



weeks to go until Australia's largest pharmacy conference

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GOLD COAST



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a cover page from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**, and a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

Six weeks to APP

THERE are six weeks before pharmacy's largest conference, the Australian Pharmacy Professional 2023, starts on the Gold Coast from 23-26 Mar.

The itinerary is packed with exciting events and sessions. See more on the **cover page**.

TWC backs you

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) supports its network of partners to build stronger connections with their communities.

See more on the **back page**.

PSA affirms its position with Pride

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) says "it's simply unacceptable" that more than half to over two-thirds of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/questioning, Intersex, Asexual and more) communities report high levels of discrimination due to their sexual orientation and gender diversity, and in response has yesterday launched its Equality Statement.

The PSA statement is calling for pharmacists to reflect on how they can provide more inclusive, appropriate, and discrimination-free healthcare for LGBTQIA+ Australians.

The statement also calls on healthcare bodies to make changes to better facilitate inclusive healthcare.

PSA President Dr Fei said: "Stigma and discrimination cause significant negative health effects and lead to

people avoiding healthcare entirely.

"As some of the most accessible healthcare professionals, pharmacists have a specific duty of care to patients to ensure that healthcare is provided in an inclusive and appropriate way for all people.

"World Pride and Melbourne Midsummer festival are times when we celebrate the diversity of the community we live in and reflect on achievements in reducing and acknowledging discrimination experienced by LGBTQIA+ people.

"Pharmacists play a vital role in supporting transgender and gender diverse patients undergoing gender-affirming hormone therapy," Dr Fei concluded.

The PSA says that the practical ways pharmacists can support LGBTQIA+ individuals include avoiding heteronormative and cisnormative language, ensuring pronouns and chosen names are

routinely used and included in healthcare records, and recognising partners or family of choice as legally authorised decision-makers in their health.

The Equality Statement was driven by the highly supportive PSA's Early Career Pharmacists.



Earthquake fund

FOLLOWING the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria this week, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has set up a fund to gather monetary aid from around the world - click **HERE** to donate.

"Access to healthcare is a challenge in disaster areas.

"Saving lives is a priority.

"FIP stands in solidarity with pharmacists, other healthcare providers and patients in the affected areas," said FIP President Dominique Jordan.

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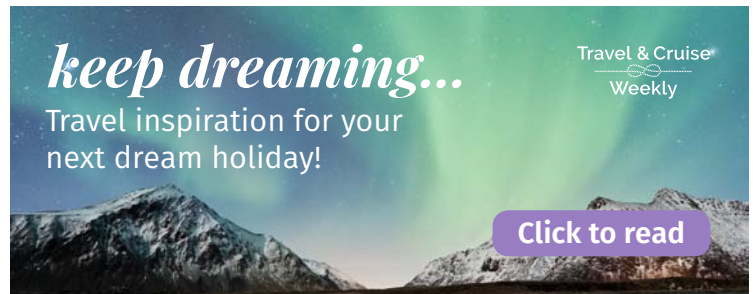
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Dispensary Corner

WE'VE all heard of nut allergies, but this is ridiculous.

A pest control technician investigating an issue in a California home has discovered about 350kg of acorns stashed inside the house's wall by woodpeckers.

Nick Castro of Nick's Extreme Pest Control said he expected to find a dead animal inside the wall of a Glen Ellen home, however, he was shocked when acorns started pouring out.

Castro and his colleagues discovered the acorns piled about 3m high inside the wall.

The technician said he investigated outside the home and discovered woodpeckers had been poking holes in the chimney stack and had been stashing acorns in the openings for the past two to five years.

He said the acorns eventually fell through into the wall cavity.

Castro said it took about eight hours to remove the acorns.

The damage was repaired and screens added.

GMP's state-of-the-art renovations

AUSTRALIAN healthcare manufacturer GMP Pharmaceuticals has completed extensive renovations and upgrades to its global headquarters in Huntingwood, Sydney, NSW.

GMP says its state-of-the-art facility now boasts a range of new features and improvements, including a new dry manufacturing facility that incorporates a quality in-process lab.

It allows the physical characteristic of the products to be verified online and ensures that every single tablet produced meets the product specification, GMP said.

The installation of a new sophisticated coating machine, and a new wet granulation suite enables GMP to perfectly control the uniformity of micro-dosed multivitamins, minerals, and other functional ingredients.

The entire site is temperature and humidity-controlled reaching ISO Class 8 standards for the site.

The enhancements are also



seeing GMP lead the way in taking Australian-made dietary supplements to markets in the US, having recently been granted a license from the US Food and Drug Administration for Food Facility Registration.

Additionally, GMP has updated its TGA license variation to include new dosage forms such as effervescent tablets, enteric-coated tablets, film-coated tablets, modified-release tablets, granules, and hard capsules.

Pictured: GMP's renovated site.



Fifth COVID-19 booster coming soon

A FIFTH dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be available soon after the Federal Government accepted advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

From 20 Feb, ATAGI advises that people 18 and older who haven't had a COVID-19 vaccine or a positive case in the last six months are eligible for a shot.

A fifth dose had only been available in Australia for adults who were severely immunocompromised, with growing calls for further protection to be made available to a broader group of Australians.

ATAGI has reiterated that those already eligible, including those over 65, remain at high risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19 and should have a 2023 booster.

The announcement also opens fourth doses up to Australians aged 18-29 years, with only those considered most at risk of severe illness or aged 30 and older previously eligible for a fourth dose.

At this stage, an additional booster will not be provided to Australians under 18, unless they have health conditions that put them at risk of severe illness.

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Brain injury study

AN ESTIMATED 69m people worldwide sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, and up to 70% of the 22,710 patients hospitalised in Australia each year experience behavioural changes while in hospital that include agitation, irritability, aggression, and inappropriate sexual behaviour, said a study.

The Flinders Caring Futures Institute study looks at ways to improve the problem **HERE**.

Build a stronger connection with your community



Our network partners have a deep sense of connection to local communities and are extremely supportive of community organisations. At TerryWhite Chemmart our Pharmacists save lives through building awareness and providing quality patient care to create better health outcomes.

Call today to join a network that reflects your values:

Richard Jensch	(QLD, SA, NT, WA)	0401 560 712
Fiona McKenzie	(ACT, NSW, WA)	0437 599 920
Peter O'Brien	(VIC, TAS)	0427 352 902
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