



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

PSA supports RTPM

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has backed the NSW Labor Party's promise of a real time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system for the state (PD yesterday).

PSA NSW president, Professor Peter Carroll, who was present at the announcement, said the PSA "fully supports the announcement by NSW Labor that if elected to Government they will introduce a Real Time Prescription Monitoring System into NSW.

"Deaths from prescription opioids continue to rise, and PSA has been advocating with the NSW Government to introduce a Real Time Prescription Monitoring System to prevent these deaths, along with a number of coroners' reports indicating that such a system is needed".

Carroll decried recent statements by the NSW chief pharmacist who warned an RTPM was "years away," with the PSA president saying such a system could prevent deaths from drug misuse.

Qld pharmacy hearings

YESTERDAY'S public hearings in the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry heard a wide range of evidence, with witnesses including TerryWhite Chemmart ceo Anthony White, Damien Gance from Chemist Warehouse and Productivity Commissioner Stephen King, who chaired last year's federal Review of Pharmacy Regulation.

A key theme was the current under-utilisation of pharmacists in Australia, with White saying community pharmacists have the potential to perform a much broader role within their existing competencies.

The TWC chief particularly highlighted pharmacist vaccination as an example of services expanding within existing scope, particularly if the National Immunisation Program was expanded to include community pharmacy in all states.

Chemist Warehouse's Gance spoke about pharmacy ownership rules, saying they have "no place in modern Australia," comparing pharmacy with medical practices where "provision of care by a medical practitioner is entirely unrelated to the ownership".

Pharmacy ownership was also a hot topic with King, who said ownership rules, while good in theory, were "not working in practice" with a significant number of pharmacy owners who are "best categorised as absentee landlords".

King was also pro an expanded scope of practice for pharmacists, noting that last year's review had recommended remuneration for services such as vaccinations.

Further hearings will take place in Brisbane, Cairns, Toowoomba and Townsville in the next few weeks.

Cannabis for epilepsy

WITH multiple anecdotal reports registering mixed results when treating certain types of epilepsy in children with medicinal cannabis, researchers from Sydney Children's Hospital and the University of New South Wales have written a

summary of the state of play in the latest edition of the *MJA*.

Authors referenced the supposed mode of action as having "a role in modulation of synaptic transmission" but noted that the evidence although growing, was limited at this stage.

The issues of access and cost are addressed along with their recommendation for further clinical trials to "clearly define efficacy and safety, particularly long term".

Visit mja.com.au for access.



\$172m mishap cost

ADVERSE medication events in hospitals currently cost the health system more than \$170 million annually, according to a new analysis released by the Grattan Institute.

The thinktank's head of health policy, Stephen Duckett, spoke about hospital safety in a presentation yesterday, identifying a host of reforms to improve both patient care and bottom lines.

Other hospital-acquired issues highlighted include post-procedural complications (\$451m), accidental injuries (\$155m), cardiovascular complications (\$490m), skin conditions (\$293m) and "specific infections" which are estimated to cost \$948m annually.

Duckett particularly urged changes to the way hospital accreditation is granted "because the current system does not improve patient outcomes, provides no incentives to hospitals and doctors for excellent safety performance, and accreditation reports are kept secret".

bod exec director

ASX-LISTED natural health products (including cannabis) company bod Australia has appointed Stephen Thompson to its Board of Directors.

Thompson brings 20 years of experience in senior executive roles, including experience in scaling growth firms, bod said.

He is currently chief adviser to Brett Blundy, with former senior roles at Coca-Cola Amatil, Toll Holdings and Tabcorp.

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Dispensary Corner

THERE was an unusual medical emergency in Northern Ireland last weekend, with a teenage boy admitted to hospital after being struck by a falling sheep.

The youth was hiking with friends in the Mourne Mountains when the beast fell from a cliff above him, with 17 members of the local rescue team responding to a call for assistance.

He was treated for potential injuries to his head, neck, back, abdomen and leg before being evacuated by stretcher to Ulster Hospital, according to an online update from the rescuers.

The teenager was later discharged, while the sheep was also not seriously harmed and "left the scene unaided".

A Facebook post about the incident (**pictured** below) has led to a number of fairly predictable puns, with a selection below:

- *How's the casualty? Hope he's not feeling baaad any more*
- *You must be baarrmmy to walk up there!*
- *Well done ewe lot!*
- *Sheep happens*
- *Accidents wool happen!*
- *Hope he isn't too baaaaadly hurt!!*
- *Makes a change from raining cats and dogs*
- *Mutton been looking where he was going; and of course:*
- *Ewe've got to be kidding!*



SafeScript training urged

PHARMACISTS in Victoria are being invited to complete a series of new online training modules covering the SafeScript real-time prescription monitoring system which is set to begin rolling out by early Oct this year.

The initial focus is on the Western Victoria Primary Health Network area, where prescribers and pharmacists have already been emailed a link and instructions on how to register for SafeScript.

NPS MedicineWise has collaborated in the development of the training, which attracts CPD points and covers the safe supply of high-risk medicines, using respectful communication to discuss medicine dependence, and



**SAFE
SCRIPT**

how to use SafeScript. Three 60-minute modules are now available, with a fourth one detailing more information on SafeScript set to go live on 07 Sep.

All health professionals across Victoria can access the training, and there will also be face-to-face updates in 12 locations across the Western Victoria PHN.

When it launches, the SafeScript software will "monitor prescription medicines that are causing the greatest harm to the Victorian community", including all S8 medicines and some S4 drugs such as all benzodiazepines, quetiapine, 'Z-drugs' and products containing codeine.

For more info and to register see vphna.org.au/safescript-hub/.

Primary Health profit rebound

LISTED medical centre and pathology clinic operator Primary Health has reported \$8.9m full year profit in contrast to its impairment-hit \$517m loss in the prior year.

The company recorded revenue of \$2.7m, up 4.9% and declared

a final dividend of 5.5 cents, fully franked.

Shares were in a trading halt Mon while the company completed a \$250 million capital raising to fund new medical centre projects.

See the report at asx.com.au.

Win with Natural Instinct

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Natural Instinct are giving away an anti-dandruff shower pack valued at over \$40.

Did you know that many anti-dandruff products contain harsh synthetic ingredients that can irritate the skin? Thankfully, there's a natural solution...

Natural Instinct Shampoo & Conditioner contains sulphate-free cleansers, Tea Tree Oil, Thyme, Soybean Biolipid Complex and a 100% natural eco-cert ingredient with antimicrobial properties to help reduce & control dandruff. Visit naturalinstinct.com.au for details.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What do the Natural Instinct Anti Dandruff products soothe?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Elisabeth Tan.



NIB bumper result

LISTED health fund NIB Holdings has announced its full year underlying operating profit of \$184.8 million for the 12 months to 30 Jun 2018, with the figure representing a 20.2% increase on the previous financial year.



Guild Update

2018 National Student Business Plan Competition

THREE finalist teams have been announced in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2018 National Student Business Plan Competition.

They are:

- TASASSIST Pharmacy, University of Technology Sydney
- Endo Program Pharmacy, University of Otago
- Cloud Nine Pharmacy, University of Sydney

The competition promotes entrepreneurship among students preparing for community pharmacy career.

The three finalists, from an original field of 16, will present their investor pitch at Pharmacy Connect on Saturday 08 September.

The competition is a Pharmacy Guild of Australia initiative sponsored by Sanofi Consumer Healthcare (principal sponsor), EBOS (major sponsor), Gold Cross Products and Services and Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) (foundation sponsors).

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