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eRx script exchange

Guild rejects pharmacy MBS exclusion

ACCESS to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) should not exclude community pharmacies, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

In its submission to the Federal Government's Allied Health Reference Group inquiry into the Primary Care Reference Groups Consultation - MBS Taskforce Reports, the Guild called for pharmacists to be given access to the MBS when delivering services irrespective of the setting.

"We do not believe that the concept of 'non-dispensing pharmacists' accessing MBS should exclude community pharmacy, or be exclusive to GP surgeries," the Guild said.

"Pharmacists practising in community pharmacies are an integral member of a patient's multidisciplinary healthcare team and should be involved in, and remunerated for activities consistent with other members

of the team, such as case conferencing.

"A patient accessing health services should not be disadvantaged by where they choose to access those services, or by which health professional delivers them.

"Pharmacists currently have no option but to charge the patient a service fee for items that other health practitioners may be claiming an MBS item for."

The Guild noted that pharmacy has often been categorised as an "allied health profession", which it said created confusion about the role of the pharmacist within the health system, claiming it had "implications on pharmacists' ability to be seen for their unique expertise as medicine management experts and their access to funds specific to our role and activities in the health system".

With one-in-four pharmacies reporting they employ pharmacists



specifically to work in non-dispensing roles the Guild said "there is no reason why these pharmacists could not access MBS for the services they provide to consumers".

The Guild added that while it supported the integration of pharmacists into general practice, it was concerned that it would "exacerbate existing workforce pressures and the sustainability of the community pharmacy network".

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus full pages from:

- Z Software
- Crosier Scott Complete

Non-dismissal

A PHARMACY employee's unfair dismissal claim has been dismissed by the Fair Work Commission (FWC), because she was never let go.

The FWC hearing was told the employee had worked at the pharmacy from more than 11 years, and had become a trusted member of staff.

As one of two people responsible for handling cash at the pharmacy, the owner spoke to her in the presence of another employee, who supplied a contemporaneous report of the meeting, after discrepancies in the tills were discovered on 21 Feb.

The employee pharmacist noted the discussion, which took place the following day, became heated and the applicant told the owner that she resigned.

The witnessing pharmacist asked the applicant if she was sure she wanted to quit, which prompted her to say she was going on personal leave until the matter was resolved.

The FWC ruled the applicant had not been dismissed.

Chemist Warehouse takes on ulta3

TWO Chemist Warehouse stores in Melbourne are launching the ulta3 range of cosmetics.

Chadstone and Knoxfield stores are the first Chemist Warehouse shops to promote the Victorian-based brand which already has a strong foothold in other national pharmacy groups.

Typically low priced, starting from \$2.50, ulta3 boasts quality

and the latest fashion options for women of all ages.

ulta3 said it would also support the local community with Spin and Win in-store activations offering free cosmetics gifts to customers shopping in store during launch.

The ulta3 cosmetics range features the latest on-trend products including over 100 nail polishes and 60 lip shades.

Pharmacy raided

QUEENSLAND police are pursuing a thief who ransacked a pharmacy in Woodgate, south of Bundaberg.

The stocking-wearing intruder smashed into the pharmacy using a metal bar.

CCTV footage revealed the bandit went to the till, but found it was empty, he then knocked products off shelves, but may not have stolen anything.

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Complete pharmacy solution launch

CROSIER Scott Complete (CSC) has announced the release of its "complete national solution to increase the sales, profit, cash flow and valuation of independent pharmacies".

CSC Director, Greg Kearns, explained, "For the first time ever, pharmacies can access the specific set of services they need to optimise their business, all in one place".

The program has been designed to support and run in parallel with existing wholesale and buying group programs and services, Kearns added.

Three project partners work together to produce positive pharmacy outcomes.

Kokoda RX delivers the Business Operations Review, headed up by industry expert Greg Kearns who brings 17 years of experience in pharmacy business growth.

Crosier Scott Architects are responsible for the architectural and design elements, based on

a 20-year track record delivering a full suite of upgrade and redevelopment works.

Thirdly, front of shop specialists, Retail Help, provide the implementation and supplier interface elements.

The separate but integrated projects can be sourced by pharmacy individually or as a group depending on individual business goals and needs.

Kearns said, "This is an exciting evolution in the pharmaceutical landscape and a unique opportunity for businesses in this sector to achieve optimal outcomes by taking advantage of already existing as well as potential opportunities under the guidance of experts."

To find out more about the flexible options around adoption and implementation of these services, visit the CSC website at crosierscottcomplete.com.au.

There is also further info on **page five** of today's **PD**.

TWC owners to tackle Kokoda



A GROUP of TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy owners along with the group's new CEO, Duncan Phillips, are set to take on the Kokoda Trail to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia.

