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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from **Melrose** and **Nova Pharmaceuticals**.

Omega oil boost

AUSTRALIAN supplement brand, Melrose, is offering a range of Omega oil and vitamin products designed to support patients' health. See **page four** for more.

Tune in to Nova

NOVA Pharmaceuticals has turned to its namesake radio station, Nova 96.9, to promote its Elactalyte electrolyte range. The company launched its on-air campaign earlier this month, with ads set to run over the next two months. For more information turn to **page five**.

McBride focused on affordable meds

SECURING the passage of legislation cutting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment to \$30 will be a moment of pride for pharmacist-turned-MP, Emma McBride.

Addressing the House of Representatives yesterday, the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Rural and Regional Health said she has long advocated for reducing out-of-pocket expenses for patients accessing PBS medicines, and urged politicians across the Parliament to support the National Health Amendment (General co-payment) Bill 2022.

"As a pharmacist I am very proud to be able to support this legislation," she said.

"My whole working life I have wanted to make sure that people who most need medication can afford it.

"I remember standing in an outpatient clinic in a mental health

unit and a patient coming up to me and saying, 'I can't afford this medication. Which one can I skip or which one can I delay?' This is after someone had had a really long inpatient stay.

"The whole multidisciplinary care had meant that they were able to recover and have a life ahead of them with some hope and optimism.

"To be standing in this parliament today and supporting this legislation means so much to me personally and as a local MP.

"I know it will give hope to people who are struggling, to people who need it most, to people who struggle to get out of bed, to people who struggle to put a roof over their head, to people who are sleeping rough and to the people we have discharged to caravans, caves and no fixed abode.

"This has to change.

"In a country like Australia we can't have the most vulnerable people in our communities - those



living with chronic enduring mental ill health - struggling to be able to afford the essential medicine they need to help them get well and stay well.

"We cannot continue to discharge them back to the circumstances that made them sick.

"We must support this legislation so that it can get through in the spring sittings so that next year Australians will be able to afford medicines."

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SHPA sets out accreditation stall

PHARMACY organisations are scrambling to attract Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) members to their accreditation programs, with the body being disbanded at the end of the year (**PD 26 Sep**).

AACP co-owners, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have said that they will offer separate accreditation programs from next year, with the Guild's accreditation to be provided through the Australasian College of Pharmacy (**PD 27 Sep**).

However, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the organisation was "the natural home of Australia's accredited pharmacists, as Australia's only continuously accredited body".

The SHPA has said that it will recognise existing AACP credentials for non-SHPA members who want to transition to its accreditation program for a once-off fee of \$390,

while SHPA members who have AACP credentials will be able to switch free of charge.

"SHPA is pleased to offer smooth transitions and extensive benefits to former AACP members continuing their accreditation, from flexible recognition and conferred AcSHP postnominals to a raft of new educational pathways, a new national Mar 2023 conference and new recognition through our expanded SHPA awards program," Michaels said.

"The education will include pathways for practitioners becoming accredited pharmacists as well as pharmacists moving into new embedded pharmacist roles in residential aged care.

"We reaffirm our commitment to supporting the unique expertise of accredited pharmacists, and the crucial role they play upholding quality use of medicines and medication safety for patients who are at risk of medication-related harm and hospitalisation,



steered by the nation-leading expertise of SHPA Specialty Practice Leadership Committees, especially in Transitions of Care and Primary Care, and Geriatric Medicine."

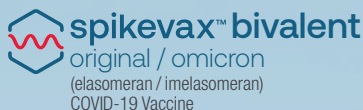
Following the SHPA's decision to waive its annual re-accreditation fees, in line with a similar move by the AACP (**PD 06 Jun**), the pharmacists who transition to the SHPA's accreditation program will be eligible for free re-accreditation.

Cannabis fines

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is taking action against three medicinal cannabis companies, issuing fines totalling close to \$1 million in relation to breaches of advertising rules.

The regulator alleged that MGC Pharmaceuticals, Cannatrek, and Little Green Pharmaceuticals, unlawfully advertised prescription-only medicinal cannabis products, which were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, on their websites and social media platforms.

"Advertising of prescription-only medicines directly to consumers undermines the doctor-patient relationship and may create an inappropriate demand for particular medicines which may not be right for the individual," the TGA said.



COVID-19 HAS EVOLVED BUT SO HAS SPIKEVAX VACCINE¹

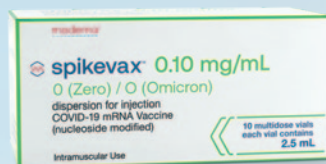
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^{**}Comparing neutralising antibody titres to SPIKEVAX original.¹

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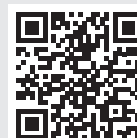
Moderna's SPIKEVAX BIVALENT Original/Omicron COVID-19 vaccine has provisional approval as a booster for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 in individuals 18 years of age and older.¹ The use of these vaccines should be in accordance with official recommendation.¹

PBS Information: This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

▼ This vaccine is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

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Reference: 1. Spikevax Bivalent Product Information, August 2022.



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Dispensary Corner

GETTING medications to patients in need is a priority for governments around the world, and North Korea is no exception.

While the Australian Federal Government is aiming to reduce the out-of-pocket cost of medicines to improve access through the nation's network of pharmacist-owned stores, the North Korean regime is taking a more hands-on approach, building new state-controlled pharmacies.

Under the scheme being rolled out by the "Peerlessly Great Man", Kim Jong-Un, the new model for North Korean pharmacy will cut out private medication retailers.

The reclusive regime has described the current system of patients purchasing prescription medicines through private drug merchants as an "outdated phenomenon", stemming from "an improperly functioning state healthcare system", the *Daily NK* reported.

A source said the pharmacy building efforts were vital to achieving Kim's goals.

Despite the worthy aim of boosting access to medicines for North Koreans, the campaign is not being universally lauded by people across the hermit kingdom, with sources reporting that residents in some areas have complained that they were "being hit with building pharmacies on top of the residential and factory construction they were already doing, and they don't have the supplies or labour".

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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