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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from Melrose.

## 20k jobs may go

AS MANY as 20,000 jobs may be lost and 665 pharmacies could close under the 60-DD policy, an independent report conducted by economist Griffith University's Henry Ergas has found.

It found elderly people with chronic health conditions and regional Australians will suffer.

In addition to the closure of 665 pharmacies, a further 900 will be at risk of closing due to significant financial pressure.

Ergas asserted "it would be sensible to suspend the implementation of the first tranche of the policy...until an evidence-based, independent review is undertaken...with meaningful consultation with all stakeholders".

## Top three Tas pharmacists recognised

THREE pharmacists are the recipients of the 2023 Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year Awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions made to the profession.

Nicky Maddern (Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year), Elizabeth Hope (Lifetime Achievement Award) and Bianca Menzie (Early Career Pharmacist Award) were honoured by their peers at a gala dinner held in Launceston over the past weekend.

Tasmanian Chair of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Kelly Beswick, said that the 2023 Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year, hospital pharmacist Maddern, was recognised for her vital role in the establishment of Voluntary Assisted Dying services in Tasmania, first as the project lead for the formation of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Pharmacy Service and subsequently as its inaugural manager.

"The work that Nicky has undertaken is one of the best

examples of patient-centred care, providing equal access to the most necessary medicines at the critical point in a patient's life," Beswick explained.

Lifetime Achievement Award winner Hope was recognised as a "trailblazer and an inspiring role model who has been part of the southern Tasmanian community pharmacy landscape for 48 years providing medications, support and health advice to generations of families living in Hobart's northern suburbs," said the Pharmacy Guild's Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne.

"Both of Elizabeth's pharmacies are located in low socio-economic suburbs - Glenorchy and Bridgewater - and both typically have a high percentage of low-income families and sole-parent families, with young children.

"Elizabeth saw that there was a huge need for help and support to be provided to new parents living within these communities and set

about providing the assistance that was needed in a non-judgemental, safe and trusted environment.

"For over 30 years the iconic Elizabeth Hope Baby Club provided parents and their children free and accessible access to pharmacists and Mothercare nurses with well over 100,000 consultations recorded," shared O'Byrne.

The 2023 Early Career Pharmacist of the Year Menzie was recognised as a "passionate, motivated, and dedicated young pharmacist who has been a valued member of the Statewide Hospital Pharmacy team since she achieved registration as a pharmacist in 2016," Beswick said.

One of Menzie's key achievements has been her integral role in establishing home delivery of outpatient medicines from Tasmanian Health Service pharmacies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The awards are jointly hosted by the Tasmanian branches of the main official pharmacy bodies.



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## Gut & skin support

**MELROSE** Collagen Daily Glow and Green-Biotic Gut Support Blend help nourish the skin and keep the gut healthy from the inside for pharmacy customers.

See more on the **back page**.

## New CSIRO chief

**CSIRO** has appointed Prof Doug Hilton as Chief Executive to commence on 29 Sep.

Hilton is a molecular and cellular biologist, Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Medical Biology and head of the Department of Medical Biology at the University of Melbourne.

He and his team hold more than 20 patents, and have translated their research through collaboration with venture capitalists and the biopharmaceutical industry.

## Qld and SA state finalists

**PHARMACY** assistant Colby Diek (pictured left) from Craignish Pharmacy in Hervey Bay has been chosen to represent Queensland at the national finals of the 2023 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Diek was selected from 12 state finalists at the Queensland workshop held last week, where participants demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge and showcased their skills in customer service and leadership.

In addition to the main PATY award, there's also the Glucojel Super Star Award, which recognises outstanding customer service, and this year Blake Hyndman-Roberts from Hope Island 7 Day Amcal Chemist on the Gold Coast took out this award for Queensland.

Furthermore, pharmacy assistant Makailee Weltman (pictured right) from The Barossa Pharmacist in the Mall will represent South Australia at the finals of the PATY award.



