

## Medicare & PBS pillars

**PHARMACY**  
 Guild of Australia Executive Director David Quilty has reinforced to members, the public and political figures the central and complementary roles of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medicare in Australia's internationally envied universal health system.



Writing in his *Forefront* editorial, Quilty outlined some of the history of the schemes and said the "PBS is a fundamental part of Australia's National Medicines Policy and its effective delivery to the Australian population is underpinned by the nation's 5,700 highly accessible and professional community pharmacies".

"The PBS ensures that all Australians, regardless of where they live or their financial circumstances, have timely, reliable and affordable access to necessary and lifesaving prescription medicines."

The PBS has evolved over its 70 years to meet the changing needs of the Australian population and remains an absolute foundation of the country's healthcare system.

Quilty also highlighted the universal political support the two schemes enjoy and said that in the lead-up to the Federal Election the Guild would play its role as it always does by encouraging the nation's political leaders "to maintain and where they can look to strengthen their commitments to the PBS, which is recognised globally as a world leading subsidised medicines system".

## Guild injects vax into ITP

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that from 2019 all Guild Intern Training Program (ITP) enrollees will have free access to the Guild Vaccination Course for Pharmacists.



Making vaccination accreditation a basic training requirement, the new program offering is a free add-on to the ITP course.

Guild National Manager for the ITP Tim Roberts said, "The Guild ITP is committed to ensuring that all enrollees in the program are appropriately skilled to practice to the full extent of their scope as a pharmacist."

"By including the Guild Vaccination Course for Pharmacists

as a free benefit with the Guild ITP, we are preparing the future pharmacist workforce to provide safe and convenient access to pharmacist-led vaccination services across Australia."

Roberts explained that research has shown patients strongly supported expanded health services being available from their local pharmacy, nominating vaccination as one of the most frequently identified services.

"The Guild Intern Training Program is the market leader in value at just \$1855, offers challenging clinical content, work ready outcomes, ongoing exam support and free access to industry events including APP on the Gold Coast and Pharmacy Connect in Sydney," he added.

Enrolments in the Guild ITP are open across all states and territories in Australia - visit [internpharmacist.com.au](http://internpharmacist.com.au) or ring 1300 110 161 to speak with a tutor.

## AHPRA appointments

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Boards have welcomed 101 appointments and reappointments to National Boards across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Australian Health Ministers announced the appointments and reappointments of National Board Chairs, practitioner members and community members to fill vacancies arising across 13 National Boards following a record number of applications to fill the roles.

In total, 780 applications were received for 102 vacancies.

AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher said the new appointments have brought to near parity the gender balance in National Board Chairs.

## Cancer therapy costs

**CANCER** charities around Australia have banded together to call upon healthcare providers to inform patients around the costs of their cancer treatments.

Cancer Council Australia (CCA) presented the new draft 'Standard for Informed Financial Consent' at the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth yesterday.

The draft standard, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, was developed by CCA in collaboration with Breast Cancer Network Australia, the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia and CanTeen.

CCA CEO Professor Sanchia Aranda said research shows that half of Australian cancer survivors experience financial stress, and that it often impacts their treatment decisions.

"The poorest members of our community are 33% more likely to die from cancer than the richest and so clearly money is a key factor influencing cancer inequalities," Sanchia said.

**"This book is an excellent reference which would be very useful for medication users, as well as their carers and family members."**

- General Practitioner, SA

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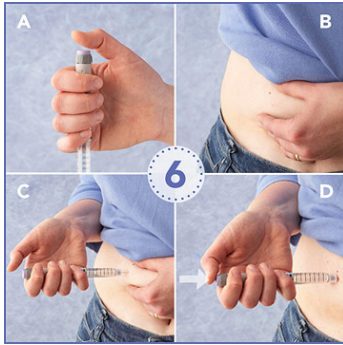
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## Insulin injection ignorance

**TWO** in five insulin injection users have never been shown the correct needle size or the need to rotate the injection site, according to new data published from a survey conducted by the RACGP's Diabetes Specific Interest Network, reported in *6minutes*.



The survey revealed only 44% of respondents, most of whom use pen needles, used the recommended 4mm and 5mm needles, while 49% reused pen needles and 58% failed to leave the pen needle in for the correct amount of time.

Diabetes educators, frequently sourced through pharmacies, were shown to have had the most impact in terms of education of patients, having demonstrated injection technique to 48% of the participants.

GPs had demonstrated the techniques to 42% of patients. More than two thirds of patients said they had not had their injection techniques checked in the past 18 months.

For patients under 50 years of age, the situation is even more dire with approximately eight in 10 failing to correctly change the injection site.

Diabetes Specific Interest Network Chair Dr Gary Deed said, "It's also concerning to see how many respondents were using longer needles (6mm, 8mm or 12.7mm), as they are more likely to inject into the muscle layer, which can be uncomfortable as well as affecting medication absorption".

## Accreditation courses



**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is the accreditation authority responsible for

accrediting education providers and programs of study for the pharmacy profession.

It has posted a comprehensive list of approved programs of study on its website, excluding programs of study classified as "Inactive".

Visit [pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://pharmacyboard.gov.au) to access the education provider list.

