

Wed 17th August 2022

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Bumpy economic ride on the horizon

PHARMACY owners are being warned that rising inflation will create a "bumpy [economic] ride" for the sector.

Speaking on the latest edition of the *Sirianni Market Update*, Medici Capital Managing Director, Frank Sirianni, noted that while the pharmacy sector has traditionally performed strongly in tough economic times, cost pressures driven by inflation will create challenges.

"In terms of pharmacy there are a couple of issues that are relevant," he said.

"One is the cost of goods sold, the second is wages and the third is rent.

"All three of those [costs] will be impacted by inflation and as a consequence we will see a significant increase in some of the underlying costs.

"Those three costs control 90% or more of the expenses for most pharmacies, so from that perspective we're in for a bit of a bumpy ride.

"On the inverse, pharmacy does do very well in these tough economic times, and so from that perspective I think that we might do well out of it.

"There are certainly a number of things on the horizon that are fantastic for pharmacy in economic and professional terms, and that includes what we have seen during the COVID pandemic [including] an extraordinary uplift in pharmacy, particularly in the health services/professional services areas."

Sirianni noted that the factors currently driving inflation in Australia are external.

"One thing that perplexes me, and other economists, is the fact that the Reserve Bank is trying to use interest rates to, in some way, curb inflation, when most price rises are really outside of our control," he said.

"There's nothing interest rates are going to do to curb the Ukraine War, or supply chain issues.



"Having said that, demand is something that the Reserve Bank and the Government wants to control, and raising interest rates will inevitably lead to a reduction in demand, and that's the hope.

"My only concern is the impact that might have on the economy, by forcing us into a slowdown, a stagnation or indeed a recession of some sort."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, and a full page from **Pharmacy Connect.**

CPD deadline

WITH just over six weeks to go until the deadline for pharmacists to complete their continuing professional development (CPD) requirements for registration, Pharmacy Connect offers an opportunity to accrue points and engage with colleagues.

The three-day event in Sydney includes a range of CPD-accredited workshops, sessions and panel discussions.

The conference, hosted by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch, takes place at the Hilton Sydney from 01 to 03 Sep.

See **page four** for more information.



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CWH fundraiser

DISCOUNT pharmacy group, Chemist Warehouse (CWH), has handed over \$905,146 to mental fitness foundation, Gotcha4Life, as part of its 2022 fundraising campaign.

The group has been working with Gotcha4Life since 2017, to help improve the mental health of Australians.

CWH Director, Mario Tascone, said the group was proud of its partnership with the foundation.

"We are thrilled with the huge amount raised in 2022 and are striving to open the lines of communication and encourage open and honest conversation," he said.

Gotcha4Life Founder, Gus Worland, said the funds raised through the CWH campaign would support the organisation to expand its reach and impact to allow more Australians to access its support programs.

Fred IT launches web-based hub

PHARMACY software provider. Fred IT Group, is launching a new web-based solution to help pharmacists to identify compatible software to use in their stores.

Fred Marketplace has been designed to help owners and managers to identify tools that can support changing retail, business and technology needs in a cloudbased environment.

The hub will feature all thirdparty solutions that have been approved and tested for use with Fred software, including apps and integrations for robots, e-commerce, business intelligence, clinical services, drug information, medication management, and payments, Fred General Manager Growth and Partnerships, Markus Windhofer, said.

"Third-party applications and integrations are vital in helping pharmacies to find new ways of reaching and supporting their patients, increasing business efficiencies, and introducing new



pharmacy services," he said.

"Fred Marketplace takes the worry out of choosing software apps and add-ons.

"Pharmacies can concentrate on their core business of supporting patients and communities to improve health outcomes. confident that when they use a Fred Marketplace Partner tool it is tested and fit-for-purpose."

Chief Operating Officer of healthcare software firm, Modeus, Kirill Kiryshin, said the Marketplace was an important resource for

pharmacies looking to invest in IT solutions.

"We are very pleased to be part of Fred Marketplace which will increase visibility of software applications and partner organisations that are available to support retail business and patients," he said.

"As well as helping pharmacies to quickly identify software that complies with Fred software, having a searchable tool of this kind will help pharmacies see options that are available."

Check your junk mail: Pharmacy Council

PHARMACISTS in NSW are being urged to ensure that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has their correct email address, to avoid missing out on critical information.

In a message to pharmacists, Pharmacy Council of NSW Deputy President, Veronica Murdoch, noted that a number of pharmacists have reported that

they have not received Council communications and newsletters.

"It is critically important that you keep up to date with all correspondence from professional organisations and regulatory bodies," she said.

"It is incumbent on all pharmacists and pharmacy proprietors to be current and up to date with clinical and legislative changes."





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THE search for a new name for monkeypox is set to continue after the World Health Organization (WHO) rejected a series of suggestions from members of the public.

Submissions to the WHO have included technical monikers, such as OPOXID-22, and the vaguely amusing, Poxy McPoxface, suggested by Andrew Yi, in homage to Boaty McBoatface, a name that members of the British public wanted to give to a polar research ship in 2016.

Another submission called for the virus to be rebranded as Toxic Rash of Unrecognised Mysterious Provenance 2022, or TRUMP-22 has also been shot down by authorities.

The flurry of suggested alternative titles for monkeypox came after the WHO announced it wanted to rebrand the virus with a "neutral, non-discriminatory and non-stigmatising" name, following recent outbreaks.

"It's very important we find a new name for monkeypox, because this is best practice not to create any offense to an ethnic group, a region, a country, [or] an animal," a WHO spokesperson said.

"The WHO is very concerned by this issue and we want to find a name that is not stigmatising.

"I am sure we will not come up with a ridiculous name."

One submission believed to still be under consideration is the somewhat unimaginative Mpox.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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