Weltman was selected from nine state finalists at the South Australia workshop last week, where participants showcased their skills in customer service & leadership, and demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge.

This year's Glucojel Super Star Award went to South Australia's Solmaz Rahmani from TerryWhite Chemmart Seaford.

The judges who were representatives from AFT Pharmaceuticals, the award's major sponsor, congratulated all the state finalists.

## Diabetes hearing

**A PARLIAMENTARY** committee inquiry will hear from Diabetes Australia, the Australian Diabetes Society and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at a public hearing tomorrow.

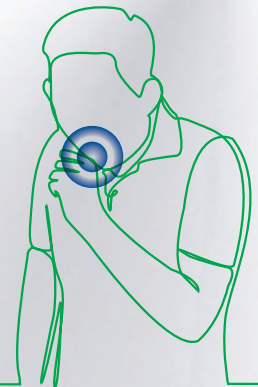
The hearing will be held at Parliament House as part of the Health Committee's inquiry into diabetes in Australia.

The Chair of the Committee, Dr Mike Freeland MP, said, "the hearing will be an opportunity for the Committee to hear from major peak bodies which each play a critical role in improving diabetes prevention, treatment and care, advocating for policies and funding around diabetes, and supporting Australians living with diabetes".

The Committee intends to hold more public hearings in due course, and interested parties can make a submission, **HERE**, by 31 Aug.

## DRAW THE LINE...

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## Focus on regular and sustainable change

**THE** Heart Foundation is urging men to think more about their daily behaviour during this year's Men's Health Week.

The annual week's theme is 'healthy habits', with a focus on encouraging men to adopt new, healthier habits to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

Heart Foundation Senior Food & Nutrition Advisor Jemma O'Hanlon said Men's Health Week continues to gain traction as men become more aware of their risk factors.

"Men's Health Week is a great opportunity to start and build on conversations about healthy living," O'Hanlon said.

"We always encourage small changes that can be adapted into people's daily routines.

"Generally, that doesn't mean giving up a favourite food entirely but rather making small swaps on a daily basis.

"The same applies to exercise, which may begin with gentle



walking routines that might lead to something more strenuous in the future.

"Initially, however, it's about making regular and sustainable changes."

Heart Foundation has free Personal Walking Plans that are online and run for six weeks.

O'Hanlon's other tips healthy heart tips to pass onto customers include boosting the diet with potassium-rich fruit and vegetables to help lower blood pressure, enjoying more healthy fats from salmon, avocado and nuts to help lower cholesterol, snacking on Greek yoghurt for the ultimate high protein boost, pre- or post-exercise, and beefing up meat dishes with legumes or lentils (a nice little cost saver too).

## Health equity for veterans

**CAPITAL** Chemist Southlands and veteran-owned medicinal cannabis company Provocatus have tried to close an unmet need for veterans suffering from chronic pain.

Capital Chemist Group Business Manager Andrew Topp (pictured left) said the pharmacy group is committed to helping veterans access the most appropriate medications to help manage their conditions.

In 2022 Provocatus launched an Australian-first compassionate access program called the Veteran Access Scheme (VAS) for those who faced a health equity issue when they sought treatment with medicinal cannabis.

"Our veterans face extended delays in accessing medicinal cannabis treatment due to processing times through the Department of Veteran Affairs," said Capital Chemist Group Business Manager Andrew Topp.

"Capital Chemist Southlands has extensive experience in dispensing



medicinal cannabis and our relationship with Provocatus is another means to provide support to a vulnerable community," Topp said.

Provocatus Managing Director Kasey Mumford added, "the VAS provides veterans with a bridge to access treatment while waiting for their DVA funding approval".

"Many of our staff are veterans and, from their own life experiences, understand the trauma that many of our patients are dealing with."

To date, the VAS has assisted more than 300 veterans access treatment and has raised more than \$250,000 to subsidise their treatment, said Mumford.

