



## NEW Ferro-Max C™

with Vitamin C to aid absorption.\*  
Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. \*Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



## Today's issue of PD

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

## Boosting profit

**GLUCOJEL**, a top-selling confectionary brand that been around for over 80 years, is providing 'profit on a platter' for pharmacies.

See more on the **back page**.

## \$188.5m pledged

**THE** Federal Govt has committed \$188.5m over four years to the Australian Border Force to deliver a new compliance model in partnership with States and Territories to crack down on the importation of illegal tobacco.

From 01 Jan this year, nicotine vaping products have been only available through pharmacies and only for therapeutic reasons as determined by doctors and nurse practitioners.

"An estimated 50 people every day die in Australia of a smoking-related illness.

"Reducing availability of illicit tobacco is critical to tobacco control," said the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

"Along with our updated tobacco packaging and our world-leading vaping reforms, the Govt is acting to target the scourge of illicit tobacco by appointing Australia's first illegal tobacco and vape commissioner," added Butler.

## Careers Summit on 5 Jul

**DUE** to the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural virtual Pharmacy Careers Summit (PCS24), the event will be held again this year on 05 Jul (*PD* 06 Jul 2023).

The *Pharmacy Daily* and Raven's Recruitment event's major sponsors include the Pharmacy Guild of Australia as the Platinum sponsor, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Gold) and Symbion (Silver), who have all reconfirmed their commitment to the event, providing registrants with a rich and diverse program of education and information to grow their careers in pharmacy, no matter what stage of their career or industry setting.

There will be over 25 exhibitors this year in the Virtual Exhibition Halls, and a completely refreshed and updated educational program.

CommBank Health, the largest bank in Australia and a huge



supporter of the pharmacy industry, has recently signed up as a new sponsor and is "thrilled to be playing a part in this innovative career event", confirmed Raven's Recruitment head Alan Sutton.

The program for the event will become visible in the coming weeks, with the landing page to be updated, but those interested in attending can register at [pharmacycareerssummit.com.au](http://pharmacycareerssummit.com.au).

Those wanting to express their interest in exhibiting can email [info@ravensrecruitment.com.au](mailto:info@ravensrecruitment.com.au). JG

## Paperwork preventing sponsorship

**WITH** workforce shortages and positions hard to fill in rural Australia, the demand from overseas-trained pharmacists and interns to work in the country should seem like a welcome reprieve for business owners.

However, pharmacist founder of LocumCo Sue Muller, who has been helping to place qualified professionals in jobs for over 32 years, said, "the fact is that there aren't Australian pharmacy owners willing to sponsor them".

"Main reasons given were the substantial amount of paperwork and being cost-averse.

"Also, overseas-trained

applicants required a significant amount of supervision and training, taking up too much time and making it difficult to run their businesses."

"Cultural differences are also cited for not hiring them."

However, Muller who has at least 200 overseas-based applicants for 22 intern positions in Australia, stressed that professionals such as from the Philippines are "extremely well-trained", have passed the KAPS exams, and are being mentored by a dedicated agency to help them fit in to help take the pressure off pharmacy owners.

## Stay COVID-safe

**NSW** Health is reminding customers to keep practising COVID-safe behaviours, as COVID-19 remains at high levels across the state.

The latest *NSW Health Respiratory Surveillance Report* for the fortnight ending 06 Jan 2024 indicated that COVID-19 transmission in NSW is currently at a higher level than during last year's winter peak, while in the greater Sydney area, it is approaching levels not seen since Dec 2022.

Emergency department presentations for COVID-19 remain high although the proportion of presentations requiring admission to hospital has been declining, suggesting while there has been an increase in cases there has been no increase in the severity of the disease.

Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant urged pharmacists to remind customers to keep practising COVID-safe behaviours to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

"Currently, the Omicron variants EG.5 and JN.1 appear to be driving the majority of transmission in the community, with JN.1 increasing in prevalence, in line with what we have seen in other countries," Chant said.

