

WORLD 25 SEPTEMBER PHARMACISTS DAY

Happy World Pharmacists Day to all our Pharmacists who are delivering trusted advice and health care every day to Australians.

Creating trust in local communities.





Fri 24th Sep 2021



Sigma lands CEO

SIGMA Healthcare has announced the appointment of Vikesh Ramsunder as its incoming CEO and Managing Director.

Ramsunder, is currently the CEO of South Africa's largest pharmacy chain, Clicks, and previously served as Managing Director of the group's wholesale business, United Pharmaceutical Distributors.

Ramsunder will replace the outgoing Sigma boss, Mark Hooper, in Feb 2022, who had been due to step down at the end of Oct (PD 26 Apr), but has agreed to remain in place until 31 Ian 2022.

Sigma's Board agreed to increase Hooper's monthly total fixed remuneration for the three-month stint by 50%, and with a termination clause allowing both parties to give one week's notice.

Sigma Chairman, Ray Gunston, said that Ramsunder would bring "a mix of skills and experience that will be valuable in leading Sigma to fast-track" its growth agenda organically and through acquisitions.

Pharmacist numbers rise

NEW registration data from the Pharmacy Board of Australia shows registration numbers are continuing to grow, despite reports of workforce shortages.

The latest registration stats for the Jun 2021 quarter revealed 35.262 pharmacists were registered with the Board - an increase of 80 compared with the figures for Mar with a record 32,417 holding general registration, up from 32,313 in the previous reporting period.

While total registration numbers have continued to grow, the new figures revealed there were 229 fewer pharmacists aged 29 years and under at the end of Jun than there were in Mar, marking a continuing downward trend in the number of registered pharmacists aged between 25 and 29 years.

The Board's figures suggest that the decline in registration numbers for pharmacists aged under 30 years has been driven by people leaving the profession, with the Jun stats showing that the number of pharmacists aged between 30 and 39 years grew by 80.

The profession's gender balance has remained steady, with female pharmacists accounting for just over 63% of all registrants, while



women made up just over twothirds of provisional registration

The new registration figures also showed the number of pharmacists registered on the 2020 pandemic response sub-register, fell from 1,933 in Mar to 1,758 in Jun, with the Board reporting that as of 20 Sep there are 1,735 pharmacists included on it, with 532 included on the 2021 pandemic response sub-register announced earlier this

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a front cover page from

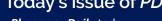


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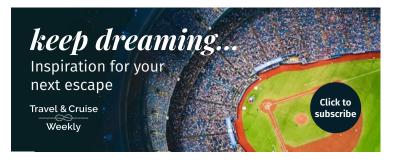


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Fri 24th Sep 2021



New site for PSS

THE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has launched a new-look website including information to help pharmacists, interns and students look after their health and wellbeing.

PSS President, John Coppock, said the service aimed to provide "trustworthy resources, links and information on a wide range of topics which relate to managing the various pressures and stress which come from working in pharmacy".

The new site was developed with funding support from the Pharmacy Board of Australia, and has been launched ahead of World Pharmacists Day, tomorrow (25 Sep).

Coppock also thanked the volunteers who man the PSS phone service, noting they took 464 calls over the 12 months to Jun this year.

CLICK HERE to see the website.

COVAX rollout hits hospital pharmacy

MOVES to second hospital pharmacists to assist in State and Territory COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) clinics is "placing huge pressure on an already constrained workforce", the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA)

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, told *Pharmacy Daily* that hospital pharmacists accounted for close to 23% of the pharmacist workforce in Australia, and were playing an integral role in COVAX hubs.

However, she noted that prior to the start of the COVAX rollout hospital pharmacies were already short-staffed, with the majority of Australian hospitals' pharmacy departments falling short of the staffing ratios specified in SHPA standards, adding that many did not employ any clinical pharmacists.

"This leads to patients being discharged from hospital without review and counselling of their medicines by a pharmacist, putting

them at risk of readmission," Michaels said.

"This is caused by both a shortage of pharmacists equipped for hospital positions and chronic underfunding for the positions themselves.

"The impact is historically worse in rural and regional hospitals, but is now dire across the board as pharmacy departments in metro areas second staff to staterun vaccination clinics, without commensurate support.

