

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Pointrs
- Direct Chemist Outlet

Pointrs free trial

WITH over 5,000+ hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel and 3.5 times more loyalty points than other providers - see **page three** for the free trial offer.

Why pay for less

DIRECT Chemist Outlet is rapidly growing and always on the hunt for new pharmacies looking to enjoy strong buying power on health and beauty products and services.

Find out how your pharmacy can enjoy boosted profits and business development with expert support on **page four**.

Up in smoke talk

A WORKSHOP on Harm Minimisation will be one of the key sessions for delegates at Pharmacy Connect, taking place at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney from 05-07 Sep.

One topic will cover the emerging threat of vaping and will be led by Founding Chairman of the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association, Colin Mendelsohn.

Bridging healthcare in the community

EXCLUSIVE

ESSENTIAL healthcare services will be brought directly to one Tasmanian community thanks to Priceline Pharmacy in Bridgewater proactively taking steps to close the primary care gap.

With the shortage of general practitioners in the area, the pharmacy has stepped up to fill the void, offering blood pressure checks and other vital health screenings.

"Bridgewater is a low-income area, and a lot of people here don't have their own transport, and some of them are unable to use public transport," Priceline Pharmacy Manager Nicole Watt told **Pharmacy Daily**.

"I like to try and bring as many meaningful services as I can for them in one place."

The pharmacy's latest initiative is a collaboration with the Stroke Foundation and Menzies Institute for Medical Research.

The idea stemmed from a personal experience, where Watt's own son needed to see a GP and could only get an appointment after two weeks, highlighting the scarcity of primary care providers.

"The pharmacy is becoming a growing health hub for the community," Watt continued.

"There's such a shortage of GPs, but with the expanded scope of practice, where more and more pharmacists can provide a wider range of healthcare services, it is so much better for the community."

The collaboration with the Stroke Foundation and Menzies Institute



has been a natural fit, as the two organisations have worked together in the past on various preventative care initiatives.

The Priceline Pharmacy organised a dedicated space for representatives of the two organisations and a registered nurse to provide a convenient and accessible service for a full day.

"We had a long table set up at the back of the pharmacy near the dispensary, and customers were asked if they would like to have their blood pressure checked for free while they waited for their scripts to be dispensed," said Watt.

The response from the community has been

overwhelmingly positive, with at least 40 people taking up the offer.

As the pharmacy continues to expand its services and partnerships, it remains committed to its mission of putting health and wellness at the forefront.

"With the GP bulk-billing rates falling and cost-of-living crisis we are doing what we can to help our community, and the checks have paved the way for a whole range of other healthcare conversations with our customers," Watt said. *JG*

Pictured: (standing) registered nurse Maria Hobbs and Priceline Pharmacy Manager Nicole Watt, along with reps (seated) from the Menzies Institute.

PharmX revenue up despite legal woes

PHARMX has reported a full-year revenue of \$8.09 million, with the result partially incorporating a \$1.4m finalisation payment relating to the Fred IT lawsuit which wrapped last year.

According to its full-year accounts released this morning, the company saw a 9% rise in revenues to \$6.65 million driven largely by transaction value across the PharmX product suite.

Underlying EBITDA climbed 17% to \$1.8 million, with Net Profit After Tax spiking 34% to \$500,000, showing the company is recovering from its legal issue.

PharmX says that despite the payout to Fred IT, it expects to clear \$4 million in cash reserves in the bank by the end of 2024.

Other highlights of the year for



PharmX included the divestment of its Legacy Pharmacy software business in Jul 2023, which saw in a \$4.75 million financial windfall.

The company said it is seeing strong growth in its PharmX Gateway and Marketplace, which has yielded a 4% jump in account connections and links pharmacies with 140 suppliers and wholesalers. *ML*



Dispensary Corner

A WEHI study has unravelled the mystery of why the thymus - a key immune organ - shrinks and loses function as we age.

Apparently, the thymus is like that one colleague who starts phasing out as retirement nears, except this one's tucked behind the breastbone in humans and messes with the T-cells.

Researchers discovered two new cell types that gather in the thymus as it ages, consistently blocking T-cell production and unfortunately replacing them with fat.

Imagine your immune system getting fluffier but less effective, similar to trying to fight a cold with a pillow.

These cells also form 'scars' in the thymus, making it harder for the organ to regenerate after damage.

WEHI Laboratory Head Professor Daniel Gray said the new findings, published in *Nature Immunology*, could help our understanding of ageing, as to date, researchers have been unable to figure out how to unlock the thymus' ability to boost immunity as we age.

So, while the thymus starts off strong, by the time you're 65, it's practically retired, leaving your immune system struggling to handle new infections and various cancers.

But don't lose hope just yet, as the WEHI team's findings could lead to new therapies that restore thymus function, ensuring T-cells stay in fighting shape, even if your thymus is thinking about retiring to a sunny beach somewhere.

Opioid deaths on the rise

DRUG overdose deaths in Australia are on the rise, with over 38,000 drug-induced fatalities reported since 2002.

The new *2024 Annual Overdose Report* highlighted that 2,356 drug-induced deaths occurred in 2022, resulting in an estimated 69,815 years of life lost, with an average of 31 years lost per death.

Of these, 1,878 were unintentional or accidental, a figure that has exceeded the national road toll since 2014.

Unintentional drug-induced deaths have increased by 108% since 2002, far outpacing the 20.4% growth in Australia's population.

This is now a leading cause of death for many adults, particularly those aged 30-49.

The report said drug-induced deaths are now the second leading cause of death in men aged 30-39 and women aged 40-49.

The report highlights significant disparities, with Indigenous Australians, rural and regional residents, and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds experiencing higher rates of unintentional drug-induced deaths.

Among the elderly, the rise in unintentional drug-induced



deaths is stark, with those aged 50 and above showing the greatest increase since 2002.

Opioids are the most common drugs involved in these deaths, particularly among older Australians, according to the report.

Polypharmacy is prevalent, particularly in older age groups, with opioids, benzodiazepines, and stimulants frequently detected.

The report also underscored the ongoing impact of non-fatal drug- and alcohol-related harm, with over 135,000 related hospitalisations and 159,000 ambulance attendances in 2022. JG



Guild Update

Get involved in WPD 2024 to showcase sector

WORLD Pharmacists Day (WPD) on Wed 25 Sept is a chance to recognise the service and commitment of pharmacists, assistants and the entire community pharmacy network.

On WPD 2024, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is celebrating how pharmacists are continuing to step up to meet the diverse healthcare needs of all patients.

Community pharmacists now provide more health services than ever before.

Pharmacists and the pharmacy workforce are there for patients - after hours, on weekends and during holiday periods.

Community pharmacy provides affordable, accessible and dependable care, whether you live in a capital city, rural or remote town or by the beach.

World Pharmacists Day is an unmissable opportunity to join as a professional community to amplify the message of recognition and thanks.

How will you get involved this year?

Now is the time to think and prepare for how you will mark World Pharmacists Day: in-pharmacy, in your community and by sharing the message of thanks online - being sure to use the #WPD2024 hashtag.

CHP Australia celebrates 50 years

CONSUMER Healthcare Products (CHP) Australia, the leading advocate for non-prescription medicines, recently celebrated 50 years of promoting responsible self-care.

The industry generates \$8 billion in domestic sales and \$2 billion in exports annually, with every dollar spent on nonprescription products saving the economy four dollars.

Today, 90% of Australians

regularly use non-prescription medicines, supported by an industry that offers well over 14,000 products.

Under the leadership of founding member and CEO Deon Schoombie, who will retire next month, CHP Australia has been instrumental in advancing self-care in national health policy with a emphasis on the importance of health literacy and medication administration.

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EXPENSES

Pointr #998

Earn Loyalty Program Points When Paying Expenses Where Credit Cards Are Not Accepted



ATO

Pointr #997

Earn 350% More Loyalty Program Points When Paying The Australian Taxation Office (ATO)



EXPENSES

Pointr #1939

Earn 67% More Airline Loyalty Program Points/Miles When Using A Credit Card



RENT

Pointr #999

Earn Loyalty Program Points When Paying Rent To Landlords Where Credit Cards Are Not Accepted



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Irene (BDM): 0421 751 916 irene@directchemistoutlet.com.au