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## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, plus a cover wrap from TerryWhite Chemmart.

## TWC's mission

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart is on a mission to create a better future for Australian community pharmacy, by supporting its network members to meet their professional dreams.

See **cover page** for more.

## Page wins award

**UNIVERSITY** of Western Australia (UniWA) Senior Research Fellow and pharmacist, Dr Amy Page, has been named as the recipient of the UniWA School of Allied Health Early Career Research Award.

The university noted that Page has published 65 papers, with her research being covered by newspapers, radio stations, podcasts and TV networks more than 100 times.

# Qld govt gives green light for NQPSPP

**PHARMACISTS** in North Queensland will be authorised to treat patients for a range of health conditions as part of the North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (NQPSPP), which will get under way in late 2023 (**PD** breaking news).

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, welcomed the decision, saying it would help decrease unnecessary emergency department presentations.

Under the NQPSPP participating pharmacists who have undergone an additional 12 months of post-graduate level training, will be able to treat patients for 22 conditions, including gastro-oesophageal reflux, hypertension and Type 2 diabetes.

"The NQPSPP will deliver improved health outcomes for patients in North Queensland and help ease some of the burdens on busy GPs and overcrowded emergency departments.

"Fewer North Queenslanders will need to wait longer than recommended to receive the care they need.

"They will be able to access the right care in the right place at the right time.

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Deputy Director, Dr Helen Brown, said the pilot was designed to "supplement - not replace - existing services and give consumers in North Queensland greater access to the healthcare they need".

"Pharmacists have always been an integral part of healthcare delivery," she said.

"I am confident in their ability to manage the additional responsibilities, given they are already highly trained and well-regulated health professionals."

"Too many patients do not have access to a GP or have to wait too long to get an appointment.

"Today's announcement means that for everyday health conditions, North Queenslanders will be able to choose to get the care they need from their local community pharmacy."

Owen said the announcement would bring the scope of practice of pharmacists in North Queensland into line with their peers in Canada, the UK and New Zealand.

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**Reference:** 1. Grieco KA, Barries TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol*. 2015; 56(2):30-4. 2. Spada F et al. *Dermatol Ther*. 2021; 34(4):e1-e1070. (In-Press) Study sponsored by Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

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Prepared July 2022



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## Tas launches pharmacist advice line

**TASMANIANS** can now access health support outside regular community pharmacy opening hours through a State Government-funded help line.

The Tasmanian Afterhours Advice Line, which has been launched by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), will connect patients with a pharmacist between the hours of 6pm and midnight, seven days a week.

PSA Tasmanian Branch President, David Peachey, said the service, which will initially be trialled over an eight-month period, will improve access to essential healthcare support.

"We're proud to bring the Pharmacist Advice Line to Tasmania as part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the health of our communities," he said.

"Pharmacists are medicine safety experts, and play a significant role in the day-to-day management of medicines too.

"Tasmanians can now call us



when most local pharmacies are closed and get the same expert advice on dosages, medicine safety, [and] drug interactions.

"When Tasmanians call the pharmacist advice line with minor ailments we can also act as a triage point, giving them advice on whether to go to their pharmacist, GP, or hospital for treatment.

"We see after hours patients with minor ailments go straight to the emergency department because there is often no other option.

"It doesn't have to be this way,

pharmacists have the skills and experience to help in many of these cases.

"We want to play our part in reducing pressure on the rest of the health system, so that healthcare remains accessible for everyone.

"PSA is proud to be working with the Tasmanian Government to ensure that healthcare is accessible to all patients when they need it.

"We sincerely thank Premier and Health Minister Jeremy Rockliff for his ongoing support for Tasmania's pharmacists."

## FIP's sustainable focus for 2023

**AUSTRALIAN** pharmacists are being urged to get behind the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP's) mission and attend the 2023 FIP World Congress in Brisbane next Sep.

The theme of the 2023 event will be 'Pharmacy building a sustainable future for healthcare'.

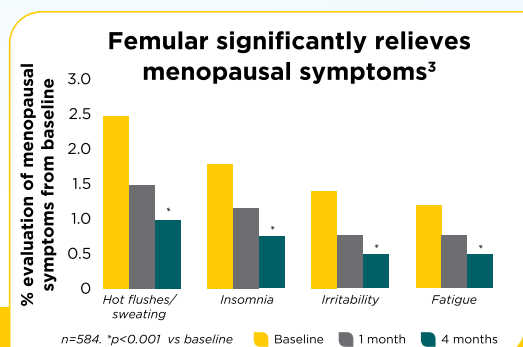
"The pharmacist is key in assuring a safe and effective supply of medicines as well as their responsible use," organisers said.

