

4 ways to help build strong bones



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our weekly Health & Beauty feature.

Vale Matthews

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is mourning the passing of John Cyril James Matthews.

Revered as an elder statesman of the profession Matthews was the father of the pharmacy location rules.

The funeral will be held on Tue 03 Sep at St Joesph's Catholic Church, Edgecliff, NSW.

Call time on professional turf wars

RURAL pharmacists are calling on medical groups and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to "take a cold bath" and focus on patient care, rather than the ongoing turf war between the professions.

Rural Pharmacy Network of Australia (RPNA) Chair, Fredrik Hellqvist, urged the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine to stop making "ridiculous claims that pharmacists want to practice medicine," while encouraging the Guild to refrain from using "easily misunderstood terms like 'pharmacist prescribing rights'".

"RPNA wants to go on record for the benefit of rural doctors to say that rural pharmacists have zero desire to work against or replace their medical colleagues. Absolutely zero," he said.

"The opposite is true. GPs have the most valuable healthcare skillset in rural communities.

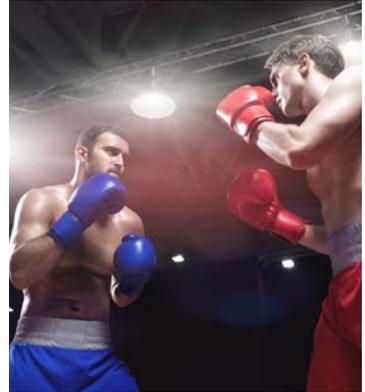
"Along with everyone else, rural pharmacists know and embrace that and want to see GPs' abilities utilised in the best possible way.

"We already collaborate extremely closely with our GP colleagues, who are often also our personal friends, and a large proportion of the work we do is designed to support and boost rural medical practices.

"The two things most likely to keep pharmacists in one-pharmacy towns awake at night are the difficulty of recruiting and retaining skilled staff, including pharmacists, and the prospect of losing their local GP.

"There is a huge amount of common ground between rural pharmacists and doctors, as well as a shared determination to improve primary healthcare outcomes in rural communities, especially in the more remote areas where a GP and pharmacist may be the only local healthcare professionals that patients have realistic access to."

The RPNA's comments came after AMA President, Dr Tony Bartone, described the Guild as "the last remaining cartel in the community that needs to be looked at in terms



of anticompetitive practices", during an interview on 3AW Breakfast with Ross Stevenson and John Burns, yesterday morning.

"Many, many eminent economists and regulators have suggested that it's time to remove the restriction on pharmacy ownership and co-location rules," Bartone said.

"I think the community is the one that's missing out."

Guild Queensland Branch President, Trent Twomey, said the AMA's comments were a distraction "to take the focus off how the traditional model of primary care is limiting access to basic services, increasing waiting times and leaving patients with rising out of pocket costs".

"The reality is the AMA has no plan for fixing our health system," he said.

"Pharmacists are presenting a real and practical solution to relieve pressure on our health system and increasing accessibility, affordability and decreasing out of pocket costs for patients."

State Manager, Queensland

- State Management Opportunity
- Focus on Advocacy & Stakeholder Engagement

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is a national employers' organisation with over 90 years of experience in representing and promoting the value of the role of community pharmacy in the Australian health care system. Community pharmacies are a vital part of the national health system with the potential to make an even bigger contribution to the health of all Australians. The Guild is committed to supporting and maintaining the community pharmacy model as the most appropriate and efficient system of delivering medicines, medication management and related services to the Australian public. The Pharmacy Guild represents members and is dedicated to advancing the profession through advocacy, policy and governance. In keeping with the Guilds' strategy for growth and expansion, an exciting opportunity presents for an experienced individual to lead the Queensland Branch. The office is based in Spring Hill in Brisbane.

Reporting to the Branch President and Committee, you will be responsible for leading branch operations and performance in accordance with the Guilds' constitution. The focus of the role is to ensure that members needs are met and to maintain outstanding levels of customer service at all times. Specifically, you will be responsible for managing advocacy, branch finances, specific Pharmacy Agreement projects, quality assurance, legislative requirements / governance, marketing, training and staff. As Branch Director, you will represent the Pharmacy Guild at industry forums and will be the key state liaison with members, ensuring their satisfaction. Leading, guiding and mentoring staff will be imperative to your success. At present there are 56 staff.

Tertiary qualified, you will ideally have gained your experience at senior management level in a member-based organisation. You will have a track record in successfully growing market share and in maintaining strong relationships and advocacy with stakeholders such as regulatory authorities / government departments and member groups. You will be a strong leader with outstanding communication skills and an ability to delegate effectively to maximize potential. A strong commercial acumen and a passion for customer experience will set you apart. This is an outstanding opportunity to join a wonderful organisation with a mandate for growth and change.

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Dispensary Corner

IRISH people are renowned worldwide for their love of whiskey, Guinness, music, conversation and black pudding - and now you can add donuts to their list of vices.

A Krispy Kreme outlet in Blanchardstown, Dublin has been named as the company's best performing store globally, selling more than €300,000 worth of the sticky, sweet confections every week.

The shop, which only opened last Sep, was clearly highly anticipated with opening day queues of more than 300 people, while a 24/7 drive-through facility had to be closed after local residents complained of all-night vehicle line-ups.

There are more than 1,300 Krispy Kreme outlets in 31 countries, with the number one seller in the Dublin top shop being the Original Glazed variety (of course!).

THE family of a woman who donated her body for medical research is suing US authorities after finding out the cadaver was used to test explosives.

Court documents reveal the lawsuit against Arizona's now defunct Biological Research Centre, where hundreds of discarded body parts were discovered when the facility was raided by the FBI in 2014.

Plaintiff Jim Stauffer, told local media he believed his mother's body would be used to help study Alzheimer's disease after her death, but he later found out the military had used it to study the effects of weapons.

Penington Report shows need for limits

DATA showing more than 1,600 Australians died as the result of an accidental overdose in 2017, highlights the need to limit the quantities of medicines dispensed at a given time, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

The Penington Institute *Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2019*, revealed a 64.3% rise in accidental overdoses between 2001 and 2017, with prescription opioids and benzodiazepines the most commonly misused drugs.

A Guild spokesperson said the rising numbers of unintentional overdoses was "very disturbing".

"That's why prescription medicines are only dispensed under controlled conditions in a pharmacy...to ensure they are properly dispensed and that the patient is appropriately advised on

how to take the medicines and of risks," the spokesperson said.

"It is vital that medicines are taken as directed by prescribers and as advised by pharmacists who are medicines experts and can help people avoid overdoses.

"Part of the dispense process includes assessing if the medicine is safe for that patient.

"Pharmacists oppose any proposal to increase the quantities of prescribed medicines supplied on each dispensing occasion.

"The current system of generally providing one month's supply of a medicine strikes a practical balance between patient convenience and minimising the availability of medicines in a patients home, and hence the community.

"When a patient returns to their community pharmacy for a repeat

supply of a prescription medicine pharmacists have the opportunity to access patient compliance with the prescribed medicine, and can intervene if confusion or adverse reactions to medicines are identified."

MEANWHILE, Johnson & Johnson has been fined US\$572 million by the Cleveland County District Court in Oklahoma, for its promotion of opioids in the state, the *BBC* reported.

The case was the first of close to 2,000 opioid-related lawsuits to go to trial in the state, with Purdue Pharma and Teva Pharmaceutical settling for US\$270 million and US\$85 million, earlier this year.

Judge Thad Balkman ruled that J&J had "compromised the health and safety of thousands of Oklahomans".

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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