



KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY STRONG.

Sign up to help treat The Big O – Osteoporosis.

 PHARMA PROGRAMS

SIGN UP NOW

AMGEN Disease education message by Amgen Australia. Amgen Australia, North Ryde NSW 2113. ABN 31 051 057 428. www.amgen.com.au. Copyright Amgen Australia Pty Ltd. AU-11235. Approved May 2019.

Pharmacists need AHPRA protection

PHARMACISTS who report suspicions that another health practitioner is behaving inappropriately, should be shielded from potential harassment, the profession's peak bodies believe.

Both the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) voiced concerns about the protections provided to health professionals who notify the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), after an over-prescribing GP who attempted to murder a pharmacist (**PD** yesterday), failed in his bid to have his 15-year jail sentence reduced.

Court documents revealed the pharmacist flagged concerns with AHPRA after eight indigenous women went to the pharmacy she was working at on the same day with scripts for benzodiazepines written by the doctor.

When the GP was notified, the pharmacist's name was included on the notification document, and the

doctor was later informed of the location of her pharmacy.

A Guild spokesperson told **Pharmacy Daily** the event was "one which regulatory authorities need to take into consideration in their handling of such matters".

"It is imperative that a pharmacist acting responsibly and ethically in the best interests of patients should not be subject to abuse or physical threats or violence," the spokesperson said.

"Thankfully this was an extremely rare and isolated incident."

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman (**pictured**), said AHPRA needed to provide protections for both the notifier and the practitioner at the centre of an investigation.

"PSA understands that following this incident AHPRA is reviewing its policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding the confidentiality of notifiers to ensure it is safe for people to report their concerns," he said.



"It is vital that such a reporting and notification process exists to protect consumers and promote confidence in the health care sector," Freeman said.

"However, it is also vital to protect the people involved in the process and PSA is pleased to see AHPRA taking further steps to address this.

"Unfortunately many pharmacists see practices that could warrant notification to AHPRA.

"We must ensure a system is in place to protect the public, and that it does not cause a disincentive for pharmacists to report unprofessional conduct."

Today's issue of **PD**

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

Bucket-loads of prizes to win

UNITY Health is inviting pharmacy staff to complete iTherapeutics modules to win great prizes - such as a trip to Paris with a friend, courtesy of La Roche Posay, by completing 48 QCPP CPD and product-based modules.

200 Bonus iRewards points are on offer when completing the first two modules within seven days, and there are also double iRewards points on a number of modules.

Monthly product and cash giveaways are available along with free Manager Console access for those in charge of training.

See itherapeutics.com.au.

Amputee jailed over pharmacy thefts

A WHEELCHAIR-BOUND amputee will spend up to three years behind bars after pleading guilty to breaking into, and stealing drugs from, a hospital pharmacy.

Edward Grahovac from the NSW south coast town of Nowra, admitted breaking into the pharmacy at Wollongong Hospital, while a patient, on 24 Nov 2018, according to the *Illawarra Mercury*.

Nowra Local Court heard Grahovac used scissors to gain access to the pharmacy, activating motion sensors, which alerted the hospital's security team, however, they were unable to get in and Grahovac spent three hours ransacking and "rummaging through a number of different medications".

The hospital reported more than \$1,800 worth of medicines was destroyed during Grahovac's mayhem.

After the break in, Grahovac

reportedly attempted to discharge himself against medical advice, and was spoken to by police, who searched his bag and found two vials of Pentothal 500mg, for which he claimed to have a prescription, adding he used it on a daily basic, describing it a "Fentanyl".

The news site reported that the hospital pharmacist told the police a person would "almost certainly die", if they self-administered the drug.

The 46-year-old was also found in possession of a bottle of methadone, with the name of the person it was prescribed for scratched off, which he said had been provided by the hospital, but was not the brand used by the facility.

Grahovac was also charged over a theft at Sydney's St Vincent's hospital, where he stole an iPad valued at \$1,500 on 14 Dec 2018, which he attempted to sell in a nearby park.

Win Pharmacy Connect rego

PHARMACISTS are invited to register for Pharmacy Connect 2019 by 16 Aug and go in the draw to have their registration fees refunded.

CLICK HERE to register.



Guardian on top once again

AUSTRALIANS have rated Guardian Pharmacy as the top banner group for the fourth month in a row, according to the monthly Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards.

Guardian retained its 95% satisfaction rating to top the list in May, ahead of TerryWhite Chemmart, Discount Drug Stores, Chemist Warehouse and Priceline.