## ResMed completes MatrixCare purchase

**NEW** York-listed and ASX-listed medical software and device company



ResMed has announced it has successfully completed its acquisition of Minnesota-based software company MatrixCare.

The \$750 million deal sees ResMed add to its out-of-hospital software-as-a-service (SaaS) offerings and says it will "drive an integrated ecosystem of solutions across these platforms to maintain single-patient records across multiple care settings, generate analytics and insights that can be applied to individuals and whole populations, and streamline processes across the care continuum".

ResMed CEO Mick Farrell said, "ResMed is the world's top tech-driven medical device company, and we are well on our way to being the top provider of out-of-hospital software".

MatrixCare will continue to operate as a standalone business with no immediate changes to management, locations or business processes, Farrell said.

## Hosp costs disparity

**A NEW** report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has highlighted the wide disparity in costs for similar treatments across public hospitals in Australia.

The report shows that some hospitals spent up to \$6,400 to deliver a notional 'average' service for acute admitted patients, which cost just \$3,300 in other hospitals.

AIHW spokesperson Dr Adrian Webster said, "... this report provides us with another way of understanding our hospital system and variability in health care expenditure" - see [aihw.gov.au](http://aihw.gov.au).

## Business Development Manager

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## Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Far Western NSW (Job# 200031386)  
Jan start; \$130k + rent assist; lead a prof. supportive team.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Gladstone, QLD (Job# 200031487)  
Relocate to sunny coastal Qld for the winter - April 2019 start.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - The Grampians, VIC (Job# 200031534)  
\$45 p/hr + Fully Furnished 3 Bedroom house + Mon-Fri + Great location!

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## Dispensary Corner

**JUST** how old is B&W TV? - more than half a century, actually.

But in the land where TV licenses are still required by law (!) more than 7,000 people across the UK are still watching in black and white, according to TV Licensing.

TV Licensing spokesman Jason Hill said, "Over half of the UK's TVs now connect to the internet so it's interesting that more than 7,000 households still choose to watch their favourite shows on a black and white telly."



**SPEAKING** of ageing technology, growing old gracefully is OK for some, but apparently not all, especially if you are of an age, and looking for love and a job.

A 69-year-old pensioner who says he has the body of a 45-year-old is taking action to legally change his age to improve his job prospects and luck with women on Tinder.

Dutch entrepreneur Emile Ratelband is hoping he will be able to change his date of birth from 11 Mar 1949 to 11 Mar 1969 after his doctors said he had the body of someone more than 20 years younger than himself.

He argues if transgender people are legally allowed to change their sex then he should be allowed to change his age - so that's such an obvious link...

Now Mr Ratelband, what about that relentless body clock?

## Al completes #Alswalkforlife

**VETERAN** Salvation Army suicide prevention campaigner 86 year old Alan Staines OAM has yesterday completed his walk from Canberra to Sydney promoting the message that we need more services for those bereaved by suicide.

The determined octogenarian and his 65-year-old supportive wife Lois were welcomed into Sydney by state Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Minister for Mental Health Tanya Davies, family, friends and the Chatswood High School Concert Band at the rear of NSW Parliament.

His Walk for Life took in several towns, where he spoke to local communities along the route. "Those impacted by suicide are up to eight times more likely to take their own lives than the general population," said Staines.

"Deaths in Australia due to suicide now exceed motor vehicle accidents, war, natural disasters and homicides combined.

"The hidden costs of suicidal behaviour are estimated to be \$17 billion a year, and yet, there is



little attention given to the issue of suicide."

Staines and Postvention Australia are calling on all sections of government to urgently implement strategies to stem the tide of suicides by providing much needed services for the thousands impacted.

"There are at least eight suicides (8.6) a day in Australia according to the latest ABS research. With each suicide, there are at least 135 people directly impacted as a result," Staines said.

See [facebook.com/alswalkforlife](https://www.facebook.com/alswalkforlife) for more information or donate at [postventionaustralia.org](https://www.postventionaustralia.org).

## Win with Skin Doctors

This week **Pharmacy Daily & Skin Doctors** are giving away each day Skin Doctors beetox 50ml valued at \$59.95.

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To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**What does beetox do to the formation of collagen in your skin?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Angie Lawson.*



## Botanix ASX update

**LISTED** cannabis and dermatology company Botanix has provided its investors with a status update presentation via the ASX.

The company reinforced its dermatology focus and reminded investors of its FDA approval for Epidiolex (**PD** 27 Jun) and the impending success of its novel skin delivery technology Permatrex which enhances dermal delivery of cannabidiol - [asx.com.au](http://asx.com.au).



## 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).

**22 - 25 Nov:** SHPA Medicines Management 2018; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: [www.mm2018shpa.com](http://www.mm2018shpa.com)

**27-30 Nov:** ASCEPT 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting; Adelaide Convention Centre; for details visit: [www.asceptasm.com](http://www.asceptasm.com)

**22 - 28 Jan:** NAPSA Congress; University of South Australia, Adelaide; for more info see: [www.napsacongressadelaide19.com](http://www.napsacongressadelaide19.com)

**07 - 10 Mar:** APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; early bird registration now open: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

**21 - 24 Mar:** NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; early bird tickets available from 03 Dec: [www.psa.org.au/atu](http://www.psa.org.au/atu)