



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Willach.

Automate set-up

WILLACH'S Consis.C is the latest in pharmacy robotic automation built using the latest technology platform.

Consider it for its ease of use and efficiency, and see more on the [back page](#).

Cancer response

THE nation's peak body of private cancer specialists today launched a suite of interactive education and engagement platforms, to further advance the cancer care journey of Australians.

The Private Cancer Physicians of Australia's first initiative is their Cancer Patient Management podcast series.

Embedded in aged care

KEY attributes pharmacists need to work on-site embedded in aged care include resident-level clinical skills, effective interdisciplinary communication, and system-level quality use of medication skills, found a new study led by Dr Amanda Cross from Monash's Centre for Medicine Use and Safety.

The Government has committed \$345.7m to embed an onsite pharmacist into every Government-funded residential aged care home within the next four years.

Dr Amanda Cross, and the national team of consultant pharmacist researchers known as COHERENT, qualitatively analysed free-text responses to questions from a national survey of over 500 Australian pharmacists.

This study represents the most comprehensive consultation regarding the on-site aged care pharmacist role with the general pharmacist workforce to date.

"Pharmacists are interested in the new role and excited for the

opportunity to be more engaged and work with the multidisciplinary aged care team to improve quality use of medicines and improve resident outcomes," Cross said.

The study highlights four key factors influencing preparedness including familiarity with the aged care setting, resident-level clinical skills, ability to communicate and work with a multidisciplinary team, and experience with system-level quality use of medicines activities.

"The four factors represent key areas that education providers can target to better prepare our workforce to practice as on-site aged care pharmacists," said Cross.

In addition to interest and preparedness, the study highlights the importance of pharmacist workforce planning; education and training materials, guidelines, and mentor support for pharmacists moving into on-site pharmacist roles; and aged care stakeholder engagement.

Read the full paper [HERE](#).

Blackmores hit by social storm

PUBLIC statements by former Blackmores Chairman Marcus Blackmore in reference to the proposed referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament have put the company at the centre of a Twitter frenzy in recent days.

Blackmore declared his intention to vote 'no', with proponents of the plan using the hashtag #BoycottBlackmores to highlight his stance.

Blackmores Group said it is unable to comment on views expressed by Blackmore.

Blackmore is no longer an employee or director of the company since late 2020, and his views are independent of Blackmores Group.

Blackmores said it supports the health of all people, and values and celebrates diversity, inclusivity and equality for all.

SFI HEALTH | FLQRDIS™

Fed up with recurring cystitis?

Only Ellura® contains 36mg PACs, clinically researched to reduce occurrence of medically diagnosed cystitis.

Recommend Ellura® for patients with recurring cystitis

Always read the label and follow the directions for use. Bianco L et al., *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2012; 60:1180-1.



Your vision is our ambition

Everyone's idea of success is different. At Symbion, we have the experience and solutions to help you reach your goals, at every stage of business.



Visit symbion.com.au or email info@symbion.com.au to chat with one of our team members today.



Duggan as CEO

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has appointed Conjoint Prof Anne Duggan as the Commission's new Chief Executive Officer.

Duggan has more than 30 years' experience in the health sector and will take on the role of CEO from 27 Mar.

As Chief Medical Officer of the Commission since 2021, and previously, Clinical Director and Senior Medical Advisor from 2014, Duggan is well positioned to lead the Commission at a time when the safety and quality of healthcare is a national priority.

Duggan succeeds Debora Picone AO, who retired in Sep 2022 and was CEO from 2012.

Commission Board Chair, Willis Marshall AC, said he was pleased to welcome Duggan to the helm of the organisation, which leads national improvements in the safety and quality of healthcare.

"The board is delighted to welcome our new CEO and we look forward to working closely with her to further improve the safe delivery of healthcare across the country.

"Prof Duggan brings to the role a deep understanding of the complex issues surrounding safety and quality in Australian healthcare, including the importance of partnering with consumers and improving the value and sustainability of our health system," Marshall said.

Acting CEO for the past six months, Chris Leahy will return to his role as the Commission's Chief Operating Officer.

Shingles impacts

WITH nearly nine million Australians now aged over 50, healthcare professionals, including campaign ambassador and former Olympian, Dr Jana Pittman, are using Shingles Awareness Week (27 Feb-05 Mar), sponsored by GSK, to educate people about the likelihood of being affected by shingles.

Dr Jana Pittman says, when it comes to shingles, many people have a natural tendency to believe it 'won't happen to me', which is a concern.

"The people most at risk of developing shingles are those over the age of 50, and those who are immunocompromised; however, the reality is that about one in three people will develop shingles in their lifetime," said Dr Pittman.

"I've seen first-hand how hard shingles can be, so it's important to arm yourself with information, know what the signs and symptoms are, and go to see your GP early."

From a recent survey commissioned by GSK Australia, which includes a sample group of 300 Australians aged 50-79, 73% of participants perceived the impact of shingles as 'very serious', but only 11% regarded themselves as being personally at risk of shingles in the next year.

Pharmacists can use this Shingles Awareness Week help to increase understanding of the impact of shingles and address the common misconceptions surrounding the risk of developing shingles.

