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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Vale Peta Murphy

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia Vic branch President Anthony Tassone together with branch members has expressed heartfelt condolences at the passing of Labor MP Peta Murphy.

The Guild acknowledged Murphy's support of primary healthcare, and of the vital role that community pharmacies played in her local community in the electorate of Dunkley, during her time in office.

Murphy used her personal battle with breast cancer to advocate for better healthcare as a representative for the people of Dunkley.

"Our thoughts are with her family, colleagues and friends at this time," said Tassone.

SA's first 24-hour National pharmacy

NATIONAL Pharmacies will open its first 24/7 pharmacy in Adelaide as part of a State Govt initiative to provide South Australians with around-the-clock access to pharmacy services and medicines.

The National Pharmacies Norwood store will service the central Adelaide region and is one of three pharmacies selected through a competitive tender process to provide 24/7 pharmacy services across metropolitan Adelaide from early next year.

The SA State Govt is investing \$2.5 million a year to fund the initiative.

The group's CEO Vito Borrello said, "National Pharmacies congratulates the State Govt for supporting South Australians to access prescription medications and pharmacy services and advice when they need it, day or night".

"Our key purpose is to care for people and we are proud to be providing our community with access to after-hours pharmacy services and advice at a time when



they may need it most," he said.

The Malinauskas Labor Govt stated that the 24/7 pharmacies will help to reduce avoidable presentations to busy hospital emergency departments by providing access to medicines, pharmacy services and advice.

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas added, "people get sick at any time of day and having prompt access to medication and trusted health advice is vital".

The state's Health and Wellbeing Minister Chris Picton said, "lack of access to pharmacies after hours

is a concern that is raised by many families, and often leaves people with nowhere else to turn but emergency departments".

"This is not only inconvenient for them, but places extra strain on our busy emergency departments."

A pharmacist will be on staff 24 hours a day at each of the chosen three pharmacies with on-site and overnight security guards. JG

Pictured (L-R): State Labor MP Nadia Clancy, Borrello, Picton, Malinauskas and National Pharmacies General Manager Health Services Sam Laing.

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Dispensary Corner

RATS cause all manner of health issues, and one woman, 16 weeks pregnant, and her family were horrified when a rat fell from above onto their table while eating at a food court in Orchard Road in Singapore.

In a video that has since gone viral, the rat is seen on its side on a food tray at Tangs Market, twitching and moving its legs.

Recounting the incident, the woman's mother said that her daughter was halfway through her meal when she felt "liquid dripping" on her hand that was holding a pair of chopsticks.

The rodent's pee it seems also stained the cardigan that her daughter had on.

When her daughter looked up to locate the source of the drip, she saw the rat.

After spotting the creature, she stood up and rapidly backed away from her seat.

Seconds later, she heard a "loud bang" as the rat fell and landed on her food tray.

"She ran off screaming and running towards us, frantically saying she needed to wash her hands," the mother told *CNA*, adding that her daughter was worried about her unborn child.

The daughter was prescribed antibiotics and probiotics due to the risks of contamination with rodents, and the potential risks of bacterial disease leptospirosis, which can cause complications.

While the department store tried to make good with a wellness hamper and a \$200 gift card, it was rejected as the family wants the associated direct costs paid for.

Blue skies for drone trial

THE Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) in Qld is trialling a high-tech drone to transport blood tests between rural hospitals and larger facilities to speed up testing and analysis.

It is similar to a trial launched last year, which is an ongoing one in Goondiwindi, involving pharmacies delivering medications to rural properties via drones, *ABC News* has reported.

The trial, which is funded by the Federal Govt, is taking place in the state's South Burnett region with the drone flying pathology samples from small hospitals like Nanango and Wondai to a larger base at Kingaroy Hospital.

"The drones are flying specimens and pharmaceuticals into the Kingaroy hub in 15 mins," said healthcare worker and drone hobbyist Dave Pugsley (pictured), who is also involved in the trial. "We've halved the flying time."

Nanango Hospital Director of Nursing Karen Cooke said they often had to rely on nurses to drive samples between hospitals, but now if the delivery truck has left, and they need blood test results they call up the drone.

The DDHHS has a contract with



Melbourne-based Swoop Aero, the same drone logistics company that partnered with TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) Goondiwindi and healthcare wholesaler Symbion with funding from EBOS Group.

Guild Pharmacy of the Year winner and TWC Goondiwindi pharmacist Lucy Walker had predicted that the trial would forge the path for similar autonomous aviation services in the future.

"This project is really paving the way for regional Australia and setting the standard for the future of remotely-operated deliveries."

"Most importantly, it will ensure people in regional areas are serviced just as well as those living in town with better, faster, and more convenient access to healthcare essentials," said Walker. *JG*

Guild Update

New Career Paths Report

AS PART of the Workforce Capability Project, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has launched the new *Career Paths Report* for its members.

It has drawn data from a range of sources including Federal and State Awards, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Pharmacy Council and Jobs and Skills Australia to help explore career pathways in the pharmacy sector.

As well as exploring pathways for community pharmacy, the *Career Paths Report* also examines hospital pharmacy and industrial pharmacy.

It has easy-to-follow career trajectory charts for each sector starting at the pharmacy student level with the requirements to progress all the way to being a pharmacist owner.

Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey said the *Career Paths Report* is the ultimate roadmap for anyone wanting to progress their career in pharmacy.

"This would have been very handy when I was starting out as a pharmacy student 20 years ago," he said.

"The *Career Paths Report* is essential reading for anyone with an interest in the pharmacy sector whether it's community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy or industrial pharmacy," added Twomey.

Members can access the report by going to the Guild website or by clicking **HERE**.

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