"As a direct provider of services, from primary prevention and screening of diseases, immunisations to therapeutic monitoring, the work of our profession ensures that a patient's medical therapy is appropriate, the most effective, the safest possible and the most convenient."

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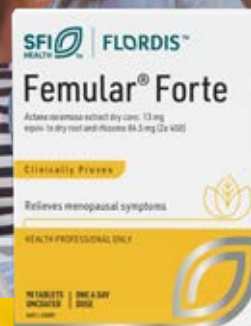
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2. IQVIA, national sales data Switzerland, sell-in (Pharmacy, Drugstore, Self-dispensing Doctors), turnover (ex-factory) in CHF, MAT June 2021.

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## Dispensary Corner

**WHILE** pharmacists around the globe have been stretched to their limits throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, one Boston-based apothecary has found time to indulge in his passion for doo-wop.

In between rolling out COVID vaccines and managing his pharmacy, Todd Baptista, has managed to develop a YouTube channel dedicated to doo-wop.

Unable to make his regular visits to local nursing homes due to the pandemic, the 54-year-old, who had previously built a side-hustle as a music promoter, began sharing rare videos of doo-wop acts from the 1950s.

Baptista gained access to two van-loads of tapes of legendary acts including Jackie Wilson - recorded by the late US radio personality, Little Walter DeVenne, who died from COVID in Jan 2021.

"I knew that the people who loved this music needed something to help get their minds off of what was happening," he said.



## Pollies united in support for pharmacy

**QUEENSLAND** MPs from all sides of politics were united in lauding the contributions of community pharmacists at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch's annual Parliamentary Reception last night.

State Health Minister, Yvette D'Ath, and Opposition Leader, David Crisafulli, voiced their support for the profession, Guild Queensland Branch President, Chis Owen, said.

"It was fantastic to hear from both the Minister and the Opposition Leader as they outlined their support for community pharmacists and the important role community pharmacy plays in the Queensland healthcare system," he said.

"The major accomplishment of the year is the safe and successful UTI Pilot, now a permanent health service in Queensland community pharmacies, which is a big win for women delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

"This decision by the government means that Queensland women will no longer have to wait for weeks or go to the emergency department for treatment because they can't

get in to see a GP.

"The success of the UTI Pilot is a great start in the journey of community pharmacists practicing to their full scope."

Meanwhile, the long serving Guild Queensland Branch Industrial Relations Manager, Tina Scrine, was presented with the Queensland Branch President's Award, in recognition of her contribution to the organisation.

"Tina has dedicated 20 years of service to the Guild and community pharmacy through providing advice and guidance to members with regards to industrial relations," Owen said.

"Tina has adopted the true spirit of a membership organisation.

"Her infectious determination and passion for our members is second to none.

"This support, especially in the constantly changing environment of the COVID-19 pandemic during the past two-and-a-half-years, has been vital to our members."

TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) Brookside pharmacy manager, Luise Fitton, was also honoured



with the President's Award for her role in coordinating COVID-19 vaccine supplies between different pharmacies in the state.

Owen singled out Queensland's top five COVID-19 vaccinating pharmacies and their owners, TWC Victoria Point - Kenny Ji Hei Wong, TWC Arana Hills - Karen Brown and Rodney Garozzo, TWC Cairns Central - Brendon Reck, Cincotta Discount Chemist Indooroopilly - Mark Cawood, and Priceline Pharmacy Kippa-Ring - Andrew and Matilda Twist.

Three 50-year life members, Wandoo Pharmacy's Dinah Fraser, Mooloolaba Beach Pharmacy's Mario Barbagallo and Victoria Point Pharmacy's Stathis Efsthatis, were also recognised at the event.

## CWH set for demolition

**ROCKHAMPTON** Regional Council is set to decide on a request to demolish a former Chemist Warehouse (CWH) pharmacy.

In a submission to the Council, engineers described the building as being "dilapidated" after suffering extensive damage during a severe storm last year, which forced the pharmacy to relocate.

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