slightly-creepy-uncle, Leonardo DiCaprio’s claimed tendency to ditch his girlfriends once they turn 25.

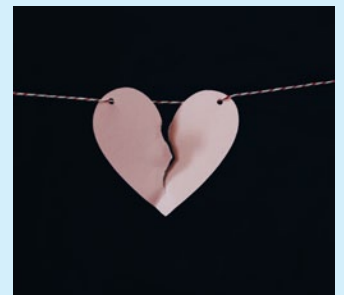
However, it appears DiCaprio is not the only middle-aged man who allegedly seems to cut women loose when they hit the quarter-century mark.


Irish Health Minister, Stephen Donnelly, has come under fire for the DiCaprio-esque age limit he has adopted for the Government’s free oral contraception scheme.

Broadcast journalist, Eoin Keane, raised the issue with the Minister during a press conference earlier this week, noting it had become known as “the Leonardo DiCaprio Scheme, because once you’re over 25 you can’t avail of it anymore”.

Possibly suffering a form of Peter Pan Syndrome, the 47-year-old silver screen star has consistently dated women who are under the age of 25, earlier this month breaking up with model Camila Morrone in Aug, just two months after her 25th birthday after a seven-year relationship.

Talk about a quarter-life crisis!





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COVAX safety

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has debunked false claims on social media that its advice on COVID-19 vaccines while pregnant or breastfeeding has changed.

The MHRA said there was “substantial evidence” to support its advice that the vaccines are safe and effective while pregnant or breastfeeding.



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