



Today's issue of PD

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

StrongRoom AI in administration

PHARMACY software start-up StrongRoom AI has entered administration, according to a report in the *Australian Financial Review*.

The board concluded that StrongRoom was insolvent or close to insolvency, given uncertainty about its funding, despite being valued at \$70 million just two weeks ago.

The company had developed software products StrongER, which tracks the movement of controlled drugs, and StrongPro, an AI predictive analytics tool linking pharmacies and communities through health campaigns and streamlined workflows.

Study to tackle meds risks in aged care homes

A NEW pharmacist-led study will trial medication safety rounds in aged care homes to prevent medication-induced harm and improve resident care.

The study is a direct response to recommendations in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to implement pharmacist models of care in aged care homes.

Australia is one of the first countries to implement onsite pharmacists in aged care homes, and the study will equip pharmacists, nurses and aged care workers with tools to identify medication issues early and develop safe action plans for residents.

"Aged care residents take multiple medications, and this can increase the likelihood of medication errors and adverse events," said study lead Associate Professor Janet Sluggett, from the University of SA.

"Now, as a result of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, pharmacists are working

onsite in aged care homes to help address this issue, but we need to provide them with new tools to proactively address medication safety issues," she said.

A/Prof Sluggett explained that the new medication safety rounds draw on the evidence-based principles of nurse-led palliative care needs rounds, where patients are regularly monitored by a multidisciplinary team of experts to assess and cater for their changing needs.

"Our rounds will work in a similar way where pharmacists, nurses and other aged care team members engage in monthly meetings to ensure medications are being used safely and effectively."

"This pharmacist-led approach will help to identify and address potential problems with medication use, such as drug interactions, inappropriate prescriptions, and opportunities for deprescribing, with any changes identified actioned to ensure optimal resident care."

The study, funded to the tune of almost \$1 million by the MRFF, will be conducted in partnership with six aged care providers and supported by a diverse team of experts in pharmacy, medicine, nursing, aged care, consumer engagement and health economics.

"With Australia's aged care system undergoing major reforms, including the introduction of onsite pharmacists, this project leverages a critical window of opportunity to develop a new care model focused on reducing medication-induced harm and improving resident's health and wellbeing," A/Prof Sluggett concluded. KB

Glucojel Glucofest

GLUCOJEL is running a competition giving your customers the chance to win a year's supply of their favourite Glucojel products, so make sure your shelves are well-stocked - more on **page three**.



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Dispensary Corner

IT SEEMS the reputed health-promoting benefits of cold-water swimming are not just down to a massive dose of smugness and virtue. A new Canadian study published in *Advanced Biology* has found that cold water immersion for seven days significantly improves cellular resilience, helping cells manage stress better and potentially preventing diseases and slowing aging at a cellular level. The study involved 10 healthy young males who underwent cold-water immersion at 14°C for one hour a day across seven consecutive days. Yes, that is one hour, not a quick cold shower. Blood samples were collected to analyse the participants' cellular responses before and after the acclimation period. The process boosted cellular autophagic function, a cell recycling system that promotes cellular health, allowing cells to better manage stress. While autophagic function was dysfunctional after the first cold dip, the researchers found that consistent exposure over a week led to increased autophagic activity and decreased cellular damage signals. "Cold exposure might help prevent diseases and potentially even slow down ageing at a cellular level," said author Dr Kelli King, adding that "it's like a tune-up for your body's microscopic machinery". The authors are keen to find out if this applies to groups other than young healthy males.

Behind the culture of kindness at Sandoz

EXCLUSIVE

LEADING generic and biosimilar company Sandoz recently became the first company to be accredited as a Kind Company (**PD 12 Mar**). General Manager Clint Holland (**pictured**) shared with *Pharmacy Daily* what makes Sandoz a kind company, and why it matters. "Our organisation takes its culture very seriously - it's something that we're incredibly proud of at Sandoz," Holland said. "We've seen that through recent awards and recognition around being great place to work and being in the top 50 workplaces for women in Australia. "I'm always looking for ways to evolve our culture: how do we continue to grow, how do we keep culture as a focus?" Enter Kath Koschel and her mission to spread gratitude and kindness in the world. Koschel, who spoke at APP2025, established the Kindness Factory to help foster a kinder

community through individuals and organisations, and Holland could see the benefits.

"When I sat down and spoke with Kath, I could see very clearly that there were tangible business results in terms of performance and profitability linked to the way organisations treated their employees, to the way that they worked with their partners, to the way they worked with their customers," Holland said.

Kindness is not just about being nice to everyone, Holland said, explaining that it is about being fair, transparent and honest and having difficult conversations when they are needed.

"So we really doubled down on this kindness journey with Kath, and went through a full program with her organisation around Kind Company accreditation, going on a journey as an organisation to deliver a thousand acts of kindness," Holland said.

The acts could be anything from running a fundraising event, giving



blood, as Holland did, or "just being kind to yourself and actually taking time out of the day to go to the gym and stay healthy and active".

"There were really big acts of kindness and there were really small pieces of kindness that individuals could take, and we were really pleased that we delivered over a thousand acts of kindness as an organisation in 2024," he said, adding that they are continuing the journey in 2025.

"I love what Kath does and am incredibly inspired by her.

"And I'm very pleased that we are able to stand here and say that we're the first Kind Company in Australia, and the first Kind Company for her organisation - it's really exciting." KB

Blackmores gains B Corp certification

BLACKMORES Group, Australia's leading natural health company, has announced its certification as a B Corporation (B Corp), joining a global community of businesses that meet high standards of social and environmental impact. As part of its journey to achieve B Corp certification, the company has implemented key initiatives to drive meaningful change and become "a force for good". These include: assessing biodiversity practices when screening suppliers; enhancing environmental governance to drive sustainability at every level

of the business; and amending the company's constitution to formally affirm its responsibility to deliver a positive impact on society and the environment.

In practical terms, it means ensuring fair pay across its operations, including suppliers; transitioning to 100% renewable electricity; and introducing water efficiency targets.

"Becoming B Corp certified is a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainability, ethical sourcing and social responsibility," said Sally Townsend, Blackmores Group Head of Sustainability.

My Chemist stores rebrand to Amcal

THE Chadstone My Chemist store officially transitioned to an Amcal Plus pharmacy last week, marking "a pivotal moment" for the Sigma Group as the first of many transitions to come.

Sigma has secured the commitment of more than 20 My Chemist stores to convert to Amcal pharmacies over the next six months as part of its broader strategy to reinvigorate Amcal's position as a leader in the Australian pharmacy landscape.



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