"While there is no evidence to suggest these variants cause more severe disease the overall increase in case numbers puts vulnerable people at risk from COVID-19."

## Business support from the best in the business.

“Having someone else who is better equipped to support me, and allowing me to grow my business is invaluable.”

- Carolyn Wynen, Pharmacist and Proprietor  
TerryWhite Chemmart Clyde



Click to hear about Carolyn's experience with TerryWhite Chemmart

 TerryWhite Chemmart.

Dedicated to Care



### Dispensary Corner

**AUSTRALIA** has apparently topped the world as the number one country to be the 'most promiscuous', according to consumer research conducted by Go Smoke Free, UK.

Data from several sources was used including the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

Scores were assigned over six factors that determined whether populations of 45 countries were indulging in "promiscuous" sex.

The nation topped the table as the "most sex-addicted country", with a score of 360.14.

Factors to determine the score included the number of sexual partners per year and the mean age virginity was lost; Australia's results were 13 partners per year and 18 years old.

A larger average of sexual partners indicated a greater likelihood of multiple sexual encounters and a higher level of promiscuity within the population, noted the study.

Treated in pharmacies daily, the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases reflected the consequences of promiscuous sex within the general population.

Australia sat mid-range with 14,454 cases of STDs reported the survey, with South Africa highest at 32k cases and Israel lowest at under 10k.

Legalising or partially legalising prostitution earned certain countries additional points further pushing them up the table.

## Yarning seems a way to better health

A **NEW** healthcare education program developed in rural Western Australia is breaking down communication barriers between clinicians and First Nations patients.

Clinical Yarning is a patient-centred communication framework for First Nations healthcare to increase health professionals' knowledge, confidence and competence in delivering care to Aboriginal patients.

Professor Juli Coffin, from Murdoch University's Ngangk Yira Institute for Change, said while it is well documented that communication barriers exist in First Nations healthcare, few interventions have been found to address the issue, until now.

"The Clinical Yarning program teaches professionals how to deliver high-quality and accessible healthcare to Indigenous patients," Coffin said.

"It is underpinned by the principles of cultural security and adult learning, utilising a behavioural skills approach and bridges a gap to significantly improve experiences and outcomes for Indigenous patients."

Healthcare professionals involved in the program reported



significant improvements in self-rated communication skills, ability, confidence, knowledge and also the perceived importance of communication training.

They strongly recommended the program to other professionals and stated that simulation and interactive learning activities were valuable aspects of the training.

"Health service managers acknowledge the limitations of most existing cultural training and felt Clinical Yarning addressed a need to ensure quality and culturally appropriate healthcare can be delivered to Indigenous peoples throughout our country," explained Coffin.

"There are challenges in delivery of education in remote areas, such as workforce transiency and

availability of participants, so possible flexible training options have been identified."

Considerations identified for the future of Clinical Yarning included building multilevel partnerships within health services, offering alternate training options such as eLearning or train-the-trainer approaches and integrating into existing development programs. *JG*

### E-labelling report

**THE** benefits and challenges of e-labelling in pharmacy were shared in an International Pharmaceutical Federation insight report last week.

Advantages included improving environmental sustainability, patient health literacy, tailored information delivery, and promoting improved self-care.

Barriers encompassed digital literacy gaps, access disparities, security concerns and implementation complexity.

Pharmacists are expected to take bigger roles in patient education and guidance on e-labels, and more as discussed in the report **HERE**.

### Stable lung health

**AUSTRALIAN** researchers have found no evidence of ongoing lung function changes in children who were exposed as babies to the 2014 Hazelwood coalmine fire in Vic.

The coalmine fire had produced extreme air pollution that had lasted for six weeks.

Lung function issues were seen around three years after the fire, but they seem to be resolved by the seven-year follow-up.

## DID YOU KNOW?

That we regularly publish **Health Professional only** editions of *Pharmacy Daily*?

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Pharmacy Daily





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