

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news as well as a full page from Pharmacium.

## Designing space

PHARMACIUM aims to transform pharmacies, and create efficiencies, through design that reflects the way pharmacists work.

See page four for more.

## Call to action

THE Heart Foundation has called for regulatory actions to better protect Australians from e-cigarettes' harmful effects.

"As a nation, we are now at a 'sliding doors' moment where we risk allowing the health mistakes from cigarettes more than 60 years ago to be repeated for an entirely new generation," warned Heart Foundation CEO David Lloyd.

Recommendations made by The Heart Foundation this week to the TGA include introducing controls on the importation of all e-cigarette products, and declaring them as 'prohibited imports'; establishing a regulated source of e-cigarettes that have been successfully evaluated for quality, safety and efficacy (for prescribed smoking cessation); and for a range of actions to be taken to reduce the appeal of e-cigarette products, including prohibiting all flavours (except tobacco), reducing the maximum nicotine concentration, and modifying labelling and packaging requirements.

# NAPSA Congress '23 gets underway

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), which represents more than 3,500 pharmacy students and 17 student associations across Australia, is holding its annual Congress event in Canberra this week.

The highly anticipated event began on Sun 15 Jan and will continue through to this Sat 21 Jan.

The Queensland Pharmacy Students' Association (QPSA) from the University of Queensland, sent 16 motivated students to the nation's capital to attend the NAPSA Congress 2023.

On arrival, there was an air of excitement to attend an event with other pharmacy schools from across Australia and New Zealand, after years of online learning.

Jessica Heald, (pictured right), QPSA President 2023, said the Congress Organising Committee greeted all the students warmly, gifting the delegates showbags, featuring a range of their favourite pharmacy products.

"The Hydralyte they included was certainly welcome after the Neon Welcome Night at Mooseheads," Heald enthused.

"On Monday, our week of education began with inspiring



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welcome speeches from Dr Fei Sim from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Professor Trent Twomey from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Jeyda Shixiatis from Priceline and, of course, our NAPSA President Flynn Swift."

The first two days of the education program has been filled with engaging and innovative presentations from PSA, Star Pharmacy, PDL, Chemist Warehouse, and many more.

"The months of effort from the Congress Organising Committee

and the NAPSA team has certainly paid off.

"We cannot wait to see what is in store for the delegates next," Heald concluded.

**Pictured below:** QPSA delegates at the NAPSA Congress.



## Raven's podcast

RAVEN'S Recruitment's latest podcast - Season 6 Episode 2 with pharmacist Hayley Smilie is out now on their website and soon on all the usual podcast platforms.

Smilie with over 20 years experience in community, hospital, and training in pharmacy, is passionate about professional support.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).



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## Disqualified!

A PHARMACIST has been found guilty of criminal offences relating to prescription medication and illicit drugs by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency reported that a pharmacist, referred to as VGV, was found guilty of criminal offences dating back to 2016, for the theft and use of prescription pads, possessing regulated medications, driving while suspended and testing positive to the illicit drug, MDMA.

The tribunal also heard that VGV failed to notify the Pharmacy Board of Australia of the offences within seven days and, when renewing his registration with the board in Nov 2019, failed to report his criminal history as required under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

The tribunal found that much of VGV's conduct constituted professional misconduct and that his failure to comply with the disclosure obligations of the National Law constituted unprofessional conduct.

In its reasons published on 22 Nov 2022, the tribunal stated: "We decided it was necessary and appropriate to cancel the respondent's registration so as to protect the public."

"We agreed with the (Pharmacy) Board's contention that, though he currently holds non-practising registration, the respondent ought not to be allowed to hold himself out as a pharmacist."

VGV can't renew his registration for three years.

## Superheroes camp gets super grant



**DIABETES WA** has secured a State Government grant from Lotterywest.

Co-funded by the National Diabetes Services Scheme, the grant will go towards the 2023 type 1 kids camp which is a collaboration between Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) and Diabetes WA.

The aim of the camp is to support young children with type 1 diabetes through fun-filled activities, such as morning fitness, games, races, dress up discos and more.

This year's upcoming camp theme

will be superheroes.

Diabetes WA CEO Melanie Gates said: "Our kids' camps are part of our commitment to support all West Australian kids and their families living with diabetes."

"Our type 1 diabetes kids camps give children the opportunity to build their confidence by being away from their families, to have fun with their peers, and to be supported to focus on self-care, while learning how to independently manage their diabetes throughout their stay."

"We know how vital these activities are to creating a sense of community for West Australians with diabetes, particularly those younger members who might need extra support," she said.

