

MedAdvisor to integrate with Australian Immunisation Register

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Minfos 30-year mark

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy dispensing and point of sale software company Minfos is celebrating its 30th birthday today with the launch of a new campaign 'Experience Counts', highlighting its established heritage of stability, growth and innovation in the Australian pharmacy market.

Founded in 1989 by a pharmacist and an accountant, Minfos has grown to create Australia's first all-in-one pharmacy management software solution.

Currently used by more than 850 customers across Australia, the company was sold to Faulding (now Symbion) in 2000 and is now part of the EBOS Group.

EBOS GM of Pharmacy Technology, Andrew Hall, thanked all of Minfos' customers for their ongoing support "which has ensured that we can continue to grow and improve our offering".

The 30 year milestone is being celebrated with a special new highlights video which can be seen at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

CSO tender invitation notice

THE Health Department has advised that the "Invitation To Apply" (ITA) process for the Community Service Obligation (CSO) Funding Pool is expected to be released tomorrow.

A formal notice issued overnight on the Government's Austender site says the ITA process aims to "identify organisations that have the capacity and capability to

participate as CSO Distributors and meet key service standards related to the timely, efficient and affordable supply of PBS medicines and NDSS products to community pharmacies across Australia".

The CSO Funding Pool aims to ensure arrangements are in place to provide all Australians with ongoing and timely access to PBS medicines via their community pharmacy, supporting wholesalers to deliver items regardless of pharmacy location and the relative cost of supply.

The hotly anticipated tender documents follow a review process (PD 13 Jun 2018), with the industry keen to see how the CSO will evolve in the current landscape where some manufacturers are bypassing the system with exclusive direct supply arrangements of some items.

There's also speculation that the CSO pool could expand to incorporate logistics operator DHL (PD 06 Aug), with the current CSO deeds expiring on 31 Dec 2018.

DDS tops poll again

DISCOUNT Drug Stores has continued its strong run in the monthly Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards, once again coming top of the poll in Oct 2018.

DDS has led the survey results every month since May this year, with the Oct results showing Priceline Pharmacy in second place, followed by Amcal, Chemist Warehouse and Guardian.

The awards are based on a rolling annual sample of 9,280 consumers over the 12 months to 31 Oct.

Veteran health data

A NEW report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has summarised the health and welfare of veterans of the Australian Defence Force, highlighting information and data gaps and possible actions - see aihw.gov.au.

Cannabis guidance

NHS England has called on the Association of British Neurologists to draw up interim guidance on the use of cannabis-based products for medical use in adult neurological conditions, including multiple sclerosis.

The regulatory group said prescribers would be advised to adopt the resultant guidelines, but to use existing provisional guidance at least until National Institute for Care and Health Excellence (NICE) guidelines are released in Oct 2019.

Prescribers are also advised to consult their local hospital chief pharmacist or director of pharmacy.

See more in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* - pharmaceutical-journal.com.

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Corum seeks POS partners

LISTED pharmacy software supplier Corum Health is currently assessing the suitability of possible partners to work alongside its new “best-of-breed dispense system,” according to Chairman Bill Paterson.

Speaking at the Corum annual general meeting yesterday, Paterson confirmed the recent completion of the Corum Clear platform, meaning the software can now be marketed more widely.

However the platform “must also be complemented by Corum improving its extensive offering in retail business systems, including the point of sale, inventory and head office management applications,” he said.

“In order to offer these existing systems to new customers it will need to reshape these offerings either by itself or by partnering

with third parties,” he said.

Paterson also noted Corum had been actively involved in efforts to encourage health industry software provider consolidation, but thus far opportunities had proved “elusive”.

CEO David Clarke highlighted ongoing progress within the business, including building a customer-first culture, reinvigorating the product offering and changes in the company’s sales approach and structure.

He said the LOTS point of sale and dispense systems remained at the core of Corum’s installed pharmacy base, with a host of changes implemented to integrate with Vic’s SafeScript real-time script monitoring software and the My Health Record framework.

Corum Clear Dispense is now in testing phases in pharmacies across Australia, with a commercial launch expected in Jan 2019, he said.

“The product has been well received and we believe its simplicity, intelligent design and layout will make it successful in the market,” he said.

However Clarke also noted strong competition from the Guild-backed FRED IT and other vendors, saying Corum was now “actively pursuing wider and adjacent opportunities for investment and growth”.

Pharmacist to prison

SYDNEY pharmacist Katherine Gong has been given a custodial sentence after pleading guilty to prohibition on wholesale supply of certain substances (**PD** 22 Nov).

