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Today's issue of PD

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

Discount offer

GLUCOJEL, the original pharmacy jelly bean, has a Spring sale offer for its Bears. See more on the back page.

40k vapes seized

THE TGA executed multiple warrants on storage units and residences in Brisbane and seized over 40,000 vaping products with an estimated street value of over \$1.2m.

This was part of a major crime investigation into money laundering, illicit tobacco and nicotine vaping products, involving the Qld Crime and Corruption Commission, Police, Health, Australian Border Force and the Taxation Office.

MoU helps expand 'knowledge pool'

TODAY, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and the New Zealand Hospital Pharmacy Association (NZHPA).

The first trans-Tasman hospital pharmacy partnership has been forged to strengthen professional collaboration and the advancement of practice in Australian and New Zealand pharmacy.

The signing of the MoU in Auckland by SHPA President Tom Simpson and NZHPA President Sian Dawson (pictured) comes weeks before details of SHPA's new pharmacy recognition program will be revealed at the 81st FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science (FIP 2023) in Brisbane later this month.

Simpson says the agreement signals a new era of closer cooperation between the two established organisations.

"Over a combined 150-year history, SHPA and NZHPA have



passionately advocated for and supported pharmacists and technicians providing care for Australians and New Zealanders, forging a myriad of informal connections in the process.

"As part of our Transformation 2024 agenda, we're proud to put pen to paper today and take the partnership to the next level, which

will include access to our upcoming professional recognition program and broader access to existing and new membership benefits for practitioners on both sides of the Tasman," explained Simpson.

Dawson added that the just signed MoU will benefit NZHPA members in many ways.

"We're thrilled to forge closer ties with our Australian counterparts.

"This is much more than a gesture of cooperation.

"This MoU will facilitate direct collaboration, networking and information-sharing between Australian and New Zealand pharmacists and technicians through expanded SHPA membership options next year.

"A broader 'knowledge pool' spanning our two countries has been sought for a long time and we look forward to working together to make it happen, supporting our pharmacist practitioners and advancing patient care in both countries," said Dawson. JG

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Canberra rally to protest against 60DD

THE Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS) is continuing to “push for concrete action from the gov’t over its disastrous 60-Day Dispensing (60DD), despite vague promises by Health Minister Mark Butler to begin negotiations for the Eight Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) and to have it finalised early next year,” stated the nascent group’s spokesperson, Christine Kelly.

Community pharmacists from across Australia are gathering in Canberra today (PD 24 Aug) to impress upon politicians of all persuasions that they are not satisfied with the promise to begin early negotiations on the 8CPA as being a solution to the 60DD policy.

“The promise to start negotiations with no promise of consultation is an empty one,” Kelly said.

“To expect a complex agreement to be reached in a few months, two of which fall over the Christmas period, without guaranteeing consultation is nonsense.



“Since the 60DD policy announcement in the May Budget, community pharmacists have faced the prospect of substantial financial losses, as well as the anxiety of having to fight to save their pharmacies and fight for the health of their communities.

“It is not an exaggeration or a ‘scare campaign’ to say that this ill-conceived policy seriously impacts pharmacists across the country, and many will no longer be able to operate,” Kelly asserted.

This policy has been unnecessarily rushed and the impact will be a loss of jobs, reduced operating hours and permanent closures, she said.

“The government needs to work with us to find a solution that does not threaten the viability of our pharmacy businesses.

“We are asking the government to consult with us, the country’s community pharmacists, to find a solution for cheaper medicines for all Australians.

“We will not stop until we are heard,” said Kelly.

CAPS group comprises pharmacy owners, pharmacists, and pharmacy students.

With a heritage dating back to the 1980s CAPS will continue to fight against the government’s 60DD policy (PD 18 Aug). JG

Reach for support

TODAY on World Leukaemia Day, the Leukaemia Foundation is urging all Australians impacted by the disease to “do one simple action...reach out for support”.

There are more than 5,200 Australians diagnosed with leukaemia each year.