The grant was presented by Dr Katrina Stratton, Member for Nedlands on The Kids' Bridge also named Koolangka Bridge at Perth Childrens Hospital.

"It's an honour to present this grant to Diabetes WA and PCH to help kids living with type 1 diabetes and to support such a great initiative."

**Pictured**, left to right: Annie Farinosi, PCH Camp Coordinator/ Diabetes Nurse Educator; Amy Fiddes, Diabetes WA Community Education Coordinator; Dr Katrina Stratton MLA Member for Nedlands; Martin Boylen, Diabetes WA General Manager Marketing and Fundraising; Professor Elizabeth Davis, PCH Head of Department Endocrinology and Diabetes.

## Rigby in new NAC clinical lead role

**DEBBIE** Rigby joins the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) in the newly created role of Clinical Executive Lead.

Rigby is an advanced practice pharmacist with more than 40 years' of experience.

She was a Director of NPS MedicineWise for 12 years, is part of the newly established Leadership Group for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Respiratory Community of Special Interest Group, and is a member of the Respiratory Pharmacy Taskforce, chaired by global expert Prof Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich.



NAC CEO Rhonda Cleveland, said: "Debbie has a specific interest in respiratory conditions and has been credentialled as an asthma educator."

"She is also passionate about multidisciplinary patient-centred care, shared decision-making, and evidence-based medicine."

## Toxic culture

**WIDESPREAD** bullying, harassment and under-resourcing was uncovered in an internal report for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's workplace culture, reported *SMH* today.

The report included "inappropriate uncivil behaviours" between leaders, staff and medical boards, and creating fears the public is at risk of harm if staff are unable to properly investigate "rogue surgeons and doctors".

Staff spoke of unmanageable workloads, mistreatment of women and very high turnover.

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## Dispensary Corner

**AMERICA'S** drug crisis is manifesting in an unusual way this month, in the form of the abrupt closure of a number of public libraries in Colorado due to methamphetamine contamination.

Officials in the Denver suburb of Englewood closed the local library within a couple of hours of receiving the results of tests which showed high levels of drug residue in the restrooms.

Other areas also tested positive for lower levels of the drug, with specialised remediation work now under way including removal of tainted surfaces and even the replacement of air conditioning ducts and exhaust fans.

The library's management decided to undertake the testing after similar contamination was found in the main library in the nearby city of Boulder.

A spokesperson for the American Library Association told local media that as far as they were aware, at this stage library closures due to drug contamination are limited to Colorado.

It's thought the apparent surge in library-based drug use is partly related to colder weather which has seen more people taking shelter in the facilities.

The closures are also the result of extremely low thresholds for detection in Colorado, where the rules are "some of the most conservative in the nation, out of an abundance of caution" according to a statement from Boulder officials late last month.

## SMA screening works

**CHILDREN** with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) are more likely to walk, be more functionally independent, and free of respiratory and feeding support when screened, diagnosed, and treated shortly after birth, according to a new study conducted at Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) by UNSW Sydney researchers.

Significantly, the findings show newborn bloodspot screening (NBS) for SMA, coupled with the potential to access disease-modifying therapies, is correlated with greater motor milestone acquisition with those diagnosed before the onset of symptoms reaching regular childhood developmental milestones.

The study, published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*,



is one of the first to investigate the effectiveness of NBS for SMA beyond clinical trial populations.

"The research shows the effectiveness of newborn screening for spinal muscular atrophy in the broader population," said the lead author of the study Dr Didu Kariyawasam, UNSW Medicine & Health, and a paediatric neurologist at SCHN.

For more information on this rare disease study **CLICK HERE**.

## Global top award

**THE** Top Employers Institute awarded Boehringer Ingelheim for the third year in succession a 'Global Top Employer', one of the world's 15 best employers.

The certification also highlights the company's commitment to prioritising mental health for employees.

Boehringer Ingelheim's employer offerings do particularly stand out in the dimensions of wellbeing and work environment, as well as rewards and recognition.

Prioritising employees' mental health, Dr Sven Sommerlatte, Global Head of HR said, "the strong human dimension of our corporate culture implies a commitment to our people as individuals, not just as professionals".

## NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### BlastX is the game-changer in wound care

The new innovative BlastX is now available in Australia. BlastX acts in 3 ways to destroy bacteria, deconstruct biofilms and defend against recolonisation, plus it promotes a moist wound environment for faster healing. Dermatologists and GPs are referring patients to pharmacies for BlastX – sold over the counter without a prescription.

Suitable for acute and chronic wounds: Post-Surgical, Partial/full thickness, Grafted & donor wounds, Pressure injuries, 1st and 2nd degree burns and Diabetic foot & leg ulcers.

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