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GuildCare MG

MedsCheck bill hits \$17.7m



Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature.

PSA promotes Quit

VICTORIAN smokers are being encouraged to chat to their local pharmacists for advice and support to help them on their quitting journey, thanks to a united push by Quit Victoria and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

This year, Quit Victoria has trained hundreds of pharmacists across Victoria to improve their confidence and ability to provide advice to patients about quitting.

New data show around one in six people in Victoria currently smoke, so Quit Victoria Director Dr Sarah White is urging smokers to make the most of the accessible and expert information pharmacists can offer on the subject.

"When it comes to quitting, people can feel alone and unsure of what the best approach is, or where to go for support and advice," said White.

"Sadly, just one in five people use the most effective quitting approach when trying to stop smoking – which is to combine Quitline coaching with the appropriate use of nicotine replacement products suited to you," White added.

The Victoria-wide campaign encouraging smokers to speak to their pharmacists about quitting will air on radio, digital and in medical waiting rooms until late Dec, the PSA said.

For more information on the campaign see quit.org.au.

THE amount paid out by the Health Department under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck programs doubled over the two-year period between 2015/16 and 2017/18.

The figures were revealed in a recently released answer to a question which was taken "on notice" during a Senate Community Affairs Committee budget estimates hearing in late May this year.

Senator Stirling Griff asked a Health Department official about the annual expenditure on the program, with the answer confirming that in 2015/16 the programs cost \$9.13 million.

The following year that increased to \$12.3 million, and then for the 10 months to 30 Apr 2018 the figure was \$17.7 million.

The Department noted that from 01 Jul 2017 the number of MedsCheck and Diabetes

Leaders to address Guild dinner

THERE must be an election in the wind, with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia yesterday announcing that Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten will be the keynote speakers at the upcoming Guild Annual Parliamentary Dinner.

Taking place in the Great Hall of Parliament House on 27 Nov 2018, the high profile event will also include an address by Deputy Prime Minister and National Party Leader Michael McCormack MP, and Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens. MedsCheck services able to be claimed by community pharmacies doubled to a total of 20 per calendar month.

"In addition, from 1 February 2018, participating pharmacies were also able to claim additional fees for the collection and provision of health outcomes data on patients receiving these services," the answer stated.

The Department also confirmed that as at 08 Jun 2018 there were 5,410 pharmacies registered to provide services under the MedsCheck program.

Of that total, 5,392 were registered to provide the standard MedsCheck, and 5,399 were registered to provide the Diabetes MedsCheck.

Senator Griff asked what information was being collected to enable an assessment of the effectiveness of the program, with the answer saying that providers must collect health outcomes information for all patients receiving the services, with data collection starting on 01 Feb 2018.

Paraffin fire hazard

THE New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (Medsafe) is proposing a label warning for paraffin-based skin products, first identified as a serious fire-risk by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

While the New Zealand Formulary entry for emollients contains a warning, Medsafe is concerned that only health professionals read this.

"This means that without any contact with a healthcare professional, a consumer may not be aware of a fire hazard with paraffin-based skin products," Medsafe says on its website.

With a number of medical dressings and other skin-contact products containing the soothing paraffin oil products such as creams, ointments, lotions and gels, Medsafe is proposing a warning label and seeking public comment on both the wording and conditions of label warnings.

Britain's MHRA reminded healthcare professionals of the firerisks of paraffin in Apr 2016.

AstraZeneca

See consult.health.govt.nz.

LTS STU

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Wednesday 31 Oct 2018

MHR international respect

AUSTRALIA'S My Health Record digital health record system has come up trumps in an international review of digital health record systems in terms of giving the consumer control over their data.

The Digital Health Evidence Review, released by the Australian Digital Health Agency, brings together studies comparing My Health

Record with similar systems across the world, including those in France, the UK, the USA and our closest neighbour New Zealand.

"We know through the important national conversation that is currently occurring that Australians expect and deserve strong safeguards, choice and control when it comes to their personal information," said Agency Chief Medical Adviser, Professor Meredith Makeham.

"As the Agency responsible for My Health Record, we need to continue to improve the system in consultation with the Australian community and their healthcare providers."

My Health Record was shown in the review to afford people among the most choice in how their medical information, such as their tests and scans, are stored and accessed from an international perspective.

"Although many countries have laws that allow users to view their health information, only Australia and a handful of other countries have laws that allow citizens to control who sees their information and request corrections to their

AHPRA offline tonight

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has advised that its website, and that of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, will be unavailable from 8.30am to 11.59pm tonight.

