

Hope for dementia patients

Australian trials on Alzheimer's wonder drug show 'definite improvement' in participants

EXCLUSIVE
Adrienne Tam

A once-a-day pill that could completely revolutionise the treatment of Alzheimer's disease has reached a significant milestone after the Australian biotech firm behind the potential wonder drug took on its 100th trial patient.

Australian company Actinogen Medical has spent the past decade developing the "holy grail" pill originally discovered by researchers at the University of Edinburgh.

The World Health Organisation recently granted Actinogen the name 'emestadastat' for its new drug Xanamem, and gave it a rare first-in-class endorsement.

The drug is being trialled at 35 sites in Australia and the US.

"There are more Australians than US patients in the trial at this stage, so Australia is leading the charge," Actinogen CEO Steve Gourlay said.

Participants include 81-year-old Queensland man Jim Northey whose wife Bev said

she had noticed significant improvement in her husband during the treatment.

"Initially, I didn't know if it was going to work but as we got going along, we could see some definite improvements in Jim," Mrs Northey said.

"He was much more engaging, he was confident in himself, his memory in the tests they gave him. I could see some real improvements in him.

"I felt very confident he was either not getting any worse or certainly getting better."

Unlike current Alzheimer's treatments that target amyloid plaques (the sticky protein long blamed for the disease), Actinogen is taking a radical new approach: targeting cortisol, the brain's key stress hormone.

The trial is led by Associate Professor Michael Woodward, one of the nation's most respected dementia experts.

"We've spent decades chasing amyloid with only marginal benefit," Prof Woodward said.

"If cortisol is the real driver of Alzheimer's symptoms, we

could have a safer, simpler and far more effective treatment on our hands."

Alzheimer's affected 411,100 Australians in 2023, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates.

Existing medication like Donanemab require monthly infusions and expensive PET scans, with the cost of treatment estimated to be between \$40,000 and \$80,000 per year.

"So a once a day pill with much greater ease of use, convenience and no complicated

monitoring, would be a game-changer," Dr Gourlay said.

"We now started to talk about potentially just regular specialist doctors, and even in the future, potentially GPs prescribing the medication because of its safety ... we're basically developing (the drug) to be at least twice as good as these antibody therapies that were recently approved."

An open-label extension trial, in which all participants receive the active drug, will begin in early 2026.



CCTV showing the teenager shortly before his arrest. He is charged murdering Greg Josephson at the businessman's house (insets)



Footage captures accused teen killer

Shayla Bulloch

A multi-millionaire businessman who was allegedly stabbed to death by a teenager at his home had been getting ready to move out of the address.

Universal Store co-founder Greg Josephson, 58, was killed — allegedly by the 15-year-old boy who was known to him — at his Brisbane mansion last week, during a house party being held at the property which was recently listed for sale.

The teen's final moments before being arrested and charged with murder were captured on CCTV.

The footage appears to show the teen behind a local cafe, in an area where he had moved a bin.

Footage obtained by The Daily Telegraph and captured by cameras at the local cafe minutes before the teenager's arrest, shows the teen walking into the bin area at the venue.

After being apprehended by police, the teen was taken to hospital, and will remain in custody until his next court date on September 2.

Mr Josephson, who sold the retail chain he formed with his brother Michael in 2018, went on to amass a multimillion-dollar property and business portfolio of mansions and sprawling estates in Sunshine Coast hinterland.

The Clayfield home where Mr Josephson was killed is owned by his wife, Tamra, and was listed for sale in May. According to property data, the sprawling six bedroom, six-bathroom mansion is worth more than \$5 million after the couple completely renovated the property into a "five-star hotel feel" home.

The couple bought the property in 2017, and recently told The Daily Telegraph in an interview they were relocating to Noosa.

Shop puffs on with illicit smokes

James Willis and Rory Williams

A Sydney retailer has brazenly continued selling illegal tobacco days after being raided by authorities.

Checks yesterday of the Seaforth store found a dozen varieties of cheap, illicit cigarettes selling for as little as \$10 a packet without mandatory plain packaging. The business was also selling illegal vapes and nicotine pouches.

The Daily Telegraph can reveal the business was targeted in joint action between NSW Health and police last week. During the operation on venues on the Northern Beaches authorities seized 3000 illegal vapes, 10 kilo-



Cigarette display at Seaforth.

grams of loose leaf tobacco products and 90,000 illicit cigarettes. The estimated street value was more than \$175,000.

NSW Health declined to comment due to ongoing legal

proceedings against the venues involved in the raids.

The Minns Government is preparing to roll out tougher restrictions on the sale of nicotine products on July 1.

From today, all retailers and suppliers will need to apply for a license to sell tobacco. An initial grace period expires in October.

Health Minister Ryan Park said the scheme will "help clean out bad actors in NSW's tobacco market".

"Under this new scheme, you'll need to actively seek permission to sell tobacco, and if we find you've got a history of doing the wrong thing, the government's got the power to say no," Mr Park said.

WIN 1 OF 2 CRUSADER CARAVANS!

PLUS 50 X \$1,000 VOUCHERS TO BE WON NATIONALLY



SCAN TO ENTER. ENDS JULY 20.

TODAY'S CODEWORD

CARAVAN123

UNLOCK YOUR ENTRY AT WINWITHNEWS.COM.AU

Aust residents 18+ only. Entries open 29/06/25, 12:01 am (Sydney Time) and close 20/07/25, 11:59 pm (Sydney Time). Limit 1 unique entry per person, per day. Entrants, other than subscribers at the time of entry, must retain their original Eligible Newspaper(s) printed codeword(s) for all entries as proof of purchase. Total prize pool is valued at AU\$285,920.00 (incl. GST). Major Prize 1: 1 x MY25 Crusader Caravans XCountry Mod Max valued at \$170,276.00 AUD (drive away). Major Prize 2: 1 x MY25 Crusader Caravans CRV Esperance Familia valued at \$65,644.00 AUD (drive away). The 2 Major Prize winners are responsible for obtaining caravan registration and insurance or any other legal requirements that must be satisfied. The winners are also responsible for any costs associated with collecting the caravans. Minor Prizes: 50 x \$1000 Etos Gift Vouchers valued at \$1,000.00 each. All Etospos Gift Vouchers are subject to the terms and conditions imposed by The Card Network. Winners drawn 25/07/25, 12:00 pm (Sydney time) by random selection at 24 Washpool Crescent, Woongarrah NSW 2259. Winners notified in writing by 05/08/25. Full terms and conditions available at WinWithNews.com.au. Promoter: CCMCM MANUFACTURING PTY LTD, ABN 92 611 555 401 of Warehouse B, 14 Chadderton Boulevard, Epping VIC, AU, 3076. NSW Authority No. TP/04363, ACT TP 25/01192 & SA T25/904.