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### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Glucojel

### Low-cost solution

**DISPENSE** Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others.

Learn more on **page three**.

### Spread the joy

**GLUCOJEL** is running a major campaign for a \$10k giveaway, so stock your shelves well with the popular product to attract more customers instore.

See more on the **back page**.

### Diabetes training

**OVER 500** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers will receive diabetes prevention training under a new partnership between the Bupa Foundation and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

The initiative will create a culturally safe diabetes prevention training pathway, incorporating face-to-face training and resources integrated into local Aboriginal health organisations.

## AdPha honours its own

**ADVANCED** Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) hosted its 48th national conference, Medicines Management 2024 (MM2024), in Adelaide over the weekend, welcoming over 1,000 delegates.

The event celebrated pharmacist achievements, launched new practice standards, and marked its first international collaboration.

Former AdPha President Peter Fowler (**pictured**) received the Fred J Boyd Award, the organisation's highest honour, for his decades-long contribution to pharmacy and patient care.

AdPha President Tom Simpson praised Fowler as a cornerstone of clinical excellence.

"Peter's ability to navigate complex therapeutics and his calm leadership in ICU pharmacy has shaped the careers of many.

"He embodies the gold standard of what it means to be a clinical pharmacist," Simpson said.

Adam Livori was awarded the 2024 AdPha Medal of Merit for his innovative work improving cardiovascular care in rural areas.

Simpson lauded Livori's dedication to medication equity, calling his contributions "pioneering and transformative".

Meanwhile, Susan Trevillian earned the 2024 Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award for her advocacy for rural pharmacy services, described by Simpson as a "tireless mentor" and "champion for equitable healthcare access".

In his opening remarks, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also applauded AdPha's efforts over the past year, highlighting the



organisation's role in enhancing pharmacy's scope of practice.

"AdPha has shown itself to be a positive force for change, especially as it transitions from hospital to advanced pharmacy," he stated, stressing the importance of embracing change in the evolving healthcare landscape.

Additionally, AdPha announced a new international partnership with the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists to promote its deprescribing awareness campaign globally. *JG*

### Aged care tool wins top prize

**AUSTRALIA'S** first digital tool to predict health risks in aged care residents has won the 2024 Digital and Data Health Innovation Award from Research Australia.

Developed by RMIT University, Telstra Health, along with the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre, the tool monitors aged care residents for early signs of deterioration, providing near-real-time predictions for risks like falls, depression, and mortality.

Using natural language processing and machine learning, the tool tracks 36 indicators from residents' electronic records, displaying insights on a dashboard for staff to take proactive actions.

According to RMIT's Dr Tabinda Sarwar adapting this technology to aged care required tailored solutions for each facility's unique needs.

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### Dispensary Corner

**IN A** move that sent ripples through the public health community, President-elect Donald Trump announced his choice of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. - a man renowned for his controversial stance on vaccines - as his pick for Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Trump said after his landslide victory that he would let Kennedy "go wild" on health, food and medicine.

Around the same time, Kennedy controversially said that the future Trump administration would end the Food and Drug Administration's "aggressive suppression" of vitamins, raw milk, stem cells and certain drugs.

This decision left many in the medical world gasping in disbelief, and reaching for their own medicines for stress, if nothing else.

Kennedy, who has long argued that vaccines are linked to a range of health issues (including, but not limited to, autism), didn't shy away from controversy in his new role.

Kennedy said he is going to let people make individual assessments of scientific studies and efficacy for vaccines despite all the safety evidence.

He has famously referred to the COVID-19 vaccine as "the deadliest vaccine ever made", despite mountains of data showing it's overwhelmingly safe, and saves lives.

But don't worry folks - apparently, he is not against vaccines entirely - he is just against, well, most of them.

## New CCP stores opening

**COMPLETE** Care Pharmacy (CCP) has expanded its community-focused healthcare model with the opening of two new pharmacy health hubs in Penguin, Tas, and Bairnsdale, Vic.

These additions join the original CCP location in Rosny Park, Tas (**PD** 04 Jul), and are part of a growing network set to include a new pharmacy in South Hobart soon.

The opening of CCP Penguin, owned by pharmacist and Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmania branch President Joe O'Malley, was marked by a celebration attended by Central Coast Council representatives, Senator Ann Urquhart, and Shadow Assistant Minister for Health, Aged Care, and Indigenous Health Services, Gavin Pearce.

The Bairnsdale location recently completed a refit and invited the local community to tour its advanced model, featuring a bespoke layout, digital workflows,

and dispensing automation.

Its Managing Partner, Ian Cartney, emphasised the pharmacy's unique approach to care, noting, "Complete Care is a different and exciting way to provide elevated levels of patient care".

The pharmacy offers one-on-one consultations with pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and continence nurses, "ensuring comprehensive care from the moment patients walk in", Cartney said.

Founded by Kristina Fox, CCP aims to reshape community pharmacy by positioning pharmacists as integral healthcare clinicians.

"These stores are thriving health hubs where pharmacists focus on what matters most: caring for patients," Fox said.

With services designed to support the NDIS and foster collaboration with allied healthcare professionals, CCP continues to provide high-quality, patient-centred care to the communities it serves. *JG*

## Lower Medicare Safety Net, says RACGP

**THE** Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has urged the Federal Government to lower Medicare Safety Net thresholds to help more vulnerable Australians access essential GP care.

In a submission to the Department of Health's Medicare Safety Net Reform Working Group, RACGP stated that high thresholds prevent many low-income individuals from benefitting.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins emphasised that current Safety Net policies overlook those unable to afford the upfront cost of GP visits.

"The most vulnerable Australians are being left

behind," she said, noting that a recent poll found 66% agree thresholds are too high.

Lowering these thresholds, Dr Higgins argued, would relieve financial strain, especially for patients with chronic conditions, helping them avoid hospital visits and maintain better health.

She also called for increased Medicare rebates for longer consultations, pointing out they haven't kept pace with inflation.

"General practice care must be affordable for everyone," Dr Higgins said, affirming the RACGP's commitment to collaborating with the government to make healthcare more accessible.

## Social media safety

**REACHOUT**, Beyond Blue, and Black Dog Institute are supporting the Federal Government's decision to introduce a new duty-of-care regulation holding social media companies accountable for user safety.

The regulation mandates that platforms take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harms, implement ongoing risk mitigation, and adopt safety-by-design principles.

The decision aligns with recommendations from a joint submission by the three organisations, urging for adoption of safety-by-design principles on social media.

Prof Samuel Harvey, Black Dog Institute's Executive Director, said, "these changes are being made to improve the mental health of young Australians - we need to embed research and evaluation from the start to understand their impact".

ReachOut CEO Gary Groves highlighted the importance of proactive safety measures, saying "the current regulatory approach largely addresses harms after the fact".

He welcomed the new regulation's potential to prevent harm before it occurs.

Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman commented that "social media companies need to take responsibility for their products".

She emphasised that the regulation, grounded in prevention, is a critical step towards addressing the influence of big tech, bringing Australia in line with similar efforts in the UK and Europe.

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