

## Today's issue of PD

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

## Make the switch

TERRYWHITE Chemmart gives five compelling reasons to switch to its network. See more on the [back page](#).

# Talks disrupted by angry pharmacists

A FURIOUS protest in Parliament House by 200 pharmacists disrupted question time yesterday and sparked a warning from the Federal Health Minister that “they had broken a pledge to negotiate the funding deal in good faith”, reported *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

The protesters shouted obscenities and heckled Prime

Minister Anthony Albanese before storming out of the House of Representatives, just three days after Labor struck a peace deal with the Pharmacy Guild over its 60-Day Dispensing policy.

Health Minister Mark Butler told Parliament he had agreed with the Pharmacy Guild last week to bring forward talks on the next funding agreement to Mar 2024 after the industry had called for \$3.3 billion in extra funding to help with the impact of the prescription changes and other cost pressures.

But he sent a warning to the pharmacies that the government expected the good faith to be “reciprocated” in the months of talks over the new deal.

“That commitment was contingent upon a decision by the Guild to stand down their campaign against this measure,” Butler said, after the pharmacists had heckled from the public galleries and drawn warnings from officials.

“A reasonable person in this building might question whether

that commitment is being delivered upon,” Butler told the publication.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick, has asked for a security review into the behaviour of the protesters toward Parliament House staff as well as concerns that members of parliament had signed pharmacists into the building.

Employment Minister Tony Burke, who leads government business in the House, said parliamentary staff had allegedly been subjected to verbal abuse by some pharmacists on their way out.

Independent MP Zali Steggall expressed dismay at the protest and accused the Coalition of supporting the disorderly behaviour in Parliament.

While the Coalition complained about her accusation at Question Time, Coalition MPs gestured to the pharmacists in the public gallery while accusing Butler of failing to consult them on the policy.

The Guild has stated it was not involved in the protest. *JG*

**NEW** **Ferro-Max C™**  
with Vitamin C to aid absorption.\*  
Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.



For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. \*Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



GET **ECZEMA** MANAGED

Achieve less flares, irritation and itch in **85%** of mild to moderate eczema users<sup>1</sup>



Achieve a reduction in eczema severity for your patients<sup>2</sup> with the Ego eczema management plan.

**TREAT** with the appropriate topical corticosteroids

**MAINTAIN** with emollient cleansers and moisturisers

Access the plan here



**QV Dermcare Eczema Daily Wash and Daily Cream** help relieve symptoms of mild to moderate eczema. **References:** 1. Consumer satisfaction survey on people with mild to moderate eczema. n=48. Participants confirmed condition status through a declaration. Survey conducted by Beauty Heaven on behalf of Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. 2021. 2. Van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijsen APM, Arents BWM (2017) Emollients and moisturisers for eczema. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD012119.pub2.

**EGO PHARMACEUTICALS PTY LTD**  
21-31 Malcolm Road, Braeside 3195 Australia  
australia +61 3 9586 8800 toll free 1800 033 706  
\*Ego and QV DERMARE are trademarks of Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. in Australia and other countries. ©2023 Ego. ask@egopharm.com | www.qvskincare.com.au Date of Preparation: June 2023.





## FRED PROTECT

24/7 live monitoring & response by an expert Security Operations Centre

**PLUS MORE**

Call 1800 888 828 | [fred.com.au](http://fred.com.au)



SFI HEALTH | FLQRDIS™

## Treat More Than Heat


### Mood and Cognition in Menopause

Menopause is more than just hot flashes. Understand the range of mood and cognitive challenges that may arise as a result of hormonal changes during menopause in this webinar.

REGISTER NOW

**WEBINAR DATE: Wed 20th Sept 2023**

**TIME: 6:30pm AEST**



### APC applications

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) will accept accreditation applications for Medication Management Reviews and the Aged Care On-site pharmacist program.

From 01 Sep, education providers can apply to have their programs accredited against APC's standards.

CEO Bronwyn Clark stated that accreditation is a critical enabler for enhancing the safety and quality of healthcare and expanding scope.

"APC supports the growth and expansion of pharmacist roles, and accreditation of programs to deliver Medication Management Reviews and aged care on-site pharmacist services will assist in quality outcomes for the community.

"As the trusted body to assure quality in pharmacy education, we're thrilled to expand our accreditation work into this area," said Clark.