"The risks are incredibly serious - a misplaced decimal point or an extra zero can result in a lifethreatening overdose of a high-risk medicine - and these are errors hospital pharmacists prevent from occurring through medication reconciliation on admission, management of new medicines and adverse events, therapeutic drug monitoring, daily medication chart review and discharge counselling."

Michaels added that there was a



need for State and Territory health authorities to allocate appropriate funding for the provision of hospital pharmacy services going forward.

"SHPA will always welcome investment into new and expanded hospitals, but this must - and often doesn't - come with dedicated funding for the hospital pharmacists required to service new beds and wards." she said.

"SHPA welcomes these discussions in the context of important national medicines policy reform."



2021 PSA Jex Cellence, awards

Join PSA as we celebrate excellence across our profession!

A livestream broadcast of the awards ceremony will take place this

Friday, 24th September, 5:30-6:15pm (AEST).

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Pharmacy Daily

RATs a worthwhile investment for ACT

Fri 24th Sep 2021

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia ACT Branch President, Renae Beardmore, is calling on the Territory's Government to fund rapid antigen tests (RATs) for community pharmacies.

The call came after ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, pledged to introduce rapid antigen testing in

Beardmore noted that since the ACT entered its COVID-19-induced lockdown on 12 Aug, there have been 82 exposures to the virus in 37 of the jurisdiction's 82 pharmacies.

"Becoming an exposure site places huge pressure on a pharmacy," Beardmore said.

"They will often need to reduce their hours or services if their staff are required to quarantine.

"Delays in contact tracing and receiving test results add to these pressures.

"At \$10 a test, this a very cheap but worthwhile investment for the ACT Government.

"Rapid antigen testing would allow



asymptomatic pharmacy employees to be tested quickly, ensuring a safer workplace and maintaining community access to medicines and services.

"Achieving our vaccination targets is absolutely the first step in order for Canberra to come out of lockdown.

"However, the second crucial step is to introduce rapid antigen testing for asymptomatic Canberrans - and pharmacies need to be prioritised.

"Pharmacists have done a great job protecting their staff and the community from exposure to COVID-19 in community pharmacy, by wearing of PPE and implementing other distancing measures.

"Rapid antigen testing now needs to play a significant role in reducing isolation periods of essential workers and identifying infection prior to onset of symptoms in high risk settings – such as pharmacies."

Dispensary Corner

COVID-19 has highlighted just how many people rely on less than trustworthy sources for information about healthcare.

Misinformation dispensed through social media has seen health professionals bombarded with patients seeking supposed miracle cures from hyrdoxychloroquine to ivermectin, that haven't received regulatory approval for the treatment of COVID-19, just to avoid getting a vaccine that has been deemed safe and effective.

The mind boggles, but a joint statement from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) and the Alberta College of Pharmacy, has noted that some health professionals have been excerbating the issue, when it comes to ivermectin.

"A small number of physicians and pharmacists [are] spreading misinformation related to the appropriateness of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19," the statement said.

"[We] do not believe these behaviours align with a physician's or pharmacist's professional responsibility to their patients."

The CPSA said it was aware of at least seven doctors who were alleged to have been spreading false information about the drug, while noting that others had "kowtowed" to patients' demands for exemption letters without legitimate medical reasons, so they could avoid being vaccinated or having to wear face masks.

Win with Wondershield

Wondershield and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away a Wondershield's Wonderpods

starter kit.

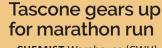
Disinfect your pharmacy like a pro with Wondershield's Wonderpods. The starter kit includes a sleek nano spray gun, with 2 pre-filled pods of Wondershield's TGA

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listed alcohol-free solution. Once applied, Wondershield offers up to 30 days of antibacterial protection and is also effective against COVID-19 ARTG: 354310.

What makes the Wonderpods so unique?

For a chance to win, send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) Director, Mario Tascone, will join former AFL star, Kane Cornes and others to run a treadmill marathon as part of the My Room Telethon on Channel 9 tonight.

My Room Children's Cancer Charity aims to assist patients and families affected by cancer by providing medical equipment, clincial care, research and trials.

CWH has committed \$130,000 Tascone saying he was proud to lend his support to the charity.

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