

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from: ([click](#))

- Phytologic

Phmcy first stop for pain relief

PHARMACIES are the most common point of purchase for pain relief medication, just ahead of supermarkets, Roy Morgan Research has found.

The Roy Morgan Single Source survey from January to December 2014 with a sample size of 15,944 people found 48% of painkiller purchases were made at pharmacies, just ahead of supermarkets at 47%.

More than 10.5m Australians, or 55% of the population, bought headache or pain relief tablets or capsules in an average four weeks.

Those living in the country were more likely, at 57%, to buy painkillers than those living in the capital city at 53%.

Panadol was the most popular brand in Australia, followed by Nurofen, the research found.

The Minister for Health recently confirmed over the counter analgesics such as Panadol would be removed from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in the May budget, to be announced next week ([PD 27 Apr](#)).

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Bowel screen tender

THE Department of Health has released a request for tender for a pilot looking at an alternative pathway when it comes to bowel screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, in three phases from June 2015 to June 2016.

Details can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Vic commits to script monitoring

THE Victorian Government has committed to an initial sum of \$300,000 toward evaluating and planning for the implementation of a real-time prescription monitoring system in its state budget handed down this week.

The Victorian Minister for Health Jill Hennessy had previously said she was "receiving advice" on the issue ([PD 15 Jan](#)).

This followed a call from Coroner Jacinta Heffey for the Victorian Department of Health to implement such a system as a "matter of urgency", with overdose deaths data showing "clearly" that Schedule Four drugs were "tremendous contributors" to overdose deaths in the state ([PD 15 Jan](#)).

Tasmania rolled out its system in 2012, with NSW having said stage one was under way, Queensland assessing the Commonwealth system, WA working towards implementation this year ([PD 24 Mar](#)) and SA assessing support needed ([PD 17 Nov 14](#)).

PSA Victorian acting branch president Ben Marchant said the commitment was an important step in managing and identifying possible inappropriate use of some medicines, while focussing on continued Quality Use of Medicines.

AMA Victoria president Dr Tony Bartone said the organisation was "particularly pleased" to see the

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commitment, as the misuse and abuse of pharmaceutical medicines was a major problem in the state.

Although \$300,000 was a small amount, AMA Victoria was "ecstatic" the problem was "finally" being addressed, Bartone said.

Guild Victoria branch president Anthony Tassone said the budget was an encouraging first step, with more work to be done.

"A real time monitoring system has been long overdue and its implementation will save lives."

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Budget.

Sigma: be aware of reform consequences

SIGMA chairman Brian Jamieson has said he encourages all parties to be fully aware of the consequences of moving to an untested model for pharmacy regulation.

Speaking at the company's AGM yesterday, Jamieson said regulatory uncertainty had possibly been amplified by calls, including from the Harper review, for pharmacy ownership and location rules to be removed.

"It is dangerous to assume that what will be irreversible changes will deliver desirable and better outcomes above what can already be achieved through the many levers government has to regulate the industry."

MEANWHILE ceo Mark Hooper said Central Healthcare Services (CHS) and Discount Drug Stores (DDS) are performing in line with expectations.

Purchased last year for \$24.5m ([PD 27 Mar 14](#)) and \$26m ([PD 09 Sep 14](#)), Sigma said at the time it was expected they would deliver \$400m in revenue and \$8 to \$10m EBITDA, Hooper said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

\$28.7m for 24/7 pharmacies

THE Victorian government has committed \$28.7m over four years to fund 15 city and five rural 24 hour, seven days a week pharmacies.

The Labor party made the pre-election promise to fund 20 'Super Pharmacies' across the state to stay open 24 hours a day with night nurses providing medical advice ([PD 28 Nov 14](#)).

In its state budget handed down on Tuesday, the Victorian government said 20 'Super Pharmacies' would be established, with a nurse present from 6pm to 10pm for advice and services.

This would provide an alternative to going to hospital for non-emergency care and reduce pressure on hospitals, the government said.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Victorian acting branch president Ben Marchant said the funding would increase patient access to vital services while reducing pressure on doctors and hospital services.

The Australian Medical Association Victoria has previously said the policy was unsubstantiated, directing funding away from general practice towards "ill-equipped and insufficient alternatives" ([PD 28 Nov 14](#)).

Vets' MATES tender

THE Department of Veterans' Affairs has called a tender for the provision of its medicines and therapeutic education program, Veterans' Medicines and Therapeutic Education (MATES).

Aiming to optimise medicines use among veterans, the tender was for a three year contract with an option to extend, AusTender said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

nourish
NATURALS

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Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 07 May 2015

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Blackmores director appointed

BLACKMORES has announced the appointment of John Armstrong as non-executive director of the company.

