BioCeuticals ArmaForce® Your #1 cold and flu partner this winter*







Tuesday 14th May 2024



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a cover wrap from BioCeuticals, plus full pages from:

- Dermal Therapy
- Willach

Reduces colds

BIOCEUTICALS ArmaForce helps relieve symptoms of common colds and flu. Ingredients such as zinc and vitamin C all support the immune system.

See more on the cover page.

Rethink dispensary

WILLACH Consis.C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up.

The design maximises storage capacity while speeding up the loading of medicines.

Learn more on the back page.

Cost-of-living to be main Budget issue

EXCLUSIVE

IN ANTICIPATION of tonight's Federal Budget, Kian Ghahramani (pictured), RSM's National Director for Pharmacy, hopes for significant cost-of-living measures aimed at benefiting consumers and businesses alike.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Ghahramani said, "we hope to see tangible savings for everyday Australians with the implementation of stage three tax cuts, but it would be great to take that a step further and introduce measures to benefit patients".

He highlighted the current strain on primary healthcare due to inflation, rising living costs, and the decline in bulk billing GPs.

The strain, he noted, is increasing the burden on hospital emergency departments as individuals avoid GP visits due to costs.

With negotiations for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement underway, Ghahramani stressed



the need for certainty in the sector to aid pharmacy owners and prospective buyers currently postponing their decisions and welcomed the changes to come.

Ghahramani is advocating for "fresh funding" to develop programs that alleviate GP pressures and improve community health outcomes, such as enabling pharmacists to provide a wider range of services.

"The sooner pharmacists can safely expand their scope of services, the quicker we can reduce the load on emergency departments," Ghahramani added.

He emphasised the need for pharmacies to maintain financial viability through a sustainable business model, given common financial burdens such as mortgages, rent, and salaries within the industry.

Ghahramani called on the upcoming Budget to address the need for more pharmacists through enhanced training and funding programs, which he believes will both serve communities better and lessen the load on GP clinics.

He warned that failure to invest in primary healthcare now could lead to more significant issues in the future, potentially restricting access to healthcare to only those who can afford it, and would cost the economy more in the long-term, as seen in other countries. *JG*

Multiple benefits

DERMAL Therapy has launched a new duo for very dry skin providing gentle cleansing, intense hydration and protection.

See more on page four.

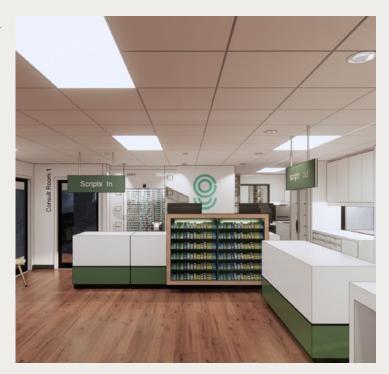
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NSW expands UTI program

NSW Minister for Health Rvan Park has announced that from 01 Jun, pharmacists across the state will be authorised permanently to treat uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs), following the successful completion of a 12-month trial (PD breaking news).

Pharmacists who have undergone the necessary training will be equipped to provide consultations.

The announcement marks a significant milestone in expanding healthcare accessibility, and has been welcomed by Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW President, David Heffernan, who added that during the trial, over 1,000 pharmacies participated statewide, providing treatment for UTIs to more than 16.000 women.

"Women across New South Wales will benefit from easy access to treatment for painful UTIs, and community pharmacists are ready to step up and take some of the pressure off of GP clinics and hospitals," said Heffernan.

UTI treatments will continue ahead of a comprehensive clinical evaluation of the NSW trial, scheduled for release in mid-2025.

PSA New South Wales President Luke Kelly said, "community pharmacists across New South Wales continue to work closely with GPs, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to ensure that patients get the right level of care when and where they need it, referring patients to their GP or nurse practitioner if there are signs of something more serious".

Kelly added pharmacists not participating in the trial can also be prepared for the program's expansion by completing online training and access to key resources on the PSA website.

The Guild added that besides offering resupplies of the oral contraceptive pill, pharmacists will soon extend their services to treat common skin conditions such as school sores and dermatitis.

To learn more CLICK HERE. JG

New breast cancer digital tool trialled

SUFFERERS of Stage 4 advanced or metastatic breast cancer are being invited to trial an improved digital resource designed to guide people through the psychological aspects of the disease.

The 'Finding My Way -Advanced' online support tool has been developed by Flinders University researchers and is an evolution of an earlier version created 10 years ago for earlystage cancers.

Additional funding was also provided by Cancer Australia.

