

Addictive medication exceeds road toll

THE number of people dying from addictive medications such as opioids and benzodiazepines (mostly accidentally) is overtaking the national road toll, according to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation.



Consequently the Foundation is alerting healthcare

professionals that it will launch a new campaign mid-Feb to warn Australians about the harms of addictive medicines.

The campaign will focus on alternatives to these medications, options such as physiotherapy, diet, lifestyle changes and counselling, the Foundation has said.

A stakeholder report on pharmaceutical harms will also be released to provide more information about the issue.

In addition, the campaign will include a video promoted through social media channels, posters, billboards and other media.

The project has been funded by the Victorian Government.

Bexsero supplies up

ALTHOUGH GSK's Bexsero (meningococcal B) vaccine is currently in short supply, the company has given assurances that Australians will be able to access the vaccine by the end of Jan, but does say the demand is still high.

First supplies will probably be quickly soaked up by back orders, but GSK says it will import five times the 2016 volume in 2017.

Priceline dispensary surge

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries (API) saw strong sales through its Priceline Pharmacy dispensaries, with like-for-like growth of 4.4%, more than double the PBS growth for the same period.

The figures were revealed on Wed afternoon by outgoing ceo Stephen Roche during his final address at the API annual general meeting.

Roche, who will be replaced by ceo-elect Richard Vincent effective 15 Feb, told shareholders the Priceline brand also saw an increase in its overall market share of health and beauty, with number one positions in both colour cosmetics and skincare.

Vincent gave an update on current trading conditions, with a good Christmas despite variable weekly demand.

He said the company was expecting a record net profit after tax for the first half of the financial year of \$29m, up 14.6%.

Although sales growth within Priceline was up 1.4% leading up to Christmas, "since then we've seen some overall slowness in the

market," he said.

Store openings are on track, to reach a total of 462 in the network by the end of the financial year.

"The forecast half year results clearly continue our momentum and should further reinforce shareholder confidence," he said.

The API agm also confirmed Vincent's remuneration package, which will see him receive \$1.04 million annually including superannuation as well as participate in short and long-term incentive plans.

1st Group rebrands



LISTED appointment management specialist 1st Group has announced the launch of a new MyHealth1st brand, replacing its current 1stAvailable branding.

The company said the change supports the broader range of products which are now accessible via its MyHealth1st.com.au online portal and mobile apps.

1st Group md Klaus Bartosch said the company now had over 10,000 appointment books under management across multiple sectors including dental, general practice, physiotherapy, specialists, natural therapies, optometry and pharmacy.

Users of the system include Priceline Pharmacy which uses it for in-pharmacy professional services as well as beauty and make-up appointments (**PD** 23 Dec).

Cannabis guidelines

AUSTRALIA'S first medicinal cannabis clinical guidelines for medical practitioners were released yesterday by the Queensland Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services Cameron Dick.

"Until now, health practitioners have had to access multiple sources of literature for guidance," Dick explained.

CLICK HERE to access.

Cooper OAM honour

UNIVERSITY of Canberra Faculty of Health Professor Gabrielle Cooper was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the pharmacy sector, and to tertiary education in the Governor General's Australia Day list of appointments and awards.

From a background in hospital pharmacy, Cooper had established the Discipline of Pharmacy at University of Canberra in 2004 and is the course convener for the Bachelor of Pharmacy.

Cooper has also taught in all aspects of the Master of Pharmacy course and has a wide range of research interests including pharmacy education, hospital systems and medications, clinical toxicology, interprofessional learning, the public health roles of pharmacists and a number of therapeutic areas.

President of PSA's ACT branch, Cooper is also a board member of Medicare Local ACT, the Australian Pharmacy Council Accreditation Committee and ACT Clinical Senate.

Officer (AO) in the General Division was bestowed upon Mary Patricia Hemming in Victoria for distinguished service to community health as a leader and consultant in the development of therapeutic and pharmaceutical guidelines, nationally and internationally.

The AO was also awarded to Dr Graeme Leslie Blackman, also from Victoria, for distinguished service to the pharmaceutical industry, to scientific research and policy development, to theological education and the Anglican Church of Australia, and to aged care.

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Dispensary Corner

WHAT'S the secret of a long, happy marriage?

Positive pillow talk apparently. Researchers discovered the couples who had positive communication before going to bed were more intimate with each other and significantly less stressed out.

The research was centred around service member couples in Oregon.

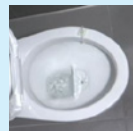
It explained that when you share something good, the recipient of information is actively happy for you, with the recipient's 'mirror neurons' firing - heightening the positive experience for both parties.



PEE-CYCLING is a new thing - the Ann Arbor school in the University of Michigan, US, sees fertiliser value in urine and has installed a split-bowl toilet in a campus engineering building.

The split-bowl (pictured) sends solid waste to a treatment plant, but routes urine to a holding tank downstairs, from which it is treated and eventually used to create fertilizers that will be applied on the grounds of the university's botanical gardens.

Urine contributors will have the opportunity to register their thoughts on a tablet computer located in the restroom.



PSA standards consultation

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has commenced consultation on a revised draft of the Professional Practice Standards, a document produced by PSA for the pharmacy profession.

The PSA has undertaken the review to ensure the Standards are consistent with the professional requirements of contemporary pharmacist practice, and reflect the expectations of Australian healthcare consumers.

A key focus of the document is the alignment of individual Standards to four key streams developed based on professional roles and activities: Foundations, Provision of Therapeutic Goods, Provision of Health Information and Professional Services.

The review has also renewed a focus on patient-centred collaborative care and covers emerging pharmacy offerings such as vaccination and minor ailment services.

The consultation will be open



until 01 Mar 2017, with the work funded by the government as part of the PBS Access and Sustainability Package including the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

CLICK HERE for details and to access the revised draft.

MEANWHILE the PSA will also host a national Remuneration and Reform Roadshow in the coming weeks, coinciding with the interim report from the panel undertaking the government's pharmacy review.

For details and locations of the free events see psa.org.au.

O'Loughlin at APP2017

MEDIA personality James O'Loughlin will present a session at APP2017 titled 'Overcoming the obstacles to innovation'.

He'll discuss the importance of innovation, strategies to develop improvement methods, barriers to innovation and ways to overcome them, and how to ensure your staff perform better in their roles.

WIN WITH IN ESSENCE

This week, Pharmacy Daily and In Essence are giving readers the chance to win In Essence Skin Therapy Organic Camellia Treatment Oil.

In Essence Skin Therapy Facial Treatment Oils are a luxurious addition to your daily beauty ritual for radiant, healthy skin. The In Essence Organic Camellia Treatment Oil is rich in Oleic Acid, Vitamins A, B and E, and is known to protect from premature ageing and pigmentation. For all skin types, just a few drops of Organic Camellia Treatment Oil will deliver intense hydration to the skin. For more information head to www.inessence.com.au

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The Organic Camellia Treatment Oil is for what skin types?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anna Phan from Pooraka Compounding Pharmacy.



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