



NT uni to drop pharmacy program

CHARLES Darwin University in the Northern Territory is set to phase out its pharmacy program over the next two to three years, with the institution telling *Pharmacy Daily* the course is simply not attracting enough students.

A university spokesperson said interest in the course had waned in recent years and it was no longer economically viable for the institution to run.

“Charles Darwin University will not take further enrolments into its pharmacy program from 2020,” the spokesperson said.

“Rather the university will teach out the program over the next two to three years.

“There has been limited student interest in pharmacy in recent years.

“In the past few years we have attracted only 10 students a year into the program, which is not financially sustainable.”

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NT and SA Vice President, Sam Keitaanpaa, raised concerns about the impact the course’s closure will have on the profession in regional Australia, in an interview with the *NT News*.

“It’s an issue to attract from interstate,” he said.

“The loss of the ability to have those 10 students graduate will have an impact.

“We won’t have that introduction of labour into the local workforce.”

A spokesperson for the PSA said the society was engaging with the Federal Government on aligning incentives to encourage pharmacists to support rural and regional communities.

“PSA acknowledges the reasons behind the phasing out of CDU’s pharmacy program, and that this is a difficult time for all involved, because of the potential loss of training opportunities and readily-



available pharmacy workforce,” the spokesperson said.

“It is only logical that the program’s closure will have impacts on the sustainability of the NT’s pharmacy workforce.

“It is therefore time for us to work smarter to support pharmacy, and the greater healthcare system, in rural and remote Australia.

“It is vital that there is a greater focus on attracting and retaining pharmacists in rural and remote Australia,” the PSA said.

Today’s issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

QCPP evolution

THE Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) is undergoing significant enhancements via Quality Care 2020.

The Program will align the quality management requirements with the latest Australian quality accreditation standards that are currently observed by 94% of local pharmacies.

To enable stores to plan and prepare for the updates, Pharmacy Connect 2019 will host a session to inform delegates of the changes ahead.

Focused on improving pharmaceutical services for the community, Quality Care 2020 provides a framework for local pharmacies to provide quality, safe and consistent professional services and consumer care.

National Councillor of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Nick Panayiaris, said, “over the past two years, the development of the enhanced Quality Care 2020 Program has been focused on not only achieving continuous improvement internally, but ensuring the highest levels of consumer-focused care through a quality framework.”

UK pharmacists fear online HRT sales

BRITISH women are being urged not to resort to foreign websites retailing hormone replacement therapy (HRT) products amid ongoing shortages.

The prescription-only medicines are currently limited in the UK, with supply chain problems affecting almost all of the 200,000 women taking the drug.

With problems anticipated to continue into 2020, *The Sunday People* has found

overseas companies offer HRT products without a prescription, which has prompted the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) to flag concerns about the potential health risks associated with buying these medications from offshore stores.

RPS Director of Pharmacy, Robbie Turner, described internet script sales as “like the Wild West” warning the “health risks are real”.

PainAus Chair

PAINAUSTRALIA has appointed Professor Ian Chubb as Chair-elect.

Chubb was Australia’s Chief Scientist for five years until 2016, before which he was Vice-Chancellor of Flinders University, and then Australian National University.

Professor Chubb will take over the appointment from Robert Regan, Chair for the past seven years.

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Patients urged to be MedicinesWise

AUSTRALIAN patients need to do more to help minimise their risk of medication mishaps, NPS MedicineWise CEO, Steve Morris, believes.

Marking the launch of NPS MedicineWise Week yesterday, Morris revealed more than two-thirds of patients who regularly take two or more medicines do not keep track of the products they are consuming.

He cited the results of a new YouGov survey which found 31% of patients using multiple medicines recorded the prescription, over-the-counter (OTC) and complementary products they use, while just over a quarter said they have a list of their prescription medications.

43% said they record "some" or "none" of the products they use.

"Keeping track of all your medicines can help reduce the risk of medicine interactions and double-ups, and can help you get

the most out of your medicines, safely," Morris said.

"A medicines list needs to include medicines that have been prescribed by a health professional, as well as anything else you take for your health.

"This includes vitamins and herbal supplements as these are also considered medicines."

The survey found most patients documented the brand when recording their medicines, which Morris noted could cause confusion with active ingredient prescribing coming into force.

"Knowing what the active ingredient is in a medicine is an important part of being medicine-wise – and being safe when you take your medicines," he said.

"Taking more than one medicine with the same active ingredient may mean that you are accidentally taking too much of that active ingredient."

Ramsay case not civil

A CASE brought by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia against Ramsay Health Care relating to pharmacy ownership (PD 17 Sep 2018), has been summarily dismissed by the Supreme Court of NSW.

The Guild and its co-plaintiffs, the owners of Priceline Pharmacy Nowra, South Grafton and Coady's Pharmacy, claimed Ramsay had broken ownership laws, with the Court ruling it was inappropriate to hear the case because this was a criminal, not a civil matter.

The proceedings against Ramsay Health Care Ltd, Ramsay Pharmacy Retail Services Pty Ltd, Pharmire Pty Ltd and Lekarna Pty Ltd, sought a ruling on whether Ramsay Health Care held a financial interest in a number of pharmacies in regional NSW, in breach of the pharmacy ownership rules.

