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Today's issue of PD

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

Vale Peter Howard

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has expressed sadness at the passing of former Vic Branch Vice President Peter Howard and has acknowledged his outstanding contribution to the pharmacy profession, the Guild and its members.

Howard served on the Guild Vic Branch Committee from 1990 to 2005 and was Vice President for the first 12 of those 15 years.

He was a co-creator of the Guild's Dispensary Assistant course, Chair of the then Pharmacy Computers Australia, and one of just 13 pharmacists at the time to get the Guild's Distinguished Service Award.

Guild, Govt at the same table for 8CPA



THE Federal Govt and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia are back at the table to negotiate and sign off on the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement by 01 Mar 2024, the Guild National President Trent Twomey told a packed audience at its Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra last night.

Welcoming the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler (pictured right) in what was seen as a clear reconciliation after the acrimonious fallout post the introduction of 60-Day Dispensing, Twomey (pictured left) said, "after our public

disagreements, we both want the same thing, a CPA implemented by 01 Mar 2024, a thriving and sustainable community pharmacy industry that can get back to carefully looking after their patients instead of looking over their shoulder and worrying about the viability of their profession".

Twomey reminded Butler that to achieve the Mar deadline "there needs to be a little less conversation and a little more action, and if we're to meet the deadline set, which I know we both want to now, as we have been meeting weekly for many, many

months, I am happy to increase the pace, as the negotiations are simply too important".

Butler added, "we remain deeply committed to that objective but recognise that these are challenging negotiations up against a challenging timeline". JG



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MICHAEL McCormack, MP for Riverina, announced yesterday that Junee Capital Chemist, "the only pharmacy open every day, will now cease trading on Sundays because of Labor's policy".

"The Nationals for Regional Australia stood with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia against 60-Day Dispensing, but Labor didn't listen...and now country chemists are hurting."

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Dispensary Corner

A SONG about millets featuring India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been nominated for this year's Grammy Awards.

The song highlights both the health benefits and the govt's efforts to promote the cereal.

The song, *Abundance in Millets*, featuring Indian-American Grammy-winning singer Falguni Shah and her husband and singer Gaurav Shah, was released in Jun.

"Modi has written a song with me and my husband Gaurav Shah," she told *PTI*.

She said the idea to write a song about millets came when she met Modi in Delhi last year after winning the Grammy, adding that he suggested to her she should write a song with a message of ending hunger.

Shah added that she "naively" asked the Prime Minister if he could write a song on millets.

The proposal was first brought forward by India, it was then endorsed by Members of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization Governing Bodies and the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly no less.

The cereal was even part of the menu of Modi's state dinner when he visited the US.

Shah said she was initially nervous about writing the song with the Prime Minister, but the "whole collaboration happened in a very organic way".

"It's one thing to write for him and it's one thing to write with him, as in the middle of the song, you will hear his speech written and narrated in his voice," she commented.

Canberra training calling



COMMUNITY pharmacists are heading to Canberra to gain specialised training to help the more than 24,000 men diagnosed with prostate cancer each year.

Mens Health Downunder (MHDU) founder and Canberra pharmacist Brad Butt is working with pharmacists from WA, SA and NSW over the coming weeks to provide education on the management of men's urological health conditions, following cancer treatment.

"In our communities, there are so many men living with urological health issues, and mental health concerns relating to those conditions, that can't get help.

Pharmacists and partners of TerryWhite Chemmart Chester Pass Albany, Joe Foster & Brad Smithson, have travelled from Albany, WA, to participate in the MHDU training.

"The ability to share this information we're learning, which

should be far more readily available than it is, and having the ability to speak to men about something they may have not spoken about before, is paramount to why we're doing this," explained Foster.

"We're not going back to our community to let this slide."

The pair is planning to establish a clinic within their Albany pharmacy as an additional service for locals.

"I think, a lot of what we can do, is not just educating patients but educating our associated allied healthcare professionals around this as well," said Smithson.

"Patients come to us for their prescriptions and feel comfortable talking to us, and that leads to a longer consultation about something they might've wanted to talk about for a long time, then that's a good thing." *JG*

Pictured (L-R): Brad Butt, Brad Smithson and Joe Foster.

Guild awards its past and outgoing leaders

FORMER Executive Director David Quilty and outgoing Executive Director Suzanne Greenwood were both awarded the prestigious Pharmacy Guild of Australia President's Award at last night's Annual Parliamentary Dinner 2023 held at Parliament House in Canberra.

Pictured (L-R): David Quilty, past Pharmacy Guild President George Tambassis, Suzanne



Greenwood and the Guild's newly appointed Executive Director Gerard Benedet.

Tough talk on vapes

THE Australian Border Force intercepting some 35 tonnes of vaping products, all suspected to largely contain nicotine, has raised the ire of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who said on *ABC Radio* yesterday that the Govt is prepared to introduce some of the toughest laws in the world.

"I was down there with the Border Force Commissioner; [it was] demonstrated so clearly that these are not packaged and sold for middle-aged, hardened smokers of my age.

"These have pink unicorns on them, they're bubble gum flavoured, they're pink, they're made to look like highlighter pens and USB sticks so kids can hide them in their pencil cases.

"These are so obviously and deliberately targeted at young people to recruit a new generation to nicotine addiction, it's not funny.

"It seriously is not funny, this is the number one behavioural issue in school communities around the country.

"As you say, it's just driving people crazy, it's driving parents crazy."

Butler stressed that the only way to legally get a vape will be through a pharmacy on a prescription from a doctor or a nurse practitioner.

"The vapes won't be able to have flavours, they'll have prescribed levels of nicotine with very clear regulations by the TGA," he added.

"We're going to put in place an import regulation by the end of this year that bans the import of all disposable vapes and all other vapes that don't comply with the standards."

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