

Harassment continues at discounter

A FORMER pharmacist who outlined her experience of sexual harassment while working at one of Australia's "largest discount pharmacies", in a blog (PD 16 Aug), has reported a number of women have contacted her saying a culture of abuse persists within the group.

Bria Lacy, walked away from her career in pharmacy after her intern year, having being abused by an older male pharmacist.

After dealing with the mental scars of harassment, she wrote to the pharmacy group's HR department, only to be told it would be "too hard" to investigate her allegations, and "unfair on the other pharmacist".

In her blog, Lacy reported complaints about the pharmacist's behaviour from other female staff members had been largely ignored by the organisation.

"I was overwhelmed by the amount of people that reached out to offer support in my time of need," she said.

"My harasser and previous



employers had tainted the pharmacy profession for me.

"I was afraid to rejoin a community I thought had left me behind. I now realise that they were always there for me, I just wasn't speaking to them.

"All of the support has filled my heart with hope.

"However, the amount of messages I have received about people going through similar situations have broken my heart.

"This is still happening - maybe not the same person, but by the

same company who are standing idly by while people are abused.

"I was belittled by my previous employers. Tricked into believing that what had happened to me wasn't a big deal and was too far in the past.

"It took me a long time to forgive myself for not speaking up at the time of my harassment.

"However, you have all inspired me to keep fighting against this kind of behaviour.

"It turns out, I'm just getting started."

Pharmacist late for court date

A PHARMACIST who is accused of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old patient on 01 Jul, missed his most recent court date.

The 45-year-old's lawyer told the Downing Centre Local Court in Sydney, NSW, that he was running late when his case was mentioned on Wed 21 Aug.

The Mascot-based pharmacist has been charged with two counts of sexually touching the 19-year-old without consent during a consultation at the pharmacy he works in (PD 29 Jul).

The pharmacist was arrested at Mascot Police Station on 24 Jul, and has been remanded on bail since, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

The Australia Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has noted he holds two Bachelor of Pharmacy qualifications, obtained in 1997 and 2010.

A review of his general pharmacy registration has been suspended - no conditions, undertakings or reprimands have previously been recorded against the pharmacist, who first registered with the agency on 28 Jun 2010.

The case has been adjourned for mention at the Downing Centre Local Court on Thu 10 Oct.

Restaurant's EpiPen joke falls flat

A PENRITH burger restaurant's attempt at a humorous promotion of a new peanut-based dessert, has only served to raise the ire of health groups and parents of children with allergies.

Downtown Brooklyn urged diners to "Get those EpiPens ready" for its new Reese's Peanut Butter bowls, in a post on Facebook.

Responses to the post have been sent from around the globe, with many describing it as "tasteless" and "disgusting", noting that "Epi does not guarantee survival".

"EpiPens are not benedryl," one commentator said.

"Anaphylaxis can and does kill. "Food is to be enjoyed and not died over."

The restaurant has insisted the post was made in jest and has since said, "if you actually have



an allergy, and didn't get the joke, please don't eat this".

The availability of EpiPens has improved in recent month, with Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, telling *Pharmacy Daily*, "there appears to be plenty of stock at the wholesalers".

Accent issues

PHARMACISTS are being urged to use the Translation and Interpreting Service to ensure patients who speak English as a second language can be MedicineWise.

NPS MedicineWise said language issues were a key barrier to getting advice.

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Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Professor Simon Bell**, Director for the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, Monash University.

Changing practice for the better

AS A profession that requires a tightly prescribed pathway to attain registration, we tend to regard tertiary education beyond that point as key stepping stones towards advanced practice.

Whilst it's true that undertaking a PhD can substantially expand your opportunities, at the Monash Centre for Medicine Use and Safety an increasing number of candidates are using their PhD research in combination with their day job to change practice and improve patient outcomes.

A community pharmacist who I co-supervise is undertaking their PhD on whether diabetes treatment regimens are consistent with clinical guidelines. While a second is in the final stages of completing their PhD on inappropriate medicine use in people with dementia.

Another candidate is an Emergency Department pharmacist who witnessed first-hand the impact of the opioid epidemic. They enrolled and have recently completed their PhD on the analyses of PBS opioid usage. During their studies they completed an exchange at the Karolinska Institute Sweden, researching the impact of opioid prescribing on sick leave in Sweden.

Few people are better positioned to identify ways in which medication use and safety systems could be improved than practicing pharmacists. A PhD offers you a way to make those changes happen.

Opioid treatment

AUSTRALIANS struggling with opioid dependence now have access to a new treatment option with the listing of buprenorphine weekly and monthly injections on the PBS.

Forbes tops Vic PATY list



CASTERTON Pharmacy's Kane Forbes (pictured above) will represent Victoria at the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY) National Finals in Brisbane in Oct.

Forbes claimed the Victorian PATY Award last week, seeing off 15 peers, who showcased their customer service and leadership skills at the State Final workshop on Thu.

"I am not usually lost for words but I am on this occasion. I am very proud to be a pharmacy assistant and I feel honoured to represent Victoria," he said.



Marraboor Pharmacy's Sarah-Jane Carmichael (pictured above) scooped the Victorian Glucojel Super Star Award for outstanding customer service skills in community pharmacy.

Forbes will compete for the National PATY Award at the 2019 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on 12 Oct, with more than \$10,000 prizes including cash, a training package, educational conferences and other rewards for the winner.

Carmichael also will compete for the Glucojel Super Star Award National title at the conference in Brisbane.

Dispensary Corner

MEDICINAL marijuana is a hot topic around the globe, and Aussie pharmaceutical companies are making big strides in the development of cannabis-based products. However, dispensing the drug on the street for non-medicinal remains an offence in most jurisdictions.

One such place is Gothenburg, Sweden, where plain clothes police officers were on patrol earlier this month, and spotted a woman openly smoking a joint.

As they approached her a man on a nearby bench noticed them and tossed a bag of what is believed to have been cannabis onto the street, which caught the attention of the cops, who thought they were on their way to busting a drug dealer.

However, a seagull also saw the bag being dropped and swooped on it as one of the policemen bent down to pick it up, and the potential pot pusher made a speedy getaway - after all no evidence, no arrest.

"What the policemen did not expect was that a third party would interfere," a police spokesperson said.

"There were also a large number of seagulls at the site, one of them saw his chance and picked up the bag and lifted quickly with the 'booty'.

"As quickly as the seagull disappeared, so did the man who threw the bag away.

"The policemen stood and watched the evidence disappear into the sky."

The smoker was not so lucky.

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from API

NRL TIPPING R23 WINNER

Congratulations

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from Terry White Chemmart

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