"We look forward to receiving applications from education providers who will then be able to credential pharmacists for these roles."

The Department of Health and Aged Care provides funding for pharmacists to undertake specific roles via targeted programs.

One requirement for funding is that a pharmacist must complete an education program accredited by APC.

Learn more about accrediting your pharmacist education program, [HERE](#), or email, [HERE](#).

## Sigma pulls off Summit



**SIGMA** has recently completed the third session of the inaugural Pharmacy Assistant Summit Series, a four-part education series for pharmacy assistants from the Amcal, DDS, Guardian and Pharmasave brands.

To ensure pharmacies and their teams can attend, Sigma explained that it delivered the training through four methods.

Face-to-face where each session was held in a different city around the nation to allow teams the opportunity to attend in person.

Through the Sigma Hub, where pharmacies could watch the live streaming of sessions at distribution centres (DC), which in turn provided networking opportunities.

There was also live streaming directly into pharmacies.

Further, the session recordings were uploaded to Sigma's online learning platforms for teams to watch in the future.

With the support of supplier partners including Ego, Metagenics and Smith & Nephew, the attendees were educated in problematic skin management, full scope of practice, stock, and inventory management, Medadvisor and loyalty.

Attendees also heard about Solution Selling, which provides the customer with a complete solution, and inspirational stories & strategies around mental health.

Glenda Deighton, DDS Banyo, Qld, gave the following feedback after attending the first session at the Sigma Berrinba distribution centre, "I have been so inspired by what I have taken away from the day which has reinforced and added to my product knowledge, and the tour of the Sigma DC was amazing".

"I would encourage all PAs to attend these sessions."

Sigma stated that the final session will be held in Sydney in Oct and then planning will start for the 2024 Pharmacy Assistant Summit Series.

**MEANWHILE**, Sigma has confirmed that the long-form supply agreement and the placement agreement with Chemist Warehouse have been signed by both parties.

The supply agreement reflects the binding term sheet for the supply of both the PBS medicines and Fast-Moving-Consumer-Goods products, as announced to the market on 06 Jun, stated an ASX release.

The new Sigma supply contract will commence on 01 Jul 2024. JG

### Apply tax evenly

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victoria Branch President, Anthony Tassone said that while no one likes paying taxes, the payroll tax is a well-established cost of running a business or a health practice, including pharmacies, as well as other primary healthcare and allied health professional practices.

"If the Victorian Government grants a payroll tax exemption to some GP practices, the government should do the same for all primary healthcare professionals," he stressed.

"Why should one health profession receive an exemption and not others?"

"Many hard-working health professions, including community pharmacies, dentist practices and physiotherapy clinics among others, are already complying with the legislation and paying their fair share of payroll tax," said Tassone.

"Nobody likes paying tax."

"Tax should be as low as it can be, tax should be fair, and tax should be paid."

"Payroll tax should be applied consistently for all."

"It's important that patients have more options when it comes to primary healthcare due to the challenges of getting an appointment with a GP in a timely manner."

"Exemptions in payroll tax and special treatment for general practice is not the answer," Tassone added. JG

## Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

**CONSIS.C** The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

No matter the size of your pharmacy, contact us for a confidential discussion to explore the options available.

www.willach.com.au  
Tel: (03) 9429 8222  
info@willach.com.au

find out more

Willach | Pharmacy Solutions





### Dispensary Corner

**EARLY** this year, shortly after China lifted strict "zero-Covid" measures that had kept it isolated for three years of the pandemic, Lydia Huang headed across the border to Hong Kong to do something she felt couldn't wait any longer.

"Finally got to freeze my eggs," Huang, 38, a financial professional from Shanghai, wrote on social media, *NBC News* has reported.

"It was what I had always dreamed of."

Egg freezing has become a growing topic of discussion in China, where officials alarmed by the country's first population decline in six decades are trying to boost the birth rate even as young people are increasingly putting off marriage and childbearing or avoiding it altogether.

But unmarried women like Huang are legally barred from undergoing the procedure in China, prompting some to do it elsewhere at a much greater cost in a bid to extend their reproductive window.

After posting about her experience, Huang said she received a flood of messages from women asking for advice or sharing their own experiences.

Current law in the country, where having children out of wedlock is frowned upon, prohibits unmarried women from using any assisted reproductive technologies, including egg freezing.

