

## MHR flexibility boost

**NEW** legislation strengthening the privacy and security protections of the My Health Record system mean that users have the ability to permanently delete their record at any time.

The new functionality in the My Health Record system includes the deletion of backups, and any records that have already been cancelled will also be permanently deleted from the system.

If a person changes their mind they can choose to register anew for a record, "to enjoy the benefits of controlling their health information securely in one place to support their health and care".

The Australian Digital Health Agency said that 6.45 million Australians currently have a My Health Record, and since Jul 2018 almost 500,00 people had decided not to wait to have one created for them but have requested a MHR.

The increase in pharmacy connections has tripled in the last six months to 84% of community pharmacies across the country.

See [myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://myhealthrecord.gov.au).

## SHPA plots 2023 strategy

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has today released its five-year strategic plan, describing it as a "blueprint to advance Australian pharmacy by supporting world-leading practice for the optimal care of all people within the Australian health system".

Recently appointed SHPA National President, Peter Fowler said the document aimed to guide the booming hospital pharmacy sector into a new era, espousing SHPA's vision of "advancing pharmacy, advancing patient care".

The document encapsulates four strategic pillars: developing a world-leading pharmacy workforce; advancing collaborative practice with pharmacy and healthcare partners; providing a progressive,



evidence-based voice on pharmacy policy and issues; and focusing practice on patient outcomes.

"In a range of roles and care settings, our members practice at a high level, caring for complex patients with complex medicines management

needs, in multidisciplinary environments," Fowler said.

"Through SHPA's ongoing advocacy, programs and initiatives members will be supported to sharpen their skills, forge stronger connections, advance their practice and wield a more influential voice as they drive their careers forward."

SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels said policy would be a key priority, with current issues including building a coordinated response to minimising opioid-related harm originating in hospitals as an outcome of the recent report which analysed current practices around opioid analgesia in the hospital surgical setting (*PD* 26 Nov 2018).

"We will continue to work with members, and healthcare and government stakeholders, to push for evidence-based policy change, while highlighting the valuable contribution made by hospital pharmacists in everything we do."

See the strategy at [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## Pharma champion Vic Australian of Year

**THE** creator of not-for-profit pharmaceutical firm Medicines Development for Global Health, Mark Sullivan, has been named the 2019 Victorian Australian of the Year.

The business is an independent biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the development of affordable medicines and vaccines for those who need them most.

Key achievements include FDA approval for moxidectin, a new drug which treats river blindness, affecting 20 million people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sullivan joins other state and territory recipients as finalists in the national Australian of the Year awards which will be announced tomorrow in Canberra.

## Pharmacy of the Year finalists named

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia yesterday named six pharmacies as finalists in the 2019 Pharmacy of the Year competition.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the awards, which recognise excellence in pharmacy across three categories: Business Management, Community Engagement and Professional Innovation.

The six 2019 finalists are:

- Terrywhite Chemmart Mount Gravatt, Qld
- Emerald Plaza Pharmacy, Qld
- Hardings 24 hour Pharmacy, Annerley, Qld
- Pharmacy 777 Glengarry, WA
- Flannery's Pharmacy, NSW
- Wilkinson's Pharmacy, Tas

The Pharmacy of the Year award aims to recognise excellence in the community pharmacy sector and "seek out those community pharmacies which are committed to building on their core expertise in medicines and facilitating innovative viability and sustainable

professional health services," according to judging panel spokesperson Nick Panayiaris, Guild National Councillor and President of the SA Branch of the Guild.

He said this year's finalists had all displayed a strong commitment to community engagement and a dedication to improving the delivery of professional services.

"Another common feature of the finalists is their optimism for the future of the profession - these community pharmacies understand the challenges facing the industry and embrace the need to adapt and change to address the needs of their patients and community."

Panayiaris said this willingness to evolve had resulted in dynamic, viable and sustainable businesses.

"These pharmacies are early adopters of change and are definitely closely aligned with the CP2025 research and the CP2025 framework for change," he said.

The winners will be announced in early Mar at APP2019.

## OA/RA capsule recall

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that Blueskygreenearth is recalling OA/RA capsules (batch 17098003) due to "contamination with a substance that poses an unacceptable risk to health".

