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Today's issue of PD

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

- Pharmacia
- Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group

Guild details new payments

AT LAST week's Pharmacy Connect 2024, Pharmacy Guild of Australia President, Trent Twomey, did a deep-dive into the payments in the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA), which will provide \$26.5 billion to support community pharmacies.

Of the contribution, \$2.1 billion will fund the new Additional Community Supply Support (ACSS) payment, legislated under Clause 4.1 of the 8CPA.

The new payment aims to assist pharmacies in dispensing PBS medicines, ensuring continued access for Australians while providing cheaper medicines.

ACSS payments will be available with Services Australia, making the first payments by the end of Oct.

Initially, these payments will be processed manually on a quarterly basis, with full automation expected by 01 Jul 2025.

To receive accurate payments, pharmacists must certify and close all PBS and Repatriation PBS (RPBS) claims within 30 days.

The ACSS payment supports the supply of PBS and RPBS scripts and includes a base-level fee of \$0.78 per dispensed script for all general schedule medicines in 2024-25.

Additionally, an extra fee of \$4.79 will be provided per eligible increased Maximum Dispensed Quantity item when supplied in full quantity.

Twomey also mentioned the Cormack review on pharmacy's full scope of practice, and hinted at potential federally-funded pathways for the sector.

He also urged pharmacists to prepare for upcoming changes to the Quality Care Program, including on-site assessments, and to ensure their practices met the required standards. *JG*

Design your space

PHARMACIUM will create work spaces that reflect your working style and improve efficiencies throughout your pharmacy with a focus on dispensary operations.

To learn more about design projects see **page three**.

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SA govt signals go ahead for scope

THE South Australian Office of the Chief Pharmacist has confirmed that pharmacists in the state can now administer medicines to patients, a move welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

The development marks progress toward national consistency in pharmacists' scope of practice, allowing them to administer certain medicines across all states and territories.

PSA SA/NT President Dr Manya Angley celebrated the decision, highlighting its impact on

patient access to timely care and improved health outcomes.

"This aligns with the PSA's vision for 2030, advocating for expanded roles for pharmacists," commented Dr Angley.

PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim emphasised the readiness of community pharmacists to embrace these new responsibilities.

"Pharmacists are highly trained professionals, and we urge governments to support the necessary changes to improve patient care access," she said.

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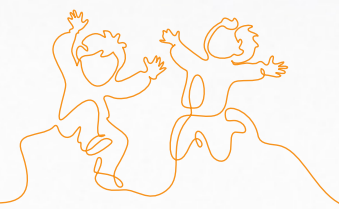
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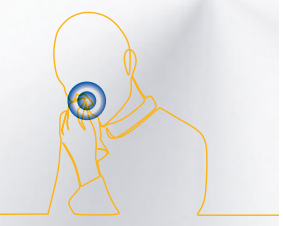
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Dispensary Corner

IN A new study published in *BMC Medicine*, middle-aged Aussies with high blood pressure swapped their usual spuds and pumpkins for broccoli, kale, and cabbage. The result - a tasty 2.5 mmHg drop in blood pressure which amounts to a 5% reduction in risk of heart attacks. It turns out, these green wonders, packed with glucosinolates, nitrate, and vitamin K, have more punch than we thought. Despite these findings, less than one in 15 Aussies meet their veggie intake, with cruciferous vegetables being the least loved. "These veggies offer more bang for your buck," explained Edith Cowan University's Dr Lauren Blekkenhorst. "Just eat them most days, and you're set." Supporting the research, Heart Foundation's Kym Lang, remarked, "we look forward to continuing to learn more about the role cruciferous vegetables play in heart health".

Stomach drugs' class action

PATIENTS who have used proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) to treat digestive issues, and subsequently developed gastric cancer or kidney damage, are now being asked to register for a class action launched by Shine Lawyers. The drugs that could involve an estimated 100,000 Australians in the investigation are: Nexium or Nexium 24HR (or drugs containing esomeprazole), Losec (omeprazole), Somac (pantoprazole), Pariet (rabeprazole)

and Zoton FasTabs (lansoprazole). PPIs are widely used for treating digestive symptoms by reducing stomach acid production. However, they can increase the levels of gastrin, a hormone associated with the formation of cancer cells in the gastrointestinal and urinary tracts. The manufacturers of the various drugs all declined to comment at this time, reported media. For more details and to register for the class action, **CLICK HERE**. JG

IPA holds summit

SAVE up to \$250 with earlybird rates for the Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group (IPA) Member Summit 2024 Together in Health (14-17 Oct). Keynote speakers include past Pharmacy Guild of Australia President, Kos Sclavos; Retail Doctor Group's CEO, Brian Walker; and DBG Health's Chair and CEO, Dennis Bastas - see more on **page four**.

PATY winner embodies best of patient care

MADDISON Waide (pictured) from Lucy Walker Pharmacy in Goondiwindi, Queensland, was named as the 2024 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) (**PD** breaking news). Waide was chosen from eight state and territory finalists at the national workshop during the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference in Sydney last week. The award recognises excellence in community pharmacy, highlighting Waide's leadership, innovation, and commitment to patient care. Daniel Shalhoub from sponsor



AFT Pharmaceuticals praised her dedication, saying she embodied the very qualities the prestigious award represents. Waide received a \$5,000 cash prize and opportunities to attend key industry conferences.

Wellnex's new Chair

WELLNEX Life has appointed former Pharmacy Guild of Australia President George Tambassis as Non-Executive Chair. Tambassis brings extensive experience, having served 15 years as a director of the Guild, including seven years as National President. During his tenure, he played a key role in finalising the 6CPA and 7CPA with federal governments. He was also the inaugural President of the World Pharmacy Council and part of the OECD's Associate Expert Group on pharmacy and health. Recently re-elected to the Guild National Council, Tambassis will also serve as Victorian branch President for the next four years.

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

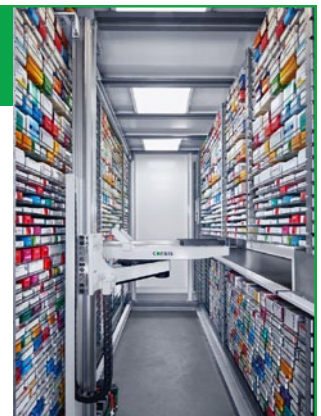
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