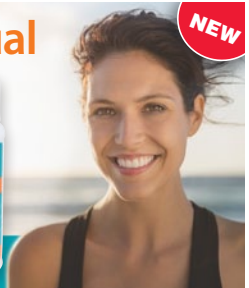


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Award rates set to rise

PHARMACY wage bills are set to rise following the Fair Work Commission's (FWC's) decision to implement a 5.2% increase to the minimum wage from 01 Jul.

The FWC's *Annual Wage Review 2021-22* is set to deliver a 4.6% increase to the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020.

A Pharmacy Guild of Australia spokesperson said the organisation backed the FWC's "independence to adjust the minimum wage as determined by the economic data".

"The Guild recommends that all members review their wages in line with the decision and undertake any necessary actions," the spokesperson said.

"The Guild will be providing advice and assistance to members regarding the decision and its impact on their employees' wages."

Outlining its decision to boost the national minimum wage, the FWC noted that "the most significant changes since last year's Review decision have been the sharp rise in the cost of living and the strengthening of the labour market".

"Taking all the relevant considerations into account led the

[FWC] panel to award an increase of \$40 to the national minimum wage, which amounts to an increase of 5.2%," the FWC said.

"The national minimum wage will be \$812.60 per week or \$21.38 per hour.

"The panel observed that this level of increase will protect the real value of the wages of the lowest-paid workers.

"The Panel decided to increase modern award minimum wages by 4.6% subject to a minimum increase for adult award classifications of \$40 per week.

"The \$40 per week increase is based on a 38-hour week for a full-time employee.

"In effect, modern award minimum wage rates above \$869.60 per week will receive a 4.6% adjustment, wage rates below \$869.60 per week will be adjusted by \$40 per week.

"The panel accepted that the approach adopted will result in some, albeit minor, compression in relativities, but decided that that consideration is to be balanced against the need to provide greater relief to low-paid workers in the context of rising cost of living pressures.

MDFA's free CPD

THE Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) has launched two Federal Government-funded CPD programs to help pharmacists reduce the impact and incidence of the disease. See **page five** for more.

Grow your career

BALLARAT-BASED UFS Pharmacies is offering a generous sign-on bonus to attract a suitable candidate to take on a pharmacy manager position.

The group, which operates across Ballarat and the western region of Victoria, is seeking an experienced pharmacist who is interested in clinical excellence, and is keen to undertake professional development.

See **page six** for more.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Macular Disease Foundation
- UFS

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WHO working to rename monkeypox

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has announced plans to rename monkeypox to avoid concerns of racism around the virus, *ABC News* reports.

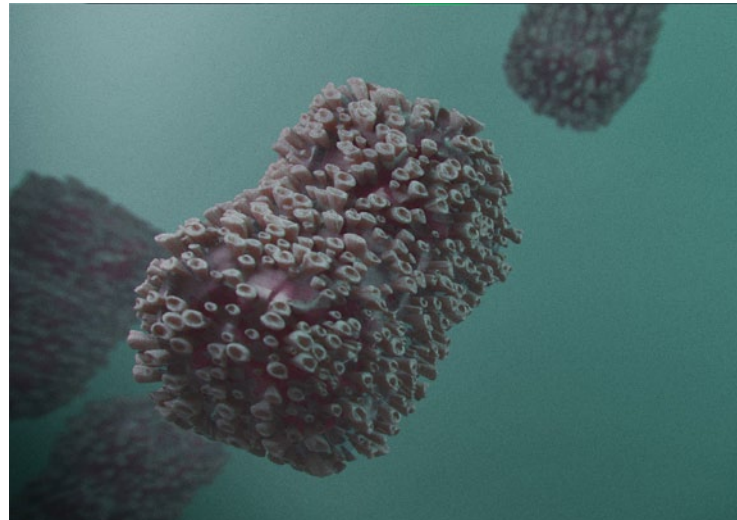
WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus revealed that the organisation was “working with partners and experts from around the world on changing the name of the monkeypox virus, its clades and the disease it causes”.

The move came less than a week after a group of international scientists published a paper stating there was an “urgent need” for a “non-discriminatory and non-stigmatising nomenclature for monkeypox virus”.

The WHO currently lists two strains of the virus, the West African clade and the Congo Basin clade.

The scientists have called for the adoption of a naming classification that “minimises unnecessary negative impacts on nations, geographic regions, economies and people and that considers the evolution and spread of the virus”.