OA/RA is an Ayurvedic product indicated for the temporary pain relief of osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

TGA testing has found the currently available batch of the product is contaminated with very low levels of aristolochic acid - a Schedule 10 item for which there is no established safe exposure level, and which has been linked to kidney problems and urinary tract cancers.

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## Dispensary Corner

**ORIENTAL** deafness, or selective hearing, is something many suffer from at some stage, but one woman took it to extremes, unintentionally, and no pharmacy drug could help her.

The patient, named as Chen, said she felt sick and could hear ringing in her ears the night before and thought going to sleep might help, but when she awoke she panicked when she realised she was unable to hear her boyfriend talking to her.

ENT specialist Lin Xiaoqing at Qianpu Hospital, in the city of Xiamen, East China, said Chen had lost sensitivity to the lower registers and couldn't discern when a male spoke to her.

Fatigue and stress were thought to have contributed to her problem.

She is expected to make a full recovery - no excuses.



**YOU'VE** probably never thought of it as an occupational hazard, but a drug sniffing police dog in the USA has been given naloxone after suffering a potential overdose from detecting illicit substances on a cruise passenger.

The incident took place at Port Canaveral in Florida, with officers saying the golden retriever, Jake, experienced "seizure like symptoms" after sniffing the arrival following disembarkation from the *Norwegian Epic* cruise ship yesterday.

## API, Sigma plan progresses

**AUSTRALIAN** Pharmaceutical Industries yesterday confirmed it was in "constructive dialogue" with rival Sigma Healthcare about progressing the recently unveiled merger proposal (**PD** 17 Dec).

Speaking at the API AGM, Chairman Mark Smith said the company's board anticipates signing a non-disclosure agreement shortly in order to allow a due diligence process to commence.

He reiterated previous estimates that the merged entity could deliver up to \$60 million in annual savings from combined pharmacy distribution and corporate functions after three years.

**MEANWHILE** also at the API agm, CEO Richard Vincent focused on the performance of the company over the past year, with a small increase in underlying net profit after tax, despite the impact of exclusive direct distribution and PBS reforms which were estimated to hit gross profit by over \$10 million.

He also highlighted API's "established, sustainable positions in both pharmaceutical wholesaling and in retailing".

The company's longstanding

expertise in areas such as property development, franchising and marketing were also key to the success of the newly acquired Clearskincare business (**PD** 25 Jun 2018), Vincent said.

He confirmed that Clearskincare products would be ranged in Priceline Pharmacy, while ongoing growth within Priceline was also expected in 2019 with "demand for new franchise stores remaining constant".

In terms of Pharmacy Distribution, the year saw investment in new professional programs, merchandise and marketing under the Soul Pattinson and Pharmacist Advice brands, while an improved offer for independent pharmacies, strategic relationships and retail expertise "provides us with the opportunity to continue to hold or improve our market position".

Vincent acknowledged the new Community Service Obligation guidelines (**PD** 03 Dec 2018), welcoming changes preventing exclusive direct distributors also being part of the CSO but noting that the funding pool remained unchanged until Jun 2020.

## Win with Plunkett's



Does Plunkett's Aloe Vera contain any artificial colour?

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack valued at over \$60 each including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 240ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 75g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Spray 125ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Moisturiser 200ml and one Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera facial mask.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and antioxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round.

Visit: [www.Plunketts.com.au](http://www.Plunketts.com.au).

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

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Donna Delgado.*



## Travel & Cruise Weekly

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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### Uniworld & U Best Offer

**WANT** a European river cruise? Upmarket operator Uniworld and sister brand U have extended their "Our Best Offer" sale through 31 Mar 2019 with added dates and better fares. Travellers can save up to 30% on over 360 departure dates across more than 40 different itineraries.

For example, cruise the magnificent Moselle & Rhine Rivers for 10 days Cologne to Frankfurt from \$4,829 pp.

Consult your travel agent and **CLICK HERE** for details.

### Viking's World Cruise

**VIKING** Cruises has announced its new 2020-2021 Viking World Cruise, spanning 161 days, six continents and 75 ports, with overnight stays in 13 cities.

The award winning 930-guest all-veranda *Viking Sun* departs Miami 14 Dec, 2020.

Pricing starts at \$85,995 per person and 2021 Viking World Discoveries starts at \$75,995 pp. **CLICK HERE** to preview details and consult your travel agent.