Men are allowed to save their sperm regardless of their marital status, *NBC News* has reported.

## Eye tracking reads gaze

**MORE** than 50% of Australians living in residential aged care facilities have a dementia diagnosis, with aged care services around the world preparing for the number of older people aged 65 years and above to double in the next 30 years.

For the first time, experts at the Caring Futures Institute at South Australia's Flinders University are using eye-tracking technology to ensure that the voices of all older people are heard to drive effective and positive change.

"Older adults living with a diagnosis of dementia in residential care can find it challenging to respond to traditional text-based questionnaires to rate the quality of life and quality of care they receive.

"By using eye-tracking technology we can collect crucial information about how older people with dementia read and respond to questionnaires, helping to understand how we can better design and adapt these for their needs," said senior research fellow Dr Rachel Milte, the lead for the study published in the *Quality of Life Research*.

In the study, researchers asked



41 residents ranging from 'no' to 'mild or moderate' cognitive impairment to complete a simple quality-of-life survey while sitting at a computer installed with eye-tracking technology.

In real-time, the technology records where participants focus their gaze while completing the questionnaire, the text they read and don't read, and parts of the questionnaire they spend the most time looking at.

"This information helps us to design questionnaires which are easier for older people to complete, as well as understand whether they are reading all the key information to give high-quality data for use in assessing the quality of care in residential aged care homes," explained Milte.

See more **HERE**. JG

### Life's busy, but breast screening is a priority

**A NEW** BreastScreen NSW campaign is urging women to book in for a life-saving mammogram before it's too late, with more than 50% of NSW women aged 50-74 behind on their breast cancer screening.

Voiced by Australian entertainers Kat Stewart and Amanda Keller, the new campaign warns women that while you're living life, 'Breast Cancer Doesn't Wait'.

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park said while a record number of

women have returned to the BreastScreen NSW service over the past few months, there are still more than 625,000 women who haven't booked in for their breast screen.

"We know life gets busy and reminder letters to get a breast screen often get lost under a mountain of paperwork and endless to-do lists," Park said.

"The message is simple, a breast screening appointment only takes 20 mins every two years and could save your life."



### Guild Update

#### 'Real opportunity' to fix 6oDD

**PHARMACY** Guild National President, Professor Trent Twomey has told Guild members that negotiations to bring forward an 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) are a real opportunity to resolve the problems created by 6o-Day Dispensing (6oDD).

Speaking at the opening plenary session of the Pharmacy Connect Conference in Sydney on Fri, Twomey said community pharmacists needed an agreement to start as "soon as practicable".

"It allows us to implement sufficient funding mechanisms to accommodate the disruption of 6oDD," he told delegates and members.

"It will provide certainty and viability of community pharmacy for the next five years."

The Guild suspended its campaign on 6oDD after the Federal Government agreed in principle to an early commencement date of the 8CPA on 01 Mar 2024, 15 months before the current CPA was due to expire.

"The Guild's success of our public information campaign means we enter negotiations in a position of considerable strength," Twomey explained.

It's the first time in the 30-year history of the CPA a Federal Government has agreed to an early start date, explained the Guild.

# Looking for a reason to switch? Here's five.



- 1 Industry-leading support**  
Mitigating 60DD impacts to your business with personalised business plans for your pharmacy
- 2 Vaccination leadership**  
Join the #1 vaccination program in community pharmacy - helping new customers discover your pharmacy
- 3 Health innovation**  
myTWC puts your pharmacy in the hands of customers helping to build loyalty, increase your customer base and grow your average transaction size
- 4 Deeper connections**  
Continued investment in national media - keeping the brand, products and your health services top of mind to drive foot traffic to your pharmacy
- 5 World-class education**  
Ensuring you and your team are trained and ready to deliver on full scope of practice

We know that making a decision to switch brands is incredibly personal. We're here to work through your questions together

**Give our team a call**

Richard Jensch	(QLD, NT)	0401 560 712
Fiona McKenzie	(ACT, NSW)	0437 599 920
Peter O'Brien	(VIC, TAS)	0427 352 902
Jordan Hall	(WA)	0419 866 587
Gary Flynn	(SA)	0488 223 155



Visit [dedicatedtocare.com.au](https://www.dedicatedtocare.com.au)  
to find out more

 **TerryWhite  
Chemmart.**

**Dedicated to *Care***