The TWC 'Trek for Teal' team will start their walk through the Papua New Guinean jungle tomorrow, as part of their eight-day mission to raise \$50,000 for the banner group's charity partner.

The team is made up of pharmacy owners, Christine Timms, Karen Brown, Tim Siv, Blaine Woods, Dean Llewellyn, Carolyn Wynen, Matt Boulter and Kylie Becker, Phillips and TWC General Manager Operations, Nick Munroe.

"Trek for Teal was born as an idea at our owners conference in 2018 and we wanted to do something that challenged us all, whilst also being able to do something meaningful," TWC CEO Phillips said.

"Whilst the trek will be physically and mentally challenging, the opportunity to spend eight intensive days with pharmacists from across our network...is a great opportunity," he added.

"I'll come back sore and blistered and hopefully with a lifetime of memories, along with the knowledge that together we've helped make a difference."

Over the last 13 years TWC has raised more than \$1.4 million to support Ovarian Cancer Australia.

The Trek for Teal team has already garnered \$15,000 including \$10k raised at a special launch event luncheon held recently in Brisbane.

Several of the team of walkers are **pictured** above from left: TWC GM Operations, Nick Munroe; pharmacist Karen Brown; CEO Duncan Phillips; and pharmacists Dean Llewellyn, Tim Siv and Blaine Woods.



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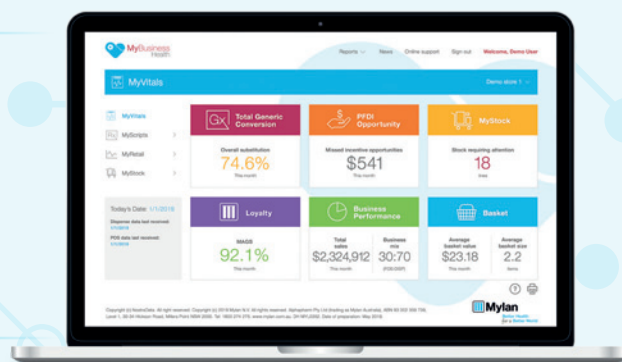
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Need some travel ideas?

Travel & Cruise Weekly

Read the Winter edition of *Travel & Cruise Weekly* magazine

[CLICK TO READ](#)



Dispensary Corner

EXTREMELY hot weather in the northern USA last weekend has prompted an unusual request from police, who asked would-be criminals to delay any illegal activity until things cooled off.

Officers from Braintree, Massachusetts posted a Facebook update saying "Folks, due to the extreme heat, we are asking anyone thinking of doing criminal activity to hold off until Monday."

"It is straight up hot as soccer balls out there...conducting criminal activity in this extreme heat is next level henchman status, and also very dangerous."

The post suggested miscreants stay home, blast their AC, binge on Netflix and practice karate.

"We will all meet again on Monday when it's cooler," the Facebook update concluded.

SOMETIMES the success or failure of a business comes down to its name - and things in that arena have not worked out well recently for a US company called Christian Book Distributors.

The organisation, which formerly promoted itself using its acronym, CBD, has announced a change in approach after reportedly being inundated with requests for medicinal cannabis products.

The company said it was hoping to "avoid brand confusion" particularly when it came to online searches.

"Going forward, we will operate under the name of 'Christianbook' said CEO Ray Hendrickson.

Casuarina PA wins NT PATY

PHARMACY assistant Suzanna Calder from PharmaSave Casuarina will represent the Northern Territory at the National Finals of the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Judges picked Calder (**pictured left**) from 10 other State Finalists at the Northern Territory workshop yesterday where each participant demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge, and showcased their skills in customer service and leadership.

Guild Acting National President, Professor Trent Twomey, congratulated Calder for her valuable contribution to community pharmacy in the Territory.

"The calibre of PATY nominees is always extremely high, and each candidate displays a strong commitment to their work and the industry which I am extremely impressed with," he said.

"I congratulate Suzanna for standing out as Northern Territory's top pharmacy assistant."

National Finals will be held at the



2019 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on 12 Oct in Brisbane.

The National Winner will take home over \$10,000 in prizes, including cash, a training package, educational conferences and other great rewards.

The Northern Territory winner of the Glucojel Super Star Award was also announced at the workshop.

"I would like to acknowledge Jolene Delaney (**pictured right**) from Berry Springs Pharmacy for being granted the Glucojel Super Star Award for outstanding customer service skills in community pharmacy," Twomey said.

Win with LA CLINICA

This week Pharmacy Daily and LA CLINICA are giving readers the chance to win the baby kit pictured, valued at over \$60.

Australian made "Organic For Baby" by LA CLINICA is formulated with certified organic and safe ingredients to care for baby's delicate skin. The Bath & Body Gift Set contains full-sized Soothing Lotion, Soap-Free Wash Gel, Nappy Wipe Lotion and Zinc Barrier Balm. No artificial ingredients or artificial fragrances. Visit www.laclinica.com for more.



