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WA seeks national ownership rules

PHARMACISTS in Western Australia want to see national harmonisation of ownership rules across all states and territories, a state-wide review of pharmacy ownership reveals.

The report found a number of WA-based pharmacists expressed concerns about interstate ownership of pharmacies, suggesting “proprietors could not meet their obligations if they did not have a physical presence in the business”.

“There was some support for owners to need to be resident in WA when owning a pharmacy located in WA,” the review’s authors said.

“However, proprietors are already accountable and there was no specific evidence that these

pharmacies are less safe [than those with owners in-store].”

The review also supported retaining rules allowing pharmacists to own a maximum of four pharmacies in the state, “until such time that there is agreement between states and territories on alignment of this limit between Australian jurisdictions”.

The review recommended that “Western Australia actively pursue, or at least engage in, progress with other state and territories, towards harmonisation of pharmacy legislation around Australia”.

“This should be progressed at a suitable Ministerial and intergovernmental level, through an appropriate forum for such agreements,” the authors said.

“In any discussions of this type,



Western Australia should seek to ensure that harmonisation does not lead to a material lessening of the robust regulatory system already in place in this State.

“These discussions should consider whether maximum ownership limits in each state allows a form of corporate ownership that is contrary to the intentions of individual jurisdictional law.”

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from *Razor Group*.

Patient robbed at knife-point

A **PATIENT** who had just had his prescriptions filled at the Optimal Pharmacy on Scarborough Beach Road, Scarborough, WA, found himself facing the pointy end of a knife as he approached his car, according to a report in the *Western Suburbs Weekly*.

The victim left the pharmacy on the afternoon of Sat 06 Jul when he was approached by a man brandishing a small pocket knife.

The aggressor demanded he hand over his wallet and his freshly dispensed alprazolam tablets.

Mirraboopa Detectives have a good description of the offender and are still investigating.



Fake nurse fine

A **MAN** who presented himself as a registered nurse to get a job as the nursing director of a Victorian aged-care facility would have been jailed by Ringwood Magistrates’ Court had new penalties applied.

The Court fined the man a total of \$60,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$4,000 to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, after pleading guilty to four counts of unlawfully representing himself as a registered nurse.

PSA “transformation” underway

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is undergoing an “operational transformation” designed to strengthen the advocacy and training it provides its members.

In a statement issued to *Pharmacy Daily*, PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, confirmed the organisation has commenced a restructure ahead of its involvement in negotiations with the Federal Government and Pharmacy Guild of Australia over the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA).

“Dr Shane Jackson will remain as PSA’s CEO through to at least the end of 2019, to drive the 7CPA negotiations, and guide the operational transformation that will build a stronger Society,” he said.

“PSA’s operational transformation is focussed on delivering value for our members across advocacy, policy, education and training within the PSA. The transformation includes significant investment in our digital offering and member experience.”

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TGA opioid RUM push

PAIN patients with unused opioids are being urged to return them to their local pharmacy, as part of a social media campaign being rolled out by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The social media push encourages consumers and health professionals to use the hashtags #RemoveTheRisk and #ReturnYourOpioids.

With close to 150 people hospitalised every day in Australia as a result of an adverse event related to opioid medications, the TGA has launched the campaign as part of a concerted effort to reduce risks (PD 04 Jul).

"Australians who are prescribed painkillers and don't use them all are advised not to keep them 'just in case' or for use down the track,"

the TGA said.

"Keeping unused prescription pain medication in the home is dangerous for children and pets if accidentally consumed, and can be a target for theft and misuse.

"Unused pain relief medication, like all medicines, can be returned to a local pharmacy for safe disposal free of charge."

The TGA also highlighted its move to upschedule codeine from Pharmacist-Only to Prescription Only, has led to a "significant decrease in the number of products supplied to Australian patients".

The TGA found no increase in the supply of high-strength codeine products following upcheduling and the data also suggested patients previously on OTC codeine did not switch to other opioids.

Wanda Beach Pharmacy move & rebrand

WANDA Beach Pharmacy at Soldiers Point Road, Salamander Bay, NSW, has relocated "just a few steps" along the road adjacent to the Soldiers Point Medical Centre and rebranded under the Chemsave banner group.

The new address is now closer to two GP surgeries and retirement villages and offers a wheelchair ramp for easy access.

Pharmacy owner Yong Cao told the *Port Stephens Examiner*, "Moving to the new store will enable us to carry more stock and provide more services.

