

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from PharmaPrograms Pro.

Make the swap

PHARMAPROGRAMS Pro has just landed in pharmacy. Learn more about upgrading your pharmacy and patient engagement platform on p4.

Optimising MHR viewing platforms

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has collaborated with the Australian Digital Health Agency to develop a new guide on improving user experience in My Health Record (MHR) viewing platforms in time-critical settings.

The Usability Guidance for Optimising My Health Record Viewing Platforms in Acute Care provides practical recommendations for health services and software vendors to improve interface design and navigation.

By supporting clinicians to access key patient information quickly, support safer and more informed decisions, and improve workflow efficiency, the guide aims to encourage greater clinician use and enhance patient care.

Access the guide [HERE](#).

Fair Work ruling abolishes junior adult pay rates

IN A DECISION announced yesterday, the Fair Work Commission has moved to abolish junior pay rates for young adult employees in pharmacy, retail and fast food industries, while maintaining them for minors, with staged changes over four years to come into effect from Dec this year.

The ruling addresses an application to vary junior rates under relevant awards, including the Pharmacy Industry Award, where "junior pay rates" currently apply to people below the age of 21, meaning 18-year-olds are paid 70% of the award rate, 19-year-olds 80% and 20-year-olds 90%.

Under the commission's ruling, the rate for 18-year-olds will increase by 5% each year until 2029, bringing it in line with an adult wage.

Pharmacist owners opposed to the application provided evidence to the Commission suggesting that changes to the award may result in them employing fewer younger adults.

Juniors commonly make up 15-25% of the workforce, witnesses noted, depending on the pharmacy and year, and they were employed primarily for flexibility, cost reasons, workforce balance, and community engagement.

Owners said junior employees required significantly more supervision, especially when young or newly hired, needed longer onboarding periods and more detailed explanations of basic tasks, and also had a higher turnover.

While noting productivity is

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typically lower initially, employers said it improved gradually with time and hours worked, and stressed that junior wage rates offset the extra supervision and lower productivity.

Overall, they indicated that given the same wage, they would prefer to employ someone with more capability and work and life experience, and would be less inclined to employ younger people.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has acknowledged the Fair Work Commission's decision in the junior wage rates case.

Guild national vice-president, Simon Blacker said the decision sought to strike a balance in supporting workforce entry for young people and acknowledging more experienced workers often bring greater skills and hold a higher level of responsibility in their roles.

"Pharmacy assistants are an



essential part of the community pharmacy workforce and it's important that we continue to encourage their entry into pharmacy," Blacker said.

"The Guild will work with our members to implement the change, which comes at a time when the cost of doing business continues to rise," he said, adding that the Guild "will continue to input on the timeframe for the amendments coming into force". KB

New CEO for GBMA

THE Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) has announced the appointment of Nikki Lorenz as its new chief executive officer, commencing 13 Apr.

Lorenz brings extensive senior leadership experience in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, with a strong track record of stakeholder engagement and advancing patient access to medicines.

The organisation said Lorenz's appointment comes at a critical time as it continues to advocate for sustainable access to medicines for Australians.

GBMA chair, Professor Jane Halton, welcomed the appointment, noting Lorenz's deep industry expertise and leadership capability, and also acknowledged the significant contribution of outgoing CEO, Marnie Peterson.

"Marnie has played a critical role in strengthening the organisation and advancing the interests of our members," Prof Halton said in thanking her.



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National Pain Alliance launched

ORGANISATIONS and stakeholders representing patients living with chronic pain have launched a National Pain Alliance, with the aim of establishing pain as a national priority within Australia's health, disability and ageing reform agendas.

Led by Chronic Pain Australia, founding members of the Alliance also include Endometriosis Australia, MS Australia, Arthritis Australia, Wounds Australia, Musculoskeletal Health Australia and Haleon Australia.

Priorities for the Alliance include improving national data, measurement and research visibility, and strengthening policy coordination and access to evidence-informed care.

"Australia's health system has long failed to recognise the scale and complexity of chronic pain," said Nicolette Ellis, chair of Chronic Pain Australia.

"If we continue to overlook chronic pain as a national health



priority, the cost will only grow - not just the personal costs to individuals and families, but for the economy and the health system.