The Advanced version is aimed at those with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, which is a treatable but currently incurable phase.

Six modules are available for people to progress through online at their own pace, and features a range of cognitive behavioural therapies along with relaxation, mindfulness techniques and writing exercises.

Modules include 'Navigating heathcare', 'Unique challenges', 'Physical symptoms' and 'Emotional distress' among others, with a particular emphasis given to mental health, and how to build a support network of family and friends.

Program developer and Flinders University A/Prof, Lisa Beatty, said while metastatic breast cancer can't be cured, medicinal improvements can help patients keep their cancer under control and live much longer lives.

"Our program is designed to help them through this difficult journey, from navigating the healthcare system and their treatment, through to providing coping strategies for the physical, emotional and social changes that an individual may experience," explained Beatty.

For more information or to join the Flinders University trial, **CLICK HERE.** ML

Hear from our Franchise Partners

Joining a national brand like Priceline Pharmacy, the marketing campaigns are very visible, we find a lot of our customers know what is going on in our stores. Priceline filled the gap in our community and provides a whole comprehensive offer. When opening our second store, our pre-existing experience with Priceline and knowing how supportive they would be was a big factor.

Cobie McQueen

Priceline Pharmacy Madden St and Horsham, Vic

Ready to take your business to the next level? Contact JoinPricelinePharmacy@api.net.au







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Dispensary Corner

IN A year-long experiment, 267 vending machines in the US city of Philadelphia, became unlikely battlegrounds in the war against unhealthy snacking, known to cause chronic health issues such as diabetes, weight gain, and heart disease.

The machines served as testing grounds for different strategies intended to encourage healthier eating habits among the 1,065 people who frequented them.

The four strategies began with stern beverage posters, which guilt-tripped buyers about the city's sweetened drink tax.

Then came the green healthy product labels.

The traffic light product labels came next, adding a dash of drama with three common colours - green for 'all clear', yellow for 'caution', and red for 'stop and reconsider'.

Lastly, physical activity labels needed a calculator to work out the required minutes of exercise for the calories consumed.

The results of the study published in JAMA Network Open showed that the traffic light system and exercise reminders were quite persuasive.

The labels that required customers to mentally convert snacks into sweat were really effective, reducing unhealthy drink sales by up to 34%.

However, the snacks themselves proved to be a tougher nut to crack, remaining as popular as ever.

Researchers said clever signs can only go so far, with govts urged to put out new messaging.

80,000 turn up for MDC



THE 2024 Women in Super Mother's Day Classic (MDC) drew 80,000 participants nationwide, making it Australia's largest fun run and walk dedicated to breast and ovarian cancer research.

Held in 75 locations across major cities, metro, and regional areas, the annual event also offered flexible participation, allowing individuals to choose their preferred day, time, and local setting to contribute.

This year, the event expanded its impact by introducing the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation as a new beneficiary, alongside the long-supported National Breast

Cancer Foundation.

The strategic partnership aims to bolster research efforts and improve survival rates for both types of cancers.

Community support for the Mother's Day Classic has surged, with a 20% increase in attendance and fundraising compared to previous years.

Over the past 27 years, the event has engaged over 1.6 million participants and raised more than \$44 million.

These funds have significantly contributed to enhancing the fiveyear relative survival rate for breast cancer from 84% to 92%. JG

Update

Indigenous Student Scholarship aims to facilitate growth

APPLICATIONS are now open for the Symbion and **Guild Aboriginal and Torres** Strait Islander Pharmacy Student Scholarship Initiative.

The initiative aims to support and encourage Indigenous pharmacy students in their studies, to facilitate employment growth.

One of three 2023 recipients, Tameera Guivarra, emphasised the significant support the scholarship provided as she prepared for her intern year.

"Having that scholarship for my final year really made it easier to focus on my final exams and preparations for intern year, as I was not spending all of my time stressing about how many hours I needed to work to cover all of the costs," Guivarra said.

In 2024, two students enrolled, or about to enrol, in a Certificate III in Community Pharmacy will receive \$5,000 annually, up to \$10,000 each, along with mentorship and job opportunities at TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacies.

Guivarra encourages potential applicants to "go for it - you will find your place and your niche that you love...".

Visit guild.org.au/programs/ scholarship to apply before midnight on 26 May 2024.





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EDITORIAL

Editor - Jayamala Gupte Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon Journalists - Adam Bishop, Myles Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper

Stedman, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai Publisher - Damian Francis Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan Advertising - Dante Muranty

advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Head of Operations & Contributing Editor - Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

info@pharmacydaily.com.au



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