

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fred IT Group wins contract to deliver real-time prescription monitoring in Victoria

Fred IT Group has been appointed by the Victorian Department of Human Services to develop a real-time prescription monitoring system, called SafeScript, to help prevent prescription medication misuse and to save lives.

Last year, 372 Victorians died as a result of the overdose of prescription medicines. SafeScript will help health professionals deal with this growing problem by providing them with an accurate and up to date picture of patient prescriptions. This clinical data will help pharmacists and GPs to identify and support patients who are at risk.

According to Paul Naismith, pharmacist and CEO of Fred IT Group, "As pharmacists and health professionals, we see how many people in the community are negatively affected by the misuse of prescription medicine. As a company, we are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to work with the Victorian Government on reducing the devastating impact of medications misuse."

SafeScript will be rolled out in Victoria in 2018. It will utilise real-time prescription data captured via the electronic transfer of prescriptions through eRx Script Exchange and MediSecure to monitor Schedule 8 medications and other high-risk medications.

According to Telstra Health Managing Director Mary Foley, "Telstra Health welcomes the opportunity to play a role in this significant Victorian Government initiative that has real potential to save lives. Through our partnership with Fred IT Group's eRx Script Exchange and in conjunction with MediSecure, we will provide a vital clinical alerting tool and capability to enable doctors and pharmacists to identify and support patients with potential dependency issues with prescription medications."

Fred IT Group celebrates its 25th birthday this month. According to Paul Naismith, "We launched Fred in 1992 based on the belief that better IT could enable pharmacists to spend more time with their patients. We invested in a national backbone for the exchange of prescriptions so that health professionals would have access to secure, up-to-date medications data, and I am proud that with SafeScript we are able to build on that backbone in a way that will make a real difference to the community."

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About Fred IT Group

Fred IT Group, Australia's largest provider of IT solutions to pharmacy, celebrates its 25th birthday in November. The group's market leading products and services, including Fred Dispense, Fred POS and Fred Office, are used by more than 3,000 pharmacies. In 2014, Fred launched Fred NXT, Australia's first cloud based management platform developed specifically for pharmacy. Fred is deeply committed to the pursuit of technological leadership and innovation that make it easier and more efficient for pharmacies to run their business so that pharmacists are able to optimise their time spent helping patients. This record of innovation has included the creation of groundbreaking cloud based solutions such as eRx Script Exchange, Australia's first and largest national electronic prescriptions exchange, and MedView, a consolidated medications picture available via the desktop.