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Guild of Australia

2019-2020 GUILD MEMBERSHIP

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, a front cover wrap from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia** plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

Guild membership

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is reminding pharmacy owners to renew their membership, highlighting the range of exclusive Member benefits available to help transform and excel in pharmacy business, alongside the Guild's "active and effective advocacy role".

The current environment means 'there has never been a more relevant time to be part of the Guild,' with existing and prospective members urged to contact their local branch.

See the **cover page** of today's *Pharmacy Daily* for more details.

Pharmacy wages warning

EMPLOYEE pharmacists are likely to be the biggest losers from last month's Federal Election, with their wages set to take another hit, Professional Pharmacists Australian (PPA) warns.

Prior to the election, the union had said a victory for the Australian Labor Party would have seen the restoration of penalty rates, but the Coalition's win has prompted it to warn its members to "be prepared for further cuts on 01 Jul".

"We've taken time to sit back and reevaluate where pharmacy is headed for the next three years under the Coalition," the union said.

"The race to the bottom on wages appears likely to continue, with chains like Chemist Warehouse focusing on profits by paying low wages or cutting staff.

"This practice blurs the lines between professionalism and commercialism, driving pharmacists away and jeopardising the profession."

The PPA's negative wage forecast follows reports that pharmacists' pay has been on the rise, which was highlighted by the union's 2018 Community Pharmacists Employment and Remuneration Report (PD 26 Mar) and the latest

University of Technology Sydney Pharmacy Barometer (PD 08 May).

However, respondents to the *Pharmacy Daily* Salary Survey had described pharmacist pay rates as "embarrassing" (PD 06 May), with the average employee pharmacist not working in a management position reporting an income of \$75,300.

In its message to members, the PPA said it would be advocating for the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice in the lead up to the 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement.

"The 6CPA has twelve months to run which gives us time to argue the case for pharmacy to go beyond the four walls – utilising a pharmacists' skills in general practice and aged care to mention but a few," the union said.

Bowen health shadow

CHRIS Bowen MP has been named as Shadow Health Minister by new Opposition Leader, Anthony Albanese, while incumbent Catherine King has switched to the Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development portfolio after more than six years in health.

Bowen was Shadow Treasurer prior to last month's surprise ALP election loss.

Asthma approval

SANOFI Genzyme has welcomed the registration of Dupixent (dupilimab) in Australia for the treatment of asthma.

Dupixent, a human monoclonal antibody acting on IL-4 and IL-13, is indicated as add on maintenance treatment in patients aged 12 or older with moderate to severe asthma with type 2 inflammation.

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Glucosamine for CVD

HABITUAL use of glucosamine supplement to relieve osteoarthritis pain might also be related to lower risks of cardiovascular disease (CVD) events, according to a large new study published in the *BMJ*.

A total of 466,039 participants without CVD at baseline, who completed a questionnaire on supplement use, including glucosamine, were enrolled from 2006 to 2010 and were followed up to 2016.

The US and Chinese university researchers adjusted for age, sex, body mass index, race, lifestyle factors, dietary intakes, drug use, and other supplement use, and found a "significant" 15% reduction of risk of total CVD events, and a 9%-22% lower risk of CVD death, coronary heart disease and stroke.

Access the work at bmj.com.

Time constraint pharmacist stress

TIME constraints are the greatest source of both frequency and intensity of "moral distress" for community pharmacists in the UK, with one in seven describing their distress as "overwhelming", according to a study published in *Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy*.

Moral distress was defined as a "distressing feeling of inner discordance or fractured integrity occurring when an individual's personal or professional values are compromised due to their action or inaction".

The research was conducted via an online survey to 20,433

pharmacists on the Pharmacy Defence Association's mailing list.

Authors said 14% of the 593 respondents described the distress around time constraints as "overwhelming".

Researchers called for "reconsideration of workload and staffing levels, to enable community pharmacists to enact person-centred practice within the confines of the current regulatory framework".

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

The Australian pharmacists can reach for help via the Pharmacists' Support Service on 1300 244 910 or at supportforpharmacists.org.au.