Armstrong is the chief financial officer of SEEK.

He had "considerable" experience in many of the areas important to the company as it grew in Australia and Asia, particularly China, Blackmores chairman Marcus Blackmore said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Travel Specials

Lord Howe Island fly free deal

CAPELLA Lodge on Lord Howe Island is offering a special deal from 01 Aug to 30 Sep where lodge guests can fly free on Qantaslink from Sydney or Brisbane when they book a 'Stay Seven, Pay Six' package.

The package is priced from \$4,500 per person on a twin share basis, and includes breakfasts, sunset drinks and canapés, an open bar from 6pm, dinners and use of mountain bikes.

The offer is available until sold out.

CLICK HERE for details.

Swagman Tours Makutsi Safari Springs South Africa package.

SWAGMAN Tours is offering a seven-day package at Makutsi, which starts at \$1,645 per person twin share.

Makutsi displays not only all the big game of Africa, but has its own natural hot springs for relaxation.

The rhino monitoring program offers a conservation-oriented option with a heli-patrol flight above the reserve.

For more details, ring 1800 808 491.

NSW to ban e-cig sales to under 18s

THE NSW government introduced legislation to parliament yesterday to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes and accessories to anyone under 18 years old.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said there was no conclusive evidence that e-cigarettes helped people quit smoking but there was concern they posed potential risks to children.

The offence would carry the same maximum penalty as sale of tobacco to a minor.

The Department of Health said if appropriate, it would bring further legislation to regulate use and sale of e-cigarettes.

The NHMRC has said there is insufficient evidence as to whether e-cigarettes helped in quitting (**PD** 26 Mar) and recommended that health authorities "act to minimise harm" until evidence of safety and efficacy could be produced.

Tas One Health draft

THE Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services has this week been consulting around the White Paper released in March, which identified better utilisation of pharmacy expertise as one means of strengthening the primary care sector (**PD** 09 Apr).

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NZ Guild on codeine pharmacist-only class

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has said it supports the current codeine classification as pharmacist-only.

This follows Australia's consideration of rescheduling S3 codeine to S4 (**PD** 07 Apr).

There is presently no proposal in New Zealand to change the status quo but the Guild has said it would strongly support the implementation of a real time recording system.

CLICK HERE for more.

Cancer spend tops US\$100b in 2014

EARLIER diagnosis together with longer duration and effectiveness of treatments led to increased levels of spending on cancer therapies, reaching US\$100b globally in 2014, according to a new report from IMS Health.

The annual growth of the global spend had been 6.5% during the last five years, the report said, highlighting that while there were mixed levels of access to effective therapies, there was a high level of social media engagement by patients discussing both treatment options and financial concerns.

CLICK HERE to access the report.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BARISTAR.

As you're sipping your morning coffee at the pharmacy, consider that you could enjoy your caffeinated beverage in orbit - if you lived on the International Space Station with astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti.

The first Italian woman in space, and now the first barista in orbit, Cristoforetti brewed the first espresso which was truly out of this world last weekend, using a specially designed machine dubbed the ISSpresso, *AP* reports.



Pictured is Cristoforetti enjoying the beverage from a cup adapted for a zero gravity environment, an image she posted to Twitter with the caption 'To boldly brew...'

You can follow Cristoforetti at [@AstroSamantha](#).

THE chart reads 'koala'.

Hospital pharmacists, we ask you - have you ever had to dispense medication for a koala?

Those working at the Hamilton Base Hospital may have, given that a koala wandered into the emergency department recently, taking a stroll around at about 3.30am, *AFP* reported.

The koala paid a visit back in April but Western District Health Service (WDHS) posted a video of the "routine inspection", as one comment put it, to Facebook this week.

WDHS ceo Rohan Fitzgerald said the creature, nicknamed 'Blinky Bill', was a "koala that knew his own mind", *AFP* reported.

CLICK HERE to view the video.

WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

This week, *Pharmacy Daily* and **Plunketts** are giving away a Vita E prize pack including Vita E Cream, Vita E Oil and Vita E Ointment.

New Plunkett's Intensive Vita E ointment with extra high levels of vitamin E plus rich rosehip oil is your new best friend. The handy tube softens dry lips, rehydrates cuticles, tames eyebrows, calms stressed skin, treats burns and grazes and even relieves nappy rash. It's a First Aid Kit and Beauty Fix in a tube. For more info visit www.plunketts.com.au.

To win, be the first from **WA, SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What potentially irritating ingredients are not in Vita E Ointment?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Artee Anand** from **Icon River City Pharmacy**.



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