

Welcome

Ramsay Pharmacy Burleigh



Last week we celebrated the official opening of our 61st franchise community pharmacy located in Burleigh Waters, with our CEO Greg Kennedy and COO Michelle Lynch, as well as our Franchisee, Mariella Castro. Congratulations to Mariella who was also the recipient of our Excellence in Leadership Award 2022.



Ramsay Pharmacy Burleigh is co-located with Medical on Burleigh, providing a unique health hub to care for our customers and their medication and health needs.

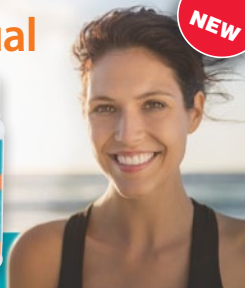
We look forward to seeing you in store soon and are proud to be servicing the Burleigh community 7 days a week



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover from Ramsay Pharmacy.

Ramsay growth

RAMSAY Pharmacy Group is celebrating the opening of its 61st store at Burleigh Waters in Queensland.

The group's CEO, Greg Kennedy, and Chief Operating Officer, Michelle Lynch, visited the Gold Coast last week to join pharmacy owner and Ramsay Pharmacy's 2022 Excellence in Leadership Award winner, Mariella Castro, for the store's official opening.

The pharmacy is co-located with Medical on Burleigh, providing local patients with access to medical care and medications in a health hub.

See today's cover page for more information.

PPA to seek review of graduate wages

EMPLOYEE pharmacists' union, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), is continuing its campaign to improve pharmacy graduates' pay and conditions.

PPA CEO, Jill McCabe, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the organisation will lodge an application with the Fair Work Commission (FWC) for a review of graduate wages under the *Pharmacy Industry Award 2020*.

Earlier this week the Union noted that "the review of graduate rates in the Pharmacy Award was to proceed as a continuation of the four-yearly award review process".

"However, along with the resignation of FWC President, Iain Ross, the FWC recently announced a conclusion to the four-yearly award reviews," the PPA reported.

"At a directions hearing held on 08 Nov, Acting FWC President, Adam Hatcher, indicated to the parties that the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia (APESMA) [now known as



Professional Australia, of which the PPA is a member] could initiate a fresh application in relation to the outstanding graduate rates in the Pharmacy Award."

McCabe said the decision was consistent with the FWC's statement about the conclusion of the four-yearly review process.

"This is not a setback for pharmacy graduates as PPA is still able to make an application about this matter,

and will be lodging that application shortly," she said.

PPA put forward an application to the FWC in 2019 to have pharmacy pay rates increased, which resulted in a 5% increase to the Award rate, despite opposition from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Union said.

However, the pay increase was not passed on to pharmacy graduates.



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Pharmacist prescribing an AMR threat

AUTHORISING pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics will fuel antimicrobial resistance (AMR) the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) warns.

In a statement to mark the start of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18 to 24 Nov), RACGP National President, Adjunct Professor Karen Price, described non-medical prescribing as a threat to Australia's public health.

"We need to reduce antibiotic use, and this is a national and international priority," she said.

"GPs resist prescribing antibiotics to their patients unless they are absolutely necessary.

"This is why the recent moves to introduce more non-medical prescribers of antibiotics in Australia is so alarming.

"The introduction of pharmacist prescribers in Australia will no doubt result in a rise in antimicrobial resistance, just as it has in other countries.

"The UK and New Zealand have

reported increased trimethoprim resistance due to inappropriate use of antibiotics.

"Trimethoprim used to be the first line treatment pharmacists prescribed for UTIs in the UK, but it was over prescribed and now doesn't work for one-in-three women due to resistant bacteria.

"One of the key problems is pharmacists don't take urine samples when women present with symptoms that might be a UTI, whereas GPs do – this is how we confirm that there is an infection, and check whether it's resistant to the antibiotic we may prescribe."

Price rejected suggestions that pharmacists should be authorised to prescribe for certain conditions because of ongoing workforce shortages in general practice (**PD 17 Nov**).

"[It] simply doesn't make sense," she said.

"Not only because pharmacists don't have the necessary facilities, training and experience to diagnose



patients, but because workforce shortages are affecting the pharmacy sector just as much as general practice.

