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"Greg is an absolute gentleman. He made what seemed like an impossible deal possible. I reckon the vendor was extremely lucky to have engaged him and so am I my as the buyer. It was a difficult 5 months but he kept us all updated throughout the whole journey and lifted our spirits every step of the way.  
Gavin Lau. Guardian Pharmacy Wellers Hill

### Another Pharmacy Sold & Settled By Greg Aspling From Bath UK To Broadbeach Waters Qld Broadbeach Waters Pharmacy Gold Coast

*Click on article for full story*

Arwel Jones, previous owner and majority shareholder of Broadbeach Waters Pharmacy on the Gold Coast, Queensland, is an avid soccer fan. I guess if you’re born in the UK, that is kind of a given. Born in, Pontypridd, Wales, he started playing soccer at age 8. After completing school, he moved to Bath to do his Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of Bath. For the first year he lived on campus and then moved to a share flat with three friends, above a pizza shop, where he lived for two years. Which begged the question..... did the wafting smell of pizza every day for two years turn him off the famous Italian dish for life?

Apparently not. The shop he says, was owned by an elderly Italian couple and the pizzas were apparently absolutely delicious. Should have asked him if pizza



**Arwel Jones and Greg**

may have been his preferred diet back then, but, left it alone.

He graduated in 1996 and started work for the UK’s leading pharmacy brand, Boots, where he remained for a few years. He then took on the role of Pharmacy Manager for Sainsbury’s in Bath.

He always had a hankering to go to Australia and, in 2008, applied for, and got a job with the Friendly’s Pharmacy in Bundaberg. From Bath to Bundaberg! Well, it was a bit of a culture shock, but he loved the laidback lifestyle and was even named Player of the Season playing for a local soccer club, the Bundaberg Brothers Aston Villa soccer team, while there.



Arwel is also a dog lover and fostered a rescue greyhound, Henry (pictured), when he moved to the Gold Coast. Henry sadly passing away in 2018 but his love for greyhounds continues. **Click on the article for the full story.**

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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a cover page from **Gaps Solutions** and a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

## Get a valuation

PHARMACY owners wanting to know the value of their pharmacy, can get a free "snapshot appraisal" from Gaps Solutions. See **cover page** for more.

## Amcal evolution

WITH an 85-year history, Sigma Healthcare's Amcal pharmacy group is continuing to evolve alongside its pharmacists to meet the needs of patients across the country. The group's mission is to put professional healthcare within reach of all Australians. For more see **page four**.

# Co-pay cut to reduce hospitalisations

**CUTTING** the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment from \$42.50 to \$30 from 01 Jan 2023, included in last night's Federal Budget, will help to reduce the number of hospital presentations, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

Welcoming the long-heralded cut to the co-payment, SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the cost of medicines has been a barrier to accessing key life-saving treatments that would keep Australians out of hospital.

"Hospital pharmacists are at the receiving end of the 250,000 medication-related hospital admissions each year, and as we heard from an ex-hospital pharmacist, Assistant Minister [for Regional and Rural Health], Emma McBride, earlier this month, the cost of medicines is a risk variable we can and must manage," Michaels said.

"At a time when our hospitals are

struggling with capacity, measures that keep Australians healthy in the community and out of hospitals are particularly valuable."

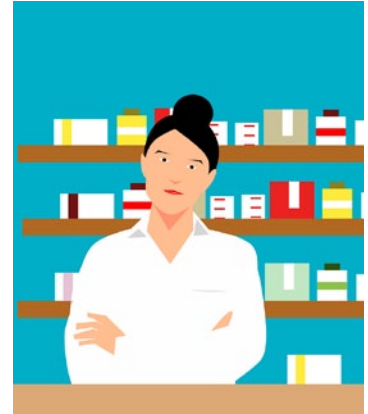
Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said the inclusion of the measure, which has already been backed by the House of Representatives (PD 29 Sep), in the Budget was a great step forward for patients.

"The allocation of \$787 million in the Budget to deliver the first cut in the history of the PBS fulfils an election commitment by the Government," he said.

"This decision to reduce the co-payment is a result of strong advocacy by the pharmacy profession on behalf of patients across the country.

"As primary healthcare workers, community pharmacists have for some time been hearing patients say they simply cannot afford their medicines.

"This is a good first step in increasing the universality of



the access to medicines for all Australians, while also helping to address cost-of-living pressures."

Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) Independent Chair, Professor Jane Halton, also welcomed the PBS co-payment cut.

"Making medicines cheaper for non-concessional patients and subsidising more expensive treatments, is a difficult but important balance that the Government has achieved," she said.

# DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Hayfever & Allergy relief



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## Hazzard lauded for backing pharmacy

**OUTGOING** NSW Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, is being praised by pharmacy bodies for supporting the profession throughout his time in the portfolio, following the announcement that he will not contest next Mar's State election (PD 25 Oct).

Paying tribute to Hazzard's 32-year career in politics, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, told **Pharmacy Daily** that the Minister had made a significant contribution to extending pharmacists' scope of practice within the State.