1800 429 829

info@ravensrecruitment.com.au
www.ravensrecruitment.com.au

Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Inner suburb of Melbourne's CBD (Job# 200032719)
\$40/hr; PPT Mon-Tues 11am-7:30pm; nearby public transport; good team.
- **Senior Aged Care Pharmacist** - Brisbane, QLD (Job# 200032645)
Experience in MPS - Quantam system will be required and well rewarded.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Hills District of Sydney, NSW (Job# 200032720)
Pure community counselling Professional Care role; passion for healthcare.

Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts



Dispensary Corner

NORTHERN Europeans are often touting the health benefits of saunas, and one enterprising Estonian man has taken it to extremes by converting his car into a mobile steam bath.

Willem Maesalu, 29, converted his Audi into a working sauna, with the result (pictured) fully branded as a "SaunAudi" with its own Facebook page.

The vehicle features traditional wooden finishes along with a wood-fired stove beside the steering wheel - plus a chimney which is fitted to the bonnet while the interior heats up to 60°C.

Maesalu doesn't actually drive it, but instead tows it to sauna festivals where he rents it out to aficionados for €75 per day.



GOOD news - it is now illegal to discriminate against people in California on the basis of their hairstyle.

That's right - newly enacted legislation allows people to embrace dreadlocks, cornrows, Afros and more, in response to measures by some employers and schools which allegedly penalise people for wearing "non-European" hairstyles.

The measure is known as The Crown Act: Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair.

Pharmacy 777 into NSW



WESTERN Australian banner group, Pharmacy 777, is expanding its network across the country with its first franchise opening in NSW.

The former Amcal Albion Park store joined the group on 01 Jul, to bring Pharmacy 777's focus on personalised pharmacy services to the community.

Proprietor, Greg Cadorin, said Pharmacy 777 concentrates on personalised care for patients and puts pharmacist interaction with patients as a top priority.

"We saw in Pharmacy 777 many of the principles of what we wanted to achieve for the business

in this community," he said.

"The support to date has been invaluable and we look forward especially to the pharmacist training and upskilling opportunities that being part of the 777 brand will afford us."

Cadorin said that meant the pharmacy would be putting all its efforts into ensuring patients were provided with personalised health solutions by leveraging the knowledge of its pharmacists.

Pictured above are the Pharmacy 777 Albion Park pharmacist team of Nick Karabeleski, Maher Gergi and owner Greg Cadorin.

Medlab quarterly revenue up 135%

LISTED cannabis and nanotechnology company Medlab has announced strong growth for the last quarter with total revenue in excess of \$3 million for the quarter, representing 135% increase on the same quarter last year.

The quarter's performance pushed the year-on-year growth to 50%.

The ASX announcement attributed the growth to

research-driven product development and increased commercialisation activity.

The gut/depression program is progressing steadily, and a second NanaBis trial now has Human Ethics Approval and will be conducted at the Royal North Shore Hospital.

Ongoing research with both NanaBis and NanaBidual are yielding "strong encouraging results," the company said.

Opioid returns

PHARMACISTS are being urged to check their state/territory's requirements for the return of unwanted opioids and S8 medicines, following a report in *PD* yesterday.

Details of obligations under your state or territory's legislation around accepting and disposing of returned S8 medicines are defined on the RUM site at returnmed.com.au.

Events Calendar

- WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.
- If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.
- 26 - 28 Jul:** PSA19; Hyatt Regency Sydney; registrations now open: www.psa19.com
- 04 - 07 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2019; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medicicom.au
- 05 - 07 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel, Sydney; for details and to register visit: www.pharmacyconnect.com.au
- 11 - 13 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sofitel Brisbane Central; for more info and to register see: www.pharmacyassistants.com



SAVE TIME AND MONEY WITH SIGMA HEALTHCARE

Sigma Healthcare customers can access exclusive discounts on fuel, stationary and wine thanks to Sigma Rewards.



Save up to 4.5c per litre on fuel purchases.



Access business pricing.



Special member discount on curated premium wines.



Easily manage your purchases by charging them to a nominated Sigma Healthcare trading account. Plus earn Sigma Rewards points on your purchases.*

Not a Sigma customer? To be part of something better, visit sigmahealthcare.com.au/change

Already a Sigma Healthcare customer? Visit sigmarewards.com.au to sign up to these exclusive benefits or create a Sigma Rewards account today!

*Sigma Rewards points are available to Gold Elite members only.

For more information please contact the Sigma Rewards Customer Service Centre on 1300 156 462 or email info@sigmarewards.com.au