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Today's issue of PD

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

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Have a chat with the Light team at Pharmacy Connect - see **page three** for more.

Earlybird closing

EARLYBIRD rates for Medicines Management 2026 end at 11:59pm AEST on Wed 09 Sep, so book now to save up to \$200.

The conference is being held in Brisbane from 22-24 Oct under the theme 'Limitless'.

Learn more **HERE**.

Guild calls for action on assaults

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called on state governments to act on increasing rates of violence and abuse directed at frontline pharmacy staff, calling for the introduction of laws that explicitly name pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to provide stronger protections and penalties.

Guild national president Professor Trent Twomey said reports of physical and verbal assaults in community pharmacies were becoming more frequent, with pharmacists increasingly bearing the brunt of frustration across the broader healthcare system.

"I'm increasingly concerned of the number of reports I'm receiving of physical assaults and verbal assaults against our frontline pharmacists and pharmacy assistants," Professor Twomey said.

"No healthcare worker should go to work fearing for their physical safety," he added.

While South Australia, New South Wales and Western



Australia recognise frontline health workers, including pharmacists, in their legislation, Queensland, Victoria, NT, ACT and Tasmania's governments have lagged behind.

The Guild has repeatedly raised the issue with governments, stating the situation was unacceptable and put the safety of healthcare workers at risk.

"Pharmacists and pharmacy teams show up every day to serve their communities, support vulnerable Australians and help close gaps in healthcare," Professor Twomey said.

"They deserve to feel safe while doing it." **KB**

Fundraiser tickets sold out

THE Pharmacy Guild Foundation's inaugural Gala Ball has sold out, with more than 500 guests to attend this week's fundraiser for partner St Vincent de Paul Society NSW's Script & Medical Support for People Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness Program (**PD** 18 Aug).

Chair of the Foundation, Catherine Bronger, highlighted the "generosity and community spirit" of the pharmacy profession's response, saying every dollar raised will help ensure vulnerable Australians can access essential medicines and healthcare support.

"For people experiencing homelessness, the cost of a prescription can be the difference between managing a health condition and going without treatment," she said.

"This partnership will help remove that barrier."

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Dispensary Corner

VITAMIN sachets are rising in popularity thanks in large part to wellness influencers, but are they actually more effective than traditional supplements?

It is an important question, given that a single-dose pouch of vitamin C, for example, can cost up to 16 times as much as its tablet equivalent.

Some of the packets contain powder, while others are filled with pre-mixed liquid or gel that can be squeezed straight into the mouth or added to a drink.

According to University of Reading pharmaceutical expert Professor Hisham Al-Obaidi, there is unlikely to be a significant difference between taking it as a pill or sachet, because vitamin C already dissolves readily in water.

"For this reason, there is generally little reason to pay significantly more for liquid vitamin C purely on the basis of better absorption," he said.

Consumers should also be aware that many of these sachets contain extra oils, flavourings, colouring and sugar.



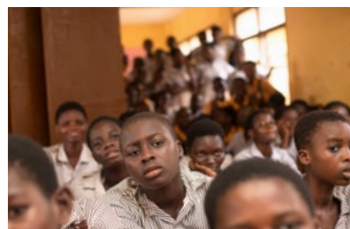
Pharmacists on prevention frontline

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (PSGH) was recognised last week by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) with the prestigious Health Promotion Campaign Award for its initiative in addressing the escalating crisis of substance and opioid abuse among teenagers.

As substance and opioid misuse has emerged as a major public health concern in many countries worldwide, particularly among young people, Ghana's Operation STORM was honoured for placing pharmacists at the frontline of preventive public health.

Focusing on prevention and early intervention, the campaign delivered structured educational interventions in high schools across the country, running large-scale seminars and interactive sessions on the health, psychological and social consequences of misuse.

It also provided one-on-one mentoring for students identified as vulnerable, facilitated professional referral pathways for those needing psychological, addiction or medical support, and delivered four dedicated televised episodes across



five national television stations.

In doing so, pharmacists across the country served as educators, mentors, counsellors and public health advocates.

"This award is a profound honour for the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana and, more importantly, a validation of a simple conviction we have long held: that pharmacists belong on the frontline of public health, not just behind the counter or at the ward," PSGH president Dr Paul Owusu Donkor said.

"PSGH Operation STORM was born out of urgency.

"Our teenagers are facing a substance and opioid crisis that classrooms alone cannot solve, and pharmacists across Ghana have stepped forward as educators, mentors, and advocates to meet that urgency," he concluded. *KB*

Ego Pharmaceuticals Vic export award

EGO Pharmaceuticals has been crowned Victorian Exporter of the Year, in addition to winning the International Health category, at the prestigious Governor of Victoria Export Awards held in Melbourne last week.

The awards recognise Ego's major contribution to global skin healthcare and advanced local manufacturing, with international sales generating approximately 50% of Ego's total business footprint across key

markets in Asia, the Middle East, and the UK.

"This dual honour is a credit to our 700 staff across 13 nations, and reflects the immense trust healthcare professionals and consumers worldwide place in scientific, Australian-made skincare," Ego Pharmaceuticals MD Alan Oppenheim said.

As the state winner, the company is now a finalist in the Australian Export Awards, held in November.

FIP tackles substance abuse

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a new Statement of Policy calling for greater involvement for pharmacists in preventing substance use disorders, supporting early intervention and reducing harms associated with the non-medicinal use of psychoactive substances.

"Substance use disorders affect individuals, families and communities in every region of the world, yet many people still face significant barriers to accessing timely support," policy committee co-chair Prof Nadia Al Mazrouei said.

"Pharmacists are among the most accessible healthcare professionals and are well positioned to identify risks early, provide trusted advice, support safer medicine use and connect people with appropriate care before preventable harm occurs," she added.

The statement replaces FIP's 2018 Statement of Policy on reducing harm associated with drugs of abuse, adopting a prevention-first, person-centred approach.

The recommendations urge governments and policymakers to remove unnecessary barriers that limit pharmacists' contributions.

This includes expanding access to overdose prevention interventions such as naloxone where appropriate, supporting collaborative models of care, and investing in education, digital infrastructure and sustainable remuneration for pharmacist-delivered services.

Read the policy [HERE](#).



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