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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus full pages from TerryWhite Chemmart and Minfos.

High five to join up

THERE are five good reasons to join the TerryWhite Chemmart network - quality business support, world-class education, vaccination leadership, health innovation and deep connections. See **page four**.

Fresh new look

MINFOS has an all-new look for its website. The all-in-one pharmacy management software has everything pharmacists need to manage a successful pharmacy. See **page five**.

Payroll tax should be equitable to all

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has urged a level playing field when it comes to payroll tax in Queensland, after the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) urged that doctors should be exempt from recent changes.

The Pharmacy Guild Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen (pictured right), said "no one likes payroll tax, but it's a well-known cost of running a pharmacy, a dentist surgery, a physiotherapy clinic and a GP surgery."

"Claims from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) who have linked GP shortages, GP practices shutting their doors and the end of bulk billing to paying payroll tax isn't going to solve the current GP crisis."

"Many hard-working health professionals, like dentists, physiotherapists, chiropractors and community pharmacists are already complying with the legislation and paying their fair share."



"If the Queensland Government grants a payroll tax exemption to GP practices, the Government should do the same for all primary healthcare professionals."

"Everyone acknowledges that patients need more options when it comes to primary healthcare due to the GP crisis, and the inability to get an appointment in a timely manner; exemptions in payroll tax will not free up any GP appointments," Owen said.

The Queensland Revenue Office has now clarified the rules for general practitioners in a

Commissioner's public ruling.

The RACGP is concerned the changes will result in increased costs for practice owners, which will flow onto patients and force some practices to close their doors.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins (pictured below) slammed the decision as a "kick in the guts" for Queensland patients.

"While I'm pleased that the Queensland Revenue Office has listened to our advocacy and will limit audits on practices to the previous financial year, the scenarios provided of what is in the scope of payroll tax in this ruling is deeply concerning."

"It is another nail in the coffin for struggling general practices in Queensland," she said.



Eating Tuna On Toast 7 days A Week Guardian Pharmacy Wellers Hill Brisbane

Situated on the south-western coast of Malaysia, Muar was voted one of the cleanest cities in South East Asia in 2017. This is where Gavin Lau, current owner/partner of Guardian Pharmacy Wellers Hill Tarrigindi, in Brisbane, was born. Being the youngest of a family with five siblings, including one brother and three sisters, he did his schooling in Muar then moved to Klang, two and a half hours from home, and just 50 minutes from the capital, Kuala Lumpur, where he enrolled in the pharmacy program at SIT International College.



Gavin Lau and Greg Aspeling

The college offered a cost-efficient training program. Upon achieving a certain level of proficiency, students were permitted to finish their education at participating universities abroad. Halfway through his studies at SIT, Gavin applied to Adelaide Uni to complete the rest of his degree. He was accepted and, in 2007, at the age of 22, flew to Australia to continue his studies. His drive and goal from a very young age was to become totally financially independent. To do this, he figured he needed to own his own business. *Click ad to read more...*

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Wildcard winner

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has awarded the 2023 Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) wildcard to Ingrid Stroud (pictured below), from the University of Canberra, as part of the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association Congress.

The PSOTY award recognises and celebrates Australia's outstanding pharmacy students.

The award showcases the knowledge, skills and abilities of select students to the broader pharmacy profession, whilst giving them the opportunity to apply, and be judged on, their counselling skills.

The PSOTY wildcard is awarded to an outstanding student to compete alongside state finalists in the national PSOTY competition held at PSA23.

The 2023 competition was judged by PSA Chief Executive Officer Mark Kinsela, Early Career Pharmacist Erin Cooper and NAPSA representative Emma O'Donnell.



Pharmacists honoured on Australia Day

THE Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) was awarded to five industry recipients (PD breaking news yesterday).

The Australia Day Honours list included awards for four pharmacists, as well as a former Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) General Manager.

The honours went to former PSA GM Phillip Andrew Greenwood recognised for his service to the not-for-profit sector; Richard John French, a community pharmacist for 35 years recognised for his service to the NSW regional community of Muswellbrook; Pharmacy Cricket's Graham Edward Reed who was recognised for his service to Australian cricket; Donald Charles Lawie recognised for his service to the Cairns community as a compounding chemist in Babinda; and the late Nazminali Hudda,



recognised for his service to the Nizari Ismaili Muslim community of Queensland as well as 38 years as a community pharmacist.

The Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey paid tribute to the pharmacists and said "we often talk about our community pharmacists and the work they do in their practice, which is demanding work in itself.

"However, to go the extra mile and do so much for their local community in addition to their pharmacy work, truly makes them special Australians, and all deserve

the recognition they have received today," Twomey said.

PSA National President, Fei Sim, acknowledged the honorees and said "the pharmacists recognised today have dedicated their lives to the health of their communities".