Seven in 10 people with leukaemia will face emotional challenges, and almost 40% of them will have questions or feel completely uncertain about their diagnosis.

CEO Chris Tanti said, “a blood cancer diagnosis can be devastating, disruptive and an emotional rollercoaster, with many Australians thrust into lifesaving treatment within hours of diagnosis.

“The introduction of Australia’s first and only dedicated blood cancer support line will help people access specialised support and services in one simple step.”



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Dispensary Corner

THERE'S some irony in the fact that the founders of a Seattle fortunetelling startup were entirely unaware of their own looming legal misfortunes.

Until they were sued for copyright infringement in Jun, the biggest issue for Tom Cote and Courtland Kellum was whether their 2 1/2-year-old company, Soulmate Medium, could handle those seeking solace from its 100-plus tarot readers and spiritual guides.

But as Cote, 31, and Kellum, 34, have learned since, they weren't the only ones trying to break into a psychic advice industry that is booming.

On 30 Jun, Soulmate was sued in a Seattle federal court by Enlightened Today, an even younger psychic US startup.

Enlightened accuses Soulmate of illegally copying marketing materials "nearly verbatim" and, according to Cote, seeks damages of "hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars."

A main piece of evidence in the suit is a screenshot of a single Facebook user who appears to find similarities between scripted content used by Soulmate and scripted content used by Enlightened.

Cote, meanwhile, admits he's more than a little fearful of what the future may bring and, when asked, conceded he was tempted to ask for a prediction from his own spiritual team.

"A little bit, yeah," he said. "I mean, certainly, there's something reassuring to hearing somebody tell you everything's going to work out."

Qld assistant wins PATY

COLBY Diek from Queensland is the national winner of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award, announced over the weekend at the joint Pharmacy Connect and the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PATY).

Diek was one of eight state and territory pharmacy assistants who were competing for the coveted title in Sydney on Thu at the national workshop.

PATY award judge and the 2018 award winner as well as a Pharmacy Guild trainer, Alice Vanderpol said she was thrilled with the calibre of finalists.

"The way the finalists presented themselves and spoke about their own personal experiences was admirable," Vanderpol added.

"I can just see how dedicated and committed these finalists are as pharmacy assistants.

"Every year the bar is raised in terms of the passion and commitment displayed and choosing just one winner is always an extremely difficult task.

"Congratulations to Colby!

"This year's state and territory winners have demonstrated a



strong commitment to their work and to the industry, and that is what this PATY award is all about," explained Vanderpol.

Diek has been awarded the \$5,000 cash prize as well as flights, travel and accommodation packages to attend Guild conferences to support her career and professional development.

Nominations for next year's award will open in Feb 2024. *JG*

Exploring cognitive worries app wins big

BRAINTRACK, a free app that helps monitor and understand changes in cognition over time, last week won the 2023 National iAward, Community/Not-for-profit category at the awards presentation.

Helping individuals to privately explore common cognitive concerns, BrainTrack also provides brain health information through fun, travel-themed games that have been adapted

from validated cognitive testing.

Users can share their results with their GP to support the early identification of cognitive changes over time that may warrant further testing.

Maree McCabe, CEO, Dementia Australia, said that more than 55,000 people had downloaded BrainTrack since its launch in Oct 2022, and it will now compete in the Asia-Pacific ICT Alliance Awards in Hong Kong in Dec.



Weekly Comment

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



Solutions for tighter cashflow

THE financial impact of 60-Day Dispensing won't be felt immediately but as time goes on you will notice the cash in your business tightening.

Generally, when cash flow is impacted the first response tends to be to turn to the wholesaler to look to extend trading terms.

If you are the one of many in this situation, then they may be slow to react or reluctant to open-up this option.

Finance brokers such as Kizmet not only deal with the major banks but also have a portfolio of financial products that are designed to solve your cashflow needs.

It's that independence that allows Kizmet to look at your core banking and debt requirements, work with your current lender and then introduce the right cashflow debt strategy.

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