"The entire healthcare sector thanks Minister the Hon. Brad Hazzard for his service to NSW over more than three decades," she said.

"Minister Hazzard was front and centre during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading the health community during an extremely difficult time.

"Minister Hazzard has always lent an open ear to pharmacists



and empowered the profession to practice to our top of scope, where he was a strong advocate for pharmacists to be involved in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

"We wish Minister Hazzard all the best for the future and look forward to continuing working with him and his successor over the coming months."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, also acknowledged Hazzard's efforts throughout his time in office.

"In his long tenure as Minister

for Health, Minister Hazzard demonstrated time and time again his recognition of the crucial role that pharmacists play in securing better health outcome for patients," Heffernan said.

"From helping deliver eight-and-a-half million COVID-19 vaccines to helping to ensure quality patient care during two years of difficult lockdowns, the partnership between community pharmacists and the government during the COVID-19 pandemic was vital to keeping people in NSW safe."

## PA22 returns

**FOLLOWING** a COVID-19-induced hiatus, the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA22) will get underway this Fri at the Sofitel Brisbane.

The two-day event offers an opportunity for the pharmacy sector to celebrate and reward pharmacy assistants for the integral role they play.


The conference will feature educational sessions, providing insights into common community pharmacy issues, motivational speeches and information about product updates.

The event will also see the national Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year and Glucojel Super Star awards presented.

A variety of registration packages are still available to suit PAs' schedules.

**CLICK HERE** to register for PA22 today.

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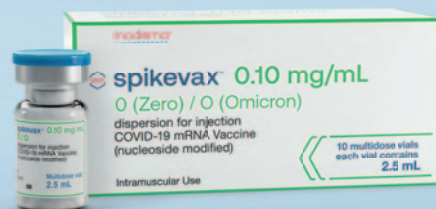
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**PBS Information:** This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

▼ 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](http://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

**RETIRED** Yorkshire-based pharmacist, Vivien Robinson, has secured her place in her hometown's history, as the first centenarian in Sheffield to receive a birthday message from King Charles III.

Robinson marked her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sun at the Northfield Care Home, opening a birthday card with a photo of the new King and the Queen Consort, *The Star* reported.

The former pharmacist said the secret to her long and happy life was down to making the most of what you have when you have it, and to always keep smiling.

The tradition of the monarch sending messages to mark significant milestones dates back to 1917, when King George V sent telegrams to Britons celebrating their 100th birthday or 60th wedding anniversary.

Buckingham Palace now sends out thousands of congratulatory messages every year to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> birthday of British subjects, and those marking 60, 65 and 70 years of marriage.

The good news is Australians can also apply to have the new monarch send well-wishes to mark important dates by clicking [HERE](#).



## University funding boost welcomed

**FUNDING** for 20,000 Federal Government-funded university places to alleviate existing skills shortages in the healthcare, education, engineering and technology sectors is being welcomed by the pharmacy sector.

Under measures announced in the Federal Budget, the Government has allocated \$485.5 million over the next four years to fund additional university places.

Both Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, and the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) President, Flynn Swift, have backed the measure.

"It is significant that a focus of the newly created university places is the health sector which has been severely affected by the workforce shortage," Twomey said.

"This is a strong initiative that

will help ease some of the crisis we are seeing across a wide range of health professions, particularly pharmacy.

"There will be additional places for student pharmacists as well as more subsidised places for nurses.

"This is a recognition by the Government of the severe impact the workforce shortages are having on this sector."

Swift said the decision to fund additional places in health programs was recognition of the importance of ensuring more students are able to study to join the pharmacy profession.

"The workforce shortage is a real and ongoing issue, and the only way to address it is to start acting now," he said.

"This is a very sound and proactive initiative".

The Government has yet to



allocate the funding to specific programs, with universities set to participate in a competitive bidding process.

Higher education providers will also be required to allocate the new places to people from low-socio economic backgrounds, rural and remote areas, First Nations people, first in family and people with disability.

## Budget a missed opportunity: PSA

**TREASURER**, Jim Chalmers, has missed an opportunity to support pharmacists to play a greater role in the provision of healthcare services, in last night's Federal Budget, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

While the PSA welcomed the Government's commitment to cutting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment, a spokesperson for the organisation expressed disappointment that Chalmers had ignored the organisation's call for changes to the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS).

"We have repeatedly called for MBS service payments to pharmacists for administering NIP vaccinations and participating in multidisciplinary



case conferences," the spokesperson said.

"Not only would this support pharmacists, it would also make primary health care more accessible to the community.

"PSA will continue to fight for the profession, working with the Albanese Government to ensure that all pharmacists are able to best support their patients."

## New S3 option for allergies

**MENARINI** Australia is launching its antihistamine, Allertine (bilastine) to Australian pharmacies.

The Schedule 3 product is reportedly a non-drowsy, long-acting antihistamine that provides relief from hayfever, allergic rhinitis and urticaria.

Allertine 20mg will be available in packs of 10 or 30 tablets, and provides symptom relief within one hour.



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“

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**Lili Cosic**  
Corrimal Court Guardian

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