Lives needlessly lost to blood cancer

EVERY day, 18 Australians lose their life to a blood cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

A new report has today revealed that eight of these 18 blood cancer patients (2,900 per year) could be saved, if only everyone received what is already considered best-practice treatment.

Many life-saving blood cancer

treatments and therapies used overseas aren't routinely used or available in Australia yet.

The Leukaemia Foundation's report, *State of the Nation: Blood Cancers in Australia 2023*, surveyed 4,600 Australians with blood cancer, making it the largest and most comprehensive report of thoughts, priorities, and personal experiences of people living with blood cancer to date.



Did You Know?

CH2 is a CSO approved, independent full line wholesaler that can supply all your Ethical & OTC needs.

CH2



OPEN AN ACCOUNT

Dispensary Corner

STAGE actor Dion Davies had no idea that a life-changing sum of money was sitting in the back of his car, *news.com.au* reported.

Davies said he “needed rest periods” and this win has been very handy.

The man from west Wales stumbled upon a winning lottery ticket six weeks after purchasing it, while clearing out his vehicle for a professional valet.

Davies, 47, had purchased the multi-lottery ticket just before Christmas but did not realise its worth until he began cleaning.

The valet had instructed him to remove all his belongings to avoid throwing away anything valuable, and during the process, Davies found the lottery ticket in his sun visor.

“The guy asked me to take all of my belongings out before he started just in case he threw away something that was valuable! I’m glad he did.

“I found a multi-lottery ticket in my sun visor that I had bought in Dec,” he said.

After taking it to a vendor, he was advised to call the number on the back, and he discovered that he had won £55,086 (A\$97,000) after matching all five numbers plus one Lucky Star on Thu 02 Feb.

The winning numbers were one, 11, 17, 20, and 27, with Lucky Stars four and five.

All the numbers are his family’s birthdays.

The lucky discovery of the winning ticket came two weeks after it was officially announced as unclaimed by The National Lottery, UK.

Youth headspace opens

THE official launch of headspace Colac has given young people across Victoria a new way to get help when struggling with their mental health.

Centrally located, headspace Colac is a free service for young people aged from 12 to 25 who are struggling with mild-to-moderate mental ill-health.

The organisation says its holistic approach across mental health, related physical and sexual health, alcohol and other drug support, and vocational services means young people at risk of mental ill health are also supported.

The organisation’s approach grounded in early intervention, it explains, is a proven way to reduce the duration and impact of mental illnesses.

Federal Assistant Health Minister Emma McBride said: “Offering a warm and welcoming environment, headspace Colac was developed in close consultation with the local community.

“This approach means each headspace is carefully aligned with



the needs of the local young people it serves.”

The Colac service, operated by Barwon Health, is one of 155 headspace services across the country.

More than 80 headspace services are located in regional areas, where additional pressures of isolation, natural disasters and lack of services impact the mental health of young Australians.

‘Omics toolbox’ for personalised meds

PROTEOMICS could be a game-changer in precision and personalised medicine and will only accelerate progress over the next five years, says health expert Prof Edouard Nice, who was presenting at the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia’s Pathology Update 2023 conference in Melbourne on 25 Feb.

Proteomics differs from genomics.

Genomics studies the entire set of genes in the genome of a cell, while, proteomics looks at

the entire set of proteins actually produced by the cell.

Pharmacists can note, “this new comprehensive ‘omics toolbox’ could have significant impact on patients with cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, and diabetes,” explained Nice, who is Adj Prof at Monash University where he is Head of Clinical Biomarker Discovery and Validation of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a scientific advisor to the Monash Antibody Technologies Facility.

Learn more **HERE**.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily’s** weekly comment feature. This week’s contributor is **Narelle Forsyth, Regional Sales Manager, Omnicell Australia.**



Increase your DAA Business

ARE you struggling to increase your DAA business? Inefficiencies, slow, dated workflows and clutter can inhibit growth. DAA software systems play an important role in helping pharmacists reduce the risk of packing errors and supports delivering patients the right dose of the right medication at the right time.

The latest software technology is cloud based allowing you access anywhere, anytime. This enables online document storage eliminating paper clutter and increasing security. Capturing profile changes digitally can create a complete audit trail for you to refer back to anytime.

DAA software should provide end-to-end pack tracking ensuring the delivered pack reflects the current medication profile.

Pharmacy’s using Virtual Pill Inventory have improved packing accuracy & efficiencies by 30%. Adding Batch/Dot dispensing integration cut their DAA dispensing time in half.

Ask us how to streamline your DAA packing service, save time and increase your profit margins with the latest software.

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

CONSIS.C

The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

The CONSIS C uses state-of-the-art technology in all areas of operations, from the user and control software to the mechanical and electronic components.

The sophisticated design maximises storage capacity, the dual lane feeder system speeds up loading, whilst inbuilt sensors and cameras offer peace of mind with advanced diagnostic support.



Cost savings



German made and engineered



Instant asset write-off*

A solution for every dispensary

[find out more](#)

 **Willach** | Pharmacy Solutions

* To find out if your business is eligible for the instant asset write-off, consult your financial adviser.

willach.com.au
[Tel: \(03\) 9429 8222](tel:(03)94298222)
info@willach.com.au