

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Wealth 100 Club
- Guild Insurance

Pharmacy for sale

WEALTH 100 Club has a cash positive pharmacy up for sale.

The valuation, finance, due diligence, and legal matters are all taken care of, so take advantage of this and future offers by joining up with a free membership today.

Learn more on **page four**.

Insures scope

GUILD Insurance will cover various scope-of-practice pilots so pharmacists can expand their services with confidence, knowing they are protected for their real-life needs.

See the **back page** about the additional benefit for members.

Senate's "bad decision"

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia says it strongly opposes the proposal that the vaping reforms bill, before Parliament, changes the current medicines schedule for nicotine-containing vapes from Schedule 4 (Prescription Only) to Schedule 3 (Pharmacist Only).

The result of the proposed change reported in general media is that nicotine-containing vapes could be available for purchase through a community pharmacy without the requirement for a prescription at a future date (**PD breaking news**).

A Guild spokesperson commented, "the Senate is about to make a bad decision".

"We urge the Senate to change course as pharmacists are healthcare professionals who dispense medication that provides a proven therapeutic benefit.

"No vaping product has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration based on its safety, efficacy or performance."

The Guild said no vaping product



is listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

"Vaping has long-term patient harms, including cancer, lung-scarring and nicotine addiction.

"The Senate's expectation that community pharmacies become vape retailers, and vape garbage collectors, is insulting.

"Everyone wants to keep illegal vapes out of the hands of kids and teenagers, but the Senate wants pharmacists to stock vapes next to children's Panadol, cold and flu medicine, and emergency contraception."

Pharmacy Daily had contacted Health Minister Mark Butler's office for comments but didn't get any at the time of publishing. JG

Rural funding

THE Federal Government has announced \$16 million for 11 healthcare delivery trials in rural and remote Australia.

The National Rural Health Alliance said one of the trial projects to be funded will provide an opportunity to "revolutionise healthcare delivery" in rural Australia through a model first proposed by the body.

"We are pleased that the Health Minister Mark Butler sees the opportunity our proposed Primary Care Rural Integrated Multidisciplinary Health Service (PRIM-HS) model will provide for rural communities, where the urban-based models do not work," said the Alliance Chief Executive, Susi Tegen.

The PRIM-HS model will be trialled for the first time at Far North Qld's Mareeba Community's Family Healthcare under a \$1.57m grant.

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The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

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McMillan grant winners

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the recipients of the second annual PSA Faye McMillan Conference Grant as Timothy Hockam, Elizabeth Dening, and Kirralee Natty.

Inspired and supported by Prof McMillan, the annual grant offers an opportunity for First Nations pharmacists to attend the PSA National Conference (PSA24) next month, which will foster their professional development.

This year's three pharmacists are being sponsored by Care Pharmaceuticals, Hydralyte, and AstraZeneca ANZ.

McMillan, a Wiradjuri yinaa (woman) originally from Trangie, NSW, was the first Indigenous Australian to hold a western degree in pharmacy.

She congratulated all the recipients and said, "belonging is such a critical aspect of being part of a profession, and the relationship with PSA gives that feeling".

PSA National President Fei

Sim said, "as we celebrate the recipients of the PSA Faye McMillan Conference Grant, PSA reaffirms our commitment to nurturing diversity and inclusion within the pharmacy profession".

"Supporting First Nations pharmacists is not just about equity; it's about recognising and harnessing the unique perspectives and contributions they bring to the healthcare landscape.

"Congratulations to Timothy, Elizabeth and Kirralee, we are excited to have you as part of this year's conference."

Marketing Manager of Care Pharmaceuticals and Hydralyte Joan Isaac and AstraZeneca Australia and New Zealand's Country President Ben McDonald both said that as sponsors, they recognised the achievements of indigenous pharmacists like McMillan in advancing healthcare equity, and their sponsorship would support culturally appropriate healthcare. *JG*

Vinnies Sleepout shows "cracks in system"



PHARMACIST Krysti-Lee Patterson participated at the Vinnies CEO Sleepout last week, as a way of giving back to the charity that once supported her family when she was a child.

Now, as Managing Director of Meitheal Services and current Chair of Lived Experience Australia, Patterson wants to shed light on Vinnies' work within the community.

"I am a passionate advocate for mental health, and it is important to raise awareness of the impact homelessness or the risk of it on the mind's wellbeing," Patterson explained.

"I wanted to participate as I

have also referred patients to Vinnies for support in paying for their medications," she added.

During the event, Patterson, along with Guild NSW branch committee member Christine Kelly and branch Director Daniel Kicuroski, role-played the experience of seeking support.

"We found the process very frustrating, and an eye-opener, revealing the cracks in our system that let people down," she said.

"However, witnessing the amazing work Vinnies does to fill these gaps and navigate the maze of seeking support was incredible," she remarked.

The pharmacists also heard about people's experiences which highlighted that homelessness does not discriminate.

"We then spent the night under the stars with just a sheet of cardboard to protect us from the elements," Patterson concluded.

Pictured: Patterson, Kelly, and Kicuroski at the Vinnies Sleepout.

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Dispensary Corner

DOES pounding the pavement several days a week or standing *en pointe* for ballet help strengthen your foot muscles?

Dr Ebonie Rio from the La Trobe University is on a mission to find out.

