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¹ R12 FY23 as at May 2023 Priceline Pharmacy data.



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UTS Barometer '22 report

THE 12th wave of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) *Pharmacy Barometer 2022* report launched today, showing a healthy score of 146.8 out of 200 (a score of 100 representing neutral confidence) indicating community pharmacy confidence is increasing, despite ongoing challenges.

However, UTS has just confirmed to *Pharmacy Daily* that results of an interim survey taken in May will be released tomorrow that could see confidence levels changing with the recent govt changes.

The *Pharmacy Barometer 2022* report completed in Nov last year continues to record an increase in confidence from 2016 of approximately 60 points.

The value increases year to year have slowed, but pharmacist optimism remains high and growing, demonstrated by a

7.3-point increase over the past 12 months (146.8 in wave 12, 139.5 in wave 11), according to UTS.

Pharmacists are confident in the three-year value of their pharmacy business with 60.7% of pharmacists projecting positive increases up from 57% in wave 11 or 40.5% in wave 10, showed the report.

The anticipated average value increase over the three-year period has also increased up to 18%.

Those projecting value decreases remained stable over the past three years with an expected average loss of 16.1%, the UTS report showed.

The feasibility of a pharmacist purely dedicated to the provision of professional services appears to remain low (17% in wave 12, 19% in wave 11, 17% in wave 10) with funding arrangements apparently not permitting this workforce model, the report stressed.

Navigate change

PRICELINE Pharmacy is inviting you to 'boost your competitive advantage as never before' when you join its network as a partner. See more on the **cover page**.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of news, plus a front cover from Priceline Pharmacy and a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

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Sleep in young

DAYTIME drowsiness, mental health issues and even road accidents are all connected to sleep disorders, leading experts to examine workplace productivity losses which showed that one-in-five younger Australians are affected by sleep disorders, in particular insomnia.

The new Flinders University study used data from the Western Australian longitudinal *Raine Study* (Generation 2) cohort, which includes 554 workers aged 22 years, and found significant workplace productivity losses among young Australian adults, primarily caused by insomnia.

The new study showed that total workplace productivity loss was up to 40% greater among 22-year-olds with clinical sleep disorders compared to their peers with no sleep disorders.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Micro-fulfilment centres

CHEMIST Warehouse has extended its Fast Pharmacy - pharmacy-to-door service - from 10km to 50km in metro and regional areas, *Inside Retail* has reported.

The retailer has partnered with Rendr, an on-demand delivery solutions company, to optimise its last-mile operations.

The retailer aims to use its stores as micro-fulfilment centres, reducing long-haul shipping issues while providing customers with convenient delivery options.

Customers located up to 50km from the closest store can now get their orders within hours or on the same day.

Chemist Warehouse's director Mario Tascone said, "our focus is on providing our customers around the country with easily accessible and affordable health, beauty and wellness solutions".

Recently Chemist Warehouse also opened its 500th store at Croydon Central, Victoria, (**PD** 24 Apr).



Co-founders Mario Verrocchi and Jack Gance cut the ribbon in-store to officially kick off the trade.

Already this year the pharmacy chain has launched an Optometrist Warehouse in Malvern, Victoria, (**PD** 03 May) and a digital health scanner for customers to use on mobile devices.

Immediate results

THE Australian Digital Health Agency has created a video to help engage Australians with diabetes with quality information on how to access their diabetes management (HbA1c) test results in My Health Record.

These results are immediately available as soon as uploaded, as opposed to the previous seven-day waiting period, explained the agency, who launched the video in support of National Diabetes Week (09-15 Jul).

The video showcases the real-life story of rugby player Steve Renouf and his family.

The video, which can be seen [HERE](#), on the agency's website and via a range of social media channels, aims to raise awareness and promote the availability of immediate access to diabetes management tests in My Health Record.

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*Reference: 1. Lang C, et al., *Planta Med* 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG.

*Prospan is clinically proven to relieve a chesty cough in 7 days vs 14 days untreated. Schaefer A, et al., *Pharmazie* 2016;71(9):504-509.



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AFT on Amazon

AFT Pharmaceuticals announces an extension of its global e-commerce strategy with the launch of online stores on Amazon in the US and Australia.

