

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

Have your say!

PUBLIC consultation has opened on the Pharmacy Board of Australia's draft revised Guidelines on compounding of medicines.

The Board is reviewing the guidelines, which it first published in 2015, to ensure they are relevant, contemporary and effective.

The Board welcomes submissions on the revisions from all interested parties including members of the public, the profession and stakeholders.

Submissions can be made via an online survey or by emailing the response template [HERE](#).

The deadline is 24 Jul, and to learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).

1-in-4 can't afford meds

THE fifth Australian Healthcare Index (AHI) Jun 2023, a bi-annual survey by Healthengine and the Australian Patients Association, with more than 10,000 respondents, reports a continuing decline in satisfaction with Australia's healthcare system.

The data suggests that this can primarily be attributed to dissatisfaction about the decline in bulk billing (71% of respondents), Medicare not covering a wide enough range of care (67%), and long wait times (66%).

Assuringly, two in three said they have a regular pharmacy/pharmacist and it's the pharmacy team which is driving customer satisfaction with 71% of customers recommending a pharmacy or pharmacist, and the top reasons being helpful staff (71%), reasonable wait times to fill scripts (62%), and being open on weekends and/or evenings (58%).

It's no surprise that 80% of people get their prescription and OTC meds in pharmacy, but one in three also get medication advice, while

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Kian Ghahramani - Director, RSM., Emma Brown - Principal, RSM., Sharlene Wellard - Principal Lawyer, Meridian Lawyers., Belinda Hegarty - Head of National Strategy and Insights, CommBank Health., Ben Massey - National Senior Associate - Healthcare, CommBank Health. | Hosted by Daniel Oyston - Content Grasshopper.

Epilim safety alert

NEW Zealand's medicines safety authority, Medsafe, stated a retrospective observational study suggests a potential increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children whose fathers were treated with Epilim (sodium valproate), at the time of the child's conception compared to those treated with lamotrigine or levetiracetam. Learn more [HERE](#).

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NZ POTY McKay

THE New Zealand Pharmaceutical Society has awarded Brooke McKay Pharmacist of the Year 2022, last week.

McKay is an early-career pharmacist who has already been successful in her nine-year career.

She became a community pharmacy owner in Upper Hutt at the age of 25.

Her pharmacy employs 22 staff, so she understands the challenges facing pharmacy owners.

McKay has been a Pharmaceutical Society of NZ branch president for three years and a branch committee member for seven years.

She is a board member for the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand and has been both an intern and PACT preceptor.

McKay is passionate about pharmacist consultation services and vaccinations.

Make a tree change now

REGIONAL community pharmacies have an unmet need for pharmacists keen to work to their full scope of practice and also become an integral part of the local healthcare community.

Lisa Gibson, Orana Mall Pharmacy, Dubbo, agrees “attracting health professionals, in particular pharmacists and nurses, has been extremely difficult in recent years”.

“We have advertised through a variety of channels including Seek, local media, LinkedIn and through our regional networks without much success,” Gibson said.

In response to this challenge, Life Pharmacy Group (LPG), has taken a novel approach to attracting professional staff, by running a competition to highlight the benefits of making a tree change by moving to regional areas.

There is a competition to win a \$2,000 Apple voucher, and all pharmacists have to do is download the LPG white paper on *Life as a pharmacist in regional NSW*, [HERE](#).



Jack Buckley, LPG, Forbes explained, “our local community is currently facing a minimum of a four-week wait for a GP appointment.

“The need for healthcare-driven, patient-focused, community pharmacists in our region has never been so important.

“Patients respect our pharmacists and generally rely on us as their first point of call.”

LPG said the events of the past few years have caused people to re-evaluate their lifestyle to make more time for family and friends, de-stress their lives, and find time to invest in themselves.

Flu rates still low

WINTER officially starts this week, however, less than 7 million Australians have taken action to protect themselves against influenza, through vaccination, this year.

Paul Griffin, Director of Infectious Diseases at Mater Health Services, says national flu vaccination rates are only at 27%, as estimated from the Australian Immunisation Register and ABS data.

While research from the *Australian Attitudes to Influenza Index*, commissioned by CSL Seqirus, indicates that there has been an increase in the proportion of Australians who think flu is as serious as COVID-19 (42% in 2023 compared to 35% in a similar survey in 2021), 58% of Australians are not aware of what flu vaccine options are available to them, and nearly half (46%) want to understand their flu vaccine options.

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Dispensary Corner

LONDON has 'officially' been declared the loneliest city in the UK, according to new research by a co-living rental brand, *MyLondon* has reported.

With the highest number of one-person households, London and specifically Westminster top the loneliest city charts, while Liverpool, Riverside and Birmingham, Ladywood rank second and third in the findings from Gravity Co's study.

Researchers have found that loneliness is as harmful to a person's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and can increase the risk of dementia.

According to Mind, a mental health charity, loneliness can be associated with "an increased risk of certain mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, sleep problems and increased stress".

MyLondon asked people such as cafe owner Alma White whether she agrees London is the loneliest place in the UK, and she replied, "people are stretched for time here".

"If you have friends in deep South London, seeing those people is difficult.

"There's a hustle culture in London, people need to make money, survive and see family.

"Immediate family and school friends are the support system, else it's hard to make friends."

While Dana Depta said it can be hard to find people who genuinely want to spend time together, "people will ask, 'do you want to do something on Friday?' but Friday comes around and you don't meet."

Pharmacy Connect is a must attend

THE official program has been released for the annual Pharmacy Connect conference to be held from 31 Aug - 02 Sep at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney.

The theme of the conference 'make every connection matter' aims to bring together pharmacists, suppliers and key industry leaders to discuss important issues facing community pharmacy both now, and into the future.

Key topics include the role of pharmacists in a modern health system, D-Day for 60-day dispensing, a scope of practice update, retail in a changed environment, industry updates, and Cyber security trends.

The program also features pre-conference workshops on ownership, regulatory activities and expanding pharmacy scope of



practice, shared the organisers.

Kos Sclavos, Pharmacy Connect Convenor and former Guild National President said attendance at this year's conference is critical given the recent changes the profession is experiencing.

"I want to encourage as many pharmacists as possible to attend and be fully aware of the impacts on community pharmacy following the recent announcements from the Australian Government.

"The situation is very fluid and the allocated time slots in the conference program to cover this key topic will ensure you are in the best position to be kept informed to make relevant decisions.

"I encourage representatives from all elements of the pharmacy supply chain to be in attendance at Pharmacy Connect," said Sclavos.

For the first time, Pharmacy Connect will be held in conjunction with the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; an annual Pharmacy Guild event for pharmacy assistants.

The two events will share a 50-plus stand trade exhibition & social functions including the Welcome Reception and Cocktail Party.

Early bird registration for Pharmacy Connect is open until 28 Jul - learn more, [HERE](#).

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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I wonder what on earth we did before joining TWC. The decency of support teams and their belief in us gives me the rocket fuel to keep doing what I love.”

Wendy McKay

TWC Drouin, Vic, joined in 2022



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