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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Dispense Assist**.

Low-cost solution

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at low rates. See **page three** for more info.

Priceline praise

PRICELINE is today celebrating World Pharmacists Day, describing them as an integral part of Australian communities large and small.

"Australian pharmacies are often the first port of call for the community when it comes to advice and guidance on health issues, so it's important we're effectively responding to changing health needs," Priceline pharmacist Justin Withers told *Pharmacy Daily*.

Withers said the ongoing adoption of the latest technology was another sign pharmacists were on the cutting edge of preventative and reactive healthcare.

"Adopting in-store technology like our SiSU Health Stations (available in 388 Priceline stores) to provide patients with ongoing accessible, self-serve and free health checks is another way Priceline Pharmacy is leading the way in preventive health and improving health literacy."

CWG spirals Sigma profit

COSTS associated with the proposed merger between Sigma Healthcare Limited and Chemist Warehouse Group (CWG) have been cited for a 66.9% profit spiral in the company's half-year results.

In presentations to the Australian Securities Exchange tabled this morning, the company reported a net profit of \$3.7 million, down from \$11.2 million one year earlier.

Profits were also impacted by \$2 million in upfront costs associated with preparation in the Chemist Warehouse supply chain contract.

The company defended the result by pointing towards a strong pipeline of growth in a "competitive but defensive market segment", with revenues from its new CWG supply agreement trickling through from its 01 Jul 2024 start date.

"The company has the existing infrastructure to efficiently absorb



volume growth while retaining capacity for future expansion without major capital expenditure requirements," Sigma said.

The Chemist Warehouse supply contract is expected to yield \$3 billion in annualised revenue over the five-year term, of which two-thirds is new revenue for the group.

Elsewhere, Sigma said like-for-like sales in its Amcal and Discount Drug Store brands were up 13% on the back of a new retail strategy. *ML*

WA hospital pharmacists call for reform

WESTERN Australia's hospital pharmacists have entered their second week of industrial action, with Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) warning that future healthcare delivery is at risk without urgent reforms.

AdPha supports the pharmacists who are calling on WA Health to improve career pathways and pay to attract and retain staff.

President Tom Simpson said, "hospital pharmacy workforce shortages are real, and patients will suffer if state governments don't act".

With 750 hospital pharmacists in WA alone, Simpson

emphasised their critical role in ensuring safe medication use, providing clinical services, and supporting the health system through digital health innovations like e-prescribing.

Simpson urged state governments to implement a pharmacy-specific award that reflects the expanded roles of hospital pharmacists, many of whom have not seen updated agreements in over two decades.

"Without them, many hospitals would cease to function," he said, calling for recognition of their vital contributions to patient care.

TWC rises to WPD

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists play a crucial role in meeting global health needs, according to Terrywhite Chemmart (TWC) Chief Pharmacist Brenton Hart.

As healthcare demands increase, Hart said pharmacies have stepped up, providing accessible, everyday health support and stepping in during crises like pandemics and natural disasters.

"Pharmacies are being called upon more than ever to support our communities, and we're proud to be part of that," Hart told *Pharmacy Daily* on World Pharmacists Day.

"From managing chronic conditions to expanded vaccination programs, we're ready to meet challenges."

Despite the evolving complexity of roles, Hart said rather than seeing this as an obstacle, "we view it as a tremendous opportunity" as the role of pharmacists can continually evolve with new scopes and development.

"By investing in training and technology, we're ensuring our pharmacies are prepared to provide high-quality care," Hart continued.

Looking forward, TerryWhite Chemmart called for a national approach to pharmacists' scope of practice, advocating for consistency across states.

"This would empower pharmacists to deliver comprehensive health services and ensure equitable care for all Australians," said Hart.

Join the celebration

World Pharmacists Day

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Dispensary Corner

APPLE is taking a swing at hearing loss with a new innovative feature for its AirPods Pro that's sure to make conversations less awkward.

With around 1.5 billion people around the world living with hearing loss, Apple's latest innovation transforms AirPods Pro into over-the-counter, clinical-grade hearing aids for those with mild-to-moderate hearing loss.

"Hearing health is an essential part of our overall wellbeing, yet it can often be overlooked - in fact, according to the Apple Hearing Study, a staggering 75% of people diagnosed with hearing loss go untreated," said Sumbul Desai, Apple's Vice President of Health.

"We're thrilled to provide breakthrough software features with AirPods Pro that puts users' hearing health front and centre."

Once you've taken Apple's new hearing test and set up the feature, the company claims you'll enjoy crystal-clear sound, whether you're chatting, watching movies, or ignoring work calls.

And the best part is no fiddling with settings as your hearing profile is automatically applied across all devices.

Apple's hearing test can be taken from your couch.

After a few beeps and buzzes, your results are privately saved in your Health app, ready to share with a healthcare professional (if you feel like it).

Hearing loss is no laughing matter, but Apple's solution is music to everyone's ears.

Pair celebrate 37 years in rural areas

EXCLUSIVE

TWO regional pharmacists in New South Wales are celebrating 37 years of combined business partnership on World Pharmacists Day, which recognises the global contributions of pharmacists.

Sarah Hazell from Flannery's Pharmacy Forbes and Meagan Gunn (pictured) from Orana Mall Pharmacy, Dubbo, first met as students at Charles Sturt University in 1998, and are friends and business partners - they were even bridesmaids for each other.

Both pharmacists, in partnership with Life Pharmacy Group, emphasised the importance of their roles in rural healthcare, where access to health services is limited.

"Pharmacists are highly valued members of the health care team, especially in rural areas where



access to health services are often more limited than in metropolitan areas," Gunn told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"We can collaborate with local health services to optimise patient health outcomes," she added.

The emergence of pharmacy prescribing pilots is an exciting addition to scope of practice and is a step in the right direction in improving timely access to medicines for all Australians, commented both pharmacists.

"In this way we are better able

to meet the health needs of our community, where there is often a long wait for an appointment with a GP," explained Gunn.

Hazell remarked, "I've just absolutely loved my role as a pharmacist in a small, rural community in NSW".

"A lot of young people are amazed to learn I've only ever had one job."

"I started here at the age of 18 and that was my first job, at Flannery's Pharmacy, and I'm still here today, as I think it's been so rewarding professionally.

"It's a great environment to get to know your patient and see them again, and again, and get those regular follow-ups.

"You build those wonderful relationships and you truly become their community pharmacist, it's really lovely," Hazell concluded. *JG*

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

Mag-Sup Powder - a better way to absorb magnesium

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