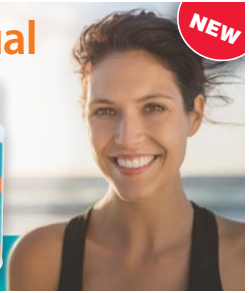


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Happy holidays

PHARMACY Daily will take a brief publishing break over King's birthday long-weekend.

We will be back with all the latest pharmacy-related news from Tue 13 Jun.

Readers have access to back issues and stories on the **PD** website.

We wish all our readers a happy long-weekend.

Raven's to re-operate ELS

RAVEN'S Recruitment has been invited to extend its appointment to operate the 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) Emergency Locum Service (ELS) Program, funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

Heidi Dariz, GM of Raven's Recruitment, said, "the ELS provides important support to

pharmacies in rural and remote Australia in circumstances where a pharmacist experiences a personal emergency and is unable to work.

"We are proud to offer our continued support to the 7CPA ELS Program and are pleased to accept the invitation to extend our appointment as service provider.

"We are gratified to have earned the trust and regard of the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) as administrator of this program and look forward to helping community pharmacies when an emergency situation occurs," shared Dariz.

The PPA is the agency responsible for administering, processing and paying claims for the Community Pharmacy Programs funded under 7CPA, and is a division of Australian Healthcare Associates and it has over 25 years' industry experience.

Raven's Recruitment was appointed to operate the ELS from 01 Jul 2021, and has over 34 years' experience helping community pharmacy owners find locum talent in the "fastest possible manner," explained Dariz.

The ELS provides support to community pharmacies in rural and remote regions of Australia via direct access to pharmacist locums in emergency situations, aiming to place a locum within 24 hours for a maximum of seven days.

Sutton resigns

VICTORIA'S Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton has resigned from his position with the Department of Health.

Sutton will take up a role at Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO, as its Director of Health and Biosecurity.

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QV Dermcare Eczema Daily Wash and Daily Cream help relieve symptoms of mild to moderate eczema. **References:** 1. Consumer satisfaction survey on people with mild or moderate eczema. n=48. Participants confirmed condition status through a declaration. Survey conducted by Beauty Heaven on behalf of Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. 2021. 2. Van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijsen APM, Arents DWM (2017) Emollients and moisturisers for eczema. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD012119.pub2.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

DU'IT

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CGT Scorecard

EVOHEALTH has now released its latest *Cell and gene therapies (CGTs): Rising to the challenge Scorecard 2023* and is calling on the Government to accelerate the rate of progress for these innovative forms of treatment.

The Scorecard measures the nation's progress towards timely and equitable access to cell and gene therapies and highlights that Australia is behind other countries when it comes to our preparedness to embrace CGTs.

Managing Director Renae Beardmore said, "we must move faster if we are to capitalise on the benefit of CGTs...as with over 2,000 CGTs in the global pipeline, policy and system change that enables timely and equitable access to emerging innovative therapies, is important for people living with rare and genetic diseases".

Overall outlook optimistic

RESEARCH published in the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice* has found that just over half (198 out of 368 or 53%) of registered pharmacists stated that they intended to practice in the profession for more than 10 years.

Just over 10% (38) of respondents intended to leave the profession, with 11 moving to a different professional field and eight to a different health profession, the recently-published research found.

In contrast, 26 respondents stated that they were interested in transitioning into a different practice area within the profession.

Only three pharmacy students stated that they were studying pharmacy as a last resort.

Most students wanted to practice in hospital settings followed by the community, with most participants generally holding positive views of the pharmacy profession.

The responses to the pessimistic outlook statements were on average neutral or in disagreement,



in contrast to the responses to the optimistic outlook statements that were on average neutral or in agreement.

Interestingly, international research that investigated the relationship of personality traits to advancements in prescribing rights identified that pharmacists undertaking prescribing exhibited higher levels of extraversion (enthusiastic and energetic), agreeableness and conscientiousness.

When compared to the results in the equivalent Australian demographic there was notable similarity in the personality traits exhibited.

New bundle offer

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is offering pharmacists a 30% discount on a bundle offer for its MediChoice Vapour Rubs and Inhalers.

See more on **page four**.

TGA safety alerts

THE TGA has tested a product labelled 'Australia tablets' and found that the product contains the undeclared substance, sildenafil.

This may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels.