Schedule maintenance means all functions including registration for health practitioners, online graduate applications and other transactions will be unavailable.

own health data," says Makeham. The review revealed that only French and Australian residents are allowed to edit or author parts of their record and only 32% of surveyed countries have legislation in place that allow

individuals to request corrections to their data.

In addition, only 28% of surveyed countries have

legislation that allows individuals to specify which healthcare providers can access their data.

More than six million Australians already have a My Health Record and 13,956 healthcare professional organisations are connected.

This includes general practices, hospitals, pharmacies, diagnostic imaging and pathology practices. More at digitalhealth.gov.au.

Medlab ramps up

ASX-LISTED cannabis and nanodelivery system company Medlab has released progress results on its product development, including the successful completion of stage 1 of



trial at Sydney's **Royal North Shore** Formal approval

received from

the Independent Data Safety Monitoring Board to proceed to Stage 2 of the trial, focusing again on safety alongside dosage escalation and tolerance.

Other developments include Medlab's NanaBidialanti-emetic treatment which is about to commence a clinical trial for patients with chemotherapyinduced nausea, while a third announcement related to a trial of NanoStat, a nano-particle spray of a statin.

Called NanoCelle, the system enables delivery of small doses and with the trial now completed, results will be available in a month.

The company is also undertaking international negotiations to enhance global market penetration.

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\$10m Apotex reward

THE grisly murder of Apotex founder Barry Sherman and his wife Honey (PD 18 Dec 2017) is now the subject of a \$10 million reward.

The billionaire couple's relatives have offered the reward for information leading to a solution to the case, with a lawyer for the family citing a "litany of alleged errors and lapses" in the formal police investigation.

The pair's dead bodies were found in mysterious circumstances by the side of their basement pool.



BRIAN Owler, former president of the Australian Medical Association, has confirmed his intention to run for Federal Parliament as a Labor candidate in the NSW seat of Bennelong which was formerly held by PM John Howard.

The northern Sydney region includes Macquarie Park, known as "Pill Hill" because of its high concentration of pharmaceutical companies, which operate alongside Pharmacy Daily's global headquarters.

Royal Aromababy encounter!

THE Duchess of Sussex accepted a gift box of Australian-made Aromababy products during her recent visit to Melbourne with husband Prince Harry.

While not quite a formal endorsement of the product, Aromababy founder Catherine Cervasio said the encounter (pictured) showed the product "captured firmly in the arms" of the newly expectant Royal.

Cervasio said high profile clients were nothing new, with feedback from such illustrious figures as Princess Mary, John Travolta, Megan Gale and Curtis

Stone received over her two



decades in the natural skincare industry.

Win with SkinB5

This week Pharmacy Daily & SkinB5 are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Specifically formulated for acne / blemish prone skin, SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster delivers over 63 key skin health ingredients including Vitamins B5, A, C, D, E, minerals, essential fatty acids, amino acids, digestive enzymes, probiotics and prebiotics, Marine Collagen, Australian Organic Hemp protein, Organic



Zinc, Maca, probiotics, prebiotics, Turmeric, Ginseng, Ashwaganda, Alkalising Greens and colourful super fruits. Follow www.facebook. com/skinb5pro for more. Available through Sigma - PDE 301911.

To win, be the first person from WA to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What ingredient do you need for Anti-inflammatory starting with "H"? Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Gayle Mennilli.



My Health Record





Wednesday 31 Oct 2018

Dispensary Corner

WHAT'S scarier than being accosted by a bloodsucking vampire on Halloween? How about a trip to hospital and being told some fake choppers may need to be removed with a saw?

Yep, we'd go with the menacing undead option too, however a woman from Alabama lamentably didn't get the luxury of multiple choice this week.

Anna Tew was initially chuffed when she finished off her zombie costume with a cheap pair of realistic looking fake vampire fangs, but when she couldn't prise them from her mouth by 2am the next morning she naturally grew slightly concerned.

"I even took a pair of wire clippers and cut the tips of them off," she said.

The bloody fangs were eventually removed by a dentist through hours of excruciating "picking and pulling".

There wasn't anything left to do other than grin and bear it.



A STUDENT in the USA has displayed a little more than the usual teenage attitude by baking her grandfather's ashes into biscuits to share with classmates.

The creepy incident took place at a school in Sacramento, California, with nine pupils sampling the somewhat sandy cookies.

Officials said they were at a loss to identify a motive, and would let the school handle the issue.

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- Stockist: 1800 033 706
- RRP: \$22.95 for 200mL \$32.99 500mL
- Website: www.moov.com.au



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giving skin an even texture and smooth, velvet finish. This lightweight formula is easy to blend and sheer enough to be worn alone.

Stockist: 1800 791 381 RRP: \$29.99 for 30 mL Website: www.indeedlabs.com.au



business events news

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page 3

