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## “Safe & effective medicines for all”

### WORLD 25 SEPTEMBER PHARMACISTS DAY

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has announced that the theme for World Pharmacists Day 2019 will be “Safe and effective medicines for all”.

The day is scheduled for 25 Sep, with FIP President Dominique Jordan saying the theme aims to promote the crucial role of pharmacists in safeguarding patient safety, through improving medicines use and reducing errors.

“Studies show that a significant number of patients are harmed during health care, resulting in permanent injury, increased length of stay in healthcare facilities or even death,” he said.

“Medication errors are a contributing factor to this and pharmacists have a vital role in curtailing this global health challenge,” Jordan added.

For collateral see [www.fip.org](http://www.fip.org).

## Pharmacist salaries rising

THE gradual decline in rates of pay for community pharmacists is “finally reversing,” according to a new report from Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA).

However 82% of community pharmacists polled indicated they would not recommend pharmacy as a career.

The 2018 *Community Pharmacists Employment and Remuneration Report* prepared by the union group found average growth in pharmacist wages of between 0.4% and 2.5% depending on the employee’s classification.

The survey also found that community pharmacist rates of pay were consistently lower than hospital pharmacist peers, and less than half of the community pharmacists surveyed reporting receiving a pay rise in the last year.

“Community pharmacists working at discount pharmacies continue to report the lowest rates of pay, particularly those employed by Chemist Warehouse,” the report

noted, while those employed by discounters were also more likely to report longer working hours.

Common complaints about working in community pharmacy included pressure and stress, along with inadequate staffing and poor levels of remuneration.

The report highlighted the sector’s “pervasive shift away from medicine distribution towards broader involvement in the Australian healthcare system, and simultaneous increasing exposure to retail sales”.

“The shift creates a variety of risks for community pharmacists including stagnant remuneration growth, increasing demands in the workplace and broader de-professionalism,” it added.

PPA President, Geoff March, said the trends towards pharmacy ownership concentration “worsen the imbalance of bargaining power between larger employers...and individual employee pharmacists,” urging pharmacists to join the union.

## SHPA hails Gladys

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has welcomed the re-election of Gladys Berejiklian as Premier of NSW, with SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels saying the Society looked forward to working with state authorities in “supporting hospital pharmacist-led initiatives to improve patient care and reduce medicine-related incidents”.

Michaels noted the ongoing harm caused by misuse of pharmaceutical opioids in NSW, and reiterated the need for investment in hospital pharmacist positions.

“SHPA will continue to advocate for greater investment in hospital pharmacy and extended weekend and after-hours pharmacy services, bringing NSW in line with other states and territories and helping NSW hospitals reduce the 28,000 medication-related incidents that occur in the state each year.”

The SHPA President noted that NSW’s hospital pharmacist to bed ratio was currently the lowest in the country.

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## Registrations rise: Board

**PHARMACIST** registrations are continuing on an upward trajectory, despite the Pharmacy Board of Australia's data showing a decline in the number of pharmacists under 30 years of age.

Data covering the registration numbers to 31 Dec 2018, revealed a year on year increase of 652 pharmacists to 31,565, however, there were 283 fewer pharmacists aged less than 30.

The gender divide within the profession has also continued to grow, with women accounting for 62.5% of registered pharmacists in Australia, up 0.5% on Dec 2017.

The ACT had the lowest proportion of male pharmacists, with men accounting for 33.3%, while Tasmania had the highest ratio of males at 39.6%.

NSW continued to have the highest number of registered pharmacists, accounting for just over 30% of the national population, followed by Vic (25.5%), while 2% did not provide a principal place of practice.

The Dec 2018 figures revealed a moderate decline in the number of pharmacists holding non-practising registration, 1150, down from 1193 in Dec 2017.

While the number of younger registered pharmacists has declined, the number of pharmacists aged 80 or older increased over the 12 months to the end of 2018, to 160, with 55 holding non-practising registration.

The number of pharmacists holding limited registration almost doubled in 2018 - jumping to 16 from nine. Female pharmacists were again more likely to hold limited registration, than their male peers, accounting for three-in-four limited registrants.

## Cancer centre funded

**AUSTRALIA** will become one of the "world's leading centres" for the innovative CAR-T cancer therapy, with the Federal Government yesterday committing \$80m in funding to Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

CAR-T therapy, approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Dec, works by removing some of a patient's immune system cells before re-engineering them in a lab and then putting them back in the body to attack cancer.

## APC pharmacy training accreditation

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is moving to the second stage of its consultation on Accreditation Standards for pharmacy and intern training programs and is now seeking responses and feedback to the draft standards.

APC CEO Bronwyn Clark says it's vital to ensure the Accreditation Standards underpin a contemporary pharmacy education system in Australia.

"The Accreditation Standards also serve as a guarantee to the public that the pharmacy training and education programs are of the quality we should expect of our tertiary institutions and intern training programs hosted within pharmacies," Clark said.

Due to the evolving nature of pharmacy practice, new elements introduced to the standards include a social accountability principle, "so pharmacists can contribute to the ongoing improvement of individual and societal health".

There's also a stronger focus of education on the health disparities and inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori peoples, and the importance of providing a culturally safe environment for their care.

Performance outcomes articulate the milestones for the end of both the degree and intern training programs, and the standards also aim to "increase the understanding that health care is most effectively provided through a collaborative interprofessional health care team".

**CLICK HERE** to access the draft.

## PPA slams PDL PI

**UNION** group Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) is urging pharmacists not to renew their professional indemnity insurance with Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

An update sent last week highlighted that "PDL Insurance is underwritten by Guild Insurance, a subsidiary of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia which supports the cut to pharmacists wages".

"If you are with PDL, do not just automatically renew...we offer full cover PI Insurance as a benefit of membership," the email noted.

The union's insurance product is backed by IAG, "not Guild Insurance or PDL" with the PPA Assist union membership costing \$35.92 per month, including workplace advice plus PI insurance - [professionalpharmacists.com.au](http://professionalpharmacists.com.au).

# AFL

## AFL R1 winner

Congratulations

### APRIL PEARCE

from Queensland Health

April is the top point scorer for Round 1 of Pharmacy Daily's AFL footy tipping competition.



## GuildDigital

Pharmacy Daily AFL tipping competition is sponsored by GuildDigital, with the top tipper for the season winning a \$1,000 gift card.

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## NRL R2 winner

Congratulations

### SAILESH CHAUHAN

from Blooms the Chemist

Sailesh is the top point scorer for Round 2 of Pharmacy Daily's NRL footy tipping competition.



## GuildDigital

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## Dispensary Corner

**YOU'D** be pretty brave to tell a 25 year old woman or man they are not yet an adult, but that's exactly what a UK neuroscientist says.

Professor Peter Jones, from Cambridge University, said, "What we're really saying is that to have a definition of when you move from childhood to adulthood looks increasingly absurd.

"It's a much more nuanced transition that takes place over three decades."

Ah, that sounds safer.

Jones explained that the education system, health systems and legal systems find it "convenient" to have definitions.

"There isn't a childhood and then an adulthood," he said.

"People are on a pathway, they're on a trajectory."

And of course, there are plenty of over-65s who still say they never want to grow up.

**THE** annual Christian tradition of giving something up for Lent, in the lead-up to Easter, has worked out well for a US man who claims to have lost more than 12kg by going on a completely liquid diet.

And not just any liquid - Del Hall is sticking to only drinking beer, and is now 18 days into his spiritual "ordeal".

"I feel amazing," he told the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, saying he was inspired by the practice of 17th century Bavarian monks who would observe Lent by fasting on a purely "Bock Beer Diet".

Hall said he's hoping to become less dependent on fatty foods and sugar - but it's interesting to note that he's also attracting lots of attention for his employer, the Fifty West Brewing Company.

## Tough times at Chemist Warehouse?

**CONFLICTING** reports are circulating over the impact strike action at three Chemist Warehouse distribution centres is having on the company's pharmacy network.

The *Sunday Age* reported that a number of stores in Melbourne "all appeared to show considerable reductions in stock with numerous empty and thinning shelves".

However, in the same article, Chemist Warehouse director, Damien Gance, said the ongoing industrial action (**PD 04 Mar**) had not affected supplies to stores.

National Union of Workers members are picketing the company over allegations of sexual harassment, bullying and exploitation of labour-hire workers.

The strike has affected Chemist Warehouse's distribution centres in Somerset and Preston in Victoria, and Eagle Farm in Brisbane, since 12 Mar, with the union demanding a 25% pay increase.

Over the weekend the union reported that "Chemist Warehouse dumped manure next to striking workers".

The dispute comes amid reports last week highlighting financial results for the East Yarra Friendly Society, the umbrella under which many Chemist Warehouse stores operate, which saw a 25% slump in revenue for the 2017 financial year.

## Guild on award

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is reminding members that changes to the Pharmacy Industry Award for casual employees come into effect from 30 Mar this year.

An entry on the Guild's Workplace Relations Blog details the changes - for more go to [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au).

## Health expo this wk

**MORE** than 5,000 health professionals are expected to attend the Australian Healthcare Week expo, taking place at Sydney's International Convention Centre on 27 and 28 Mar 2019.

The event will feature 200 exhibitors and partners along with 180 "senior expert" speakers across 6 free events and 3 conferences - see [www.austhealthweek.com.au](http://www.austhealthweek.com.au).

## Win with skinb5

This week **Pharmacy Daily & skinB5** are giving away each day their NEW premium products from their Australian Botanicals Range - Cleansing Mousse and Hydrating Essence valued at \$85.90.

skinB5's Australian Botanicals Cleansing Mousse uses botanical extracts sourced from the Australian landscape to provide a soothing, non-drying cleanse that is rich in potent active nutrients specially selected for acne prone skin.

For more info see [www.skinB5.com](http://www.skinB5.com).

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Eliza Ma.

What type of grass does Australian Botanicals Cleansing Mousse contain?

## PA medication advice

**GUILD** Learning and Development has developed a new course titled *The role of pharmacy assistants in patient medication safety*.

The course looks at the role of the 'Ask, Assess, Advise' protocol in the supply of S2 and S3 pharmacy medicines and how pharmacy assistants can help minimise errors with prescription medicines.

To enrol in this accredited course visit [guided.guild.org.au](http://guided.guild.org.au).

## Guild Update

### Pharmacy Connect 2019

**THE** fourth annual Pharmacy Connect will be held from 5-7 September 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney.

Hosted by the New South Wales Branch, Pharmacy Connect 2019 will feature a comprehensive three-day education program.

The program this year will feature prominent international pharmacy leader Dr Ross Tsuyuki from the University of Alberta in Canada, who will discuss the importance of patient-centred care.

The event incorporates a 50-plus stand trade exhibition which will be open on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th September.

Pharmacy Connect is open to pharmacists, pharmacy managers, pharmacy staff and group executives, interns and students.

For more information, visit [www.pharmacyconnect.com.au](http://www.pharmacyconnect.com.au).