The Guild claimed that under franchise agreements with the pharmacy owners, Pharmire and Lekarna, Ramsay would have control over the product range supplied through the Ramsay-branded stores, with franchise fees "diverting all or substantially all of the profits from the businesses" to Ramsay.

Court documents warned allowing "large publicly listed multinationals such as the first defendant to develop significant agglomerations of pharmacy businesses" would



lead to a significant reduction in the number of community pharmacies in the state.

However, Supreme Court of NSW Equity Division Chief Judge, Justice Julie Ward, said it was "not appropriate for an application for such declaratory relief to be entertained in the context of the present proceedings – a civil suit and one commenced by an industry body (not the regulator) and three competitors of the entities".

The judge also noted that the pharmacy owners "clearly have a personal interest in eliminating competition, as much as they might also be said to have an interest in enforcing compliance by other pharmacists with the National Law".

She said the Court was unable to entertain the claim for declaratory relief relating to criminal conduct, and thus the "appropriate order is not simply to strike out the statement of claim but to dismiss the proceedings".

The Guild told PD it had received the ruling and was reviewing it.

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Dispensary Corner

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in the UK have made the stunning discovery that some of the earliest Britons suffered from tapeworms.

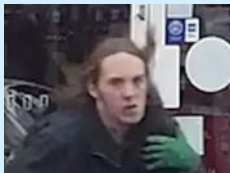
Scientists from Cambridge University have hailed the discovery of fish tapeworms, which were found preserved in human faeces from a 3,000 year old village at Must Farm in Cambridgeshire.

Dubbed "Britain's Pompeii," the archaeological site was surrounded by waterlogged "coprolites" - pieces of poo - during a 2016 dig, with the organic matter found to contain microscopic tapeworm eggs.

The researchers said the findings gave the first ever understanding of the diseases of prehistoric Fen people, according to a study published in the *Parasitology* journal.

DO YOU know this man?

Police in QLD say they expect to shortly arrest a hapless burglar who allegedly broke into a Gold Coast pharmacy last week.



The man and an accomplice smashed the glass on the doors of the Southport store and attempted to hide their faces with their jackets as they stormed through the doors.

However, their attempts at subterfuge were not very successful, as the CCTV image captured above indicates.

Sigma launches InClinic



PATIENTS visiting select Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Store pharmacies will be able to consult with a GP, using InClinic, a telehealth platform.

The service was developed by Sigma Healthcare and Doctors on Demand, and has been launched in 23 pharmacies across the country, to improve access to GP services in rural areas.

Using secure video links, patients will be able to speak to a GP from a private consulting room in the pharmacy, and they can allow the doctor to view their MyHealth Record, to ensure

continuity of care.

The GP can then provide advice and if necessary send a prescription to a pharmacy of the patient's choice.

Doctors on Demand CEO, Kirsty Garrett, said the service would help bridge the gap in access to GP services that are prevalent in regional Australia.

"Access to GPs remains a challenge for patients in rural and regional Australia and it is in more remote areas where there has been significant interest from pharmacies to adopt the InClinic service," she said.

Guild Update

Pharmacy Connect 2019

THERE'S only two weeks to go until Pharmacy Connect 2019, which is being held from 5-7 September at Hilton Sydney.

Don't risk missing out on your one-stop destination on changing regulations and new business opportunities in community pharmacy.

Secretary of the Department of Health, Glenys Beauchamp PSM, will open Pharmacy Connect on Friday 6 September.

Ms Beauchamp is a distinguished senior Federal public servant and has led the Department of Health since September 2017. Ms Beauchamp will address conference delegates at a very important time in community pharmacy, with the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations underway.

This is your last opportunity to earn your final credits for the CPD year, which ends 30 September. Pharmacy Connect will provide a number of sessions offering Group 1 and Group 2 credits. Plus, all delegates with full registrations receive access to the online session recordings.

Don't miss out! Register for Pharmacy Connect 2019 now at www.pharmacyconnect.com.au.

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Congratulations

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Award Winning Pharmacies Announced for QLD

The winners of the best performing Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Stores pharmacies in Queensland have been recognised at the Sigma Pharmacy Assistant Annual Conference and Gala Awards.

The winners will now represent their region in the national awards, early 2020.

Brian Tomlin, Sigma's General Manager Retail Sales congratulated all the award winners

'The awards night provides the opportunity to recognise the hard work of our pharmacy teams. We would like to acknowledge and thank all our award nominees, finalists and winners for their contribution and commitment to serving their local communities.'

Pharmacy of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Marlin Coast Amcal Chemist

Guardian Award Winner -
Clermont Pharmacy

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Bundaberg Discount Drug Store

Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Amcal Deception Bay

Community Engagement Pharmacy of the Year

Guardian Award Winner -
Busiko Oakey Guardian Pharmacy

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Scenic Rim Discount Drug Store

Retail Manager of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Wayde Burkett - Cooroy Amcal Pharmacy

Guardian Award Winner -
Amy McGarity - Clermont Pharmacy

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Christine Evening - Barr Street WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods

Pharmacy Assistant of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Cheree Brough - Amcal Deception Bay

Guardian Award Winner -
Leigh Medcalf - Cooloola Guardian Pharmacy

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Cathy Smith - Maroochydore WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods

