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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of pharmacy news plus a full page from **Dispense Assist**.

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DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour.

To learn more about the free trial on offer, head to **page four**.

Long COVID jab

COVID-19 vaccinations have proven to significantly reduce the risk of developing long COVID by as much as 70%, new research shows.

Studies at Washington University found the remaining 30% risk was due to changes in the virus itself, better detection of cases and better treatments.

Blackmore gifts \$10m

THE Blackmore Family Foundation has gifted \$10 million to Southern Cross University to further develop research and education in the field of naturopathic medicine.

The gift was prompted by the wishes of Marcus Blackmore's father, the late Maurice Blackmore, who founded Blackmores, one of Australia's best-known vitamin and dietary supplements brand.

"When my father died in 1977, he was sad to not see naturopathy regarded as a true profession," commented Blackmore.

"But I think public perception has changed and that is a function of good research, good education and advocacy at all levels."

It's the second major gift to Southern Cross from the Blackmore Family Foundation, the personal philanthropic trust of Marcus Blackmore and his wife, Caroline Furlong.

The first gift in 2018, also for \$10 million, helped to establish the

University's National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine (NCNM).

Since launching in 2020, the NCNM has developed six accredited degrees, taught 280 undergraduate and postgraduate students, and mentored 18 research degrees.

NCNM Foundation Director Prof Jon Wardle said the Blackmore Foundation's latest gift future-proofs the work of the centre.

"It's clear integrative healthcare can have major benefits for the health system overall," said Wardle.

Proud of what was achieved by the original donation, Furlong, co-director of the Blackmore Foundation, said, "luckily we're in the position to do something similar again as the money will be put to good use by the Centre with its next level, world-class research and education".

The NCNM has one of the largest clinical trial units in regional Australia, with trials conducted for many complex health conditions. *JG*

NDIS wages case

PROCEEDINGS have begun today at the Fair Work Commission with four unions attempting to stamp out alleged wage theft by dodgy NDIS providers.

The four unions - ASU, AWU, HSU and UWU - are fighting to stop NDIS providers wrongly classifying staff as home care workers, who receive a lower award rate, and pocketing the \$9 per hour wage difference.

Australian Service Union (ASU) NSW/ACT Secretary and National Union spokesperson, Angus McFarland, said the union estimated up to 10% of NDIS providers are paying their staff below their entitled rate despite being fully funded by the government to pay workers properly.

"This case is not about a wage rise and it's not about additional funding - it's about workers getting paid correctly," McFarland said.



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Hackers circling your data

EXCLUSIVE



WITH the fallout from the MediSecure data breach still unfolding, pharmacies remain prime targets for cyberattacks, warned Fred IT, the leading IT and cybersecurity solutions provider for the pharmacy industry.

Fred IT's General Manager for Service Delivery, Andrew McManus, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the company has noted an increase in potential incidents over the past two weeks.

"Fred IT, via its MedView Protect, typically stops a priority one event, such as a cyber-criminal gaining access to pharmacy data, every three to four weeks," McManus said.

"However, recently, we've seen an uptick, with eight priority one events in the space of two weeks."

McManus explained that Australian pharmacies are primarily falling victim to phishing attacks, usually through emails, and by clicking on malicious links on dubious websites.

These actions often result in ransomware, keyloggers, or stolen credentials on computers.

Additionally, unsecured remote access tools, such as simple passwords or the lack of multi-factor authentication, leave pharmacies vulnerable.

"Hackers have tools that scan the internet for insecure remote access," McManus warned.

"Pharmacists need to be aware that credentials can be stolen from third-party providers, especially if the same credentials are used across multiple accounts."

McManus advised several essential steps for pharmacies to enhance their cybersecurity: use complex passwords and multi-factor authentication; never reuse or share passwords; keep software patched and up to date; avoid clicking on links unless certain they are legitimate, even on familiar websites; and refrain from using Remote Desktop Protocol due to its high vulnerability.

Additionally, McManus recommended that the PC housing pharmacy data should be a stand-alone machine, not used for dispensing, sales, emails, or internet activities.

Staff should receive cybersecurity training, with an internal team member designated to monitor and enforce these measures.

"If you are unaware of an attack, you cannot respond to it," McManus emphasised.

"You wouldn't allow a thief free reign in your home or pharmacy, so don't allow them free reign with your data." JG

Duro-Tuss' 10k fan prize



IN PARTNERSHIP with the Sydney Swans and Chemist Warehouse, iNova Pharmaceuticals' Duro-Tuss celebrated the launch of its new dry cough liquid forte product.

During match-day Round 18 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, 10,000 co-branded supporter T-shirts were handed out, and one lucky Swans fan got a chance to win \$10,000.

Shannon (pictured with her kids), was selected from 34,663 members and fans, as she showed off her best Duro-Tough

pose at halftime, playing for the big cash prize.

Andrew Jenkins, iNova Pharmaceuticals General Manager said it was an exciting product launch for iNova and the Duro-Tuss cough portfolio.

"We could not think of a better launch vehicle for the number one cough brand in Australia, in partnership with the most supported club in the AFL, who also just happens to be top of the ladder and leading the competition in 2024," commented Jenkins. JG

Cranberry confirmed as UTI remedy

A STUDY at Bond University has confirmed cranberry juice as an effective and natural remedy to prevent urinary tract infections.

According to results, people who drink cranberry juice regularly are 54% less likely to develop UTIs due to compounds that prevent bacteria attaching to the urinary tract walls, reducing the risk of infection.

The research aggregated the results of 20 separate studies

worldwide which involved more than 3,000 participants.

Lead researcher Dr Christian Moro said the findings could ease the need for antibiotics as the sole course of UTI treatment.

"More than half of women experience UTIs and antibiotics are a go-to treatment prescribed by doctors," Dr Moro said.

"With antibiotic resistance increasing, it is vital to identify effective non-drug interventions."

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

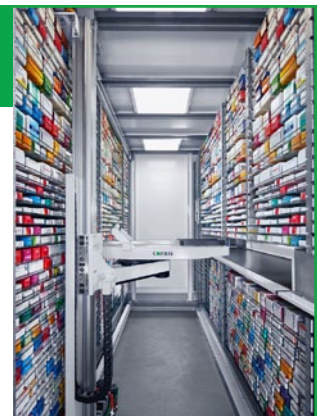
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Dispensary Corner

TACO BELL is putting a twist on early retirement - targeting the youth with a new two-day activation called 'The Cantinas', reported *US' Koat Action News*. This fast food chain is offering a unique real-world application of their slogan 'Live Mas', by hosting a two-day retirement themed event in San Diego from 17-18 Aug.

Designed for those 21 years and older, yes you read right, this quirky weekend getaway lets attendees experience the retired life while still in their prime - only in America!

Participants can enjoy the slower lifestyle with low-impact activities like painting classes, knitting circles, pickleball, and croquet, Taco Bell is serving up a carefree lifestyle with a side of their signature menu items.

It's the ultimate escape from everyday life, promising fun and relaxation without waiting for the golden years.

All tickets are sold out, but for those looking to truly immerse themselves, don't forget to pack your favourite snacks and, maybe, a trip to the pharmacy for some digestive aids.

After all, early retirement, even for a weekend, is best enjoyed without an upset stomach...antacids anyone?



Shingrix to roll out again

SHINGRIX vaccine supply will be rolled out to medical practices, Aboriginal Medical Services and pharmacies across Australia from 01 Nov, informed the Department of Health and Ageing.

The announcement comes amid media reports nationwide about the scarcity of the vaccine since Apr, with several clinicians saying they were frustrated about having to "ration" doses to their patients.

The Health Department has also released a resources kit designed to support health professionals having conversations with patients about the Shingrix vaccine, eligibility and vaccine supply.

Resources include help to promote the program in practices or clinics; clinical advice on the program; a podcast for health professionals; as well as a series of videos featuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people discussing vaccination.

There are also Q&A examples to help pharmacists and doctors have discussions with their patients regarding vaccine supply.

The shingles vaccine Shingrix replaced Zostavax on the National



Immunisation Program on 01 Nov last year (*PD* 10 Oct 2023).

A two-dose course of Shingrix is available for free for eligible people most at risk of complications from shingles such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over; people aged 65 and older; and immunocompromised patients aged 18 and above with certain medical conditions.

To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Psychedelic research wins ANS Award

AN AUSTRALIAN scientist has won the annual Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) Illumina Neurogenomics Research Award to advance his research into psychedelic medicines to treat anxiety.

The recipient, Dr Andrew Gibbons from the Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health, will use genomic technologies to look at how biological markers within the blood could predict patient response to psychedelic

medicines such as psilocybin.

Gibbons said, "characterising both the genes that underlie psilocybin's therapeutic effects and the biological markers that predict its efficacy in patients with generalised anxiety disorder would greatly improve both the efficiency and experience of treatment for patients".

The award will support Gibbons to further this research, and will see him present his project results at the upcoming the ANS Meeting in Perth in Dec. *JM*

Guild Update

Guild roadshows pave the path for talks on 8CPA

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 'State of the Industry Roadshows' are underway, having begun in Darwin on 10 Jul, and continuing throughout each capital city until wrapping up in Adelaide on 25 Jul.

As one of the first major free pharmacy events since the implementation of the 8CPA, these roadshows are attracting significant attention from members.

Pharmacy owners, staff, politicians, students, and industry stakeholders are seizing the opportunity to engage directly with the Guild's National President, Trent Twomey, and other industry leaders.

Attendees begin the events with canapes and drinks as a relaxed setting for networking, before transitioning to presentations on the 8CPA.

The sessions have been lively and informative, with participants asking engaging questions and contributing to thoughtful discussions.

A hot topic has been the early impacts of the 8CPA, which attendees are particularly keen to understand and discuss.

The roadshows are proving to be an important platform for sharing insights and shaping the future of the pharmacy industry in Australia.



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