MEANWHILE the WHO has also announced it will convene an emergency meeting on 23 Jun focused on the virus due to its



“unusual” recent behaviour in spreading beyond regions where it has been endemic.

“We believe that it needs also some coordinated response because of the geographic spread,” Ghebreyesus said.

To date more than 1,600 confirmed cases and a further 1,500 suspected cases have been reported across 39 countries this year, including seven where the virus had previously been identified.

None of the 79 monkeypox-

related deaths reported globally this year have been in countries with a history of cases of the virus.

The WHO has previously hosted a two-day virtual meeting of researchers and experts to review the available evidence on the epidemiology of the virus, its transmission dynamics, the clinical characteristics and countermeasures for managing the disease.

Experts have agreed that effective countermeasures should be made available based on where the need is greatest.

TGA green lights Kimmtrak

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved Kimmtrak (tebentafusp) to treat unresectable or metastatic uveal melanoma in HLA-A*02:01 positive patients.

The medication will remain on the Black Triangle Scheme for five years from the date the product is first supplied in Australia.

Vyxeos approved

JAZZ Pharmaceuticals ANZ’s Vyxeos (daunorubicin and cytarabine) has been approved to treat therapy-related acute myeloid leukaemia and AML-MRC.

Vyxeos must be initiated and monitored under the supervision of physicians experienced in the use of chemotherapeutic medicinal products.

The approval requires Vyxeos to be on the Black Triangle Scheme for five years from the date the product is first supplied in Australia.

Anticholinergic burden: reducing the impact on older people

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WA delivers 120k free flu jabs this Jun

WESTERN Australia Health Minister, Amber-Jade Sanderson, is looking to rebrand Jun, as “Jabby June” to boost influenza vaccination uptake.

Speaking in the WA Legislative Assembly yesterday, Sanderson noted that since the first of the month 120,000 free flu shots have been administered under the State Government’s scheme. Sanderson said approximately

26% of Western Australians had been vaccinated this year, which she described as “a good number to reach by this time, but we need to get that number higher”.

She stressed the need for people get vaccinated to reduce pressure on health workers.

Sanderson also thanked pharmacists and GPs for their support in delivering the vaccination program.

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UK pharmacist gets struck off

BRITAIN'S General Pharmaceutical Council has stripped a pharmacist of his registration, after he was jailed for illegally supplying zolpidem to a third party.

Dean Zainool Dookham used his positions as pharmacy manager at Northbrook Pharmacy in Birmingham, and as superintendent pharmacists at online pharmacy, I-Dispense, to access the medicines, which were shipped to Trinidad between 01 Sep 2015 and 13 May 2016.

The regulator noted that Dookham had a “previously unblemished career” and that he was quick to admit his role in the illegal activity, however, it stressed that he committed the offence “over a significant period”.

TWC announces Audika partnership

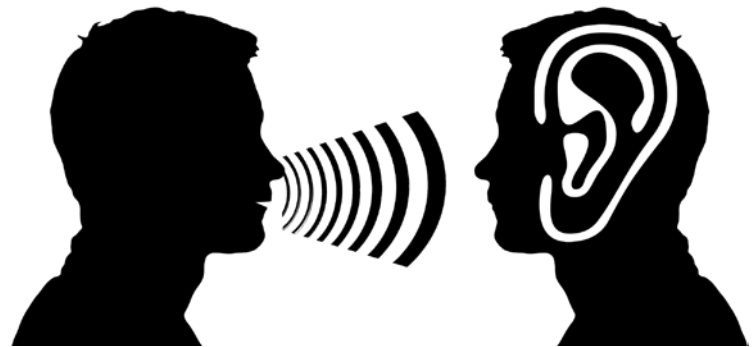
TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is partnering with hearing healthcare specialist, Audika Australia, to boost access to free hearing tests.

As part of the deal, Audika will provide its five-minute online hearing assessment to TWC customers, with patients identified as being at risk of hearing loss being referred to an audiologist for a follow-up test.

Audika will also conduct annual free hearing checks in selected regional and metropolitan TWC pharmacies.

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, said the partnership would provide patients with an additional tool to monitor their health.

“Improving hearing health can improve many other aspects of health, including reducing the likelihood of depression and anxiety, decreasing the risk of suffering headaches, vertigo and having accidents as well as helping delay



cognitive decline and associated conditions such as memory loss and dementia,” he said.

“We’re happy to partner with a world-class hearing organisation like Audika to improve accessibility, and ultimately hearing health across the country.”

