

Today's issue of PD

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

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Guild Insurance

Ban on fake drugs

IN A significant crackdown on counterfeit medication, the government has announced it will ban compounding pharmacists from producing generic versions of drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro, effective from Oct.

The decision follows a series of alarming findings, including a *Four Corners* report uncovering an international drug racket led by a registered Australian pharmacist, who was manufacturing and illegally exporting replica Ozempic to the US.

Further investigations by the ABC exposed that patients using products from Total Compounding Pharmaceuticals (TCP) experienced side effects, including nerve damage, rashes, and vomiting blood.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler emphasised the substantial safety risks due to lack of proper manufacturing oversight and quality control.

"The clearest possible advice from our safety regulators was that we need to shut down this market as it poses too much of a public safety risk," said Butler.

The crackdown was further justified by newly released footage from a TGA raid on TCP's facilities in Western Sydney, showcasing unsanitary conditions, with repurposed kitchen equipment and dirty surfaces used to make the drugs.

Program helps bridge ownership gap

EXCLUSIVE

PHARMACY broker AP Group has launched a Junior Partnership Program designed to facilitate the challenging transition from employee to pharmacy owner.

The program aims to address significant barriers such as the high cost of entry and the need for practical business experience.

AP Group's National Sales Executive and Partnerships expert, Chris Swift (pictured), told *Pharmacy Daily* about the dual challenges that helped start the business initiative.

"Highly qualified pharmacists are often deterred by the unaffordable costs associated with pharmacy ownership," Swift said.

"Simultaneously, existing owners are seeking junior partners to help sustain and grow their businesses."

The program aims to bridge this gap by matching junior pharmacists with senior partners seeking business support.

Participants in the Junior Partnership Program will benefit from mentorship in business operations, financial management, and strategic planning.

The program also supports



pharmacists throughout their journey to ownership, offering help in securing financing and access to a network of specialised legal and accounting services.

As it develops, AP Group plans to diversify the partnership listings available to aspiring owners.

"As partnership opportunities arise, junior partners will be able to explore options that align with their preferences, experience levels, and financial capabilities," said Swift.

"Whether envisioning a pharmacy in a metropolitan area or a regional town, there will be partnerships available in a variety of settings."

"The program is open to pharmacists who are passionate about advancing their careers and contributing to the future of pharmacy in Australia, as well as senior pharmacy owners looking at bringing on talented and loyal

staff to take some of the ownership burden from them."

Learn how the Junior Partnerships Program will work for you at the *Pharmacy Daily* and Raven's Recruitment PCS2024 event.

The virtual event will feature educational sessions, a trade show and networking opportunities.

Registration is open for the not-to-be-missed event with several heads of key pharmacy groups presenting.

To learn more **CLICK HERE**. JG

SHPA signals new era with changes

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has overwhelmingly approved the addition of an elected Technician Member to its Board of Directors, as announced by SHPA President Tom Simpson.

The decision accompanies the adoption of a new SHPA Constitution and the unveiling of a membership pathway for New Zealanders, a collaborative effort with the New Zealand Hospital

Pharmacy Association.

These initiatives are part of SHPA's Transformation 2024 agenda, which included the launch of the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy last year (PD 24 Nov 2023).

Simpson said the changes emphasise SHPA's commitment to inclusivity and advanced practice, and is "only the start of big changes to come".

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Palliative care gap

DURING National Palliative Care Week, on until 25 May, peak healthcare organisations are uniting to address the urgent need for enhanced services in rural and regional communities in Australia.

Funded by the government, a new scoping review pinpoints critical gaps and proposes solutions, such as the establishment of a Rural and Remote Institute of Palliative Medicine to advance local training and support.

The 'Beyond the Burbs' review was supported by the Australia New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM), supported by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) and Palliative Care Australia (PCA).

The severe disparity in palliative care was highlighted by Dr Christine Sanderson, ANZSPM councillor, who noted that only 16% of specialists serve the nearly 30% of Australians living in rural areas.

Emphasising the need for attractive rural career pathways to retain talent in these regions was highlighted by PCA CEO Camilla Rowland.