Others with pharmacy connections honoured included Grattan Institute Director Stephen Duckett - Member of the Order of Australia for "significant service to public health policy and management"; Chronic Pain Australia founder Coralie Wales - OAM for service to community health; and specialist clinical pharmacologist and Medical Board of Australia Chair, Anne Tonkin - Officer of the Order of Australia for "distinguished service to medical professional regulation, to tertiary education, and to clinical pharmacology".

\$2.5m for home away from home

THE NSW Government has announced funding of \$2.5m to deliver a new purpose-built oncology accommodation for cancer patients.

The home away from home should help patients across Central, Western and Far West NSW who travel to Dubbo to receive treatment with access to affordable accommodation.

It comes after funding cuts to the Macquarie Home Stay in the recent Federal Budget, put the expansion of this medical accommodation facility in doubt. Minister for Regional Health

Bronnie Taylor said the demand for affordable accommodation is there, with the Western Cancer Centre providing care to people living across the region, including the communities of Walgett, Bourke and Cobar.

"Macquarie Home Stay has done an incredible job supporting patients, their families and their carers across Central, Western and Far West NSW during some of the toughest moments of their life.

"This expansion will ensure the support is there for even more people."

Intern webinars

THE Australian Pharmacy Council will be delivering their second set of webinars on intern workplace-based assessment (WBA) tools on Mon 06 Feb and Tue 14 Feb, 6:30-7:30pm AEDT.

Register for Tools to support intern learning - workplace based assessment.

The webinars will assist preceptors and interns in their understanding of how to use the WBA tools which are now part of Intern Training Programs.

Learn more [HERE](#).

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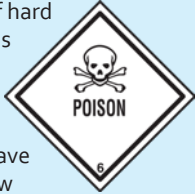
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Dispensary Corner

IT'S KIND of hard to believe this is necessary, but authorities in the USA have proposed new rules which would limit the amount of poisonous lead included in baby food.



The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new draft guidance would apply to all packaged foods intended for babies and children aged less than two years.

Lead concentrations in fruit, vegetable and yoghurt products will be restricted to extremely low levels of 10 parts per billion, and 20 parts per billion for dry cereals and single-ingredient root vegetable products, such as mashed potatoes.

Fortunately the guidance isn't a response to evil manufacturers deliberately trying to include toxic ingredients, but a reflection of the reality that crops sometimes absorb contaminants like lead - alongside vital nutrients - from the soil in which they grow.

"Although it is not possible to remove these elements entirely from the food supply, we expect that the recommended action levels will cause manufacturers to implement agricultural and processing measures to lower lead levels," the FDA said.

It's estimated the changes could potentially cut lead exposure in kids by about 25%.

The proposals are now subject to a 60-day period of public consultation.

Pay rates hearing coming

Pharmacy pay rates are in the spotlight as the Professional Pharmacists Australia, registered name APESMA, lodged an application with the Fair Work Commission to vary the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020 late last year.

The application proposes to 'increase the graduate or pharmacy intern rate of pay under the Award on work value grounds' (PD 16 Jun 2022 and PD 01 Sep 2022).

A directions hearing was held on 16 Jan in which both the union and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia agreed to participate in a conciliation prior to the case proceeding to a formal hearing.

The conciliation has been listed for 13 Feb, APESMA reported.

There is a dedicated website to the case: [Pharmacy Industry Award variation \(AM2022/34\) | Fair Work](https://www.pharmacyindustryaward.com.au/AM2022/34)



[Commission \(fwc.gov.au\)](https://www.fwc.gov.au)

If you are an intern and would like to get involved in the case, APESMA asks that you reach out to them via email: contact@professionalpharmacists.org.au

You can also compare pay rates with their [PAY CALCULATOR](#).

Birth and grades

CHILDREN born before 34 weeks of gestation are more likely to have lower grades in high school maths than those born full-term, according to Danish research.

The researchers compared high school grades between a large cohort of siblings and combined the results with data from intelligence tests taken by sets of brothers as they began military service at 18 years.

The researchers saw decreasing maths grades the earlier the people were born.

Those born at or before 27 weeks had lower written language grades, and those born before 34 weeks had lower military intelligence test scores.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Power of our cells

UNIVERSITY of Queensland researchers have found a pathway in cells that may be used to reprogram the body's immune system to fight back against both chronic inflammatory and infectious diseases.

Dr Kaustav Das Gupta and Prof Matt Sweet from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience explained that "the effects of this molecule called ribulose-5-phosphate on bacteria are striking - it can cooperate with other immune factors to stop disease-causing strains of the E. coli bacteria from growing, known to cause approximately 80% of urinary tract infections, and is a common cause of sepsis".

Learn more [HERE](#).



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