Audika Managing Director Australia and New Zealand, Ashley Wilson said the partnership was designed to make it convenient

for Australians to prioritise their hearing.

“There are 1.3 million Australians living with a hearing condition that could have been prevented,” Wilson said.

“It is imperative that people manage their hearing health in the same way that they would visit a GP for a niggling health concern or the way they visit the optometrist or dentist twice a year.”

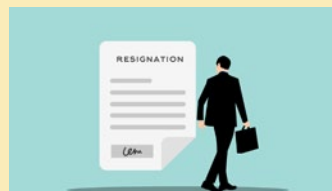
Ansell resigns from Blackmores Board

BLACKMORES Limited has announced the resignation of Independent Non-Executive Director, David Ansell.

Ansell, who has serviced as a director of the company since Oct 2013, will officially step down from the Board on 30 Jun.

Announcing Ansell’s departure, Blackmores Chair, Anne Templeman-Jones, thanked him for his contribution to the company.

“David served Blackmores through a period of significant



growth and change during his period as a Non-Executive Director and has decided that now is the right time for him to step down,” she said.

“We wish David every success in the future”

Pharmacy shopper skating on thin ice

CARE worker, Chelsea Leyla Turner, has been warned that she is “skating on thin ice in a 45c heatwave” after being granted bail on charges of attempting to scam two Shoalhaven pharmacies to dispense oxycodone.

The 40-year-old had been remanded in custody since 02 Jun in relation to offences that occurred on 24 May at pharmacies in Vincentia and Bomaderry.

Nowra Local Court heard Turner

provided in-home care to a patient in Merrylands, and had no way of knowing what was being done to look after the man while she was in custody.

Judge Michael O’Brien noted that Turner’s criminal history “paints a portrait of someone who is caught up in a black hole of drug offending”.

Despite accepting the prosecution had a presented a strong case for Turner to remain in custody, O’Brien granted bail, but warned it could be revoked.

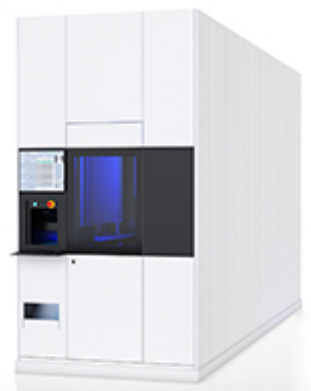


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Dispensary Corner

HYGIENE alert!

A pest control company in America is offering homeowners US\$2,000 if they will allow 100 cockroaches to be released into their houses.

It's part of a scientific study being conducted by The Pest Informer, testing a "specific pest control technique," to gauge how effective the treatment is.

Five to seven creepy-crawly tolerant volunteers are being sought, and participants must be aged at least 21 years, own their own home or have written approval from the property's owner.

If the cockroaches are not eliminated at the end of the study, additional treatment options will be used at no cost.

UK-BASED feminist author, Antonella Gambotto-Burke, is claiming that babies who are bottle-fed or use dummies are more likely to develop "rubber fetishism" in later life.

The controversial idea is one of several theories about birth and infancy in her just-released new work called *Apple: Sex, Drugs, Motherhood and the Recovery of the Feminine* which she said "aims to strike a devastating uppercut to a patriarchal ideology that has marred billions of lives".

She says she's the first person ever to link rubber fetishism to bottle feeding, saying "babies who suck on, smell and fiddle with rubber or synthetic rubber-teated bottles and dummies will quite naturally crave the same sensations in later life".

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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03 credits



Eye Health CPD for Pharmacists

Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) has launched two free CPD courses to help pharmacists reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease – Australia’s leading cause of severe vision loss and blindness.

Funded by the Federal Government and developed by a consortium of partners, including RANZCO, and in collaboration with Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and world-renowned retinal specialists and pharmacy experts, each course has been accredited by the Australian Pharmacy Council for 1.5 hour(s) of Group 2 CPD (or 3 CPD credits) and is suitable for inclusion in your CPD plan.

Program 1: Age-related macular degeneration (three CPD credits)

Program 2: Diabetic eye disease (three CPD credits)

How these courses help you:

- Increase your **knowledge of macular disease** to enable early diagnosis and interventions
- Improve communication with patients about **managing modifiable risk**, including regular eye exams
- Adopt up-to-date, evidence-based **best practice**
- Understand how to link patients with **supports and services**

Access this free CPD through PSA, PGA or the MDFA website:

www.mdfoundation.com.au/healthcare-education-program





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