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

**Last Spotlight chance**  
Pharmacy Daily presents Winter spotlight

**THERE** are still limited spaces available for the next **Pharmacy Daily Winter Spotlight** supplements set to appear on Tue 14 & 21 May. This is your chance to cast the spotlight onto products suitable for the upcoming winter, with space for a product image, product description and call to action. Contact Mel on 1300 799 220 or [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**IMgateway into AusDI**  
**MEDICAL** Director has integrated the IMgateway herb-drug interaction module into its AusDI medicines information database. IMgateway was first launched to Australian practitioners more than 20 years ago, and contains information on herbs, supplements, drugs and medical conditions retrieved from over 700 journals. The interactions database covers over 1,000 combinations of herbs, supplements, foods and drugs, and was developed in partnership with the School of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney.

IMgateway is integrated via an API into AusDI and can be accessed via a dedicated tab in the side bar menu of the application. It's available to purchase as an additional module for all new and existing AusDI customers. The database has remained commercially unbiased since its inception, with the IMgateway editorial board receiving zero financial support from any pharmaceutical or complementary medicine manufacturers. Using the new AusDI module helps support the Pharmacy Board of Australia requirements for mandatory reference sources, under the category requiring "an evidence-based reference work on complementary and alternative medicines". More at [ausdi.com.au](http://ausdi.com.au).

## Closing the pharmacy gap

**ENSURING** Indigenous Australians have comprehensive access to pharmacy services must be regarded as a minimum for any incoming Federal Government, according to the Pharmacy Guild.

In a statement calling on the two major parties to commit to reforming the Indigenous Pharmacy Programs, the Guild and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) said more funding was required to promote quality use of medicines (QUM) for Indigenous Australians.

Guild National President, George Tambassis, said community pharmacy was a key and culturally safe access point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in rural, regional and remote parts of the country.

"To date significant gains have been achieved through the current Indigenous Pharmacy Programs and successful and sustainable partnerships between Indigenous health services and community pharmacies have helped to provide services for Aboriginal people that improve health outcomes and assist in Closing the Gap," he said.

"But we need to do more and we need to reform the Indigenous

Pharmacy Programs to move with the changing needs of these patients and the changing health environment of their communities."

Tambassis said reforms designed to improve the Indigenous Pharmacy Programs should include expanding the authority to write Close the Gap scripts for all prescribers, linking medicines subsidy to individual clients and not practice through a national identifier.

He added that funding was required to improve how remote clients can receive fully subsidised medicines in non-remote areas.

The Guild President also called for the registration process for Close the Gap to be simplified to make it more straightforward and accessible.

NACCHO Acting Chair, Donnella Mills, said significant reforms were needed to ensure equal access to medicines for Indigenous people living in regional and remote areas.

"There are still patients who are not serviced effectively by these programs and some who are falling through the gaps," she said.

"Medicines access for Aboriginal people is still below that of the overall Australian population and access is not commensurate with the burden of disease that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffer.

"Through our members' feedback and the Indigenous Pharmacy Programs review, we know how the system needs to be improved. Now it is time for political leaders to act."

## Talking to drug users

**PHARMACISTS** need to proactively engage with illicit drug users to deliver harm reduction services, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Acknowledging that some health professionals may have difficulty initiating conversations about harm reduction and illicit drug use, Guild Learning and Development has developed a new online course, *Communicating with people who use drugs*, in conjunction with Harm Reduction Victoria.

The course is accredited for one hour of Group 1 CPD, which can be converted into one hour of Group 2 CPD upon completion of an assessment.

**CLICK HERE** to enrol or email [learninganddevelopment@guild.org.au](mailto:learninganddevelopment@guild.org.au) for more information.

## PSA clinical principles

**CLINICAL** governance principles designed to support the implementation of safe and high quality pharmacy services were released yesterday by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

The 26-page document Clinical Governance Principles for Pharmacy Services 2018 guides pharmacists and organisations involved in the provision of pharmacy services on improving safety, quality and consistency of new and existing services in healthcare delivery.

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said clinical governance was a key mechanism to reduce the harms caused by medicine misuse.

"We have a high-quality health system in Australia, and a high-quality pharmacy profession providing valued care to their communities and patients, but there are still unacceptable variations in health outcomes," he said.

"PSA's Medicine Safety Report found that 250,000 people are admitted to hospital each year because of medicine-related problems, at a cost of \$1.4 billion. At least half of this harm is preventable.

"Pharmacists are the key to improving the safe and quality use of medicines but, while all pharmacy services have a degree of quality management and governance, the formal application of clinical governance varies considerably."

See the document [psa.org.au](http://psa.org.au).



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist + Retail Manager** - Canberra CBD, ACT (Job# 200032261)  
Elegant Canberra CBD site with transport at the door.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Gippsland region, VIC (Job# 200032418)  
\$\$\$ + accom; gorgeous coastal location; work with a professional team!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Mackay, QLD (Job# 200031678)  
Opportunity to step up into a PIC role; mentoring; professional development.

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## Dispensary Corner

**SOCIAL** media is being blamed for declining rates of \*ahem\* other forms of socialisation, with a *BMJ* article this week tracing a significant drop in British sexual activity between 2001 and 2012.

Researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine tracked the activity of more than 34,000 men and women aged 16 to 44, recorded in studies in 1991, 2001 and 2012.

There was a "sharp drop" in amorous encounters, with the proportion of respondents saying they had been celibate for the previous month increasing from 23% to 29% among women, and from 26% to 29% among men.

The authors suggested that given the age and marital status of those most affected, the best explanation was a combination of stress due to the 2008 financial crisis, and social media resulting in less face-to-face interaction.

**WELL** this is awkward.

A teenager in Kentucky, USA who took legal action after he was banned from school for refusing a chicken pox vaccination has come down with the disease.

Jerome Kunkel objected to the jab on religious grounds, but was consequently forced to cease attending classes.

A lawyer for the 18-year-old said he had no regrets about his decision and was aware he risked getting the disease.

Some ultra-conservative Catholics are opposed to chicken pox jabs because they were developed in the 1960s from the cell lines of two aborted foetuses.

Once he recovers and thus has immunity he will be back in class.

## ACCC ticks GSK-Pfizer deal

**THE** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has confirmed it will not oppose the proposed acquisition of Pfizer's consumer healthcare business in Australia by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) (*PD* breaking news yesterday).

The ACCC said the proposed deal combines only their over-the-counter businesses, including Panadol, Voltaren and Advil as well as gastrointestinal and cold and flu products.

"After conducting market inquiries and analysing documents and data provided by GSK and Pfizer, the ACCC considers that the transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market in Australia," according to the Commission.

Commissioner Roger Featherston said the ACCC had found that Reckitt Benckiser's Nurofen would compete strongly with the pain medication produced by a combined GSK/Pfizer and he added that generic competition would also moderate the impact.

The arrangement has had a long gestation period with Pfizer having been courted by GSK and Reckitt Benckiser (RB) (*PD* 05 Feb 2018) along the way.

Both GSK and RB dropped out of the race (*PD* 26 Mar 2018) then Procter and Gamble (P&G) came into play (*PD* 04 Apr 2018), before GSK and Pfizer came to the joint venture agreement (*PD* 20 Dec 2018) that has now been accepted by the ACCC.

## Flu overprescribing

**AUSTRALIAN** doctors are prescribing antivirals for people with the flu who may not benefit, putting patients at risk of unnecessary side effects, according to a new study by University of Adelaide researchers.

The research covered over 4.2 million patients at 550 general practices, and found a welcome apparent decline in antibiotic prescribing, but more antivirals.

See details at [bmjopen.bmj.com](http://bmjopen.bmj.com).

## AHPRA prosecution

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has successfully prosecuted NSW company The Running Clinic, alleging it made false, misleading and deceptive advertising claims in relation to podiatry services which were "likely to create an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment".



## 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).

- 05 - 13 Jun:** PSA Offshore Refresher Conference; Montreux, Switzerland and Lyon, France; registrations now open: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 22 - 23 Jun:** SHPA Electronic Medication Management Conference; Novotel Manly Pacific, Manly, NSW; register here: [www.shpa.eventsair.com](http://www.shpa.eventsair.com)
- 28 - 30 Jun:** ConPharm 2019; Pullman on the Park Melbourne; early bird offer here: [www.aacp.com.au](http://www.aacp.com.au)
- 26 - 28 Jul:** PSA19; Hyatt Regency Sydney; early bird registrations now open: [www.psa19.com](http://www.psa19.com)
- 04 - 07 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2019; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: [www.medici.com.au](http://www.medici.com.au)
- 05 - 07 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel, Sydney; for details and to register visit: [www.pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://www.pharmacy-connect.com.au)

## Win with PURE Papaya

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and PURE Papaya are giving away the NEW PURE Papaya Glow valued at \$24.99.

PURE Papaya Glow is face oil for overnight skin renewal that will revitalise & nourish your skin while you sleep. This light oil is made with Papaya Oil and Jojoba Oil. Papaya Oil is derived from the seeds of the Papaya Fruit. The seeds are rich in enzymes, omega fatty acids and vitamins to help nourish and gently renew your skin. This product contains NO petroleum, preservatives, castor oil or palm oil and is made using a vegan friendly formula. Visit [Purepapayacare.com.au](http://Purepapayacare.com.au) to find out more.

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



### When should PURE Papaya Glow be used?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sally Brown.



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MASTERCLASS

# THANK YOU TO THE CLASS OF 2019

Last week we brought together over 400 pharmacists and pharmacy professionals for Masterclass. Our three day education event that focuses on building both clinical and leadership capability for our pharmacists.



CONGRATULATIONS TO RENEE WYNNE,  
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OUR 2019 PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR!



Pictured with COO Duncan Philips and outgoing pharmacist of the year Karen Brown and Renee Wynn from Wynn Vale, SA!



Congratulations to our finalists Joe Foster - Chester Pass, David Steadman - Naracoorte, Morag Horton - Melbourne St, Jacqui Hagidimitriou - Samford, Renee Wynn - Wynn Vale, Kylie Becker - Rockhampton and Anant Ramanth - Winchelsea.

Want to come in 2020? [Click here to find out more.](#)