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Media release

Guild launches new sleep apnoea training for pharmacy assistants

In response to the recent growth in delivery of in-pharmacy sleep apnoea services, the Guild Pharmacy Academy has developed the accredited pharmacy assistant training unit *SIRCHCS414 Support the management of obstructive sleep apnoea*.

The Guild has partnered with Philips Sleep and Respiratory Care to develop the unit, taking advantage of their expert knowledge of products used in the management of sleep apnoea as well as the delivery of services for sleep apnoea. This nationally recognised and accredited unit can be completed as a standalone unit or as a component of the SIR40112 Certificate IV in Community Pharmacy offered by the Guild.

Sue Bond, Head of the Guild Pharmacy Academy, said: 'Philips Sleep and Respiratory Care have added tremendous value to this unit, which forms part of the Community Pharmacy qualifications.

Ultimately pharmacy assistants need to be able to relate the information in these units to specific products, which is why Philips and the Guild have created this partnership. We believe we have created a benchmark learning tool which now sets the industry standard for the training of pharmacy assistants in supporting the management of obstructive sleep apnoea.'

'Although Philips' contribution is invaluable it is also very balanced. Maintaining our integrity as a training provider is paramount and the Academy has gone to great lengths to ensure that the content is unbiased and informative,' Ms Bond said

At the completion of this unit, pharmacy assistants will:

- Have an understanding of obstructive sleep apnoea and the factors that can contribute to it.
- Understand the types of products and other treatments used to manage obstructive sleep apnoea.
- Be able to assist customers with the provision of CPAP equipment through your pharmacy.

All units from the Community Pharmacy qualifications have been written and updated with industry feedback. In addition, practising pharmacists help write and contribute to the content.

With revised units and new materials that are easier to use there has never been a better time for pharmacy staff to enrol in the Certificate II, III or IV in Community Pharmacy or in individual units from the qualification. Interested staff can contact their local Guild Branch or visit www.guild.org.au/academy

Pharmacy organisations looking to be involved in the development of future pharmacy training initiatives should contact Adam Casey at the Guild Pharmacy Academy on 03 9810 9945.

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