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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Willach
- Nova Pharma

## Nova deals

**NOVA** Pharma is offering discounts of 30% on Proctocaine Ointment 15mg and 30mg, and MediChoice Sore Throat Spray, this month.

Minimum order quantities apply.

See **page four** for more.

## Dispensary rethink

**EMBRACING** dispensary technology including robotics can help free up pharmacists time to focus on supporting the healthcare needs of their patients, pharmacy solutions provider Willach believes.

Robots, including Willach's Consis, can help pharmacists in delivering fast and accurate dispensing, to support medicines safety.

See **page three** for more.

# SA revokes locum's COVID exemption

A **VICTORIAN** locum pharmacist is being forced to quarantine in South Australia after the state Health Department rescinded his essential traveller exemption last night.

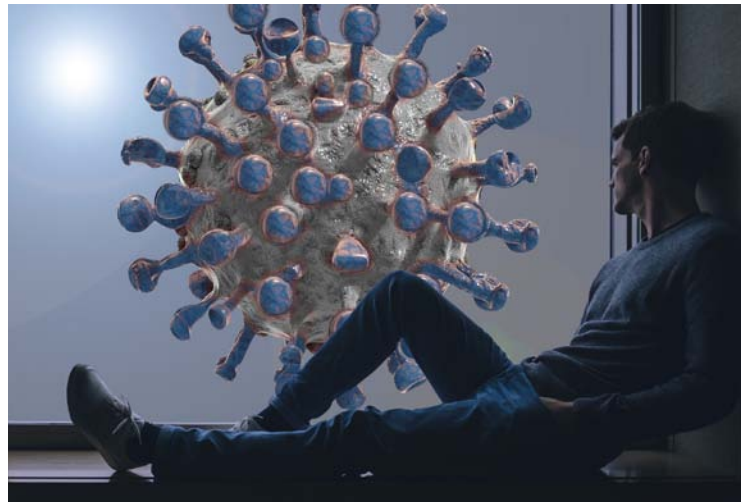
The pharmacist had crossed the state border to take up a six-month position at a pharmacy in the regional town of Orreroo, but had been unable to provide proof that he had received approval to cross into South Australia in line with COVID-19 restrictions.

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily* this morning, LocumCo CEO, Sue Muller, who facilitated the placement, described the situation as "a nightmare", saying the pharmacist had initially been granted an essential traveller notice by South Australian Police on 01 Jul.

"They had granted the locum an exemption so he could work yesterday, and said that he would not need to quarantine," she said.

"Then the police rang me at 8pm last night and said that the Health Department had said he's not eligible for an exemption and they've locked him down in quarantine."

Muller added that in the wake of the decision to revoke the locum's



exemption, she was informed that if she needed to source emergency locums for South Australian pharmacies while border restrictions remain in place, they would "need to be from Queensland, the Northern Territory or Western Australia".

"They're the only three states that there wouldn't be an issue with," she said.

In an interview with 7 News yesterday, pharmacy owner, Irfan Hashmi, who has been providing free influenza vaccines to communities across the state (**PD 17**

Jun), said "we have taken action and are doing a COVID test for him to make sure nothing is wrong".

Meanwhile, University of South Australia epidemiologist, Professor Adrian Esterman, voiced concerns over the use of travel exemptions.

"I honestly don't think there should be exemptions of this type, not with the situation in Victoria," he told the broadcaster.

"It's very risky, which is why testing is so important as well as quarantine."

"Why take any sort of risk of bringing it back again?"

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## Dispensary Corner

**FOR** generations British parents have feared for the safety of their bag-packing 20-something-year-old children, as they ventured to Australia, a land of snakes, spiders and sharks.

Well... one Essex mother believes her neighbours need to be more concerned about the creatures slithering around closer to home, after her 11-year-old was bitten by a snake in a local park.

Renata Teper-Gniadkowska, told *EssexLive* that her son had not initially realised he had been nipped by a serpent, but developed a pain in his leg after he got home.

At first the 40-year-old mum said she was unsure what was causing the pain, but realised it was a snake bite after searching on Google.

Thankfully for all concerned the snake involved in the incident was nonvenomous, and the boy's ailment could be treated with some antibiotic cream and paracetamol.

Teper-Gniadkowska called on the local council to trim the grass to prevent creatures from lurking there, and warned parents and pet owners to be vigilant of the potential dangers hiding in the long grass.



## Telehealth RACGP style

**PATIENT** access to telehealth services should be restricted to "their regular GP", as part of a major overhaul of the service introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

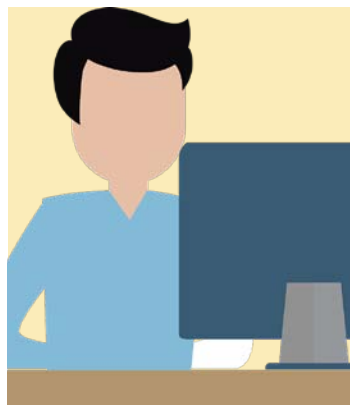
The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) warned patients against using corporate pop-ups which have launched following the Federal Government's expansion of Medicare-subsidised telehealth consults.

RACGP President, Dr Harry Nespolon, voiced support for telehealth saying it presented a huge opportunity to improve patient access to care but ensuring quality care was critical, before adding consultations should be limited to a patient's usual GP.

"We have been deeply concerned to see the rise of more and more pop-up telehealth businesses offering low value medical services," he said.

"These businesses promise a 'quick fix' for patients but there is no commitment to the ongoing care of the patient.

"These doctors have no connection to a patient's usual clinic and won't know their



medical history.

"Increasing access to health services should never come at the cost of patient health and safety.

"If you consult with your usual GP on the phone or video, you will be provided with care, informed by your medical history.

"To ensure telehealth is not exploited and that the community receives the highest quality care, the RACGP has been calling on the Australian Government from the start to limit patient eligibility for telehealth.

"Telehealth services should only be accessible to patients through their regular GP, who can offer face-to-face consultations when needed."

## Paracetamol for kids back in store

**LIQUID** paracetamol formulations for children are back on pharmacy shelves, however limits on sales remain.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Medicines Shortages Working Party backed moves to return liquid children's paracetamol products to the front-of-shop following an easing of demand in recent weeks.

The TGA ordered pharmacists to take the medicines over-the-counter in Mar following a sharp rise in demand that resulted in supply shortages.

However, sales will be limited to one unit to discourage stockpiling.

The TGA has also approved the temporary supply of Tylenol, as an alternative paediatric paracetamol product to support continued access to the medicine.

Tylenol is not registered as a paediatric paracetamol product in Australia and must be stored behind the counter, as the strength differs to other brands available here.

## WA robbery

**WESTERN** Australian Police are seeking a knife-wielding man who held up a pharmacy in Spearwood on Tue evening.

The thief entered the store at 9.30pm and demanded prescription medication and cash, before fleeing on foot.

The bandit has been described as 180cm tall, fair skin and slim build, and was wearing a mask and glasses.



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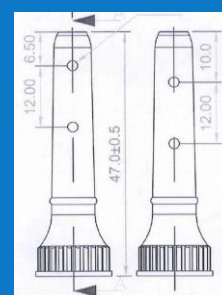
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