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## Aged care services

A NEW report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found that the use of aged care services in 12 months was reported as growing by more than a third, from 642,000 to 874,000.

'Patterns in use of aged care: 2002-03 to 2010-11', looked at the use of aged care services and the uptake of care following assessment by people aged 65+ between 2002-03 and 2010-11.

It found over the study period in a standard day, about one in six people aged 65 or over used aged care services with about 5% living in residential aged care.

Service use was increasingly common with increasing age, as expected, with 58% of people 85 and over access care services on 30 Sep 2010, the report found.

AIHW spokesperson Dr Pamela Kinnear said the growth in client numbers was greater than the growth in the population, which meant it did not just result from the growing numbers of very old people.

"Rather, much of the increase was due to greater use of community care programs."

To access residential aged care, care packages and transition care, an approval must be obtained through the Aged Care Assessment Program but approval does not necessarily mean that the service will be used.

"Whether a person takes up approved care depends on a range of factors, and varies with the characteristics, health profile and personal circumstances of the individual involved."

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the report.

## Aspen QCPP modules

ASPEN has launched two new QCPP Approved modules on Pharmacy Club for Gastro-Stop and Zantac.

They were designed to give a better understanding of the causes of acute diarrhoea, heartburn and indigestion and the roles of Gastro-Stop and Zantac, Aspen said.

The modules are two of four approved modules.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access them.

## PBS payments outsourced

THE Department of Health could be looking to outsource Medical and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) payments in a move that would see the handling of \$10b for pharmaceutical claims annually move into private hands.

In an advertisement posted in the *Australian Financial Review*, the Department said it sought expressions of interest (EOIs) for the commercial provision of Medical and Pharmaceutical Benefits claims and payment services provided by the Department of Human Services and similar payment services provided for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

The Department said the processing of these claims and payments involved \$19b in medical benefits claims annually and \$10b for pharmaceutical claims from 600m transactions, with "steady growth" over the past three years.

For the DVA, pharmaceutical claims involved \$425m as a result of more than 33m transactions, which also included \$2b for DVA medical, allied health and hospital claims.

The Department said the scope of work that could be offered, as well as expectations and performance standards, would be finalised later.

EOI responses should be received by 22 Aug, the Department said.

The move to outsource payments and claims from the Department of Human Services was a suggestion in the Commission of Audit, citing greater efficiency and lesser cost.

The Commission said specialist outsourcing providers preferred low complexity activities.

However there was market interest in the provision of payment systems, the Commission said, citing a proposal of Australia Post's to deliver some of the services provided by the Department.

The Commission said outsourcing the payments system arrangements would be a "substantial and potentially high risk undertaking requiring careful consideration."

It said it did not support the outsourcing of assessment of entitlements.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Commission's recommendations.

## Allergy summit today

A NATIONAL allergy summit is taking place today in Sydney to highlight the estimated \$30b a year cost of the impact on daily life, including hospital admissions, lost work days, missed school and poorer quality of life, said Dr Richard Loh, president of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

"A collaborative approach between state and federal governments and key stakeholder organisations can greatly improve care and quality of life for patients."

President of Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia Maria Said said allergic diseases were on the increase, affecting one in five Australians and were projected to rise to one in four in the next 30 years.

## TGA ASMI presentation

A JOINT presentation to the Australian Self Medication Industry workshop on 24 Jul presented by Philippa Horner, principal legal advisor at the Therapeutic Goods Administration and Trisha Garrett, head of the Office of Complementary Medicines, discussed the complex issue of food/medicine interface.

The presenters drew distinctions between therapeutic goods which are covered by an s.7 declaration with a claimed medical benefit versus products such as green tea, which might be food within state/territory food regulation legislation.

The talk included a flow chart to help analyse the status of a given product pointing out that if a product were presented in a capsule with medical claims it might be classified as a medicine.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the talk.

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Capricornia Coast, QLD (Job# 2010720)  
Professional services - high priority, vibrant customer focused pharmacy
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 2010626)  
Beachside small town on Victoria's west coast, very popular with tourists.
- **Pharmacist In Charge** - Far West, NSW (Job# 2010639)  
Experience life in rural Australia, great opportunity with training and support.

