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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news plus a full page from **Pointrs**.

## Pointrs free trial

WITH over 5,000+ hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel and 3.5 times more loyalty points than other providers - see **page three** for the free trial offer.

## BNE flying medic

**BRISBANE** Airport has begun construction of a dedicated Aeromedical Precinct which it says will improve response times throughout Queensland.

The \$217 million facility will sit between the airport's two runways to enable faster take-off, with space for 26 Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft and LifeFlight air ambulances.

## Bell hands reins to Booth

**WELL-KNOWN** pharmacist and key advocate for self-care in Australia, John Bell, has concluded his tenure as Chair of the Australian Self-Care Alliance.

Bell (**pictured** left) served as the inaugural Chair, leading the Alliance since its foundation in 2021.

His efforts solidified the organisation as a primary advocate for structural, cultural and policy changes within Australia's healthcare system.

During his leadership, Bell notably developed the PSA 'Pharmacy Self-Care Program,' which aimed to optimise pharmacy services and encourage greater patient involvement in their own health.

His approach helped promote systemic changes to align Australia's health services with a more self-care centric model.

Taking over from Bell as the Alliance's new Chair is Karen Booth, who is also the President of the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association.



A respected figure in public health, Booth (**pictured** right) brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to advancing self-care through person-centred and integrated care models.

Reflecting on his tenure, Bell expressed his confidence in the future leadership, "it has been a privilege to lead the Alliance".

"Having worked closely with Karen Booth, I am certain she will continue to steer the organisation toward greater success."

Booth plans to build on Bell's achievements, particularly as Australia considers significant reforms in primary care. *JG*

## Gus' on the pod

**RAVENS'** Recruitment's latest *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast* features pharmacist and Founder of the Pharmacy Down Under Platform, Ghassoub 'Gus' El-Assaad

In the episode, El-Assaad discusses the evolving role of pharmacists, emphasising their crucial position in healthcare.

He explores how pharmacies have transitioned from being seen as mere dispensaries to becoming integral parts of the community, providing essential healthcare services and advice.

Host Krysti-Lee Patterson said, "Gus' journey and insights are incredibly inspiring".

"His commitment to community engagement and education through Pharmacy Down Under is a shining example of how pharmacists can make a profound impact on their community."

To listen to the podcast, **CLICK HERE**.

# Medicines Management 2024

14-16 November 2024  
Adelaide, SA

[mm2024.shpa.org.au](http://mm2024.shpa.org.au)

When a terminal diagnosis isn't terminal anymore

Ozempic: silver bullet or a smoking gun?

Using old medicines in new ways

Impact of patient communication on hospital readmission

Persistent pain and the brain

### Dispensary Corner

**IT TURNS** out your sink isn't just a place to scrub up, but is also a cozy hotspot for dangerous microbes looking for a little R&R.

According to a Flinders University study, published in *Science of the Total Environment*, these sneaky guests include pneumonia-causing germs, Legionnaires' disease culprits, and lots more bacteria that you might not expect.

"Handbasins might be the ultimate underrated villain in spreading healthcare infections," said A/Prof Harriet Whitley, who clearly never trusts a shiny sink.

The research dropped an even bigger bombshell: your home basin is more like a luxury five-star hotel for germs compared to hospital basins, which often enforce curfews.

Legionella bacteria, for instance, are living it up in residential sinks more than in our hospitals.

Lead researcher Claire Hayward warns that home-care patients should get serious about basin cleaning before those biofilms turn into a bacterial rave.

But don't forget the basins in healthcare settings.

Research shows those slimy biofilms love a party around the faucets and drains.

These pathogens are likely transferred to the biofilm from patients or staff during handwashing, from incoming water supply or biological waste.



## Pills that talk out labels

**PHARMACISTS** can be reimbursed per MedsCheck for downloading and demonstrating the 'Our Pills Talk' medicine safety app, created by pharmacist Steve Cohen to reduce adverse drug events, especially among vulnerable patients.

Key features include scanning a medication's QR barcode to instantly play in 40 languages the drug's name, doctor's instructions, and translation into the patient's preferred language.

The app stands to benefit the visually impaired, elderly, ESL speakers and those with dyslexia as well as early-stage dementia.

"Pharmacists can help by identifying if these customers need help with understanding their medication, downloading the app on their phones, and providing a demo by scanning QR barcodes, via the dispenser labels," said Cohen.

"This effectively can be considered a MedsCheck with a \$64 remuneration, which is an additional source of income that is being overlooked.

"This app is not available in Chemist Warehouse pharmacies, providing other pharmacies with a



competitive edge," added Cohen.

The app also offers email sharing of medication history with doctors, potentially aiding emergency departments and doctors abroad.

Customers can set alarms for taking and refilling medications as well as links to several government health information sites.

Cohen mentioned that the app uses existing QR barcode labels that are within most dispensary software such as Aquarius Dispense, Corum LOTS Dispense, Fred Dispense Plus, Merlin, and Minfos, so there is "no additional work or cost for pharmacists".

To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## POTY 2025 open

**NOMINATIONS** for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2025 Pharmacy of the Year awards are now open, inviting the public and professionals to recognise excellence in community pharmacy.

The prestigious awards honour pharmacies that excel in business management, community engagement, professional innovation, and harm minimisation.

Guild National President Prof Trent Twomey urged everyone to nominate their favourite pharmacy, saying, "the awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of community pharmacies and provides a platform to share best practices across the industry".

Sponsored by Care Pharmaceuticals, the category and the overall Pharmacy of the Year winners will be announced at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference, taking place from 20-22 Mar 2025 at the Gold Coast Convention Centre.

Nominations close on 30 Sep.

For further details and to nominate, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Skipping meds

**AS LIVING** costs rise, Aussies are delaying critical healthcare, according to the latest Australian Healthcare Index.

A survey of 9,391 people by Healthengine and the Australian Patients Association, revealed cost pressure are affecting the health decisions for 75% of respondents.

The data showed 60% delay GP visits, 53% put off dental care, and 28% skip much-needed medication.



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