Further, a National Rural Health Strategy was advised by Susi Tegen, Chief Executive of the NRHA, to ensure care from birth to death in rural regions.

The outcomes of the review have been presented to the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler for further funding.

Winners of Amcal awards

AMCAL+ Pharmacy Emerton in Western Sydney, led by Margaret and Curtis Rahnau, has been honoured as the Amcal Pharmacy of the Year 2024 at its national conference in Sydney.

The award, announced last night at a gala event concluding the conference, recognises the pharmacy's innovative approach to community health, including significant partnerships with the Western Sydney Local Health District on public health initiatives like Quit Smoking programs and the 'Too Deadly for Diabetes' program.

Curtis Rahnau (pictured top left) highlighted the success of these programs, particularly their impact on "reversing diabetes" among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The event also featured performances by singer Ricki-Lee and included a keynote speech by actor and charity advocate Samuel Johnson (pictured bottom right), who received a \$20,000 donation for his Love Your Sister Foundation from Sigma CEO Vikesh Ramsunder (pictured in both photos).

The conference also celebrated excellence, with Tahlia Weatherhead from Amcal+ Pharmacy Donnybrook, WA, winning Pharmacy Assistant of the Year.

Leah Ryder from Amcal+ Pharmacy Kempsey, NSW, won the Retail Manager of the Year.

Amcal+ Pharmacy Gorokan, NSW, was awarded the Community Engagement Pharmacy of the Year.

The Donnybrook pharmacy took home the Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year award.



Leigh Harrison was named Amcal+ BDM of the Year for his work in South Australia and Northern Territory.

On the supplier side, Essity took home the award for the Baby and General Merchandise category.

While Ego scooped up Beauty and Personal Care, Reckitt Benckiser won Medicines, and Arrotex took out the Ethicals category.

Sanofi picked up the Health and Wellbeing category, and claimed the National Supplier of the Year award. JG

Grow with TWC

TERRYWHITE Chemmart's (TWC) commitment to business excellence and health expertise can help drive profitability for your business, as well as add value for your pharmacy customers. See more on **page four**.

DCO partnership

DIRECT Chemist Outlet (DCO) has announced a significant enhancement in its supply chain through a new two-year agreement with Arrotex Pharmaceuticals.

The partnership aims to bolster DCO's access to a broad spectrum of generic medications, emphasising the company's commitment to cost-effective healthcare solutions for its customers.

Ian Tauman, Director of DCO, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, highlighting Arrotex's alignment with the banner group's mission of providing accessible healthcare nationwide.

Additionally, DCO acknowledged its fruitful decade-long relationship with its previous supplier, pharma company Sandoz.

The strategic move with Arrotex marks a key development in DCO's expansion within the Australian pharmaceutical market, helping the group to solidify its supply chain for accessibility, and quality.

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Dispensary Corner

LATE-NIGHT pharmacists in Sydney have a new ally in Scott Taylor, the "Conflict Whisperer", who's on a mission to tame the wild spirits of the city's nightlife.

As a highly trained safety and risk expert, Taylor's keen eye spots the subtle signs of impending bar brawls - the clenching of fists or jaw and self-pacifying gestures such as suddenly rubbing or scratching arms, neck or head, indicating rising frustration.

At a recent free training session hosted by the Night Time Industries Association, Taylor shared his sage advice on spotting those under the influence of not just spirits, but entitlement too.

"Dominant and angry people take more space," he explained, probably while demonstrating a flex pose.

It's these power stances and sudden itchy necks that herald the onset of trouble.

With industry figures showing 86% of the 3,274 assaults that occurred in Sydney's licensed premises last year were alcohol-related, the teachings are more crucial than ever.

Further, three-quarters of the troublemakers prosecuted last year for assaults or disorderly conduct on licensed premises were men.

Taylor's expertise isn't confined to just pubs and clubs; he's also the peacekeeper of choice for theatres, stadiums, and even corporate offices - because apparently, conflicts over PowerPoint presentations can get just as heated.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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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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