In collaboration with The Australian Ballet, Dr Rio is studying how different activities impact foot muscles, function, and pain.

She's comparing ballet dancers, general folk, and runners of all sorts.

"We hope this will help us understand what influence load has on whether or not a person has foot pain, and how what impact it has on foot function," she explained.

Foot pain is one of the most common reasons people visit the doctor, and pharmacies, explained Dr Rio.

"We need to know more about how activity impacts foot muscles and joints."

Drawing inspiration from Dr Sue Mayes' research on ballerinas' hips, Dr Rio has hypothesised that both ballet dancers and runners might actually benefit from all their rigorous footwork.

But here's the kicker: Dr Rio needs 20 more runners, aged 18 to 70, to join the study by the end of Jun.

Participants, whether they have foot pain or not, will get an MRI and some fancy foot tests at The Australian Ballet studios.

So, if you run twice a week, sign up **HERE**, and maybe you'll discover your feet are tougher than you think.

Diabetes crisis escalates

A **NEW** report from Diabetes Australia has issued an urgent call for action on diabetes prevention, highlighting a national health crisis.

The *2024 State of the Nation* report, launched yesterday at NSW Parliament, reveals an alarming rise in type 2 diabetes diagnoses, particularly among younger Aussies.

Over the last decade, the number of people aged 21 to 39 diagnosed with diabetes has surged by 44%, with diagnoses before the age of 20 increasing by 17%.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are particularly hard-hit, experiencing the world's highest rates of youth-onset type 2 diabetes, with cases among 15 to 24-year-olds doubling in the past five years.

Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain (**pictured**) expressed deep concern over the lack of a national type 2 diabetes prevention plan, saying, "the current state of play is failing our young people".

"Today, with an estimated two million Australians living with diabetes, we still don't have a prevention plan.

"We need urgent action to prioritise diabetes prevention and its associated complications.

"This is about the health of our



nation and future generations."

The report's release comes as a Federal parliamentary inquiry is set to announce its findings.

Cain urged bold recommendations from the committee to curb the diabetes epidemic, which shows no signs of slowing down, with more than 300 Australians being diagnosed daily.

The report includes 25 recommendations, such as a 20% levy on sugar-sweetened beverages, a national diabetes kidney screening program, and increased funding for research.

Other suggestions include new training programs for aged care staff, strategic workforce development, and Medicare rebates on prevention and screening visits. *JG*

J&J's market move to help prevent SSIs

FROM 01 Aug, Johnson & Johnson MedTech is withdrawing its non-antibacterial sutures from the ANZ markets, in cases where it can be replaced with an antibacterial alternative.

The move is part of J&J's commitment to help prevent surgical site infections (SSIs), affecting many patients each year.

Healthcare-associated infections are the most common

hospital-acquired complications, resulting in \$42,102 in extra costs for a single hospitalisation.

SSIs increase morbidity and mortality rates, lead to extended hospital stays, and substantial emotional and physical distress.

Clinicians are recommended to use triclosan-coated Plus Sutures as part of a bundle of care approach, effectively reducing the SSIs risk by 28%.



Guild Update

More to do for flu

A **COMMENDATION** and a word of encouragement: while pharmacy is delivering more flu vaccines than ever before, the Guild is encouraging all pharmacists to continue to provide prompts and reminders to their patients.

2024 has seen a severe start to the flu season, and vaccine rates in community pharmacy settings are up.

In fact, as at 02 June, pharmacies had provided around 18% more vaccinations than two years ago.

However, Australians generally are still demonstrating vaccine hesitancy, with the overall population at a vaccination rate is 16% lower than it was at the same time in 2022.

Pharmacists have an important role to play in providing reminders to encourage patients to receive their vaccine.

After all, patients trust their community pharmacist and often a simple reminder is all it takes to get them to act.

Why not try asking your patients, "have you had your flu vaccination yet?"



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For over 60 years, Guild Insurance has supported Australia's pharmacy profession through everything you do. Together with the PGA and PDL, we've worked hard to ensure our policies protect and reflect pharmacists' real-life needs.

Now that the PGA-driven scope of practice changes are live, we understand that, yet again, the real-life needs of pharmacists have changed, but our support hasn't. All Guild customers who participate in an approved scope of practice pilot can do so with confidence, knowing their insurance policy will still protect them.

What's a scope of practice pilot?

Scope of practice pilots will continue to evolve as state and federal governments and their agencies continue to work with our profession. In Queensland right now, community pharmacists who have undertaken 12 months of additional training can offer additional services to patients for a number of conditions, including school sores, shingles, mild psoriasis, wound management, swimmer's ear, weight loss management and hypertension, among others. It is these types of programs that Guild has committed to support through the addition of an additional benefit.

An additional benefit for Guild customers.

To provide cover certainty, the policy wording we apply to all Guild Pharmacy Business policies includes an additional benefit for 'Scope of Practice Pilots'. If you're already insured with Guild, this benefit is automatically applied. If you are not with Guild, you should ask your insurer if they can say the same.

If you'd like to find out more about Guild's exclusive support of pharmacy's scope of practice pilots, visit guildinsurance.com.au/pilot or if you'd like to be protected by a policy that is tailor made for Australian pharmacists, call a Guild insurance specialist on **1800 810 213**.

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