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Travel & Cruise Weekly

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

## Pharmacists' bushfire fund

PHARMACISTS affected by the bushfires in NSW and Victoria can access emergency support through a fund established by Queensland-based pharmacists, Joyce McSwan, Karalyn Huxhagen and Owen Mellon.

McSwan told *Pharmacy Daily* that the fund aimed to provide an "immediate way of disseminating cash to meet the needs of pharmacists" in bushfire-affected areas, without duplicating other programs assisting victims of the fires.

Having witnessed the impact disasters have had in Far North Queensland, McSwan said the fund could be used to help pharmacists get back functioning quickly, assist patients with front of shop items, and covering incidentals required by pharmacists while waiting for PBS reimbursements.

It will not cover the supply of medicines or as a replacement for insurance.

Pharmacists can apply for support [HERE](#) with approved funds available within a week.

[CLICK HERE](#) to donate.

# Patients shouldn't bear meds costs

PATIENTS and pharmacists should not be forced to bear the costs of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines during the current bushfire crisis, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Welcoming the Victorian Government's decision to implement emergency dispensing rules to allow pharmacists to supply full PBS quantities of medicines to patients affected by the fires in the state, Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, called on the Federal Government to move to ease the financial cost to patients.

Under the emergency order issued yesterday (*PD* breaking news), Victorian pharmacists will be allowed to supply Schedule 4 products to patients without a prescription if they are satisfied there is a need to ensure continuity of care and where it is not practical for the patient to get a prescription

in time to meet their need for the medication, until 01 Apr.

"This is a sensible and important announcement during this very distressing time for patients impacted by the bushfire disaster to help ensure they continue to have access to important medicines and recognises the expertise of pharmacists in identifying where an emergency supply would be deemed appropriate," Tassone said.

"Whilst the Victorian Government must be congratulated, the next step is for the Commonwealth Government to ensure that such emergency provisions of prescription-only medicines have a PBS subsidy applied where applicable for any PBS listed medicine.

"Patients should not be expected to meet higher out of pocket costs for their PBS prescription medicines during a natural disaster or where



circumstances genuinely prevent them from obtaining another prescription to ensure continual supply."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Chris Freeman, echoed the call for Federal support saying "the next step is also to enable access to PBS subsidy for medicines supplied in emergencies so patients do not have the shock of unexpected out-of-pocket expenses when accessing the regular medicines during a crisis."

## TGA ad rule

PHARMACIES have been granted temporary permission to advertise the availability of salbutamol puffers and inhalers by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Pharmacies must ensure they have adequate supplies before advertising and all ads must comply with the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

The permission expires on 30 Apr, unless otherwise extended.

## Father holds up pharmacy for child

A MAN has allegedly robbed a Rite Aid pharmacy in Philadelphia on 03 Jan, claiming he needed the money for his sick child.

Philadelphia police released CCTV footage that shows the suspect, dressed in a grey hoodie and dark gloves, take an item to the register before handing a note to a pharmacy assistant, which read: "Give me all the money. I'm sorry, I have a sick child. You have 15 seconds."

The footage then showed

the man handing over a plastic bag, which the assistant put an "undetermined amount" of cash into, before the suspect fled on foot.

Police said no weapon was produced during the incident, however, the suspect did reach into a pocket suggesting he may have had one.

The suspect, who police haven't identified, is described as African-American, aged between 30 and 40, and under six feet tall.

## Read how river cruising is one of the best way to see Russia

In the Summer edition of *Travel & Cruise Weekly*



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## Pharmacist in Charge

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## Dispensary Corner

**WHEN** life is getting you down, flicking on the kettle and brewing a cup of tea can give you a lift.

However, the boost in mood might not be the only benefit, with new research finding "habitual" tea-drinking is associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and all-cause death.

The results of the China-PAR Project 2 study, published in the *European Journal of Preventative Cardiology* found people who drank tea three or more times a week has a 20% lower risk of heart disease and stroke than those who consumed tea less frequently.

Lead author from the Chinese Academy of Medical Science in Beijing, Dr Xinyan Wang, said long-term adherence to regular tea drinking could provide stronger protections.

The study found tea drinking reduced cardiovascular risks for both male and female participants, with green tea seeming to offer greater protection than black tea.

That's some research that is a reassuring as a warm cup of tea.



## Broad issues reprimand

**UNREGISTERED** pharmacist, David Brewster, has been reprimanded for professional misconduct after appearing before the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia in Aug 2019.

Brewster, whose registration had been cancelled in separate proceedings in 2015 (*PD* 16 Nov 15) and again in 2017, had been referred to the tribunal by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The tribunal found that, while registered as a pharmacist, Brewster imported medications for supply that he did not purchase from the respective registered sponsors, and that were not registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

Brewster was also found to have imported and supplied Epipens and Epipen Juniors in 2015, which were not approved for use in Australia and did not appear on the ARTG.

It was also found that from May 2013 to Dec 2014, Brewster bypassed the Australian Therapeutic Goods regulatory framework by directly importing Melatonin and Bio-Melatonin from an overseas supplier.



During the same period, Brewster also directly imported medications that were not listed on the ARTG, from the UK, including Gutron, Cyclogest, Cialis and Crinone.

Instead of the 12-18 month prohibition period that would normally be attached to such a case, Brewster was disqualified from applying for registration as a pharmacist until 30 Sep 2019.

According to the official tribunal papers, the decision behind the shorter prohibition period was due to the misconduct taking place between four-and-a-half to six years ago.

The Board also acknowledged that Brewster "deeply regrets the admitted conduct" and "remains committed to his profession", and has also continued to undertake professional development.

Brewster was ordered to pay \$5,000 to the Board to cover the cost of the proceedings.

## Recruiter offers bushfire support

**PHARMACY** recruiter, LocumCo founder, Sue Muller, is offering free locum placement of pharmacists in bushfire-affected areas throughout Jan, to help alleviate pressure on pharmacists working in the area.

"We hope this will allow local pharmacists to keep delivering vital services while also having enough personal capacity to emotionally, mentally and physically support whatever other activities they need to do

in their community outside of the pharmacy," Muller said.

The recruiter added that a number of pharmacists had contacted the business to offer their services to those working in bushfire-affected areas.

Pharmacy-owners looking for locum support, or pharmacists willing to work in affected areas, can contact the LocumCo on 1800 357 001 or email [jobs@locumco.com.au](mailto:jobs@locumco.com.au) - eligibility criteria apply.

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**23 - 29 Jan:** NAPSA Congress; University of Newcastle; for more info visit: [www.napsa.org.au](http://www.napsa.org.au)

**1 - 2 Feb:** SHPA Extension Seminar in Surgery and Perioperative Medicine, Brisbane; Early Bird until 10 Jan: <https://www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020>

**8 Feb:** SHPA Masterclass in Clinical Medication Management, Adelaide; Early Bird until 17 Jan: <https://www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020>

**6 - 8 Mar:** NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2020; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; Save the date - registrations open 2 Dec: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**19 - 22 Mar:** APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; Early bird registrations now open: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

## PPA deadlines

**PHARMACISTS** who missed Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) claiming deadlines due to the bushfires can submit and Exceptional Circumstance (EC) request to [support@ppaonline.com.au](mailto:support@ppaonline.com.au).

**CLICK HERE** for the EC form.