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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Pharmacy Connect 2018**.

AusCann raises \$33.4m

LISTED pharmaceutical cannabis company AusCann has announced it has raised \$33.4 million via a share placement to institutional and sophisticated investors from North America and Australia. Among the investors was AusCann's major shareholder, Canopy Growth Corporation, which increases its ownership in AusCann to 11.2% following the completion of the placement.

AusCann said it will use the proceeds of the placement to fund cannabinoid pharmaceutical research and development and clinical studies, expansion of its operations in Chile and Australia, medical outreach programs in new international markets and more.

Following the placement, the company intends to undertake a Share Purchase Plan (SPP) to eligible existing shareholders to raise up to \$8 million.

Settlement is planned for around 12 Jul 2018 - see asx.com.au.

Q-Pharm expands research capacity

Q-PHARM has grown its capacity for research with the opening of the newly expanded Q-Pharm Pty Ltd premises in Queensland.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Steven Miles visited the new state-of-the-art facilities which are located within QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute on the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital campus at Herston.

"Only by investigating and testing new treatments can we improve how we care for patients in hospital and in the community," said Miles.

"By Q-Pharm expanding its facilities from 38 to 62 beds, Queensland will be able to conduct bigger clinical trials on potentially lifesaving medications and treatments.

Pharmacists can step up

COMMUNITY pharmacies stand ready to ease the burden on general practitioners to prevent them having to turn away mental health patients and sick children, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said in a prompted statement.

"A report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* today quotes the president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Dr Bastian Seidel, saying patients with complex conditions requiring longer appointments are being refused by doctors because they are not financially viable.

"If it's more complicated, you have to go elsewhere," Seidel said.

The Guild highlights that "just three days ago the RACGP was

criticising health checks provided by pharmacies because they were "motivated by money" – yet today the RACGP admits its members are turning away the sickest and neediest patients because they don't make enough money out of them".

Guild acting national president Anthony Tassone said, "This is an alarming admission by the RACGP and one that highlights the potential for pharmacists to help, by taking some of the strain away from doctors' surgeries.

"Within our existing scope of practice and acting collaboratively with local doctors, community pharmacies can ease the burden on the doctors, giving them more time to give care for patients they are currently turning away," Tassone said.

"The acknowledgement by the RACGP that doctors can't cope creates an opportunity to enhance the way community pharmacies are utilised in the health system," he added.

Major pharmacy brand, Amcal, added weight to the Guild argument saying its suite of in-pharmacy health risk assessment services have significantly helped to increase patient engagement, by acting as an accessible frontline.

"With a large proportion of Australians claiming they avoid going to the doctor due to financial or time restraints, Amcal is delighted to see its in-pharmacy services having an impact on GP visitation and proactive health management," the company said.

Chemo co-pay gone



ACT cancer patients will receive more financial support during their chemotherapy treatments, with the ACT Government announcing it will meet the cost of chemotherapy medication co-payments.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris has been talking to patients and their families about the financial hardship associated with cancer treatment.

"What we have heard is that at a time when ACT patients should be focused on their treatment, these costs can add an extra layer of burden on them and their families," Fitzharris said.

"The ACT Government is committed to supporting our public health system, and making treatments such as chemotherapy accessible and affordable to those that need it."

Work is underway to have this in place by the end of this month she explained, saying "From this time, patients will no longer be charged directly.

"The estimated annual cost for this initiative is about \$1 million."

Mening B vax for SA

SOUTH Australia will be the first jurisdiction in Australia to introduce a vaccination program for babies and young people against the potentially deadly meningococcal B disease.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade said an expert working group has developed an evidence-based, statewide vaccination program that will provide immunisations for children aged up to 12 months, as well as catch-up programs for children aged under four years, and in 2019, adolescents.

"It currently costs parents up to \$500 for a full vaccination course to immunise their children against meningococcal B – a cost which is out of reach for many," Wade said.

Folic acid & psychosis

WHILE we knew consuming more folic acid during pregnancy reduces neural tube defects, a study from the US has confirmed another benefit of fortifying bread with folic acid: protection against psychosis.

Two decades ago, the US government mandated grain products be enriched with folic acid to reduce foetal birth defects.