Pharmacy Daily 2023

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## Dispensary Corner

A DOCTOR from Tennessee in the USA has surrendered his medical licence under an agreement with the state's Department of Health, after issuing a host of COVID-19 vaccine waivers to patients he had never met - including a dog.

The 76-year-old allegedly provided the documents in Aug and Sep 2021 - a period of significant vaccine hesitancy - while working for a company called MedChoice which sold them online for US\$139, authorities said.

The MedChoice website promised "handwritten medical waivers personally reviewed and signed by a licensed physician" with clients able to choose from a drop-down list of preset justifications such as "I am very anxious about getting the vaccine" and "I believe I have an autoimmune disease".

The Health Department confirmed the waivers were issued to people in at least three states, with the scheme uncovered by a *Nashville NewsChannel 5* investigation which used the online platform to purchase a waiver for a dog owned by one of its reporters who said the black Labrador had "an irrational fear of needles".

MedChoice mailed the dog documentation including a laminated waiver card saying the pooch was "certified medically exempt from the COVID vaccination".

Tennessee business records confirm that MedChoice is no longer in operation, according to a *KFF Health News* report.

## TGA issues more vape fines

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a total of 38 infringement notices totalling almost \$600,000 to four Sydney-based entities relating to the illegal import of nicotine vaping products.

It's alleged that TSG Liverpool Street Pty Ltd, TSG Balmain Pty Ltd, TSG Chatswood Pty Ltd and Jaradat & Sabbagh Group Pty Ltd attempted to import about 380,000 nicotine vaping products (prescription medicines) that were not registered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and did not comply with a relevant standard.

TGA laboratories tested samples of the disposable vapes under the IGET, GUNPOD and HQD brands and found they contained prohibited ingredients and posed a significant public health risk.

The unapproved vapes were intercepted by the Australian Border Force, and will be seized and destroyed, the TGA said, adding that "unregulated nicotine vaping products are a growing concern in the Australian community due to their availability and increased use, particularly among adolescents and young people, with associated health risks, including nicotine addiction, nicotine poisoning, exposure to toxins, and serious



injuries and burns".

MEANWHILE, another recent enforcement activity by the TGA has seen Queensland-based Pracmed Healthcare Pty Ltd fined \$39,960 for unlawful advertising of complementary medicines.

The infringement notices relate to three listed complementary items sponsored by the company, with the Pracmed website allegedly containing unapproved references to bariatric weight loss surgery.

Pracmed is alleged to have advertised the products "in a way that suggests harmful consequences may result from not using their product...they also allegedly made a therapeutic claim about their products that was not included in their Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods entries," the TGA added.

## Tassie pharmacy body seeks members

THE Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority (TPA) has opened expressions of interest from registered pharmacists seeking appointment to the organisation's Board.

Applications are open until 07 Jul, with the Authority noting expectations that eligible appointees will reside in Tasmania and be able to

participate in monthly meetings in Hobart or via video conference.

Meetings "often take 5-6 hours with preparatory work required," and sitting fees payable are currently \$371 per meeting.

The TPA comprises two pharmacists and one non-pharmacist representing consumer interests - for more details [CLICK HERE](#).



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Mark Churchill, Director - Banking & Investment, Kizmet Capital**



### Are you paying more than others?

EVER wondered if you're paying more than others? Who hasn't? And you're not alone.

Many customers are now wondering how long-term and established finance relationships are stacking up when compared to others.

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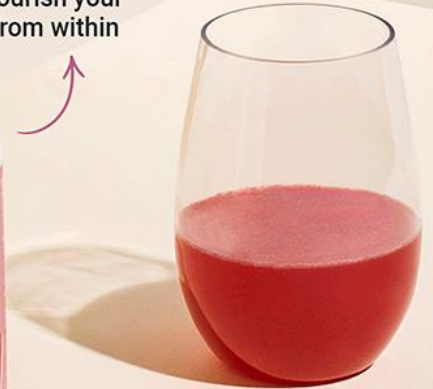
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