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Indigenous diet alert

POLITICIANS of all persuasions are being urged to commit to continued Close the Gap funding, in the light of a *Medical Journal of Australia* article published today which highlights poor diets in remote Aboriginal communities.

The study found that just 7.6% of total food expenditure in three NT communities was on fruit and vegetables - while double that amount (15.6%) was on soft drinks.

The report also cited dangerous levels of salt being consumed, along with insufficient fibre and calcium.

Sclavos to step down in Oct

GUILD executive director David Quilty has paid tribute to National President Kos Sclavos, who this morning announced his resignation later this year (*PD* breaking news).

Sclavos, who's been in the role for more than eight years, said the time was right to step aside and allow an orderly transition to a new National President who can engage with key stakeholders and establish relationships well ahead of the negotiation of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Quilty acknowledged the "extraordinary contribution that Kos has made to community pharmacy in Australia. "His passion and commitment is unparalleled and no one has done more over the last decade to secure

the viability and drive the quality of Australia's 5,200 community pharmacies," Quilty said.

Sclavos' achievements include the Fifth Agreement and its introduction of "innovative, remunerated professional pharmacy services," as well as systemised IT programs, quality accreditation schemes and leadership on eHealth.

Sclavos said he was announcing the move today, 15 April, exactly ten years after his son Stanley lost his battle with leukaemia at the age of just ten.

"My family will always be grateful for the support pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry provided to us at that incredibly difficult time," he said.

Sclavos said he would no longer serve as a National Councillor for Queensland after October, but would remain on the state's Branch Committee and "hopes to continue to contribute in other ways to the work of the Guild.

Strong interest in Harrison Group

THE administrators of the collapsed Harrison Group of pharmacies say there has been "overwhelming interest" in the 14 pharmacies and six medical centres in NSW, SA, the NT and Qld which are currently up for sale.

Jason Tracy and David Lombe from Deloitte were appointed as receivers and managers of the group earlier this month (*PD* 05 Apr), with the businesses continuing to trade as normal.

An initial deadline for Expressions of Interest in purchasing the group or individual operations was extended to last Wed 10 April, with the receivers understood to now be evaluating a range of submissions.

Gopharm specials

GOPHARM is inviting pharmacists to check out this week's special deals, with just a few hours left to grab a bargain on OTCs, vitamins, brands, generics and more.

New specials go on sale at 5pm tonight - see **page three** of today's issue of *Pharmacy Daily*.

TGA recruiting

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advertised a number of "Senior Leadership Vacancies," including a role for a Chief Operating Officer.

The person sought "will have proven ability to lead corporate professionals in a diverse organisation" including experience in leading and managing "major organisational change".

Other positions advertised in weekend newspapers included a TGA Head, Market Authorisation Group and a Head, Monitoring and Compliance Group.

Applications for the roles close at the end of the month.

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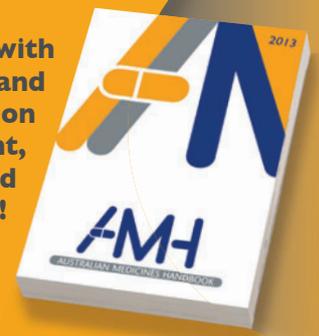


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Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Debbie Capuano, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.**



Surprise - it's not always about money!

WHILST having the appropriate pay rates for employees is a big help in retaining staff, employee appreciation in other ways is never out-of-place. Unfortunately, there are many pharmacy businesses where appreciation is a scarce commodity. And whilst it isn't grumbled about necessarily to your face, believe me, they are talking about it and often looking for other opportunities.

I'm sure that's not what you want for your business. It's no secret that it costs less to retain than to replace. You want to retain your "good" people, so set out to find out their appreciation trigger/s. It's rarely the same for everyone.

A few options:

- Appraisal times where you give them positive feedback - don't assume they know it already.
- Training opportunities - highly valued and something that helps your business.
- Christmas/End of Financial Year bonus is sure to bring a smile to faces.
- Time out - the odd early mark so they can beat the traffic.
- Food is always a winner - a meal, cake for the team or chocolate.
- A simple, heartfelt "thanks" at the end of the day.