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EPIC pay deal backed

PHARMACY staff at the Queensland-based EPIC Pharmacy group are being urged to support a pay deal that will ensure a 2.25% pay increase, by union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia.

The union outlined the latest offer, which will provide employees with a 6.75% pay increase over the life of the agreement.

The deal, which has now been agreed to in-principle, will guarantee all staff receive back pay to 01 Jul 2018, three hours on-call instead of two hours, and time off in lieu or overtime when an eight-hour work break between shifts is not achieved.

A new clause to secure safe workloads and the ability to report and resolve workload issues has been included in the new deal.

The agreement will also ensure former UnitingCare Health Epic pharmacy staff will have their wages, qualifications allowance, salary maintenance allowance, and current long service leave accruals protected, while all staff to have access to paid parental leave and domestic violence leave.

PPA said the union and EPIC Pharmacy were close to signing the final agreement, with staff to vote on the final deal.

TGA Gold Coast Black Salve raid

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), in conjunction with Queensland Police Services and the Australian Taxation Office, executed a search warrant at business premises on the Gold Coast, Queensland on 09 May.

The raid netted 27 jars of suspected Bloodroot Salve (commonly known as Black Salve), 84 bottles of product suspected to be Triple Strength Bloodroot Capsules and 30 bottles of suspected Double Strength Bloodroot Capsules.

The investigation related to alleged importation, advertising and unauthorised supply of unapproved therapeutic goods, including scheduled medicines.

A number of items and devices were also uncovered and seized, allegedly relating to manufacturing

Guild call for vaccination consistency

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Tasmanian Branch President, John Dowling (pictured), has called upon the Australian Government to introduce consistency in the availability of influenza vaccine throughout the country to help manage this year's "flu crisis".

Currently, community pharmacies in Victoria were covered under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) while trials of access to NIP vaccines through community pharmacies were underway in Western Australia and the ACT, Dowling said.

"The success of the program in Victoria and the trials to date indicate that community pharmacies offer a valuable service in providing NIP vaccines to eligible people."

People eligible under the NIP include: those six months and over with certain medical risk factors, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people six months and over, those 65 years-plus and pregnant women.

Dowling said that the present situation, where some pharmacies were experiencing shortages of vaccine stocks, had to be addressed, and having NIP vaccines available through pharmacies in all States

of therapeutic goods, the TGA said.

Enquiries are still underway and further action will be dependent upon the outcome of investigations.

Bloodroot Salve is presented as a topical paste.

It is commonly classified as an 'escharotic', as it is corrosive and can destroy skin tissue, causing disfigurement.

Application can result in dead skin tissue and a thick dark scar.

The TGA warns that Bloodroot capsules may contain several of the same ingredients as Black Salve.

The regulatory body also said these types of salves have not been tested or approved in Australia and strongly advises consumers against purchasing or using Black Salve, saying consumers should check the safety alert on black and red salves by visiting tga.gov.au.



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and Territories was a solution.

"The NIP has access to vaccine stocks, and in emergencies where stocks run very low, priority is given to ensuring NIP supply is

maintained.

"This is quite fitting as the NIP is aimed at ensuring vulnerable groups throughout Australia are protected against disease.

"But where private stocks are running low there becomes a question of equitable access to potentially life-saving vaccines.

"I call on the Tasmanian Government to move quickly to ensure NIP vaccines are available through pharmacies in Tasmania as a matter of urgency," Dowling concluded.

SHPA Closing the Gap

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has created a Specialty Practice stream dedicated to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

The new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health stream, announced last week to coincide with Reconciliation Week, joins 24 other streams in SHPA's Specialty Practice program, which connects leading networks, advocacy and education across pharmacy disciplines.

Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the formation and rapid uptake of the SHPA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health stream reflects the priority placed in this important area by the organisation and its members.

"While Aboriginal and Torres



Strait Islander people comprise 3.3% of the Australian population, the group constitutes 5% of people in hospitals.

"A key focus of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

stream will be to progress Close the Gap goals and help reduce this over-representation, improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

Michaels said members of this stream will work closely with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and community organisations and will benefit from the integrated advocacy, education and networking framework of SHPA's Specialty Practice program.

