

Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

Dispensary help

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, at rates from as low as \$7.42 per hour, for services that include compounding, DAAs and any other required tasks - see **p3**.

Get better sleep

RESTIN 2mg melatonin modified release tablets help offer a better quality sleep.

Nova Pharmaceuticals is offering pharmacists a special deal - see **page four** for more.

Self-nominations for PATY closing soon

AUSTRALIA'S premier accolade for pharmacy assistants, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) Award, recognises outstanding skills, knowledge, leadership and customer service over the last year.

Self-nominations are closing on 09 May, so get your entry in now.

For more information and to nominate, click **HERE**.

Scope, workforce raised for next Govt term

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has congratulated Anthony Albanese and the Labor Party on their re-election and said it looks forward to working together towards a stronger, more accessible health system for all Australians.

PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim emphasised the importance of having health professionals working to their full scope to achieve this common goal.

"On behalf of all pharmacists, I extend my sincere congratulations to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the Australian Labor Party on their re-election," A/Prof Sim said.

"As the government-recognised peak body for pharmacists in Australia, PSA remains committed to working with the Federal Government to ensure pharmacists are empowered and supported to practise to their full scope across the health system."

The PSA is looking to build on the last term's work with the Government on advancing professional pharmacist practice.

This includes the PSA's continued representation of the pharmacy profession on the 'Primary Care and Workforce Reviews Taskforce', the shared work plan outlined in the 'Strategic Agreement for Pharmacist Professional Practice' and formulating an agreement on pharmacy programs outside of the 8CPA.

However, A/Prof Sim noted, there are substantial workforce, patient health need and funding challenges facing our health system that need to be addressed over the next term.

4 ways to help build strong bones

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"We look forward to being a constructive and pragmatic partner of government in its response to the 'Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review', which was handed down last November," A/Prof Sim said.

"The PSA is committed to supporting the detailed and complex work required to implement its recommendations for a safer, more productive and sustainable health system.

"With the right support, pharmacists can do even more to improve medicine safety and further expand access to care.

"I look forward realising this vision over the next three years alongside the re-elected Albanese Government," Associate Professor Sim concluded.

The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) has also congratulated the Prime Minister on his re-election, and said it stands ready to continue "a strong collaboration with the government to advance rural health reform across rural, regional and

remote Australia".

It called for the government to drive key health reforms aimed at ensuring equitable access to healthcare for the 7.3 million people living outside the major cities, and said the NRHA looks forward to assisting this government with the work of implementing many of the key workforce and Medicare initiatives that were reformed during its first term.

In congratulating the Labor government on its re-election, the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has pointed to cost-of-living pressures, waitlists and health system complexity, stressing that urgent action is needed to ensure people can afford the care they require, when and how they need it.

The CHF has urged the government to publicise the upcoming \$25 PBS co-payment cap to help consumers plan for and benefit from lower medicine costs, and to introduce a system to ensure automatic application of PBS Safety Net pricing. **KB**

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Adrian Staltari
TerryWhite Chemmart Playford



Dispensary Corner

EVERYONE appreciates a bit of honesty once in a while, right?

It just doesn't often come on-the record from the leader of a well-known business, particularly when the honesty is being critical of the company's own product.

But when you're talking about Eucalyptus CEO Tim Doyle, it seems that he's more than happy to play a straight card.

Recently, the founder of the Australian health technology start-up gave a rather frank assessment of its fertility products, which it will discontinue, to the *Australian Financial Review*.

In announcing that Eucalyptus will stop selling its fertility and skincare products in stores including Priceline and Woolworths, sacking 10 members of staff in the process and refocusing on selling weight-loss drugs online, he said the brand's fertility products "kind of sucked".

He added that, "We need to be better at making hard choices - I'm focused on the multi-hundred-million-dollar opportunities and not the million-dollar ones."

It's not the first time that Eucalyptus and its group of young executives have been up front and made some interesting calls.

Despite last being valued at \$560 million, Doyle has also previously said that in the past, "there were months at a time when we had nearly no revenue because there was no medication".

Shingles vax lowers heart disease risk

A **STUDY** involving more than a million people has found that getting the live herpes zoster vaccine is linked with a reduced risk of heart conditions for up to eight years.

South Korean researchers compared rates of cardiovascular conditions among 1.3 million vaccinated and unvaccinated people aged over 50 without a history of cardiovascular disease.

The live shingles vaccine was linked to an overall 23% lower risk of cardiovascular events, such as stroke and heart failure, especially in the first two to three years after vaccination, with effects lasting up to eight years.

Men, people under the age of 60, those with unhealthy lifestyles, such as smoking, drinking alcohol and being inactive, and people from low income or rural households

were among those experiencing a greater drop in risk.

In terms of specific conditions, there was a 26% lower risk of major cardiovascular events (stroke, heart attack or death from heart disease), a 26% lower risk of heart failure and a 22% lower risk of coronary heart disease.

The research follows large studies finding that the live zoster vaccine helped prevent dementia (**PD 29 Apr**), and the authors said the vaccine has health benefits beyond shingles prevention and could be an important public health tool to reduce cardiovascular disease and health disparities.

"Our study suggests that the shingles vaccine may help lower the risk of heart disease, even in people without known risk factors," said Professor Dong Keon Yon from

the Kyung Hee University College of Medicine.

"There are several reasons why the shingles vaccine may help reduce heart disease," Professor Yon continued.

"A shingles infection can cause blood vessel damage, inflammation and clot formation that can lead to heart disease, and by preventing shingles, vaccination may lower these risks."

The vaccine was a live attenuated zoster vaccine (Zostavax or similar), but in many countries, including Australia, the live vaccine is now being replaced with a non-live recombinant vaccine (Shingrix), so it is not clear whether the same results would be achieved.

Professor Yon said research on the recombinant vaccine is needed.

Read the study **HERE**. **KB**

Digital display innovation for Star group

STAR Pharmacy Group has launched new digital signage across its South Australian stores, in partnership with digital companies 1308 and Zeetaminds, providing customers with relevant health and sales information.

The innovative digital signage technology, which has been rolled out across 66 stores, has eye-catching displays offering real-time product information, promotions and health advice, delivering targeted and engaging messages that can be adapted remotely, ensuring customers receive the most up-to-date information.

Star Pharmacy Group General Manager Sales & Marketing, Catherine Kelly, said, "We are excited to introduce this innovative digital signage



solution to our customers.

"This project represents our commitment to providing a superior in-store experience and utilising technology to better serve our community's health needs," Kelly continued.

"Our digital signage initiative will help to drive sales, improve customer engagement, and solidify Star Pharmacy Group's position as a forward-thinking leader in the pharmacy retail space," she concluded.

Heart Week 2025

THIS week is the Heart Foundation's National Heart Week, promoting heart health awareness and action.

Held from 05-11 May, the week provides an opportunity for pharmacists to start a conversation with patients about heart health, utilise point-of-care testing to assess risk, and discuss steps patients can take to reduce heart risk.

The Heart Week website has various resources that health professionals can promote, including a heart age calculator to help patients understand their risk of heart disease and educational materials with advice on reducing risk.

Pharmacists can also attend a webinar on sex differences in CVD risk on Thu 08 May.

See the **WEBSITE** for more.

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OVER-WORKED?
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