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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**9-10 Aug:** The Great Victorian Railway Tour; Melbourne; details: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**10 Aug:** Managing Drug Interactions Seminar; Sydney; more at: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)

**10 Aug:** Medicines Update 2014; Echuca; more details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**11-14 Aug:** Health Informatics Conference 2014; Melbourne; more at: [www.hisa.org.au](http://www.hisa.org.au)

**16-17 Aug:** 8th AustralAsian Academy of Anti-Ageing Medicine Conference 2014; Melbourne; see: [www.a5m.net](http://www.a5m.net)

**16-20 Aug:** Pharmacy Snow Business Conference; Mount Buller; more at: [www.medicicom.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business](http://www.medicicom.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business)

**19 Aug:** APC Accreditation Colloquium; Brisbane; more at: [www.pharmacycouncil.org.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au)

**29-31 Aug:** ACP 25th Annual Conference & Exhibition; Hobart; for more details see: [www.acp.edu.au](http://www.acp.edu.au)

**12-14 Sep:** Pharmacy Business Network Conference; Surfers Paradise; more at: [www.pharmacybusinessnetwork.com/](http://www.pharmacybusinessnetwork.com/)

**9 Oct:** Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Forum at PAC 2014 National Convention; Canberra; more at: [www.psa.org.au/pac/aacp-forum](http://www.psa.org.au/pac/aacp-forum)

**10-12 Oct:** Pharmacy Australia Congress 2014; Canberra; more at: [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac)

**16-18 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant Conference 2014; Gold Coast; more at: [www.pharmacyassistants.com/](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com/)

## Crowdfunding research

**THE** Oncology Network has launched a campaign to raise funds for The Cancer Crowd, a crowdfunding platform dedicated to cancer research, technology and support projects.

The Network was trying to raise \$25,000 which would be used to launch, manage and promote the platform and projects, Oncology Network marketing director Graham Knowles said.

When launched, the platform would be free to not-for-profit organisations to launch crowdfunding campaigns for their oncology projects which needed funding, he said.

Oncology Network executive officer Rachael Babin said it was difficult to attract lower levels of funding for smaller projects and the platform would help with this.

It would give the oncology community a new option for funding and a dedicated oncology crowdfunding platform would ensure projects were easy to find and get people excited about, Knowles said.

The campaign would help educate the oncology community about what was involved in crowdfunding campaigns and the associated processes and difficulties, he said.

Projects applying to use the

platform would be vetted for eligibility using criteria laid out by the Oncology Network and any ambiguous applications would be reviewed by experts from the oncology community, Knowles said.

Crowdfunding sites generally charged 5 to 10% of the target to use the site and The Cancer Crowd would likely charge for-profit organisations towards the lower end of this, he said.

Once the funding target was reached, the platform could likely be launched in four weeks, Knowles said.

Within 48 hours of the campaign's launch, more than 13% of the target had been pledged, the Oncology Network said.

Knowles said this kind of funding would develop into niche areas, such as heart research, in the future.

There are 56 days left to raise the funds - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Research Australia ceo Elizabeth Foley said crowdfunding was one of the major forces of the future and she applauded the move.

It was great to see the sector developing digital competency, she said, and she too believed the sector would see more of this in the future.

## WIN A THURSDAY PLANTATION PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five readers the chance to win a Thursday Plantation pack.

Perfect your skin with the power of nature's oils. Thursday Plantation captures the power of nature's oils to restore and maintain youthful and healthy looking skin.

Thursday Plantation Nurture Oil is a blend of nutritious plant oils to naturally decrease the visibility of scars and stretch marks.

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To win, be first to send in the answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Name three benefits of Nurture Oil.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Deborah Caldera from Jardine's Chemmart Pharmacy.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**PANADOL** for parrot fever?

If only they'd had access to antibiotics - 20 lovebirds in Arizona have been found dead in the backyard of one homeowner, with tests revealing they were stricken down by psittacosis, or parrot fever, the *Associated Press* reported.

The disease is transmittable to humans, usually through inhaling the bacteria from feathers, droppings or secretions but is readily treated with antibiotics, Better Health Channel said.

The birds in question were feral and it was unusual to see the disease kill so many in the wild, a game and fish veterinarian told AP.

**GOOD** on ya, Perth.

Readers, were any of you some of the awesome people in Perth who helped free a trapped man by rocking a train carriage?

You may have been on your way to the pharmacy and waiting at Stirling Train Station, when the station announcers asked passengers to move to one side of a train when a man slipped down the gap between it and the station while trying to board.

When this was unsuccessful, people were asked to line up beside the train and rock it back and forth until the man could be lifted to safety, ABC reported.

It was believed the man did not suffer any serious injuries, it said.

Good on you to the passengers and train staff involved!

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