

Hitting our twin peaks

MORE twins are being born than ever before, according to the first comprehensive global overview.

Since the 1980s, the rate of twins has increased by one-third, from nine to 12 per 1000 deliveries. That means about 1.6 million twins are born each year globally, and one in every 42 children born is a twin.

The researchers say a major cause is the growth in assisted reproduction, as well as the increasing proportion of older mothers. But we may have reached the peak in twin rates, due to an increasing emphasis on single-baby pregnancies.

Driver, 19, over limit

A DRINK driver has been reported for doing burnouts at Paralowie yesterday morning.

The man driving a Ford sedan was allegedly doing burnouts on Heather Close about 12.30am yesterday. Police found the suspect vehicle on nearby Ibsley Court.

Police stopped the car and breath-tested the driver, who allegedly returned a positive result of 0.151, three times over the legal limit of 0.05.

The driver, a 19-year-old man from Elizabeth Downs, was reported for drink-driving and lost his licence for a year.



Rock'n'Roll interpreter Mike Webb renders news and events into Auslan for the deaf community. Picture: John Gass

MESSAGE IS IN SAFE HANDS

LEANNE EDMINSTONE

ADELAIDE-born sign language interpreter Mikey Webb has made so many media-conference appearances that he's assumed celebrity status.

Mr Webb, 38, is regularly recognised as he goes about his daily business.

He's been asked to be in selfies with random strangers and featured in internet memes and TikTok posts. Footage of him dancing, mouthing and singing lyrics on stage alongside an AC/DC tribute band at the 2020 Perth festival went viral.

His new fame is a side-effect of the growing inclusion of sign-language interpreters in major news events.

"It's weird," Mr Webb tells today's SAWeekend magazine.

"I feel strange for having this celebrity status thrust upon me - as have other interpreters around Australia - for just doing a job.

"To me, it's just a basic right that deaf people get to have this information on the spot, right now."

SAWEEKEND: SIGN OF THE TIMES

SA's key role in bug battle

Local companies in antibiotic trial

BRAD CROUCH

THREE South Australian companies have been selected to play pivotal roles in plans to turbocharge existing antibiotics to fight superbugs.

CMAX, Avance Clinical and Agilex Biolabs, all based in the BioMed City precinct on North Terrace, will later this year run the Australian phase I human clinical trials for international biopharmaceutical company SuperTrans Medical.

The aim is to repurpose the drugs to fight antibiotic-resistant infections using technology invented at Stanford University.

It involves the chemical attachment of an infiltration unit to an existing antibiotic, which leads to its "revitalisation" by boosting it to effectively penetrate into superbugs and kill them.

SuperTrans Medical chief executive Dr Lewis Neville said antibiotic-resistant infections were a serious threat to global health.

He said there had been only four new classes of anti-

biotics introduced since the early 1960s.

"It is predicted the threat will continue to grow over the next three decades, and could potentially reach a point where 10 million people worldwide succumb to antibiotic-resistant infections by 2050," Dr Neville said.

"We believe our repurposed and retargeted anti-

...the threat will continue to grow over the next three decades

Dr Lewis Neville

biotic could bring a much-needed and new panacea to thwart these urgent-threat pathogens."

Dr Neville was "delighted" to be working with the Adelaide companies, which he described as "three of Australia's most renowned and respected companies in the area of clinical research to deliver our phase I study".

"CMAX, Avance and Ag-

ilex are all global leaders in their fields. The fact that they are all based in the city of Adelaide, within its BioMed hub, is a significant advantage," he said.

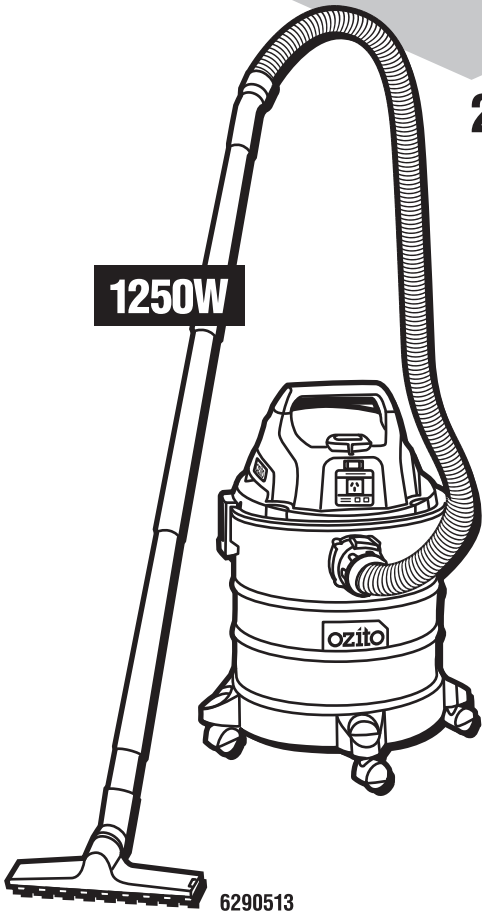
Trade and Investment Minister Stephen Patterson said clinical trials such as this were extremely important to the economy and SA's reputation as a leader in the field of cutting-edge drug development.

He noted the State Government's Health and Medical Industries Sector Plan had a 2030 target of more than doubling the sector's value to the economy, from \$2.3bn to \$5bn.

"Within the plan, clinical trials have been identified by industry as a key enabler for growth, and this announcement is a major win for the state, highlighting the vast opportunities in this fast growing sector," Mr Patterson said.

CMAX, Australia's longest established facility for clinical trials, will carry out the study at Royal Adelaide Hospital, supported by Avance Clinical and Agilex Biolabs.

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