

Model gives pharmacy a glimpse at the future

Nick O'Donoghue

PHARMACISTS need to work towards providing more cognitive pharmacy services to drive future demand, the author of the Pharmacy Workforce Planning Research Project, Lee Ridoutt said.

The model, which was revealed yesterday was designed to allow stakeholders to see how different variables could influence the future demand for pharmacy services.

Speaking for *Pharmacy eNews* Mr Ridoutt said that for community pharmacy to move in the direction the profession wants to go it would require pharmacists to provide an increased range of services, with the relevant funding also being provided.

"The major stakeholders say they want community pharmacy to work towards a stronger professional base of service



WORKFORCE: Model lets pharmacy see future.

delivery where there's a lot more cognitive pharmacy services being delivered in your commoner garden type pharmacies.

"If that's properly funded and if the market drives people more and more in that direction and if there's significant buy-in from community pharmacists, the future predicted supply would suggest that demand might be difficult to meet," he said.

However, painting a 'worst case scenario' Mr Ridoutt warned if pharmacists maintain the current "retail business model" where the focus of the business is on

dispensing, pharmacy students may struggle to find work.

"If community pharmacy services don't change much... the demand for pharmacy labour won't grow anywhere near as much and the current projected supply of pharmacists might be surplus," he said.

Outlining the ideal scenario where there is high demand growth and high supply Mr Ridoutt said pharmacists could take on up to five per cent of the workload GPs currently do, but stressed it would need Government funding to support it.

"If that transpired there would be a huge increased requirement for pharmacists, if that work was actually passed to pharmacists.

"But in order for that to happen pharmacists would have to be proactive in the way they go about providing their services," he said.

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Senate stalls MoU approval: Medicines Australia

Nick O'Donoghue

PLANS TO cut \$1.9 billion from the Federal Government's drugs bill over the next five years are on hold as legislation was delayed by the Senate yesterday.

A spokesman for Medicines Australia told *Pharmacy eNews* legislation that would allow for the implementation of the **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) with the Government was sent to a Senate committee yesterday for review.

"It's been delayed because the Senate sent it to committee and parliament has gone away now for the winter break.

"The committee will enquire into the MoU legislation and

report to the Senate no later than 26 August," he said.

The delay in gaining parliamentary approval for the MoU could push back the first set of cuts due to come into effect from 1 October.

"It may [push back the price cuts], if it doesn't get through the Senate before 1 October, which is the date the first price disclosure cuts were slated for.

"Obviously Medicines Australia is hoping it will get through the parliament before then, but these things are out of our hands," the spokesman said.

The Government's proposed **Research and Development** (R&D) tax credit, which Medicines Australia chief executive Dr

Brendan Shaw had welcomed as a boost to the pharmaceutical industry when it was proposed last month, also failed to make it through the Senate prior to the winter recess.

"This could be a massive opportunity for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries in this country.

"The bottom line is that this new program will reduce the net cost of undertaking R&D in Australia and make us more globally competitive," he said.

At the time Innovation Minister Kim Carr had said the tax credit, which will replace the R&D tax concession, would be worth \$1.5 billion a year to industry.

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PSA calls for clarity on CPD guidelines

Nick O'Donoghue

NEW GUIDELINES outlining the requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) are still unclear a spokesman from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) told *Pharmacy eNews*.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia published a new set of **guidelines** this week regarding the introduction of mandatory CPD training, but with the new regulations due to come into effect on 1 July, some issues remain.

The PSA has called for clarification of the rules as the guidelines will allow pharmacists to gain CPG points through accredited and non-accredited sources, but the board has not

specified how much training must come from accredited bodies.

“It still leaves doubt in people’s minds, and we would like to see that clarified as soon as possible,” the PSA spokesman said.

The accreditation of CPD activities will provide an assurance to pharmacists that an activity has been reviewed for its educational quality and is relevant to a pharmacist’s practice the board said

“Where non-accredited activities are undertaken, it is the responsibility of the pharmacist to assess potential activities for suitability and relevance and to determine whether individual learning needs will be addressed by undertaking these activities.

“In the case of all CPD

undertaken, maintenance of detailed and verifiable records is the responsibility of the pharmacist,” the guidelines said.

Records of CPD participation must include details of the date of the activity, provider, topics covered, accreditation status and board CPD credits awarded.

Pharmacists who take temporary leave from practice of up to a year will have not CPD requirements, while those out of practice for three years or less will have to accrue a minimum of one year’s quota of training.

The initial requirement for CPD credits will be 20 credits for the period ending 30 September 2011, increasing 12-monthly to 40 credits for the period ending 30 September 2013.

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BRIEFS

PLAIN PACKS TURN TEENS OFF

A New Zealand study found Australia’s plan to sell cigarettes in plain packs may deter teens from taking up smoking.

A recent study of 80 New Zealand students revealed teenagers aged 14 and 15 found the plain packs dull and enhanced the impact of the graphic health warnings.

SWINGER HEALTH WARNING

Middle-aged swingers have been identified as an “at-risk” group for chlamydia and gonorrhoea, a Dutch study revealed.

Researchers in South Limburg sounded the alarm after looking at statistics showed one in eight people treated for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in 2007 and 2008, were for swingers.

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