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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- PharmX
- Discount Drug Stores

Get more from IT

ELECTRONIC stock management and invoicing platform, PharmX is helping pharmacies support their communities.

See **page four** to learn how you can optimise your use of PharmX, to "do what you do best".

20 years of DDS

CELEBRATING 20 years of the Discount Drug Stores brand, the group is thanking its franchise partners, store staff, suppliers and the brand team.

See **page five** for more.

Ownership reform bad for business

OPENING the door of pharmacy ownership to Australia's supermarket giants would "decimate small business and jobs on main street shopping strips", former Council of Small Business of Australia CEO, Peter Strong, believes.

Responding to calls for deregulation of the pharmacy sector by *Australian Financial Review* Senior Correspondent, Aaron Patrick, in the wake of Woolworths' \$872 million bid to acquire Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) (PD 02 Dec), Strong warned such steps could have a negative impact on other businesses.

"As regular as clockwork there are again, suggestions from hard-nosed economists and those jealous of the power of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, that the duopoly – Coles and Woolworths – should have pharmacies in their stores," he said. "If that happens, communities will die.

"This may seem an emotional exaggeration, but it is less emotional than the responses that come from those who detest the Guild and want its so-called monopoly broken.

"It is not a monopoly; there are thousands of independent pharmacies in Australia.

"They want community pharmacy replaced by something worse – a duopoly.

"That may be good in the short-term but long term it would force up prices, remove choice and make life more difficult for the less well-off.

"If anyone needs proof, go look up the pain and destruction caused on communities in the US by the domination of Walmart.

"It is called the Walmart effect.

"When a Walmart store opens in a community, local businesses close and wages drop."

Writing in the *AFR*, Strong said Coles and Woolworths would "spell the end of community pharmacies" if they were to be allowed to bring



pharmacies into their supermarkets.

However, in its proposal to the API Board, Woolworths said it supported "the current ownership provisions and location rules to ensure that community pharmacies are well distributed throughout the community".

"We are not seeking to change - now or in the future - the pharmacy ownership rules requirements or location rules," Woolworths Chair, Gordon Cairns said.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Rego numbers continue to rise: Board

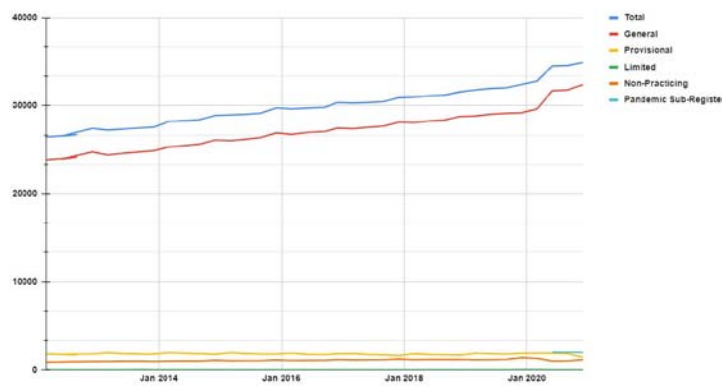
AMID growing concerns about workforce shortages in the pharmacy profession, the number of registered pharmacists is continuing to rise, data from the Pharmacy Board of Australia reveals.

The latest registration figures, released yesterday showed total registration numbers grew by 450 in the three months to 30 Sep, to a high of 35,712, while general registrant numbers jumped by more than 600 to 33,025 for the first time.

General registration numbers increased across all jurisdictions, excluding the ACT, where there were four fewer pharmacists holding general registration in Sep than in Jun.

While the data showed growth in registration numbers overall, the total number of pharmacists under 25 years of age has fallen to its lowest level since Mar 2013, while the general registrant population in that cohort hit a record low of 820 in Sep - down 153 on the Jun figures,

Pharmacy Board of Australia Registration data from Mar 2012 to Sep 2021



and 15 fewer than the previous low in Sep 2020.

General registration numbers amongst pharmacists aged 25 to 29 years also declined in the last quarter to 5,377 - the second lowest level since the launch of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in 2012.