I strongly recommend that IF you would like to retain your current staff - use every opportunity to demonstrate your gratitude. They need to know that you see them and what they do for your business. I promise you, it will come back to you tenfold.

TGA warning on Di-Gesic

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued an update on dextropropoxyphene-containing medicines such as Di-Gesic and Doloxene, following the recent Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision which saw them remain on the market (**PD** 07 Apr).

The TGA says that in the ruling the AAT "recognised the potential safety risks" associated with the products, and in particular that the difference between a therapeutic amount and a potentially fatal dose was "smaller than in many other therapeutic products".

Without a continuation of the significant safety warnings in the CMI and PI for the medicines, as well as periodic reminders to doctors and pharmacists about the risks associated with the use of the product, "the safety and efficacy of Di-Gesic and Doloxene would be unacceptable," the AAT found.

In accordance with the directions from the AAT, the TGA will now negotiate a process with the sponsor to ensure the safety risks can be effectively monitored.

"The TGA anticipates that the

conditions will have the effect of placing significant responsibility on prescribers and pharmacists to ensure the new supply arrangements are met in order to protect public health".

The TGA also noted that a number of countries had withdrawn approval for dextropropoxyphene containing products, including the US, NZ, the UK, the EU, Singapore and South Africa.

Mental illness boost

MINISTER for Disability Reform, Jenny Macklin, and Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, have announced a \$121m boost to the Personal Helpers and Mentors program, which funds people to work one-on-one with people who have mental illness.

152 extra helpers will be recruited to work with people with mental illness on the Disability Support Pension and other payments to help them become work-ready, along with the funding of an extra 24 flexible respite and support services for mental health carers.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A CANADIAN team of scientists have discovered that broadening your musical interests can be "rewarding for the brain".

A report published in the journal *Science* describes a study in which they used MRI scans which showed that areas in the "reward" part of the brain called the nucleus accumbens became active when people heard a song for the first time.

Users were played a selection of music while they were inside an MRI machine, and were given the opportunity to purchase the tracks they liked in a simulated online store.

The researchers found that they could accurately predict which songs the subjects would buy based on their brain activity.

DOG food would have been a whole lot cheaper.

A US man says he plans to find a better place to store his money, after his faithful 12-year-old golden retriever ate \$500 in cold hard cash.

Wayne Klinkel left the canine, named Sundance, in his car when he was on the road heading to visit his daughter and stopped for dinner.

Klinkel doesn't carry a wallet on the advice of his chiropractor, and left five crisp \$100 bills in the vehicle - only to find the bills had been gobbled up when he returned.

Somewhat devastated, he apparently allowed nature to take its course before collecting "fragments" from the dog droppings, which he painstakingly taped together - hopefully after some sort of disinfection.

He's now waiting to hear from the US Treasury Department after sending the result to officials there, in the hope of having the notes replaced.

The dog appears to be quite discerning, because as well as the \$100 bills there was a single \$1 bill in the car - which the animal ignored.

WIN SUMMER'S EVE PACK



Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving 3 lucky readers the chance to win a **Summer's Eve** exclusive gift including the Sensitive Wash and Sensitive Wipes, the essential care pack for every woman valued at \$14.00. The Sensitive Wash is gentle yet effective. It provides daily care for your intimate areas, cleansing away odour-causing bacteria without irritation.

The Sensitive Wipes are designed to wipe away odour-causing bacteria when you're on the go.

All Summer's Eve products are dermatologist and gynaecologist tested for gentleness and effectiveness. They are also part of the sensitive range meaning they are alcohol free and hypoallergenic.

To win, simply be one of the first three people to send in the correct answer to the question below.

The Summer's Eve Sensitive Wipes work with your body's ph-balance and _____

Send your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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Starting at 5pm, our **Deals of the Day** become available for purchase.

These deals go live tonight at 5pm and will be available for sale until either the stock sells out, or the deal closes next Monday.

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