The regulatory action has had an unexpected benefit in that it appears from this Massachusetts General Hospital study that the increased gestational exposure to folic acid through food fortification may protect against psychosis through altered postnatal cortical development.

The work has been published in *JAMA Psychiatry* - jamanetwork.com.

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- **Pharmacist** - Bayside Brisbane, QLD (Job# 200015885)
Mon-Fri roster - team Pharmacist - all experience levels.
- **Pharmacist** - Mid-Coast, NSW (Job# 200015715)
Holiday destination, beach, sun + sand. Great package!

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Dispensary Corner

PUMP it up - a man with what may be an unusual fetish, or a very good Ebay account, was observed on CCTV helping himself to several breast pumps worth \$1,100, reports the *Gold Coast Bulletin*.

The blazened robber strolled into a Runaway Bay department store on the north end of the Gold Coast at 6.45am 15 Jun, picked up the goods and allegedly refused to pay before leaving.

That night, around 7.30pm, a man allegedly took breast pumps and blood pressure monitors worth \$1,570 from a pharmacy in Kintail Lane, Coomera.

Police said they are investigating similar offences in the area - if you recognise this man (below), call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



ACCURATELY predicting valuable sports results should win you immunity from any persecution, right? Not necessarily, it seems.

The Japanese octopus oracle named Rabio, sitting in a paddling pool pontificating on FIFA World Cup found his fame gave him no protection from hungry Japanese diners.

Perhaps because the giant Pacific cephalopod accurately predicted that Japan would lose the big match, or just because he was irresistible, he became a sashimi lunch.

The fisherman who caught Rabio off the coast of Obira, Kimio Abe, said another octopus will be used to predict matches at Russia 2018.

Pharmacy wise-owl laws

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has bitten back at the *Australian Financial Review's* opinion article writer Terry Barnes, who has written a scathing article about "one of the most anti-competitive, over-subsidised and hyper-regulated sectors of the Australian economy, retail pharmacy".



Using, or over-using, analogy references to various bird species to help make his point, Barnes cites the success of the Chemist Warehouse chain (which he incorrectly implied was a Guild member group) as an entrepreneurial demonstration of "getting around" the pharmacy location and ownership rules, which the Productivity Commissioner Stephen King also criticised.

The Turnbull government rejected those recommendations, and Barnes agreed that a Labour government would have done the same, keeping them central to the 6 CPA in recognition of

the potential negative impact any changes would have, especially on the viability of PBS funded dispensary product supplies in rural and remote Australia.

A Guild spokesperson's eagle-eye saw the *AFR* article and simply had to respond to the editor.

Never one to be called a chicken, he replied somewhat

tongue-in-cheek to Barnes, who is principal of Cormorant Policy Advice, saying, "With a consultancy named Cormorant, it is no surprise Terry Barnes favours ornithological references – but really, ducks, ostriches and cassowaries in one article?"

"He left out the wise owl who recognises that the regulation around pharmacy in Australia provides public benefit and forms a vital part of our health system.

"To do as Terry suggests and allow pharmacies to be 'owned by anybody and located anywhere' would be, well, cuckoo."

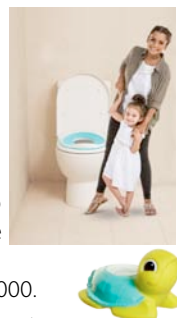
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The key to diabetes

DIABETICS across Australia are struggling to source their essential keytone urine-testing strips, which are being purchased in bulk by ketogenic dieters, the *ABC* reports.

Keto diet devotees keep track of their weight loss by monitoring the level of ketones in their body, which are a by-product of fat breakdown created when glucose is restricted.

South Grafton pharmacist Michael Troy, a PSA and Guild member, urges his colleagues to keep a supply of keto strips for diabetics.

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.

27 - 29 Jul: PSA18; The Hyatt Regency Sydney; register now: go to www.psa18.com

12 - 15 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2018; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medici.com.au

7 - 8 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register at: www.pharmacy-connect.com.au

16 - 19 Oct: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; early bird registrations now open: www.pamembersforum.com.au

25 - 27 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: www.pharmacyassistants.com



7-8 SEPTEMBER 2018 / HILTON SYDNEY

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