Gong, who owns the Harmony Pharmacy and Wellness Clinic in the northern suburb of Mosman, supplied more than 2,400 Gardasil 9 HPV vaccinations to a male associate, who exported the items under a false declaration to Hong Kong where there are currently shortages of the product.

The court heard the retail value of the drugs was \$500,000 in Australia and over \$600,000 in Hong Kong, with Gong claiming she was trying to help Chinese women by supplying the items.

However **AAP** also reports she made a profit of about \$30,000, with the magistrate saying Gong “acted for financial gain and without regard for public safety”.

The pharmacist has been sentenced to eight months in prison, with an appeal scheduled to be heard in Jan 2019.

Her lawyer said Gong was selling her business following the charges, with the offender’s registration as a pharmacist also suspended since she was charged last month.

Arthrem NZ warning

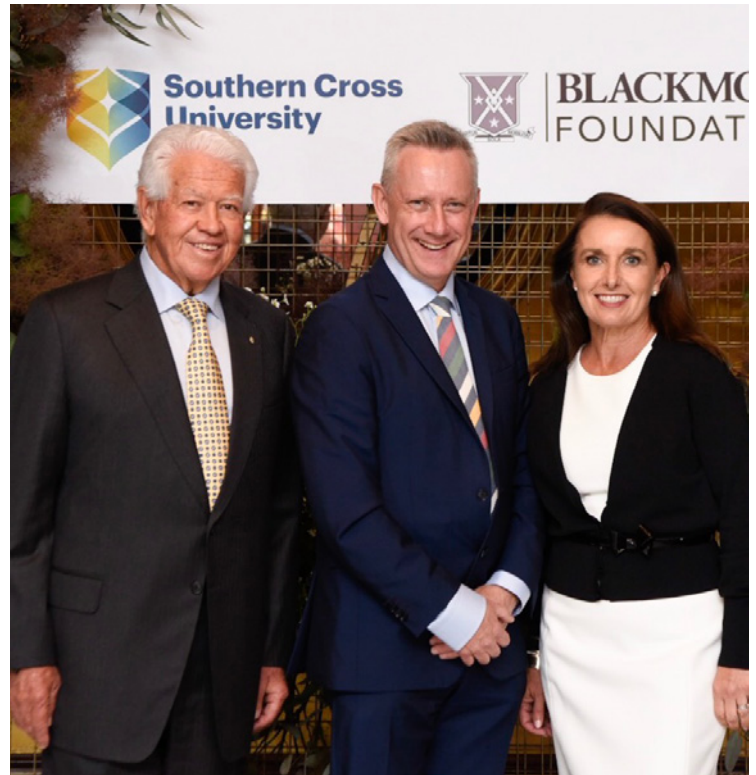
NEW Zealand’s Medsafe regulator has updated a previous “alert communication” relating to *Artemisia Annu* or Sweet wormwood extract marketed as Arthrem (**PD** 19 Feb), confirming further reports of liver toxicity.

NZ’s Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring said it had received a total of 25 reports of liver issues associated with Arthrem effective 30 Sep 2018, 11 of which had been received following publication of the previous alert.

The cases reported indicate use of Arthrem soft gel capsules (Promisia), with two cases also reporting use of GO Arthri-Remedy 1-A-Day soft gel capsules, which were withdrawn after publication of the previous alert.

See medsafe.govt.nz.

Blackmores’ \$10m generosity



SOUTHERN Cross University has accepted a \$10 million donation from Marcus and Caroline Blackmore (**PD** yesterday), with the personal gift setting a new record for generosity to the institution.

Vice Chancellor Professor Adam Shoemaker, **pictured** at a ceremony yesterday with the Blackmores at which the money was signed over, said it would be used to establish an “internationally-recognised centre of excellence in naturopathic education and associated research”.

The new National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine would see Southern Cross become the first Australian university to offer higher education qualifications in naturopathy, enabling it to provide distinctive career pathways and ongoing development for the profession, as well as an increased research capability.

Marcus Blackmore said the new centre helped honour a final wish of his father, the late Maurice Blackmore, that naturopathy be properly respected as a profession.

“This is a very special day for Caroline and myself, both in helping to achieve my father’s legacy, and my own passion to see the continued advancement of naturopathic education and critical health research in this country.

“We have a responsibility to respond to the growing health care needs of Australia and evidence-based natural medicine will play an increasingly active role in that response,” Blackmore said.

The Blackmores executive director

has had a long association with the university, receiving an honorary doctorate in 2006 and also serving on the Southern Cross University Foundation board.

Blackmore has seen his personal worth soar in recent years along with other major investors in the company that bears his name.