"The pharmacy still has the same experienced friendly staff and our long time local pharmacists Sandra and Kerry to work in the shop and recently pharmacist Sonia has joined us to work a couple of days a week which allow us to provide home medication reviews and Medschecks," he said.

The new store will also house an extended range of vitamins and health products to help with a wide spectrum of issues including muscle gain, weight loss and general health and wellbeing, Cao said.

Sunscreens OK

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has reaffirmed the safety of all ARTG listed sunscreens, meaning that pharmacies can continue to promote and sell these registered products.

Referencing its own studies conducted in 2017 and those of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) more recently, the TGA summarised by saying "Sunscreens are not likely to cause harm, but the risk of skin cancer from UV radiation is real" - tga.gov.au.

12-month script benefits

PROVIDING 12-month scripts for oral contraceptives has demonstrated financial benefit for the US Veterans Affairs department, according to new research out of Pittsburgh, USA.

Using a cohort of 24,309 women, the study showed that adopting a 12-month dispensing option for the pill produced "substantial cost savings for the payer compared with standard 3-month dispensing, while reducing unintended pregnancies among women veterans".

The work was published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* and can be accessed [HERE](#).

New ICMRA Chair

THE Executive Director of the European Medicines Authority, Guido Rasi, has been elected to the role of Chair of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) this week.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - 3hrs North West Brisbane, QLD (Job# 200032769)
4 day week; collaborative team; \$45/hr; 6 month contract or permanent.
- **Pharmacist** - On the banks of the Murray River, VIC (Job# 200032465)
Part time 6-7 month maternity leave cover; Travel allowance; Temp accom.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Central West, NSW (Job# 200032765)
\$40-\$45/hour + super + \$300/week accom + \$2k relocation assistance.

Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts



Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS are notoriously talented at getting the right mix of ingredients when compounding medicines, and one British apothecary is putting those skills to use in her side hustle.

Sahdia Moebeen, is a full-time pharmacy manager in Lindley, near Huddersfield, but has also developed a baking business.

Last weekend her sideline gig took-over, when she was asked to provide a five-tier chocolate cake, 100 cupcakes and 60 biscuits as part of a £75,000 birthday bash for a one-year-old.

Moebeen baked the entire spread in her kitchen at home after she was contacted by former boxing world champion, Amir Khan's wife, Faryal Makhmood, Yorkshire news website, *Examine Live* reported.

"Faryal had put a snapchat out saying she needed a party planner for her daughter's birthday," Sahdia said.

"I thought she must have had somebody for the main cake so I just asked if she needed any cupcakes and that sort of thing.

"She replied and said 'can you do it all?'"

"I looked back at the party she had for her first child, when the cake was incredible, and I thought 'Oh I don't know'. Then I just thought I would do it."

It took Sahdia two weeks to prepare the cupcakes and biscuits before ditching the dispensary to focus on the five-tier cake for the big event, which was held at the home of Bolton Wanderers Football Club.

Sigma Assistants celebrate



WESTERN Australia Sigma brands, Amcal+, Guardian, Discount Drug Stores, Chemist King, PharmaSave and Wholelife, celebrated their champions at the Sigma Pharmacy Assistant Annual Conference and Gala Awards.

Sigma GM of Retail Sales, Brian Tomlin, congratulated all winners.

"The awards night provides the opportunity to recognise the hard work of our pharmacy teams," he said.

"We would like to acknowledge and thank all our award nominees, finalists and winners for their

contribution and commitment to serving their local communities."

Pharmacy of the Year awards went to Amcal+ Burswood, Busselton Discount Drug Store and Guardian's Night and Day Pharmacy Baywater.

Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year Amcal winner was Donnybrook Pharmacy with Sharni Mifflin (pictured centre) from Donnybrook also taking out Pharmacy Assistant of the Year for the Amcal brand.

For the full list of winners in each category [CLICK HERE](#).

Mg for the knee

DIETARY magnesium (Mg) has been shown to increase mean cartilage thickness in the knee, prompting researchers to extrapolate their findings to suggest a "potential role for Mg in the prevention and treatment of knee osteoarthritis".

MRI studies of 783 people were conducted to reveal the relationship - see mdpi.com.

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

Win with ULTRASENSITIVE

This week Pharmacy Daily and ecostore are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack of products from ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, valued at over \$50.

Convert your home to an asthma and allergy-aware space with ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, approved by Sensitive Choice for Australians with sensitivities. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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

Which consumers are the ecostore ULTRASENSITIVE home and body care ranges safer for?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Alison Chu.

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