"State and federal governments need to find genuine long-term solutions to primary care workforce shortages that do not create bigger problems like increased AMR.

"State and territory governments need to put the health of all Australians ahead of politics."

Pharmacist a STEM Superstar

AWARD-WINNING pharmacist, Anna Barwick, has been added to Science and Technology Australia's list of Superstars of STEM.

The founder of the telehealth support service, PharmOnline, has previously received the 2022 NSW Premier's Woman of the Year Award (**PD 10 Mar**), and was the joint winner of the 2021 University of Technology Sydney/AstraZeneca Innovative Pharmacist of the Year title (**PD 29 Apr**).

"[I'm] honoured and thrilled to be named as a Superstar of STEM, following in the footsteps of amazing women and non-binary people before me," she said.

"I'm so thankful to connect with a broad range of outstanding academics that are passionate about their own professions."

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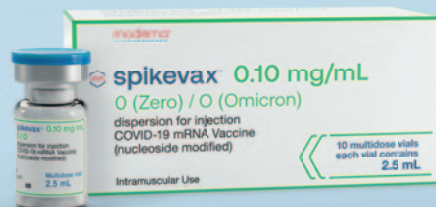
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▼ This vaccine is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

BEFORE PRESCRIBING, PLEASE REVIEW PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM [HTTPS://MODERNACOV19GLOBAL.COM/EN-AU](https://modernacovid19global.com/en-au) OR FROM MODERNA AUSTRALIA ON 1800 344 018.

Reference: 1. Spikevax Bivalent Product Information, September 2022.

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Dispensary Corner

A CHINESE tobacco addict has proven that smoking can sometimes not be an impediment to an active lifestyle, after completing a marathon in three and a half hours - all while chain smoking cigarettes.

The runner (pictured), who goes by the nickname "Uncle Chen" ran the Xin'anjiang Marathon in quite a respectable time, despite puffing his way through about a pack of smokes along the way.

The feat took place on 06 Nov, and was reported in *Canadian Running*, which verified the achievement with his official certificate which showed he finished 574th overall in a field of almost 1,500 runners, with a time of 3:28:45.

The magazine also found photos of Uncle Chen lighting up during the 2018 Guangzhou Marathon as well as the 2019 Xian Marathon, citing anecdotal reports that he apparently only smokes while running.

"Although Chen was not shooting for a Guinness World Record for the fastest marathon while chain-smoking, there isn't any previous record in place," the report confirmed.



Australian Prescriber to continue

PUBLICATION of NPS MedicineWise's journal, *Australian Prescriber*, is set to continue after the organisation is disbanded on 31 Dec.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care is set to conduct a competitive tender and grant process to ensure the future delivery of the highly regarded journal, alongside other services currently provided by NPS.

In a message to subscribers this morning NPS CEO, Katherine Burchfield, said the National Prescribing Curriculum, education programs for health professional and consumers, and the Medicines Line and Adverse Medicine Events Line would also be subject to tender processes.

As part of the Federal Government's redesign of the

Quality Use of Therapeutics, Diagnostics and Pathology Program, announced in the Mar Budget, Burchfield said seven programs currently provided by NPS will be transitioned to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

These programs include the delivery of the National Medicines Symposium, MedicineInsight, the Choosing Wisely Australia website, the delivery of Medicare Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme practice reviews, value in prescribing bDMARDs, the NPS MedicineWise website and learning platform, and the MedicineWise and Doctor's Bag apps.

Burchfield added that the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation



will assume responsibility for the provision of resources to support medicines use in remote locations, and the Good Medicine Better Health program.

Writing in the organisation's 2022 annual report, Burchfield said there was "much to celebrate" despite the disappointment of the Federal Government's decision to go ahead with plans to defund NPS MedicineWise (PD 17 Nov).

Herbal alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is alerting consumers that Shen Neng Herbal Medicines Group Pty Ltd has updated instructions for its Sanjin Watermelon Frost Insufflation product.

The regulator noted there were problems with the instruction insert provided with lot AO19121 of the product, which it said could be "misinterpreted" and lead to patients suffering a boron overdose.

The TGA said retailers have been contacted and asked to display a notice of the corrected instructions in store.

Problems with products can be reported to the TGA's [Incident Reporting and Investigation Scheme](#).

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