He owns about 23% of Blackmores Limited, with the overall company currently valued at just over \$2.1 billion putting his stake at in excess of \$500 million.

Professor Shoemaker said work would begin immediately, with the new centre to open in 2019.

Aust plain packaging goes global

MORE than 20 countries have taken steps to introduce Australian style plain packaging for tobacco products and it is likely that more will follow, according to Australian experts who looked into the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) recent decision to allow plain packaging.

The WTO’s dispute settlement panel’s legal findings confirm that intellectual property interests can be limited for other societal interests, such as public health objectives, supporting the Australian High Court decision of 2012 dismissing a constitutional challenge.

Authors say the WTO panel decision should provide countries with the confidence they need to act - see jamanetwork.com.



Dispensary Corner

S**T a brick!

A fascinating study just published in the *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* has finally put to rest concerns parents may have about their children eating LEGO.

A bold team of researchers from the UK and Australia each put their bodies on the line "in the noble tradition of self-experimentation" by swallowing the head of a LEGO character and measuring the time it took to - ahem - make the bodily transit.

In order to collate the results they developed two measures: the Stool Hardness and Transit (SHAT) score, and the Found and Retrieved Time (FART) metric.

On average the FART score - the time it took for the Lego to emerge at the other end - was 1.7 days, while the SHAT score found there was no change to the consistency of their stools.

Intriguingly there was no correlation between SHAT and FART numbers, indicating looser stools did not result in faster retrieval of the foreign object.

The *Guardian* quoted author Grace Leo saying it was hoped the results would reassure parents, with most small, smooth plastic objects passing through easily meaning they don't need to search through their child's poo for small foreign bodies, "unless that LEGO head is dearly loved".

While most of the team passed the LEGO after one to three bowel motions, Leo paid tribute to one of the participating researchers who must have missed the item in the first few days "so we made him search every stool for two weeks".

TGA shortages guidance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released new resources on the upcoming medicines shortages reforms, which will see mandatory reporting of items in short supply starting from 01 Jan.

Effective from the start of next year, sponsors of prescription and some OTC medicines will be required to report all medicine shortages - including those arising from discontinuations or recalls - within specified timeframes.

The TGA will automatically and prominently publish information about all current and anticipated shortages with critical patient impact through a special website.

Sponsors will also be "strongly encouraged" to publish information about shortages with low or medium patient impact.

A "Medicines Watch List" details items that have been predetermined as having critical patient impact, and includes antimicrobial agents, vaccines, anticoagulants, obstetric drugs, antivenoms, poisons treatments and emergency/critical medicines.

S3 products on the list include

adrenaline autoinjectors, naloxone, salbutamol inhalers and sublingual glyceryl trinitrate.

The TGA has urged suppliers to engage closely with health bodies to assess the impact of shortages, such as Society of Hospital Pharmacists Specialty Practice Groups - see tga.gov.au.

Lipids hit Aust budget

HIGH cholesterol levels placed an estimated \$4 billion burden on the Australian economy in 2017-18, with more than one in three adult Australians, or 7.1 million people, estimated to be living with high cholesterol, according to a new Heart Foundation report.

The report, *Economic Burden of Hypercholesterolaemia* is the third in a series quantifying the costs of heart disease and risk factors.

Previous reports were *Economic Cost of Acute Coronary Syndrome in Australia: The Cost to Individuals and Their Families* and *Economic Cost of Acute Coronary Syndrome in Australia: The Cost to Governments*.

Visit heartfoundation.org.au to access the reports.

Win with Plunkett's



Does Plunkett's Aloe Vera contain any artificial colour?

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack valued at over \$50 each including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 240ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 75g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Spray 125ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Moisturiser 200ml and one Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera facial mask.

Aloe Barbados 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbados Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round.

Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Thomas Petrucci.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Discover Kimberley

SILVERSEA has launched a collection of new itineraries exploring WA's Kimberley on board *Silver Discoverer*.

Sailing the region for the last time, *Discoverer* will offer eight voyages between Broome and Darwin, departing between Apr and Jun 2019.

Fares start from \$9,990 pp and bookings made by 30 Nov 2018 will receive free Economy roundtrip air or Business class one way for \$699 - **CLICK HERE**.

Select Discounted Chimu Adventures

CHIMU Adventures is currently offering up to 40% off select cruises to the Polar regions, the Galapagos and the Amazon rainforest as part of its Black Friday promotion.

Offers include a 25% discount on an eight-day cruise to the Arctic ending in the Norwegian city of Longyearbyen and sailing by icebergs, glaciers and polar bears - offers end 30 Nov.

Visit chimoadventures.com.