"This week marks Reconciliation Week, a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements."

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Dispensary Corner

DEVELOPING a career behind the dispensary is no longer enough for many pharmacists, and a surprising number seem to be looking beyond professional services to reality TV shows for fulfilment.

With two pharmacists (Ben Trobbiani and Yossra Abouefal), plus a naturopathy student and a dietitian among the cast of *Masterchef Australia 2019*, members of the profession and other health-focused peers dominating our screens.

However, pharmacy's answer to Kim Kardashian, Anahita Vakili (pictured), may be the locum who steals the most column inches, after being named among the cast of *Love Island* in the UK, which goes to air tonight (03 Jun).

"I think I'm different to anyone who has been on the show before," Vakili told the *Radio Times*.

"I studied hard and I've got my masters. I'm a pharmacist."

Former colleagues at the pharmacies Vakili worked in prior to being selected for the show, described her as a "conscientious and efficient pharmacist".

The team at *PD* hopes Vakili finds love on the island.



Funding stymies RMMRs

REMUNERATION for the Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) program needs to be reassessed to ensure its continued viability, according to a warning from pharmacists working in aged-care.

Challenges facing the program were highlighted in a study published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*, citing a range of barriers to initiating RMMRs, including "inadequate financial and professional supports for collaborative practice" and a lack of professional accountability within the program's structure.

While "pharmacists generally asserted a belief that interdisciplinary medication reviews had excellent potential to improve medication management", the study found "the overarching narrative was of pharmacists, GPs and long-term care (LTC) nurses finding ways around the constraints of the RMMR program to improve quality and safety of prescribing".

The authors reported that while

US measles surge

THE USA may lose its "measles elimination status," according to American health officials.

Over 971 cases have now been reported across 26 US states this year, the highest level since 1994.

The disease was formerly declared eliminated from the US in 2000.

the program allows RMMRs to be conducted on a needs basis, the majority of referrals reflected a default biennial cycle.

"Conducting reviews every two years was seen as inadequate to monitor the needs of residents with dementia, whose health status might change drastically within this period," the authors said.

"Infrequent referral was partly seen to arise from the arduous process involved.

"However, inadequate remuneration was considered the most important barrier to both more frequent referral and to high quality reviews."

Pharmacists also expressed concerns that "GPs sometimes did not refer residents because they lacked trust and willingness to collaborate with pharmacists due to experiencing poor quality reviews in the past".

The report said pharmacists were also concerned about the lack of accountability for GPs to take actions following a RMMR.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Nicole Hooley, Merchandise and Retail Operations Manager at instigo.



Changes in the TGA Advertising Code

ON JANUARY 1st 2019, the TGA brought into effect an updated Advertising Code. The underpinning principles and the object of both Codes are unchanged – the redrafting is designed for increased clarity and objectivity; however it has meant the new Code appears to be very different in practice. This is in anticipation of the move to self-regulation of direct to consumer advertising material, and is supported by broader penalties for non-compliance.

When advertising a product sold in pharmacy it is important to ensure that any advertising is consistent with the ARTG entry for the promoted goods. If an advertisement is being broadcast on the radio or TV or published in a newspaper, or magazine it should be approved by the appropriate authority. There is also updated wording when advertising Schedule 3 Pharmacist Only medicines, the new mandatory statement for: 'ASK YOUR PHARMACIST—THEY MUST DECIDE IF THIS PRODUCT IS RIGHT FOR YOU'.

Whilst the initial changes and revised focus of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code (No. 2) 2018 has caused some consternation with the pharmacy industry, there is a significant grace period in order to work through the changes from a practical sense. Pharmacies need to be aware of the changes and take a proactive stance in ensuring their marketing activities meet the requirements and the intent of the new Code to avoid potentially substantial penalties.

Please note, that the information and advice is correct at the time of writing and may be subject to change.

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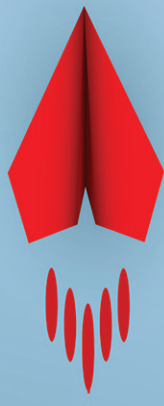
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