



## More backing for WA pharmacy push

**MOVES** to expand the role of pharmacists in Western Australia are being backed by the Australian Health Care Reform Alliance (AHCRA), whose members include the Doctors Reform Society, Catholic Health Australia and the National Rural Health Alliance.

Speaking to *WA Today*, AHCRA Chair, Jennifer Doggett (pictured), voiced support for proposed moves to make greater use of pharmacists' skills, including providing repeat prescriptions for certain conditions.

She highlighted pharmacist influenza vaccination services as an example of sensible and effective use of the profession.

"With our ageing population and greater need for care for chronic and complex conditions, we need to make sure we use all available

resources to their full potential.

"We should be saving the difficult stuff for doctors," Doggett said.

However, she agreed with criticism of the profession voiced by Australian Medical Association WA President, Dr Andrew Miller, who urged pharmacists to "stop selling useless pseudo science vitamins if you want to help people".

Doggett said it was concerning pharmacists promoted products "that don't work", but suggested the AMA was overly focused on maintaining the status quo.

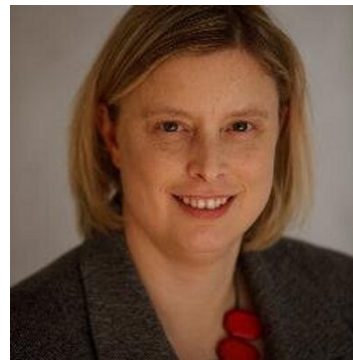
"They don't need to worry their role will be undermined," she said.

"Pharmacists will in no way replace doctors, but some tasks can be done by pharmacists."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Interim Executive Director, Pam Price, accused the AMA of being stuck in the past, "patrolling the turf like an ageing gamekeeper, blunderbuss and megaphone at the ready".

"What we say to the AMA, and to the RACGP (who have been equally negative and shrill in their opposition to a trial of pharmacist prescribing in Queensland) is: recognise the potential patient benefit and convenience this represents within a safe framework, and work with pharmacists to ensure it is implemented in a collaborative and expeditious way. Put patients first," she said.

"We are sure most GPs will adopt this positive approach, regardless of what their peak bodies may say."



**MEANWHILE**, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's WA Branch has said it is ready to work with the state Government to increase the scope of pharmacists, following the release of proposals to grant limited prescribing rights to pharmacy professionals.

"The evidence is clear, pharmacists have significant potential to reduce the number of medicine-related hospital admissions and adverse medicine events in Australia but are prevented from doing so due to barriers to fulfilling our scope of practice," said WA PSA Branch President, Dr Fei Sim.

"In its recommendations, the WA Government has taken the lead in recognising the potential of pharmacists and the need to expand their scope of practice.

"PSA and the pharmacy profession look forward to working with the WA Government on implementing these recommendations to allow pharmacists to improve healthcare access and outcomes, and reduce variabilities in care."

### Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

### New NPS Chair

NPS MedicineWise has announced the appointment of Dr Andrew Knight as Chair of its Board.

Knight (pictured) is a Sydney-based GP who has served on the NPS Board since 2010.

He takes over from outgoing Chair Peter Turner, who said Knight had a "wealth of understanding about the Australian health sector, exceptional leadership skills and expertise in quality improvement in general practice and medical education".

NPS MedicineWise CEO Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Morris thanked Turner for his leadership during his tenure.



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### AHPRA reacts

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has responded to claims aired on the *ABC's The 7.30 Report* on Tue, that complaints against practitioners were not being managed appropriately.

The regulator said it had boosted its investigation team staffing over the last 18 months, and implemented changes to improve its systems.

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### Dispensary Corner

**APPARENTLY** inspired by yesterday's Dispensary Corner inclusion of a creatively worded version of 'Three Blind Mice', a *Pharmacy Daily* reader who wishes to remain anonymous has offered a science-oriented version of a classic nursery rhyme/song - guess which one?

*Thou incandescent constellation, my contemplation; contrapositioned and intercelestial, like dicarbon and extraterrestrial; thou incandescent constellation, my contemplation* - hint: Mozart wrote 12 variations of the tune.

Maybe there are more creatives out in pharmacy land with their own versions of well-known verse?



**AUTHORITIES** in the UK are hoping to address the country's ongoing health staffing crisis by offering nurses supermarket discounts and cheap gym membership.

National Health Service Chief, Simon Stevens, has called for a wider rollout of existing schemes which aim to encourage staff loyalty.

A program in Birmingham which gave hospital staff access to discounts from 700 retailers has helped with staff retention, according to the UK *Telegraph*.

One of the region's health facilities had reduced staff turnover by 2% since starting the scheme, Stevens said.

## Arrow, Apotex now Arrotex

**ARROTEX** Australia Group has been officially launched following the merger of Arrow Pharmaceuticals and Apotex Australia (**PD** breaking news).

The deal announced last year (**PD** 10 May 2018) was finalised yesterday, creating the country's largest generic pharmaceutical and private label over-the-counter (OTC) business, accounting for close to 30% of all prescription volume dispensed in Australia.

The new entity will be owned and controlled by Arrow Chairman, Dennis Bastas (**pictured**) and Apotex Inc Canada, with Strides Pharma Science Limited selling down its interest in Arrow to Bastas as part of the deal.

Strides will continue as a major supplier to the new business.

Bastas will lead Arrotex as Chair and CEO, with the management teams of both companies remaining "largely unchanged" under a restructured leadership team.

"The proposed merger of Arrow and Apotex will give Australian



pharmacies an even greater level of service and support from the businesses that they have chosen to partner with for the past 15 years.

"Both companies respect and value the relationship that pharmacists and consumers have with the Arrow and Apotex products and brands.

"Our customers can rest assured that there will be no change in the way that they do business with us and that the merged business will continue to provide all the Arrow and Apotex brands that people have come to trust, including the Chemist's Own and Apo-Health OTC ranges."



### 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 *Flo Travel Nasal Spray*.



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### Laugh at Life with P&O Cruises

**P&O Cruises** is offering a range of comedy cruise experiences, the next leaving Sydney 30 Aug on board *Pacific Explorer*.

Pay just \$1 deposit to secure your bed - total price \$481.50 per person in a four-berth suite on a three-night comedy cruise with \$50 on-board spending money included per room.

Laugh at life with some of Australia's top stand-ups - see [pocruises.com.au](http://pocruises.com.au).

### Cruise Away Mid-Winter Blues

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line offers outstanding options to leave behind winter blues by soaking up the sun on a seven-day cruise to Bermuda from New York from \$1,146 pp.

Enjoy Norwegian's famous Five Free at Sea offer including free open bar and much more - see your travel agent or [ncl.com](http://ncl.com).

## Win with ULTRASENSITIVE

This week Pharmacy Daily and ecostore are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack of products from ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, valued at over \$50.

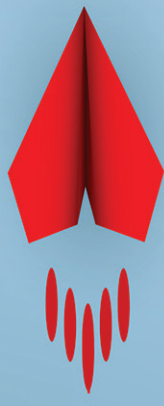
Convert your home to an asthma and allergy-aware space with ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, approved by Sensitive Choice for Australians with sensitivities. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Name 3 products that are a part of ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body care range.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Deborah Caldera.





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