

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a full page from UTS.

FIP calls for climate action

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is calling on global leaders "to enable pharmacy to take purposeful action" against climate change.

In a letter co-signed by 15 FIP representatives, including Australians, Paul Sinclair, Professor Parisa Aslani and Professor Ross McKinnon, the organisation said that changes in the weather and climate were increasing air-food- water- and vector-borne diseases and changing their global distribution.

"Climate change impacts are taking a toll on peoples' mental health, causing post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety, and exacerbating existing conditions," they said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the letter in full.

Childcare cost concerns

PHARMACISTS' remuneration levels combined with the high cost of childcare are creating barriers to female participation in the profession, the Professionals Australia's *Women in STEM Report 2021* reveals.

The report, based on a survey of more than 23,000 engineers and scientists, including 2,450 pharmacists, found that the COVID-19 pandemic had further exacerbated existing inequalities in pay, conditions and a lack of career advancement for women.

The lack of access to childcare was highlighted as a significant barrier to making their working lives sustainable and balancing work and carer responsibilities, for many respondents.

One respondent said that "childcare costs were the number one barrier" to returning to work.

"Unfortunately the length of hours and pay scale in community pharmacy makes it financially difficult to afford childcare and maintain work commitments," a pharmacist said.

Other respondents called on the Federal Government to "significantly subsidise childcare such that it makes more sense

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for both partners to be gainfully employed - rather than the women typically stepping out of their industry to become primary carers due to wage disparity".

However, the authors noted that the Federal Government's offer of free childcare for a three-month period in 2020 had delivered positive and negative effects on respondents' working lives, with some reporting that they were unable to find spaces for their children.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the full report.

PSA appoints new Directors

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has appointed Sara Pantzer and Tony Evans as Independent Board Directors.

The pair join the previously announced appointment of Early Career Pharmacy Board Director, Deanna Mill (PD 24 Aug).

The appointments will see female representation on the Board surpass the PSA's target of 50%.

PSA CEO, Mark Kinsela, said the new appointees would deliver critical industry, policy and strategy experience to the Board.

"This is more than just changes of the guard," he said.

"The new PSA Board holds the strength, diversity and vision for not just the organisation, but for the profession as a whole, as we face challenges of stagnant wages and increasing scope of practice.

"PSA is committed to reflecting the profession we lead."

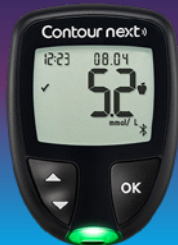
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Dispensary Corner

QUALITY use of medicines is usually top of the agenda for pharmacists dispensing controlled substances.

However, for one 81-year-old pharmacist in the US, it appears he was using his position to satisfy his lusty desires.

Martin Brian came to the attention of local authorities on 18 Apr, after police went to investigate reports that two unconscious people were parked behind his pharmacy.

Broadcaster, *NBC Philadelphia*, reported that while officers were attempting to identify the individuals in the car, a woman was seen exiting the pharmacy's back door, before rushing in after spotting the police.

The octogenarian then came out of the store and asked investigators what was happening.

The officers then questioned Brian and the woman, receiving conflicting accounts from the pair, before they seized the woman's mobile phone finding text messages from the pharmacist allegedly directing her how to respond to questions.

An audit of the pharmacy's stock by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on 20 Apr found discrepancies in the store's inventory of oxycodone, Xanax, and fentanyl.

On 26 Apr, the woman was interviewed again, and she admitted to meeting with Brian weekly to exchange sex acts for money and controlled substances.

MDR signs new US deal

AUSTRALIAN medtech firm, MedAdvisor, is set to roll out a pilot digital outreach program to help educate "under-vaccinated populations" in the US about the availability and benefits of COVID-19 vaccinations, as part of a \$4 million deal announced yesterday.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) MedAdvisor CEO, Robert Read, revealed the company had signed a Statement of Work with an existing long-term customer through selected pharmacy chains.

The program will use the inMotion digital platform to deliver "fact-based" content to patients' phones to combat misinformation about the vaccines.

The pilot is set to commence in the current quarter, with an assessment of the program planned for early in the third quarter of the 2022 Financial Year.

"COVID-19 vaccination rates vary substantially across different States in the US and there are a number of geographies and particular demographics that will benefit from text messages to



educate patients on the availability of vaccines," he said.

"This is our largest digital program in the US to date, and if successful would scale well across our network."

The announcement was MedAdvisor's second major US deal in a fortnight, following the extension of the company's partnership with the world's largest bricks and mortar retailer, Walmart.

The company said its Walmart agreement would take its digital patient reach to more than 40 million people in the US, more than 20 times its Australian reach.

Blooms puts focus on mental health

BLOOMS The Chemist pharmacies are seeing the benefits of the network's Healthy Mind Check-up mental health support service, with patients in locked-down communities struggling with stress and anxiety.

The program allows patients to have confidential conversations with pharmacists in times of need.

The group has invested in mental health first aid training to give pharmacists in-depth

knowledge to support patients appropriately.

Having been at the heart of Sydney's recent lockdown, Blooms The Chemist Padstow owner, David Tran, said there had been a significant increase in uptake of the Healthy Mind Check-up service, with patients struggling to manage the stress of home-schooling, work, travel and fear about going out to buy goods and bringing a potential infection home to their families.

Pharmacy Guild Update

Simplified access to the vaccine

PHARMACISTS are now able to deliver all Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. National President of the Pharmacy Guild, Trent Twomey, said this will greatly simplify access for Australians to the vaccines.

As well, 08 Nov is the date from which Australians can obtain a booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. It means people aged 18 and over who were double vaccinated by 08 May 2021 can receive a Pfizer booster through their community pharmacy.

Mr Twomey expects 1.6 million Australians will be eligible for a booster shot by end 2021.

On 27 Oct Australia passed a big milestone with 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccinations being delivered through community pharmacies, supported by continuing strong use of the www.findapharmacy.com.au website.

Community pharmacists are pivotal to the reopening of workplaces and travel because they make COVID-19 vaccinations available quickly and over extended trading hours, including for walk-ins.



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