

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of pharmacy news, plus a full page from G&M Cosmetics.

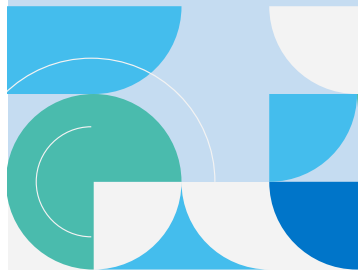
Prolia alert by FDA

THE US Food and Drug Administration added a serious "boxed" warning on the prescribing information for Amgen's drug Prolia, known to treat bone loss, as it increases the risk of severely low calcium levels in certain patients.

The warning comes after the health regulator in 2022 started a review into the risk of very low blood calcium in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease, particularly ones on dialysis and Prolia.

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NAPSA 2024 inspires future generation

THE National Association of Pharmacy Students (NAPSA) Congress 2024 set the stage for discussions on the scope of practice impacting the future of the profession, led by Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey, while National Vice President Helen O'Byrne presented to students the latest on pharmacy workforce issues.

Held in Hobart last week, the Congress conducted three dynamic workshops, and held a trade show with the grand finale being the ball.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) President Tom Simpson and SHPA Lead Education Pharmacist Julia Hruz also urged for students to consider hospital pharmacy as a career by hosting the SHPA booth at the Congress alongside Kelvin Kan and Jack Dickin, SHPA Residents at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

NAPSA's annual event brings together pharmacy students from round Australia and New Zealand to learn from those on the frontline.

Putting a spotlight on regional pharmacy were Life Pharmacy Group pharmacists Lochie Pettiford, Brooke Young, Bailey Stratford and Jack Buckley who presented

an education session to students on the 'Journey to Ownership', and conducted an interactive workshop on how patient-centred professional services can drive a good pharmacy business.

"There was a lot of optimism about community pharmacy, in particular as students are realising that there are a lot of clinical opportunities, and they're willing to engage, try new things and support the growth of the industry and the changing face of pharmacy," said Lochie Pettiford, Pharmacist in Charge of Parkes Pharmacy.

"It's great to see pharmacists that are like-minded, engaging, and advocating for the industry.

"An increase in scope of practice is what the future generation of pharmacists want to see."

"There were so many enthusiastic pharmacy students, excited to meet and learn from our experiences, and they wanted to gain as much as possible from Congress 2024," said Brooke Young, pharmacist and part-owner of Cooleman Court Pharmacy in Canberra.

Young added the industry leaders must ensure students are "excited, rather than scared", about entering the pharmacy profession.

Subsidies to study pharmacy degrees

STUDENTS enrolled in healthcare degrees in NSW can apply for up to \$12,000 in subsidies to support them in their studies.

Subsidies are available for students of pharmacy among several other health professions.

It is estimated the subsidies will support around one-third of health graduates over the next three years.

Students successful in their application and beginning their degrees will receive subsidies of \$4,000 per year over three years.

Existing students will receive one-off payments of \$8,000 after acceptance of employment for a position within NSW Health.

There are a limited number of subsidies available, and

applications will remain open until all subsidies are awarded.

Students also need to make a five-year commitment to working in the NSW public health system.

Premier of NSW Chris Minns said, "in recent years, we've seen hard-working NSW healthcare workers leave for other states, and the competition for graduates is just as tough".

"We are fulfilling our election commitment to recruit the next generation of health workers for the people of NSW, who rely on our public hospitals."

Minns concluded by saying that the govt was determined to ensure that pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, doctors and other allied health workers are there for patients when they need them.



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"It was heartwarming hearing the positive impact we had on students as they listened to us speak about our journey to ownership.

"The next generation of pharmacists coming through are a true inspiration and I look forward to seeing their careers progress and the positive impacts they may have on the future of our profession," Young concluded.

The NAPSA Congress 2025 will be held next in Brisbane. *JG*

Discount offer

AUSTRALIAN Creams is offering pharmacies a 10% discount on new orders for its native botanicals skincare range of products.

See more on the [back page](#).



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Dispensary Corner

BEING in good enough shape at 52 years old to run a full 42 kilometre marathon in three hours and 33 min is certainly very impressive.

To do so while chain-smoking the entire race is downright unreal, reported *Toronto Sun*.

That's what a man named Uncle Chen did during the Xiamen Marathon in China earlier this year, but apparently all his effort was for naught as he was disqualified.

With all the focus on quitting smoking around the world and Australia's vaping reforms, it is no surprise that "smoking on the track," was the very reason for his disqualification.

The Xiamen Marathon committee issued a recent statement announcing the disqualification for violating an article in the Xiamen Marathon rules and regulations.

Article 2.12 states: "Uncivilised behaviour from runners such as open defecation, smoking, or trampling on flower beds or green spaces that affect the race and the safety of other runners will result in disqualification".

So it looks like Chen's own viral popularity was ultimately his downfall as reactions to his unorthodox racing methods have drawn both praise and criticism online and from his fellow competitors.

While it is no doubt inconsiderate to others in the race, many comments also applauded him for being able to complete the gruelling race while actively harming himself.

Life boosts remote health

LIFE Pharmacy Group (LPG) pharmacists administered 479 COVID-19 vaccinations to aged care residents at 10 regional and remote sites across New South Wales during the Christmas/New Year period.

It comes as figures show that just 38% of aged care residents have received a COVID-19 booster shot.

LPG pharmacists from Forbes, Parkes, Dubbo, and Bathurst have been travelling across the state to deliver, and administer, hundreds of vaccinations to patients in residential aged care facilities during the holiday period.

'Flying Pharmacist' Jack Buckley (pictured), recently shared his work on TV program *Sunrise*.

Combining his love of helping people and flying, Buckley is part-owner of Life Pharmacy Forbes and Flannery's Pharmacy NSW, and a pilot for the past 15 years.

"I always had a dream that I'd be flying and creating a point of difference in people's lives from the air, and delivering services, I just didn't know what that looked like...but I'm glad we could make it happen," Buckley commented.

He mentioned that although there were access issues to primary health in regional Australia, the problem could be solved with an aeroplane.



"I do consider myself quite lucky to be putting my passion for primary and preventative healthcare to use and getting out there and seeing the world from a couple of thousand feet - it's pretty special," he commented.

In a similar initiative in Jun last year, the LPG team delivered more than 600 critical vaccines to aged care residents in remote locations across NSW.

"We're going to centres which, quite often, may not have a GP or pharmacy in those towns, so our stores are offering outreach services to assist the vulnerable patients in those communities that otherwise don't have a health professional to assist with vaccinations," said Lisa Gibson, Owner and Pharmacist in Charge of Orana Mall Pharmacy Dubbo.

"In the aged care homes, some patients can be quite isolated so it's good having someone to have a chat to about their healthcare.

"And the pharmacists enjoy getting out and doing some work in the community as well, and just offering different services and engaging with different patients."

The LPG team has been visiting sites such as in Balranald, Bourke, Cobar, Condobolin, Gulgong, Kandos, Mudgee, Orange, Parkes, Rylstone, Wellington, and Yeoval, travelling by car and aircraft to reach these remote areas. JG

Safety with AI tools

MORE deaths are caused in New Zealand from medicine-related errors than those on the road.

A University of Canterbury start up called Script Sense created by MBA grads Paneet Saini and Kieran Erasmuson hopes to turn around that statistic using AI and other tech tools - see more [HERE](#).

Guild Update

Rural pharmacy video competition

THE popular "I love rural pharmacy" video competition is back in 2024.

Regional, rural, and remote pharmacists and their staff are invited to submit a video (1-2 mins) for the rural pharmacy video competition.

The dynamic area of health has been marked by constant change this decade, especially in regional, rural, and remote Australia.

The 2024 video competition, with the 'Adapting to a Changing Landscape' theme, is an opportunity to showcase how regional, rural, and remote community pharmacies continue to evolve, adapt, and grow to be responsive to the needs of their patients and their communities.

The 'I Love Rural Pharmacy Video Competition' offers entrants the opportunity to reflect on and take a light-hearted look at the adaptation and innovation in the profession and celebrate and share their achievements with the industry.

Entries close on 16 Feb 2024 and winners will be announced during the Rural Pharmacy Forum at APP2024.

For details, terms, and instructions to enter the competition, [CLICK HERE](#).

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