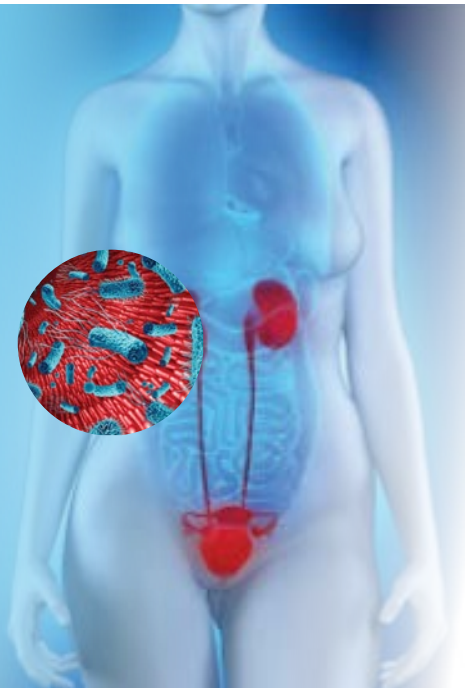
The TGA also said that another product called Big Penis USA tablets was found to contain undeclared sildenafil which is known to pose a serious risk to health, and also when taken in combination with other medicines.



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Dispensary Corner

DID you get good grades at school? It may be because you were breastfed for more than a year, according to a new study published this week in the *Archives of Disease in Childhood*.

The research was undertaken by scientists at the Nuffield Department of Population Health at Oxford University in the UK, and found children who are breastfed for longer appear to be "more likely to gain slightly better results" in their Year 11 examinations.

The evidence of improved educational outcomes was apparent even when various factors were taken into account, such as parental intelligence and socio-economic status.

Data for the research came from a large cohort of British children enrolled in the so-called *Millennium Study*, which included almost 19,000 children born between 2000 and 2002.

The kids were followed-up at ages 3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 17 and 22, with the data linked to the National Pupil Dataset and compared to the results of their secondary examinations.

About a third of participants were never breastfed, while the remainder were breastfed for different periods and only 9.5% were breastfed for at least a year.

More than 30% of the children who were breastfed for 12 months achieved a high pass in mathematics, compared with 11% among non-breastfed kids.

The authors said breastfeeding should be encouraged for a range of benefits beyond simply possible academic improvement.

Pfizer surveys 'new normal' attitudes

PFIZER Australia canvassed Australians' views on COVID-19 in May and found that people increasingly view the risk of COVID-19 as the 'new normal', with nearly three-quarters believing that COVID-19 will be viewed similarly to the seasonal flu a year from now.

The results also reveal a declining trend in COVID-safe behaviours across the community, even as Australia continues to report more than 38,000 cases a week and approaches a potential fifth COVID wave, Pfizer's research results highlight.

The *COVID Community Sentiment Index*, a quantitative research survey regularly commissioned by Pfizer Australia, found that COVID-19 continues to be a significant concern for older Australians.

More than three-quarters of those over the age of 60 believe COVID-19 will continue to impact their lives in a year's time and nearly half believe new variants will emerge and impact their lives.

Yet in this age group, three in five were unaware of their eligibility status for anti-viral medicines should they test positive for COVID-19.

"As we age, we tend to have more risk factors for developing severe disease, so it's important to have an early discussion with your healthcare professionals about whether oral anti-viral medicines suit your health needs, and to develop a plan if you test positive to COVID-19," shared Pfizer Australia Medical Director, Dr Krishan Thiru.

The results also show that compared to a year ago, more than one in three Australians are less likely to test for COVID-19 when they experience symptoms



and more than two in five are less likely to consult their healthcare professional if they test positive for COVID-19 - with both May 2023 figures increasing compared to figures in Nov 2022.

Additionally, one in four of those at higher risk of severe illness are less likely to test or see a healthcare professional if they experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Recent Federal Government data for the week ending 30 May 2023 reported 38,618 cases of COVID-19 across Australia, an average of

5,517 cases per day, with experts suggesting Australia is approaching a fifth wave of COVID-19.

Prof Robert Booy, Infectious Diseases Specialist, University of Sydney, urged vigilance with winter upon us.

"Winter brings with it colder months, and more time spent indoors, all of which increase the likelihood of the spread of respiratory infections like influenza and COVID-19," said Booy.

"This year there is a real risk of a triple wave of influenza, COVID-19 and other viruses impacting our communities and those at higher risk of severe illness.

"This research shows four in five of us know someone who is at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

"We can all help protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities by staying up to date with booster vaccinations, practicing COVID-safe behaviours, such as wearing masks, hand sanitisation and social distancing, testing if you feel unwell and checking your eligibility for oral anti-viral medicines as we head into the colder season," Prof Booy concluded.



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