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Petrus

Tuesday 29th July 2025

SHOPPERS have increased

and data firm Fonto, citing better

prices, convenience and product

availability over supermarkets on

Consumer spend per person in

The top three reasons for

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today

plus full pages from:

• Pharmacy Connect

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ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT THIS PRODUCT.

• Dispense Assist

Glucojel

features two pages of news,

key items.

Dispensary help

DISPENSE Assist is a lowcost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, at rates from as low as \$7.42 per hour, for services including compounding, DAAs, and more - see page three.



ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT THIS PRODUCT. For the short term treatment of primary insomnia (without an underlying medical or any other clear cause) characterised by poor quality sleep in patients who are aged 55 or over. Not to be used concurrently with other treatments for insomnia.

Pharmacy spend on the up

(29%), and not being available at the spending in pharmacies, according supermarket (25%). to the latest figures from research "It's a great time to be a

pharmacy retailer in Australia," said Fonto CEO Ben Dixon.

"While the supermarkets are very publicly reducing their product ranges and being investigated for their pricing behaviours, consumers are telling us that these are the main reasons for taking some elements of their grocery shop into pharmacies across Australia," Dixon said.

Meanwhile, those choosing to see a pharmacist instead of going to their GP cited reasons such as convenience (37%), trust (21%), reduced wait times (21%) and free appointments (21%). KB

Attract customers

GLUCOJEL jellybeans can help reel more customers into your pharmacy. Learn more about a discount offer on page five.



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PHARMACY Connect 2025 now featuring a pharmacy assistant stream - is coming up on 03-05 Sep at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney. Register now to earn valuable CPD credits - see page four.





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page 1



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Dispensary Corner

A KENTUCKY man is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after surgeons attempted to harvest his organs while he was very much alive.

The man was declared brain dead after an overdose in Oct 2021, but according to his sister, doctors attempted to harvest his organs while he was still showing signs of life.

She said that his eyes were open and watching family members as they gathered to say goodbye before the procedure, but it still went ahead until doctors called it 45 minutes later when he woke up.

Despite physicians arguing he had too many signs of life to continue with the surgery, the organ donor company had wanted to go ahead with it, according to the surgeon who was assigned to the procedure.

"I was really surprised that he had been taken to the cardiac cath lab; he was paralysed and sedated, and moved on with the OR," said the surgeon.

"The hospital staff said they were incredibly alarmed, calling it euthanasia," she added, noting that the cardiologist questioned why the man was given such a poor prognosis, and said it didn't seem like he was brain dead.

The surgeon resigned from the organ donor company after the incident, and she and the man's sister are now campaigning for organ donation reform.

"TJ was able to fight for his life and he's still here, and there's others that are still here - but there's a lot that are not," the man's sister said.

DDS named Canstar's Best Pharmacy

DISCOUNT Drug Stores (DDS), Sigma Healthcare's low-cost pharmacy brand, has been given Canstar Blue's Most Satisfied Customers Award for Pharmacies for 2025, receiving the highest rating of five stars for overall satisfaction.

Over 3,000 Australians who had visited a pharmacy in the past six months were surveyed, covering areas including value for money, prescription availability and speed of dispensing, product range, checkout experience, store layout and experience, and overall pharmacy satisfaction.

DDS emerged as the top-rated pharmacy brand, receiving the highest satisfaction rating from respondents.

The brand achieved five-star ratings across the board, except on 'value for money', where Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse topped the list, while Chemist Warehouse tied with DDS on 'range of products'.

Sigma Health stablemates Chemist Warehouse and Amcal+ achieved a four-star overall



rating, alongside Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse, Priceline Pharmacy, Blooms the Chemist, and TerryWhite Chemmart.

Sigma Healthcare CEO & Managing Director Vikesh Ramsunder (**pictured**) said the group was "thrilled to be recognised by Australian consumers for the care, convenience and quality we strive to deliver every day".

"We pride ourselves on putting our customers first - whether it's looking after their prescription needs or offering great prices on everything from beauty and vitamins to baby products and toiletries," he continued.

"This award is a testimony to our pharmacists and their teams' commitment to retail service excellence and the health of their local communities." KB

Online pregnancy meds guide marks 10 years

THE Pregnancy & Breastfeeding Medicines Guide (PBMG) this month marks 10 years of helping healthcare professionals find reliable, evidence-based information on medicine safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Produced by the Pharmacy Department at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, the PBMG now includes over 1,200 medicines - from prescription and overthe-counter medicines, to complementary and alternative therapies like St John's wort. Created specifically for clinicians, it has printable factsheets that can be shared directly with patients, making trusted, practical information easy to use at the point of care.

Recent updates include the addition of two new medicine profiles for encorafenib and ceritinib; a review of the anticoagulant therapeutic group; and reviews and updates for a further 87 medicines.

For more information, including subscription details, click **HERE**.

Card payment system changes

THE Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is reviewing Australia's card payment system, with proposed reforms that may have implications for small businesses.

The Independent Payments Forum (IPF), of which the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is a member, argues that banks have a community service obligation to provide customers with access to their own money at low fees - a benefit already available to large businesses like Coles and Woolworths.

IPF co-founder and payments expert, Brad Kelly, said it is disappointing that under the RBA proposals, card-issuing banks will continue to profit from debit card transactions that are intended to be a replacement for cash.

"Banks make billions in profits from our savings each year, and they are obligated to give us access to our own money," Kelly said.

"With debit card interchange fees, they have turned a lossmaking service of providing us with cash into a profit centre.

"They should not be profiting every time we tap our card to buy groceries, buy medicine and share a meal with the family," he added.

The IPF is conducting a survey to collect data on the potential impacts within the small business sector, and the Guild is encouraging members to participate to ensure pharmacy owners' views are heard.

The survey closes at COB Tue 05 Aug - complete it **HERE**.



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page 2

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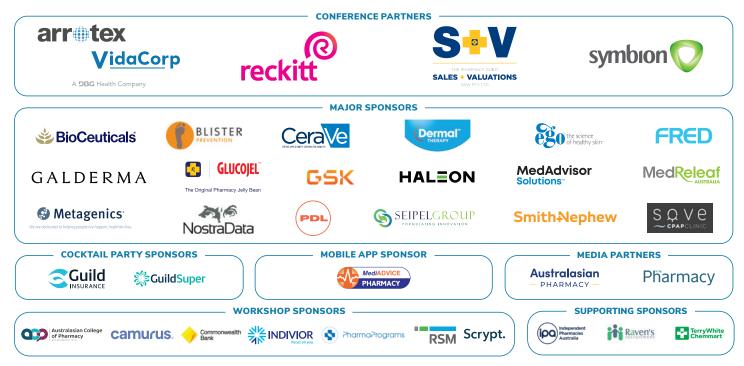
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