The number of non-practising pharmacists registered with the Board fell to 967, down from 1,086

in the Jun quarter.

The 50 to 54 year-old age bracket was the only group not to see a decline in non-practising registration numbers in the Sep quarter - remaining static with 107 registrants - while 33 fewer pharmacists aged 65 years and older were registered as non-practising, despite an increase of 200 in the total number of registrants in this cohort since Jun.

TWC surpasses 400k COVAX

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is celebrating the group's pharmacies passing the 400,000 dose mark as part of the national COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout.

The milestone was hit days after TWC scooped the Gold Award at the Public Relations Institute of Australia Golden Target Awards for its flu vaccination campaign.

TWC Executive General Manager, Nick Munroe, said the two achievements were "particularly pleasing" given the challenges the industry faced in 2021, in trying to encourage Australians to get the flu jab.

Munroe said the network's 2022 flu campaign would require a fresh approach as the pharmacy sector ramps up its role in the COVAX booster program.

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Dispensary Corner



BRITISH bomb disposal experts were called to the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital to support healthcare workers treating a patient last week.

No it was not a case of explosive diarrhoea, but to extract a World War II artillery shell from a man's rectum.

The unnamed patient claimed that he "slipped and fell" on the armour-piercing projectile while tidying up his military memorabilia, *Metro* reported, a proposition that leaves one pondering the logistics of such an unfortunate trip that would end with a chunk of ammunition in that particular orifice.

A police spokesperson later confirmed the shell was not "live", with a source noting "there was no risk to life - at least not to anyone else".

While you might assume slips and trips that result in foreign objects getting wedged into individuals' backsides would be a rarity, a study from the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals National Health Service Trust in the UK, found such incidents were on the rise, particularly among men.

British healthcare workers removed more than 3,500 items from the rear ends of patients between 2010 and 2019, with the retrieval efforts costing a combined total of \$5.5 million.

Metro noted that the unusual accidents were not restricted to Britons, with reports of patients around the globe having live eels, glass bottles, aubergines and even a Buzz Lightyear toy pulled from their rectums.

NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

New NDSS-listed Product: BD Micro-Fine™+ 6mm Pen Needles

Now listed on the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) Product Schedule.

Approximately 20 percent of NDSS registrants use a 6mm pen needle¹, despite the latest evidence-based clinical best practice guidelines recommending the use of short 4mm or 5mm pen needles for all adults, children and people who are overweight.²⁻³

BD Micro-Fine™+ 6mm Pen Needles are now available to provide consumers with an alternate brand choice.

This is a new product and is not replacing an existing NDSS-listed product. Please alert your dispensing team and other staff at your store.



BD pen needles are used to inject diabetes medication.

Stockist: Place a stock order with your NDSS wholesaler. Available in all NDSS pharmacies throughout Australia.

RRP: BD pen needles are available to NDSS Registrants at no cost.

Website: www.bd.com/anz/diabetes

References: 1. Diabetes Australia. NDSS pen needle sales data, MAT Oct21. 2. Frid AH, Kreugel G, Grassi G et al. Mayo Clin Proc. 2016;91(9):1231-1255. 3. Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA). Clinical Guiding Principles for Subcutaneous Injection Technique, December 2019.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Key Sun Clear Zinke Mineral SPF50+

Key Sun Clear Zinke Mineral SPF50+ contains only zinc oxide, specifically designed for the lip and facial application. Paraben and preservative free, it's easy to apply and leaves the skin with a non-sticky after feel.

- SPF50+ Very High Protection Sunscreen
- Contains Vitamin E & Aloe Vera for soothing the skin
- Broad spectrum UVA/UVB protection
- Paraben, PABA & Methylisothiazolinone free
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Happy 20th Year Anniversary Discount Drug Stores!

To all our Franchise Partners, Store Teams, the DDS Brand team and our Supplier Partners, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for making Discount Drug Stores what it is today.

20 year
anniversary

Discount Drug Stores
20 years of more than just low prices



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