AFT has been working with Sell Global, a specialist Amazon agency, selling its Liposomal range on Amazon.

The project so far has included researching the market opportunity, understanding the compliance requirements for imports, setting up quality product listings and brand presence, and now advertising and promoting on Amazon.

The new AFT Pharmaceuticals ecommerce strategy includes a Tmall site through which AFT sells into China.

The Australian site, seen [HERE](#), also supports AFT's extensive distribution through pharmacies, medical practices and hospitals.

Buck stops with owners

THE Pharmacy Council of NSW (PCNSW) is encouraging proprietor pharmacists to understand the importance of having oversight of their business to ensure safe healthcare delivery to the public.

Shweta Kumar, Professional Officer with the Pharmacy Council, and Caroline Diamantis, PCNSW member, Vice President of the NSW branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and a community pharmacist with more than 30 years of pharmacy ownership share in the Council's latest podcast that anything that happens in your pharmacy when "you are an owner, you have the government licence then you are the person responsible, and you cannot delegate that responsibility".

Diamantis advises that high risk medications need to be "under lock and key at all times...I keep my finger on the pulse with very good technology that allows me to dial in from home and get a bird's eye view of what's going on".



"I highly recommend that people have an electronic drug book to check activity, those handwritten ones are a thing of the past."

Diamantis does a stocktake every month instead of just twice a year.

"Picking up mistakes is easier, and all significant work and scripts need to be signed, allowing me to further elaborate on staff training."

Dose Administration Aids is a "landmine with numerous moving parts and communication is key".

"If you are owing scripts but are still packing medications, the regulators won't be happy."

"Start off by alerting both the doctor and the patient two months ahead on email that the script is running out and get a list off your computer on low scripts."

GPs & nurses are 'first port of call'

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has commended changes to improve access to medical abortion (*PD* yesterday), particularly for women living in rural and remote communities.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins said, "GPs are often the first port of call for people seeking support for unplanned pregnancy, because they know and trust their GP, and more so in rural communities where the local GP is often the *only* health service available".

While the Australian College of Nursing CEO, Kylie Ward said, "nurse practitioners are readily available at all stages of the medical termination process for women".

The changes also allow pharmacists to dispense medical abortion drugs without previous restrictions.

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Bad medicine for regional Aust

OPINION

Pharmacy Guild President Trent Twomey has penned an op-ed piece voicing his concerns about 60DD.



Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to feedback@pharmacydaily.com.au

SIXTY-DAY dispensing may sound good, but dig a little deeper and it's rural and regional Australia that will pay.

Some of you may remember the Joni Mitchell song Big Yellow Taxi with the verse, "You don't know what you got 'til it's gone".

It may as well be the theme song for 60-day dispensing, where pharmacists will be required to dispense two months' worth of medicine for the price of one month.

I fear patients won't realise the true impact of 60-day dispensing until the pharmacy they've got, is gone.

And by then it will be too late.

Our concerns have been justified by an independent report published recently.

The review was carried out by economist Henry Ergas along with Tulipwood Advisory and the Relational Insights Data Lab at Griffith University.

It found the policy will lead to the loss of 20,818 community pharmacy jobs and the closure of 665 pharmacies nationwide.

However, it is in the regions the policy will be felt the most.

That's because in rural and regional Australia it's the local community pharmacist which is often not just the first point of primary healthcare, it's the **ONLY** point of primary healthcare.

In fact, there are 332 localities in Australia where there is a pharmacy, but there is no GP surgery.

Now the Federal Government is implementing a policy, without consultation, which will make it impossible for many of these pharmacies to survive.

“
...the Federal Government is implementing a policy, without consultation, which will make it impossible for many of these pharmacies to survive
”

And when they close, patients in these affected areas will have to drive further and longer just to get medicine.

So much for the Government's line, "patients will be better off".

The Health Minister, Mark Butler's response so far is, "every single

dollar saved by the Government will go back into pharmacy services," but his Department's figures just don't add up.

His government's own impact analysis says on average each pharmacy stands to lose \$158,000 per year as a result of the 60-day dispensing policy.

The independent report says 60-day dispensing will rip \$4.5 billion out of the front line healthcare sector and yes the Federal Government says it is "re-investing" \$1.2 billion.

