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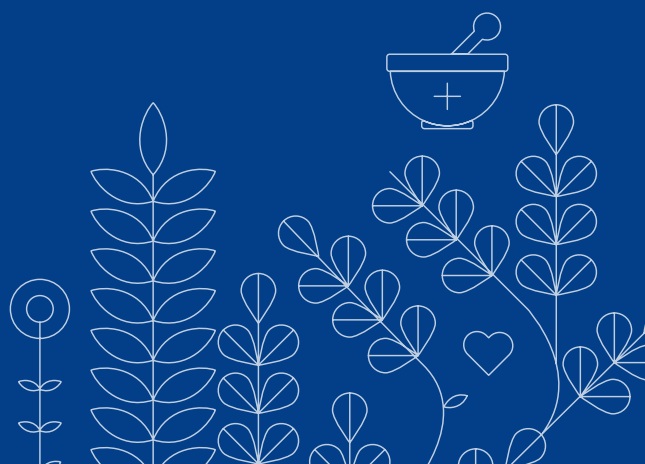
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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, including a cover wrap from **Blooms the Chemist** plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Wizard Pharmacy

## Known herb alert

**THE TGA** stated that medicines and herbal supplements containing the herb *Withania somnifera*, known as Withania and Ashwagandha, may cause adverse events such as sudden and potentially severe gastrointestinal symptoms and, in very rare cases, may be associated with liver injury.

The medicinal herb has a long history of traditional use, and can be bought without a prescription or the advice of a health professional.

About 320 listed medicines contain *Withania somnifera*.

## New Standard for pain

**AN UPDATED** Australian Practice standard in pain management for pharmacy services has been released by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

It details current best practice for the provision of pain management services, including analgesic stewardship services.

The Standard of practice in pain management for pharmacy services is now available in the Feb issue of SHPA's flagship *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* (JPPR).

The Standard should be read in conjunction with the SHPA Standards of practice for clinical pharmacy services and other relevant standards.

These include the Standard of practice in dispensing and distribution for pharmacy services, as well as the Standard of practice in mental health for pharmacy services.

Lead author and former Chair of the Pain Management Leadership Committee Shania

Liu said the updated Standard shows how best practice pain management is achieved through an interdisciplinary, collaborative, person-centred approach where pharmacists leverage their skills.

"Evidence shows that pharmacist involvement in pain management multidisciplinary teams, including pharmacist-led clinics for persistent pain, reduces adverse events, improves patient satisfaction, and lessens pain intensity.

"Further, improving physical functioning and reducing the need for secondary healthcare."

The pain management pharmacist also helps to reduce the prescribing of opioids at discharge and improve opioid de-escalation plans, she said.

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and Faculty of Pain Medicine; Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care; Clinical Excellence Commission; Safer Care Victoria; and the Australian Pain Society all contributed to the Standard. *JG*

## Germany legalises cannabis

**THE** German Bundestag voted last Fri to legalise cannabis by removing it from the narcotics list from 01 Apr.

According to Little Green Pharma (LPG), it is the most significant legislative change in global cannabis markets since Canada legalised it in 2018.

It has also presented a "unique opportunity given LPG's well-established partnerships" with German distributors and a large bank of cannabis genetics.

The company's EU GMP-recognised medicinal cannabis facility in Europe is strategically located just two hours from the German border.

The change in the German law will allow for the establishment of not-for-profit cannabis clubs, limited home cultivation and possession of personal use quantities.

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STAND 125



## Dispensary Corner

**A WOMAN** who thought she had early onset dementia and quit her job found out that menopause had been causing her symptoms.

Lauren Chiren, 55, from Bristol, was working as a senior executive in financial services when she started to have "dark days" in her 40s.

Chiren told *BBC* that "I left my job in my early 40s thinking I had early onset dementia; I was a new mum at the time and I didn't have much support around me".

"I was working as a senior executive in financial services which meant that I led large-scale projects and programs and had teams all over the world.

"But there were times in meetings where my heart felt like it was beating outside of my chest and I was so scared that if I let go of the chair I'd fall on the floor.

"Another time my throat was so tight with anxiety that I could barely squeak out the smallest words in a meeting."

She said it left her feeling "isolated" and "alone", worrying that she was beginning to experience dementia.

After visiting a doctor several times she was "relieved" to find out she was going through an early menopause.

"I went from being a gibbering wreck in the doctor's surgery to being someone who literally pumped the air with joy.

"That is what inspired me to set up Women of a Certain Stage and be a menopause trainer," she concluded.

## Qld ownership bill report

**LAST** week, the inquiry into the Pharmacy Ownership Bill 2023 was transferred to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee, and if it passes, a new Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council will be formed in the coming weeks to regulate the Bill.

The Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023 seeks to repeal the 2001 Act and replace it with a modern and effective framework for the regulation of the ownership of chemists.

A key policy objective was to establish a regulatory council as a statutory body to administer the Act and transfer some official functions from Queensland Health to the council.

It is estimated it will cost the Govt approximately \$9.8m over four years to establish the Qld Pharmacy Business Ownership Council.

The body will administer community pharmacy business ownership regulation & implement a community pharmacy ownership licensing scheme in the state.

The Productivity Commission, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council & the RACGP have expressed concerns about the Bill.

"There is both no evidence of a problem, and no evidence that if there were a problem, the solution proposed by the Bill would fix it," Productivity Commissioner Dr Steven King told the committee.

"I think the problem with ownership rules in pharmacy is best characterised by saying that they create a necessary paradox for our allied health system." fundamentally different to GPs, psychologists, physiotherapists and so on in that they are so untrustworthy that they must have these ownership rules to ensure their professional integrity, or the situation is that the pharmacy ownership rules create professional conduct in pharmacy that is lacking in other allied healthcare professions around Australia.

"I have seen no evidence whatsoever that other parts of the Australian allied healthcare professions including GPs, psychologists, physiotherapists and others act in anything other than the most professional way in the interests of their clients, regardless of the fact that they do not have those ownership rules," King commented. *JG*

## Ferrogen teams up for menstrual equity

**AUSSIE** iron supplement pharmacy brand Ferrogen has partnered with a not-for-profit organisation, Share the Dignity, to donate feminine hygiene products to people in need.

The partnership will see Ferrogen support Share the Dignity's ongoing strategy of delivering period products and essentials-filled handbags to those experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or poverty.

The two organisations will also work to educate Australians on the links between iron deficiency and menstruation, and how best customers can manage if diagnosed with iron deficiency.

"The work of Share the Dignity aligns well with Ferrogen, which strives to help women reclaim their health and feel energised," remarked Maureen Valdes, General Manager of Marketing at VidaCorp, the company behind the Ferrogen brand.

## Guild Update

### Get creative for your chance to win full registration to APP2024!

**HERE'S** your chance to win full registration to APP2024.

To enter for the chance to win, record a video answering the question "why do you want to attend APP2024?", and you're in.

The winner will receive one free full registration to the largest pharmacy conference in the southern hemisphere, APP2024, which takes place from 14-17 March on the Gold Coast.

The prize also includes a complimentary entry to the Street Party with the total prize valued at over \$1,100.

The videos must be at least 30 seconds in length but no more than 60 seconds.

Next, post your video to either Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn, and make sure you use the hashtag #WhyAPP2024 to be eligible.

If you've already paid for registration, don't worry you can still win the prize and be fully refunded for the registration you have already paid for.

All entries must be received by no later than 11:59pm this Thursday (29 Feb).

For more information on how to apply and for terms and conditions, all you need to do is **CLICK HERE**.

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