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

Are the products in the kit full-sized or mini-sized?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kirsteen Lingoh.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by Flo Travel Nasal Spray.



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Treat Yourself to a Carnival

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has launched its Treat Yourself Sale offering guests up to \$500 per cabin of ship credit.

The offer is available on select sailings departing Sydney between 02 Aug 2019 and 30 Dec 2020 on board *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor*.

Cruise a Weekend Sampler from \$869 pp out of Sydney. See carnival.com.au.

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Senior Journalist – Nicholas O'Donoghue
Reporter – Mal Smith
Contributors – Jasmine O'Donoghue, Adam Bishop, Sarah Fairburn, Myles Stedman
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi and Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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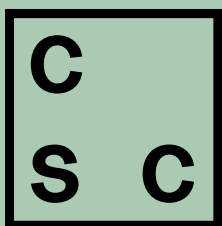
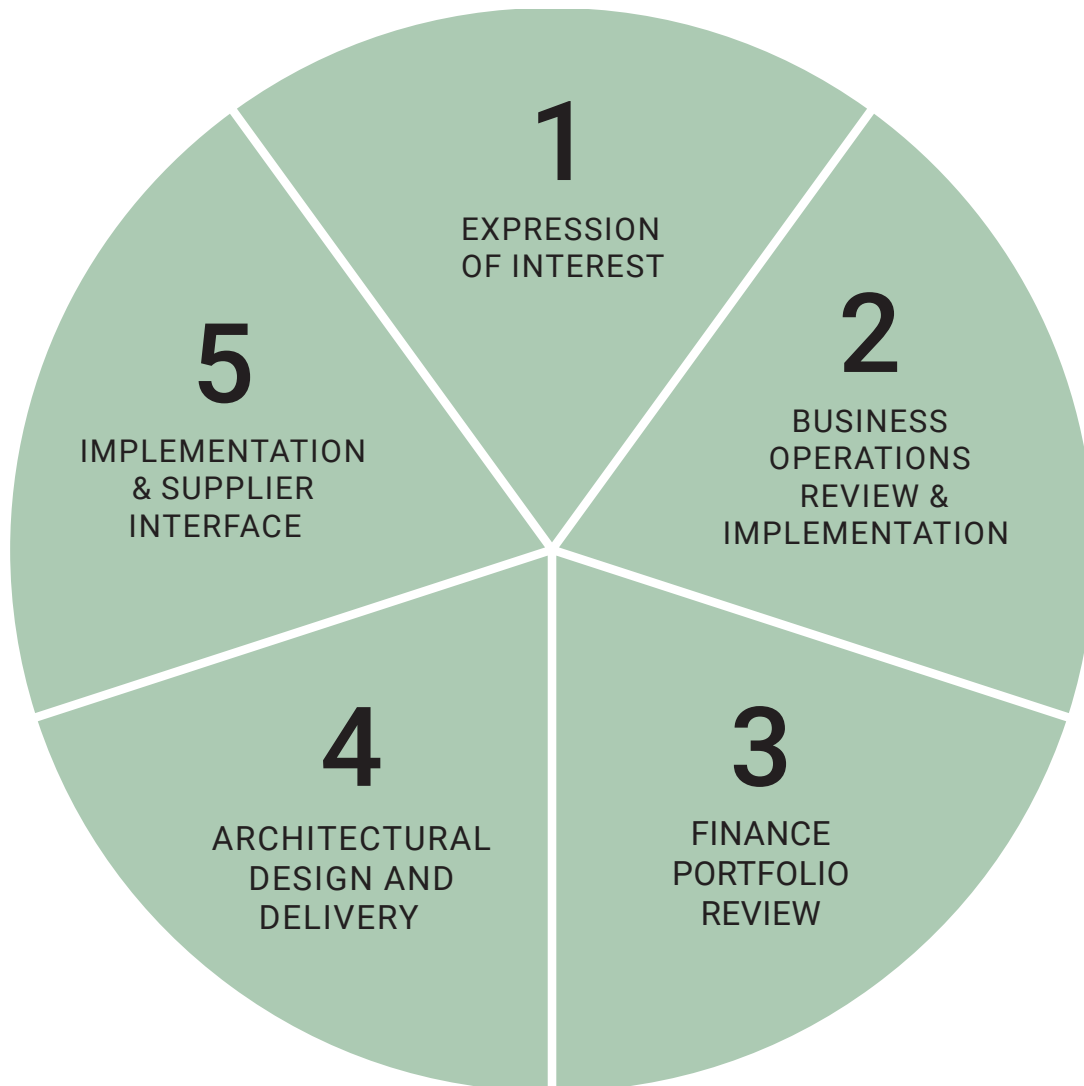
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