That's like me borrowing \$4,500 from you, paying back just \$1,200 and saying, "the debt is settled".

If you don't believe me, there are already pharmacies throughout Australia that have already had to lay off staff and shorten trading hours.

But that's not all.

Soon you'll feel the effect of cuts to free services such as blood pressure monitoring, diabetes management, webster packs for the aged and home delivery of medicines.

These are all services which the current dispensing arrangement helps pay for and keeps your local pharmacy's doors open for longer.

Unless the government delays the implementation of 60-day dispensing, as has been recommended, you will see more of these cuts and closures from Sep when the policy is in place.

I hope it doesn't come to this and we are urging the Government to come up with a proper solution.

Because if it doesn't, "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone".

SA expands scope

THE South Australia Government announced a trial at Lyell McEwin Hospital where hospital pharmacists will be authorised to prescribe medicines as part of care teams.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia President Tom Simpson says the trial is a "big step forward for pharmacist-led collaborative care in Australia, with the partnered prescribing model proven to be 10 times safer for patients, who spend 10% less time in hospital as a result".

"On behalf of hospital pharmacists, I congratulate and welcome Minister Chris Picton's announcement on the Partnered Pharmacist Medication Prescribing (PPMP) trial at Lyell McEwin Hospital.

"While the 2021 Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting initiative required doctors to authorise medication charts after they were filled out by a credentialed hospital pharmacist, the new PPMP trial will see credentialed hospital pharmacists authorising medication charts.

Simpson added, "our hospitals are both the origin and future of pharmacist-led prescribing in Australia".

"This natural expansion in the scope of practice is necessary...harnessing hospital pharmacists' speciality skills is a win-win in a sector battling workforce shortages.

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Dispensary Corner

AFTER failing to achieve a high enough score on China's dreaded college entry exam for the 27th time, ever-resilient Liang Shi at 56 is beginning to wonder if he will ever make it to his dream university, *AFP* has reported.

Liang, a self-made millionaire, has taken the gruelling "gaokao" exam dozens of times over the past four decades, hoping to earn a place at the top-tier Sichuan University to fulfil his ambition of becoming "an intellectual".

By most measures, Liang has had a successful life - he worked his way up from a menial job on a factory floor to establishing his own construction materials business, making millions of yuan in the process, but his university dreams have so far eluded him.

In his quest for a prestigious higher education, he has put in 12-hour study days, abstained from drinking and playing mahjong, and endured the media mocking him as the "gaokao holdout", as well as online suspicion that it is all a publicity stunt.

But despite months of living like "an ascetic monk", this year Liang was 34 points short of the provincial baseline for getting into any university.

"Before I got the result, I had a feeling that I wouldn't be able to get a high enough score to enter an elite university," he told *AFP*.

"But I didn't expect to not make it into the ordinary ones."

"It's all done for again this year," he said to himself.

"It's very regrettable."

First Nations cancer data

EXPLORING cancer rates in First Nations communities began yesterday with the launch of the *Kulay Kalingka* study.

The research led by the Australian National University (ANU) will gather information about First Nations' experiences of cancer where no data currently exists.

Launched at Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation in Condobolin NSW, the study will fill important gaps in understanding experiences of cancer which is the fourth leading cause of burden of disease for First Nations people.

Funded by the Australian Government, through Cancer Australia, it's the first cancer study designed, governed and controlled by First Nations Australians.

The study is being led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



research team at the ANU's National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research.

The results will also inform the implementation of the soon-to-be-released Australian Cancer Plan.

The collection of up to 3,000 stories told by First Nations people as part of this study will hopefully provide the evidence needed to inform the Government's policies, programs and services to improve cancer outcomes.

Pay heavily urged

LAWYERS for a California man who shared that he developed a rare cancer from exposure to asbestos in Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) talc-based baby powder has urged a jury to order the company to "pay heavy punitive damages" yesterday, calling its conduct "negligent" and "despicable", *Reuters* has reported.

"A reasonably careful corporation would not sell a product that allowed carcinogens to be applied to babies," Joseph Satterley, a lawyer for Emory Hernandez Valadez, said in a closing argument at the end of a six-week trial.

J&J denies that its now-discontinued talc contains asbestos or causes cancer.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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