"The National Pain Alliance aims to address this by bringing together organisations representing a wide range of conditions to ensure chronic pain is finally recognised in national data, policy and health system planning," she concluded.

Jenny Walters, head of corporate affairs at Haleon ANZ, emphasised the importance of people living in pain having access to the support they need to enable better everyday health, adding Haleon Australia was proud to be a founding supporter of the Alliance.

New PBS options for HAE, heart failure

CSL HAS announced the listing of Andembry (garadacimab) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the routine prevention of recurrent hereditary angioedema (HAE) attacks in eligible patients.

HAE is a rare, chronic, and potentially life-threatening genetic disorder characterised by recurrent and unpredictable attacks of swelling that are often painful and can affect multiple parts of the body, including the abdomen, larynx, face and extremities.

The drug is a once-monthly treatment delivered by subcutaneous self-injection that targets activated factor XII (FXIIa), a plasma protein that initiates the cascade of events leading to attacks of swelling in people living with HAE.

"Andembry represents Australian innovation at its best, having been discovered in our Melbourne research laboratories

and manufactured in Victoria," said Danielle Dowell, executive director and GM, CSL Australia and New Zealand.

"We welcome its PBS listing and remain committed to supporting the HAE community and partnering with clinicians, government and patient organisations to enable timely access to innovative therapies."

MEANWHILE, people with living with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) can now access a PBS-reimbursed treatment option aligned with clinical guidelines, following the PBS restriction change for eplerenone (Inspra and other brands).

The change removes the requirement for eplerenone treatment to commence in hospital within 14 days of an acute myocardial infarction, with initiation now also possible outside of a hospital setting under the care of a GP.

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Prof Mark Naunton**, National President of PSA, Professor of Pharmacy and Chair of Faculty of Health Board at UC - "Shaping the Future of Pharmacy: Leadership, Scope and Workforce".

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Dispensary Corner

BILLIONAIRE Mark Cuban (pictured) has revealed the “disgusting” three-ingredient meal he eats to hit his protein goals.

The former *US Shark Tank* judge was previously a vegetarian but has recently turned pescetarian, and now his new lunch is what he described as egg white wraps, combined with baby clams and topped with honey.

Cuban claimed the unusual meal is not only packed with protein and iron, but he believes it helps to support his longevity goals to feel like he’s decades younger than his 67 years.

“Literally, it sounds so disgusting,” he shared on *The Project Swagger* podcast.

“But that’s not even the grossest part... The grossest part is [the clams are] in a can, right?...so you know how when you open a can of something and it’s got water in it? You’ve gotta take the lid and really squish it down to get all the water out.

“So I’m squishing the can and the clam juice is everywhere.”

Cuban added that the meal is an example of the (highly debatable) “lesson” he shared with his three sons.

“If you like one thing, and you like another thing, and you put them together, you’re going to like it a lot more,” he said.



AdPha celebrates residency milestone

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is celebrating a major milestone as pharmacist Yue Kee Wong became the 500th graduate of the Resident Training Program.

The program was established in 2017 and facilitates practice-based experiential learning, supporting pharmacists in achieving competency aligned with Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP) Pharmacist Resident recognition under the Australian Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework.

Wong (pictured) reached the milestone as part of the first cohort at Latrobe Regional Health to complete the program after it became an accredited training site in 2023.

Having started her pharmacy

degree at Monash University in Malaysia before completing her studies in Melbourne, Wong began her career in community pharmacy before moving into hospital practice.

“Coming from a community pharmacy background into a hospital setting, I was initially nervous about whether I’d be able to successfully transition my skills into a new environment,” Wong said.

“The AdPha Resident Training Program, with its structured rotations, along with the support from mentors and regular assessments, really supported me in this transition and helped me track and build my skills and knowledge over time.”

Wong said she particularly enjoyed the opportunity to undertake six-month rotations in various areas of



hospital pharmacy, which provided valuable exposure to different specialisations available.

She has now commenced an AdPha Registrar Training Program, specialising in emergency medicine.

Dr Kate O’Hara, chair of the ANZCAP Advisory Board and AdPha board director, congratulated Wong on completing the program, saying she “demonstrated the real-world impact the AdPha Resident Training Program is designed to foster”. *KB*

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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