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Cutting-edge pharmacy revealed

A NEW pharmacy model has been introduced in Tasmania, with the official opening of the Complete Care Pharmacy located in Rosny Park, Hobart, featuring as many as five consulting rooms where patients can be counselled on their medication or healthcare needs in a private setting.

The new pharmacy will also provide a full range of professional services including NDIS, diabetes, wound care, and immunisations.

The community pharmacy owners, Kristina Fox and Julie Sorrentino, will see their vision to provide the community with comprehensive pharmacist-led, healthcare solutions in a contemporary clinical setting come to life.

"With all the challenges and changes to the delivery of community pharmacy services over the past few years, we really wanted to ensure that we are able to triage a patient to maximise their time with us," Fox revealed.

"We have automated many of the transactional functions, implemented ways for our highly-trained pharmacy assistants to better support our pharmacists, and introduced new services through collaboration with other healthcare providers, including a nurse practitioner and lactation consultant," Fox added.

While Sorrentino said, "having dedicated consulting rooms means patients can freely discuss their concerns with our pharmacists.

"For example, we run the 'Men's Health Downunder' program which is delivered by a male pharmacist.

"The positive feedback we get from our male patients is extraordinary, given the reluctance of many to seek help in the first place," she explained.

Attending the launch will be Dennis Bastas, Chairman & CEO



at Arrotex Pharmaceuticals; Dave Fenlon, CEO, The Platform Alliance Group; Steve Kastrinakis, Executive Director, The Platform Alliance Group; Bruce Annabel, Pitcher Pharmacy Services; and Marta Stybowski, Director and Founder, Fusion Health Space.

The owners are also hoping that their pharmacy model can be showcased at the National Association of Pharmacy Students Australia Congress to be held in Hobart in Jan 2024. JG

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest industry news.

Best rural award

ALLENS Pharmacy, Goondiwindi, has won the inaugural Rural Pharmacy Award 2023, positioning it as the best pharmacy in a regional area according to Rural Pharmacy Australia.

The Goondiwindi Argus disclosed that Allens Pharmacy was chosen out of 11 finalists, with owners Stacy and Mick Wild winning the prestigious award at this month's Rural Pharmacy Conference on the Gold Coast.

Wild said, "I had no idea we would be getting the award or who nominated us".

"This award benefits all rural communities and the important role we play in the stretched healthcare system."




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Bianco L et al., J Am Geriatr Soc 2012; 60:1180-1.





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Dispensary Corner

SCIENTISTS investigating some of the quirkiest conundrums have been honoured in the satiric award of Ig Noble prizes, *The Guardian* has reported.

The Ig Nobel prizes for nutrition was won by Homei Miyashita from Meiji University and Hiromi Nakamura of the University of Tokyo for their research on electrified chopsticks and drinking straws.

"The taste of food can be changed immediately and reversibly by electrical stimulation, something that has been difficult to achieve with conventional ingredients such as seasonings," said Nakamura.

She said research had shown it was possible to enhance the saltiness of foods using electrical stimulation of the tongue.

Focusing on the other end of the digestive system, the Ig Nobel prize for public health was awarded for the development of a smart toilet that uses various technologies to monitor human waste for signs of disease, and an anal-print sensor to identify the user.

Staff investment essential

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) stated that this week's release of the NSW Budget 2023-2024 features more than \$14 billion in healthcare investment which includes staff retention and recruitment, and upgrading of hospital facilities.

SHPA President Tom Simpson said the \$2.5 billion investment to recruit and retain healthcare workers, including study subsidies for 12,000 healthcare students, is welcome news and calls on the government to ensure that hospital pharmacy gets its fair share of allocations to begin to address workforce sustainability in NSW.

"Our NSW pharmacy leaders consistently report pharmacy staff vacancy rates in their departments sitting around 20-40%, and we ask that NSW pharmacy departments have a seat at the table when these new recruitment and retention policies are being implemented.

"NSW significantly lags behind other states such as Victoria in hospital pharmacy intern positions despite being Australia's most populous state," asserted Simpson.

"Without a decent pipeline of new pharmacy graduates entering NSW Health, there is no solid

foundation on which to build a strong and resilient workforce to meet the increasing demands of hospital care."

Recently, the NSW gov't accepted in principle the recommendation to increase the number of public hospital pharmacists in emergency departments as part of its inquiry into the impact of ambulance ramping, Simpson explained.

"Given the high rates of turnover and difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, we need to ensure hospital pharmacy is adequately staffed to meet the healthcare needs of all patients and reduce the burden on overly stretched emergency departments," he said.

The NSW Budget also included \$13.8 billion toward health facilities including 600 new hospital beds across Western Sydney.

Simpson welcomed the investment while cautioning that it must come alongside investment allocated appropriately across the whole healthcare workforce.

"So, while the Essential Infrastructure Plan is necessary, without available staff we won't see the full benefit in building these new facilities, as the last thing we want to see is 600 new hospital beds that can't be serviced." JG

Sandoz moves

SANDOZ has relocated its Australian headquarters to North Sydney, ahead of its move to become a standalone generics and biosimilars company next month.

Sandoz had announced its separation earlier this year from Novartis, and said it would be moving out of the Macquarie Park campus that the pair had shared since 2015.

Country Head ANZ Clint Holland said, "the new facility provides a modern workspace that is designed to foster greater collaborations among our associates as we continue to deliver on our commitment to providing high-quality, accessible medicines in Australia and New Zealand".

With the move to a new office, Sandoz has also announced a role change as Nic Hennessy starts as Director People and Organisation ANZ.

She brings 15 years of global and local experience in FMCG and retail to the role.

Hennessy most recently worked for Woolworths, and succeeds Roberto Romero who has returned to his home as Country P&O Head Mexico.

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