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AUSTRALIAN OWNED & MADE

PSA issues Federal Budget wish list

FRESH funding should be provided for a number of pharmacist-led services in the 2020-21 Federal Budget, to boost medicines safety, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

In its pre-Budget submission, the PSA called on the Federal Government to allocate more than \$29 million, over four years, for a number of services designed to boost patient outcomes, and the appointment of a Commonwealth Chief Pharmacist.

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said \$15.4 million should be invested in a Rural Pharmacy Enhanced Services Program, to empower rural pharmacists to do more for their patients.

"It has been very clear during the recent bushfire emergency the role of rural pharmacists and their willingness to step up in times

of need. We want to be able to support our rural pharmacists to do more to be able to help their communities," he said.

"Investing in a Rural Pharmacy Enhanced Services Program will help keep pharmacists in the bush and support delivery of services such as smoking cessation, chronic disease management, health screening, wound care and mental health triage and referral."

The PSA also recommended that the Government should provide \$8.7 million to deliver resources and support to enable pharmacists working in aged care to improve the quality use of medicines in the sector, and reduce the current reliance on high-risk medications.

With three Australians dying every day from opioid overdose the PSA has proposed a \$4 million, 18-month pilot program of opioid stewardship pharmacists in general



practice to combat the misuse of the pain medications.

"A collaborative opioid stewardship program, actively supported by pharmacists, will allow us to improve, monitor and evaluate opioid use and increase safety and effectiveness of opioid use and pain management in primary care," he said.

The PSA has also pushed the Government to boost the value tiers of the Workforce Incentive Program per Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent by 50%.

Today's issue of **PD**

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

Pharmacy smash

QUEENSLAND Police arrested an 18-year-old in relation to an incident at a Toombul pharmacy in the early hours of Sat morning.

The teen allegedly drove a sedan through the doors of the pharmacy before ramming his way into two jewellery stores, smashing display cabinets and making off with an amount of jewellery.

He has been charged with three counts of entering a premises on, two counts of stealing and two counts of causing wilful damage.

It is not clear whether medications were stolen.

Attain pledges bushfire donations

PHARMACY business broker, Attain, will donate \$1,000 to the NSW Rural Fire Service, the Country Fire Authority or the Victorian Bushfire Appeal, for every pharmacy the company settles between Jan and Mar.

In a statement on Attain's website, Director, Natalie Sirianni, said the business was "deeply saddened by the devastation and loss" caused by the fires.

"The destruction of wilderness, homes, communities, wildlife

and lives is totally unimaginable. It has been inspiring to see the Australian and international community unite to support those who have been impacted," she said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the bushfires and those working hard to fight them."

Sirianni said the business would also offer a free business consult to pharmacies affected by the fires.

Back to school meds planning needed

PARENTS of school-aged children are being urged to speak to health professionals, including pharmacists and GPs, about medication action plans they can share with teachers and support staff when the school year begins.

NPS MedicineWise Medicines Line Manager, Nerida Packham, said parents of children with conditions such as asthma, diabetes or allergies, should have a medication plan that teachers

can follow to ensure they know when and how to give the medicine should it be required.

"It is important to have an emergency action plan stored with the medicine, and ensure you, your child and their teacher know to follow the action plan in case of an emergency," she said.

"Ensure the action plan is up-to-date.

"Sometimes the plan will change as your child grows or the environment changes."

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Dispensary Corner

A BEIJING-BASED pharmacist with an eye for a money-making opportunity has fallen foul of regulators, having bumped up the price of face masks in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The enterprising, if ethically questionable, pharmacy owner was charging patients more than six-times the standard price for a box of 3M N95 masks, local media outlets reported.

The Beijing municipal market regulator fined the pharmacy \$642,000 for the price gouging offence.

The regulator revealed it has investigated 31 cases of "price violation" in the last week, as part of a clamp-down on those looking to profit from consumer concerns about the outbreak.

MEANWHILE a Shanghai pharmacy has been shutdown by the city's municipal market regulator after it was found to have been selling sub-standard face masks.

The store has also been ordered to refund customers who bought the faulty masks and dispose of unsold ones.



UK consultation to grow

BRITISH pharmacists could see their scope expand to cover a broader range of symptoms and minor illnesses, if the NHS England's community pharmacist consultation service (CPCS) proves successful.

As it currently stands, the CPCS covers patient referrals from NHS 111 to community pharmacy only, with ongoing trials taking place between community pharmacy and GP practices, as well as NHS 111 online for urgent medicine supply.

However, it is possible that "the number of symptoms and potential minor illness categories [covered by the service]" will expand, depending on the success of the program - a development that is likely to spark a "debate about clinical safety".

The announcement was delivered by the organisation's Director of Primary Care Strategy, Ed Waller, at the Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies conference on 23 Jan.

Waller said that, to date, 93% of community pharmacies had signed up to offer the CPCS, with 132,922 referrals received from NHS 111 since its launch in Oct 2019, of which 44% (58,768) had been for minor illnesses.

Andre Yeung, a community pharmacist based in Newcastle in northeast England, reacted positively to the idea of the potential CPCS expansion, however identified "standardised access to equipment and medicines in the pharmacy" as a potential barrier.

Waller also revealed that NHS England was working with the NHS Integrated Urgent Care team to develop a referral pathway for urgent medicine supplies between 999 and community pharmacy, but divulged no further details.

According to Waller, the next steps in the advancement of the CPCS are the trialling of referrals from Emergency Departments as well as NHS 111 online for minor illnesses.

Pfizer ANZ MD set for European move

PFIZER Australia and New Zealand Managing Director, Melissa McGregor, will move to the pharmaceutical giant's European Hospital Business Unit in Mar.

McGregor joined Pfizer Australia in 2001, taking on the MD role in Jun 2016, joining the board of Medicines Australia that year, becoming Deputy Chair in Feb 2019.

"I am very humbled to be joining the Hospital Business in Europe with Pfizer," she said.

"I would like to thank my fellow Medicines Australia



Board Members, the Medicines Australia executive and all key industry stakeholders for the opportunity to work and collaborate with them over these many years to help shape the direction of our industry".

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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G Adventures deals

SMALL group tour company G Adventures is offering deals this week on a number of its itineraries, including savings of AU\$620 per person on the 13-day Cuba Libre and Sailing, which departs 27 April from Havana.

Travellers can also save AU\$1,086 on the 17-day Hiking South Africa trip, which begins from Cape Town on 19 Apr, and includes a hike up Table Mountain and a visit to the kingdoms of Lesotho and Eswatini.

Bookings must be made by 29 Feb. Call 1300 180 969 for more.

European Waterways

GUESTS can get up to 20% off cabin and charter prices on select European Waterways' cruises to destinations in France, Italy and Scotland.

Included in the offer are itineraries aboard the *L'Art de Vivre*, which cruises the Lower Yonne Canal and the River Yonne in Burgundy.

Book before 17 Feb [HERE](#).