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New PSA Tas head elected

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has elected Mark Kirschbaum (**pictured**) as the new leader of its Tasmanian branch.

Kirschbaum, a practitioner member of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, serves as a locum community pharmacist and academic at the University of Tasmania in Launceston.

With extensive experience in regulation, policy, and advocacy, Kirschbaum has been collaborating with PSA for years to enhance patient care and the quality use of medicines.

He recently contributed to the redevelopment of Professional Practice Standards and the Tasmanian Government's Scope of Practice Review for Pharmacists.

Outgoing President David Peachey will remain as Vice-President,



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GSK partnership

BRITISH pharmaceutical giant GSK is buying COVID and influenza vaccines from CureVac, reported *Reuters*.

It will pay CureVac €400m (A\$642m) upfront and up to €1.05b (A\$1.69b) contingent on achievements.

CureVac shares surged 24% higher on the news.

As a result of the acquisition, CureVac which will lay off 30% of its staff to focus on mRNA projects in oncology.

This is in addition to the 1,000 jobs it slashed in Apr, as a result of its failure to develop an mRNA-based COVID vaccine during the pandemic.



alongside Joanne Gross, with Dr Shane Jackson continuing as National Board Director.

Kirschbaum expressed gratitude to Peachey for his leadership since 2021 and looks forward to working with the branch committee to support Tasmanian pharmacists.

"I sincerely thank David Peachey for his leadership as President of our branch.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Vice-Presidents Dave and Joanne, and the branch committee to represent and support Tasmanian pharmacists," he said. *JG*

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- **Pointers**
- **Direct Chemist Outlet**



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Stands sold out

PHARMACY Connect Convenor Kos Sclavos has revealed that the joint trade exhibition for this year's Pharmacy Connect and Pharmacy Assistant National Conference is fully subscribed, with all stands sold out.

"We've got 66 different companies participating in this year's trade exhibition with 70 separate exhibitions, there's sure to be something of interest for all delegates."

"Exhibitors range from prescription and OTC providers, software firms, complementary medicines suppliers, finance companies and more," Sclavos said.

Expand your network by registering for both conferences [HERE](#).

Salaries trending upward

EXCLUSIVE

OVER the past year, pharmacist salaries for permanent roles have generally continued to increase, driven by expanded demand for and the evolving complexity of the profession, revealed the latest edition of the *Raven's Recruitment Pharmacy Salary and Market Report 2024*.

"Over the past three years, this upward trend was particularly pronounced, however, as we move forward, this rapid growth in salaries has begun to stabilise," said Heidi Dariz (**pictured**), Raven's General Manager, who will be presenting the findings at tomorrow's Pharmacy Careers Summit 2024 (PCS24).

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Dariz said, "pharmacists are seeking the financial and professional stability that permanent roles provide due to the current cost-of-living issues, such as consistent income, job security, and access to benefits like leave entitlements and career development opportunities".

Faced with high living costs and limited housing availability, many candidates are now favouring rural roles that offer comprehensive accommodation solutions over those that merely provide initial accommodation or an allowance.

"In rural areas, the full accommodation packages, which include secure housing for the duration of their employment, are a big drawcard for pharmacists.

"Where there hasn't been accommodation offered at first, employers have had to make arrangements on their own, otherwise they may not get a pharmacist to their town."

Dariz said in the locum category, the salaries have actually "dropped a bit" from last year.

"Initially, the extraordinary surge in locum rates was driven by acute shortages and heightened demand, particularly during the peak periods of the pandemic.

"As the urgency that fuelled such high rates has diminished, the downward adjustment in locum rates reflects a more tempered and sustainable approach to



remuneration, aligning with the broader trend of stabilising salaries across the pharmacy sector."

Dariz said widespread concerns that the introduction of 60-Day Dispensing would lead to job losses, based on reduced frequency of patient visits decreasing the demand for dispensing services, haven't materialised.

"Contrary to these expectations, the number of vacant roles has actually increased.

"This unexpected trend can be attributed to the evolving responsibilities of pharmacists, who are now taking on more clinical and patient-centred roles," she said.

While there has been an influx of overseas-trained pharmacists seeking employment opportunities in Australia, "business owners are frustrated with the time taken to process visas, and the costs associated with it, which is exacerbating the staffing shortages, particularly in rural and remote areas".

Addressing these visa delays is crucial to fully leverage the potential of international pharmacists, ensuring they can contribute to the healthcare system, she added.

Dariz also mentioned, "employers are increasingly recognising the value of offering work-life balance and flexible hours, and are more willing to implement demonstrating a commitment to employee well-being." JG

CLICK HERE to register for PCS24 and hear the full report's findings.

Diabetes inquiry

TWENTY-THREE key recommendations are included in the comprehensive report tabled yesterday by the government's Health, Aged Care and Sport Committee, following its landmark 'Inquiry into Diabetes'.

Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain said after many decades of calls for more diabetes prevention measures including food labelling and a levy on sugary drinks were welcome recommendations.

"Investment to access healthy food; a levy on sugary drinks; and a ban on junk food advertising to children, are all issues we have long been calling for, and we're pleased that the committee has responded to those calls," said Cain.

"Diabetes Australia also supports the recommendation for comprehensive economic analysis to be undertaken about the direct and indirect cost of diabetes."

The committee included recommendations regarding expanding subsidised access to insulin pumps for people with type 1 diabetes, as well as continuous glucose monitoring devices for people with type 2 and type 3c diseases requiring regular insulin, and those with the gestational condition.

Committee Chair Dr Mike Frelander said the nation is facing a diabetes epidemic.

"In Australia, approximately 1.5 million people - some 5% of the population - are known to live with a form of diabetes, with numbers rising."

This report, Frelander said, seeks to improve health outcomes for patients living with all forms of diabetes and obesity, raise awareness of risk factors, and reduce the burden of chronic disease on Australia's health care system.

The report on diabetes, informed by the committee over 15 days of public hearings, can be read [HERE](#).



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Editor's Choice: INIKA Organics unveils 'world-first' foundation

INIKA Organic has unveiled a new product - a certified organic, 100% natural serum foundation, which the brand has dubbed a "world first".

With a range of 10 shades on offer, the new skincare hybrid promises a feather-light, flawless finish that leaves skin looking luminous and feeling revitalised, according to the brand.

Key ingredients include ceramide, baobab seed, and sunflower seed, which combine to deliver a natural blurred effect to the skin, without the worry of transfer or a sticky residue.

Featuring ecofriendly packaging, the vegan and cruelty-free product is free from alcohol



and harmful chemicals.

Supermodel, environmental activist and INIKA Ambassador Robyn Lawley was recently in Australia to launch the new Serum Foundation.

"I'm very conscious about what I put into my body and on my

face and want to ensure that my makeup and skincare is cruelty free, has no nasties and is kind to the planet," she said.

INIKA Organic Serum Foundation can be found in select pharmacies around Australia for RRP: \$85.

Supplements for pets



NATURAL Pet Supplements, an Australian herbal range for dogs and cats, is now available at Chemist Warehouse online and in-store, and is also stocked at selected Pharmacy 777s.

Founded by WA-based small animal naturopath Erin Follington, the brand offers all-natural, effective, safe, herbal and nutritional supplements that use only the most premium ingredients, and are specifically designed for pets.

The extensive range of supplements use a glycerine base, come in beef or bacon flavour for easy palatability, and can be easily mixed into food.

The brand's most popular products are the Throat and Lung Support, Kidney Support and Pain Support. The 100ml bottles and retail for \$55.95 each.

Also available are supplements to help support skin, digestion, heart, immunity, joints, liver, thyroid, urinary, cushings disease, and stress, as well as one especially designed for senior pets.

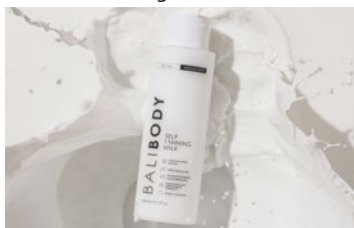
There is also a Skin Soothing Spray (RRP: \$29.95) to assist your four-legged friend's irritated skin.

A nourishing glow

BALI Body has introduced its Gradual Tanning Milk, which allows users to achieve a bronzed glow while nourishing their skin.

Available at Chemist Warehouse stores across Australia for RRP: \$28.95, the new product is designed to provide a seamless tan with the added advantage of hydrating and caring for skin.

The quick-dry and rinse-free formula makes application a breeze, and the colourless milk leaves no trace on clothing or bed linen.



Aromababy's gentle skincare now travel-ready



AUSTRALIAN skincare brand Aromababy, now in its 30th year, has released its popular Baby Bath Gel and Barrier Balm products in convenient travel sizes.

Now available in a 50ml bottle, the Baby Bath Gel contains certified organic pure essential oils of French lavender and German

chamomile to help soothe and care for delicate skin.

Added certified GMO-free natural vitamin E means the product provides effective moisturising while washing, and can be used as an ideal bath or shower gel for the entire family.

The Barrier Balm, which can now be purchased in a convenient 25mg size, is designed to care for nappy rash, cradle cap and dry skin, thanks to organic evening primrose, vitamin E and calendula oils.

The balm melts on contact with the skin, moisturising it and providing a light protective barrier.

Aromababy products are available to purchase in Australia through online pharmacies, including Chemist Direct and Pharmacy Online.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner



MAIRLYN Smith, a Toronto-based cookbook author and self-proclaimed 'Queen of Fibre', has a unique remedy for digestive issues: the 'fart walk'.

This cheeky concept began a decade ago when she and her husband decided to take post-dinner strolls, according to the *New York Post*.

"When you eat as much fibre as we do, you can get gassy," Smith recalled.

"[One day] we walked...cue the farts, and the legendary #Fartwalk was born."

The routine has since gone viral, drawing laughter and praise from both social media and various gastrointestinal (GI) experts, as exercise, including these 'fart walks', are known to aid digestion.

Dr Lisa Ganjhu, a gastroenterologist at NYU Langone, explained, "when you are moving, your GI tract is also moving, helping trigger gut motility, essential for properly breaking down food".

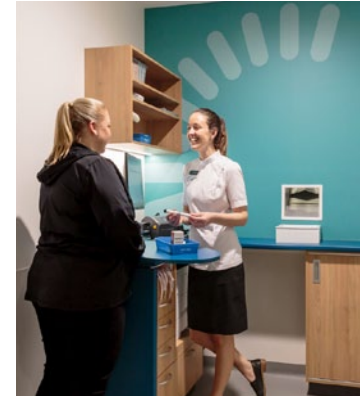
This increased gut movement can help relieve heartburn, acid reflux, and bloating.

Studies show that activities like walking can stimulate a nerve reflex that propels food and gas through the gut.

Plus, walking engages abdominal muscles, creating internal pressure that helps expel intestinal gas.

So, next time you're feeling gassy, let those 'fart walks' work their magic, just don't walk down the aisles of your pharmacy - you might need to be ushered out.

New Care store moves into full scope



EXCLUSIVE

KRISTINA Fox, winner of the 2024 Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year, and Complete Care Pharmacy Rosny Park owner, has completely transformed her store to be a clinical healthcare destination.

The refurbished store is two years in the making and has triage desks manned by pharmacists who are on the floor, directing patients to either pharmacist 'pods' for consultations or a production area for fast dispensing by techs.

Complete Care pharmacies are all seamlessly serviced by a custom dispensing and organisational workflow software called Excipient, which was designed, and created by Fox, and her colleagues.

Excipient has many features but notably it can create digital

baskets containing all script and appointment types from anywhere within the store, including self-serve stations, and is fully integrated with dispensing.

"Community pharmacists want to do more, and we are in a position to do more, but we don't know how we can do it when we are already struggling to keep up with the workload that we have day to day," Fox told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"The new software presents work to a pharmacist, dispensary technician or assistant at each dispense station that is only relevant to that person, while still enabling an overview of everything that is happening throughout the entire store."

Other than repeat scripts, every patient is taken into one of the consulting 'pods' rooms for a

consultation with a pharmacist, to discuss issues such as new medication, minor ailment, medical certificates, and vaccinations.

The software can monitor current wait times in store and sends SMS when a script is ready.

"We are no longer having conversations about health in the middle of the pharmacy," said Fox, recalling her own experience with an unwell child and needing private space to discuss her concerns.

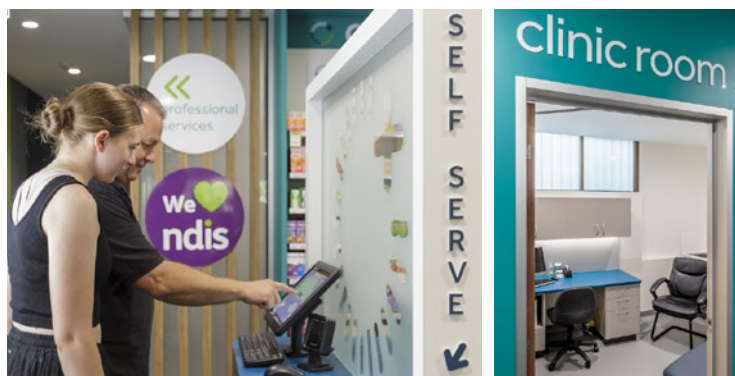
"Our model has enabled us to seemingly practice to our full scope, whilst also integrating other allied health professionals, including a nurse practitioner, so that we can offer complete health solutions to our patients," Fox explained.

"A robot even dispenses the medicines in the consulting rooms."

Fox revealed that the model has been financially rewarding and that Complete Care Pharmacy is now a brand that will be expanding into other communities across Australia.

"I am so proud of what has been achieved by our team.

"We have proven that community pharmacy can be practiced differently - not only is it professionally rewarding to practice this way but our patients love it - and that is the most important thing to me," Fox concluded. JG



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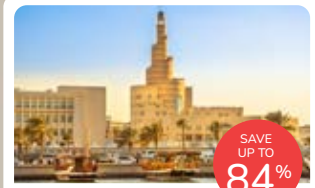
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