

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Sigma
- Rehydraid

CPA deadline

NEGOTIATIONS for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) are yet to conclude with less than 20 days until the 6CPA is due to expire.

A spokesperson for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia told Pharmacy Daily that the organisation was hopeful a deal would be reached before the 30 Jun deadline, noting that representatives from the Guild were meeting with the Federal Department of Health today.

It is understood the "dollar discount" is likely to be retained in the 7CPA, however 60-day dispensing is not expected to feature.

NCAT erred on suspension overturn

THE Supreme Court of NSW has ruled that the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) erred in its decision to overturn the suspension of a pharmacist who has been accused of sexually assaulting a patient.

The NCAT set aside the Pharmacy Council of NSW's suspension of Hany Samir Ibrahim on the condition that he is confined to the dispensary, not permitted to interact with customers, be employed as a pharmacist-in-charge or work alone in a pharmacy (PD 19 Dec 2019).

However, the Supreme Court

ruled the Tribunal had erred in its application of Section 150 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009*, that the decision to impose conditions rather than a suspension be set aside and "the proceedings are remitted to NCAT, differently constituted, to be determined according to law".

Ibrahim denies the allegations, and affidavits from four colleagues all attested that the allegations made against him were "completely out of character", and they were all confident he could continue to be employed at the pharmacy.

Locums set for post-COVID freedom

LOCUM pharmacists impacted by travel restrictions can look forward to greater freedom of movement as COVID-19-related travel restrictions ease, Raven's Recruitment reports.

In a blog post published yesterday, the pharmacy recruitment firm outlined potential opportunities for pharmacy owners to access relief staff to enable employee pharmacists to recharge their batteries, as state and territory governments roll back on travel restrictions.

"As the spread of coronavirus seems to be curbed in most states of Australia, the restrictions set by Australia's federal, state and territory governments are starting to ease, including travel," the company blog said.

"We understand for some, especially our locum pharmacists, the travel restrictions have had a significant impact.

"So, what does this mean for you? The majority of the states are now allowing travel within the state



with no restrictions, and interstate travellers to be allowed across the borders with some exceptions.

"This is significant to a lot of pharmacies in rural areas needing locum pharmacists, and allows for an increase in availability - as well as some pharmacists now able to take some well-deserved annual leave."

Intrastate restrictions have remained in place for travel to "restricted and remote" communities in Queensland, while Western Australia-based locums looking to work in the Kimberley, designated biosecurity zones and remote Aboriginal communities, are required to obtain an entry pass, which must be submitted three days prior to travelling to the location.

Under current measures there are no restrictions on travel into or out of NSW, Victoria and the ACT, while 14-day quarantine requirements remain in place for those entering Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Interstate health professionals with approval from the CEOs of the Departments of Health and Wellbeing in both South Australia and Western Australia, or the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Health, will be exempt from restrictions.

Meanwhile, Queenslanders who travel out of the state for work purposes are currently required to apply for an entry pass to return home.

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Evidence key to rewarding pharmacy

DELIVERING robust research showing the positive impact the work pharmacists do for patients across the country will be key to driving the profession forward, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Western Australia Branch President, Dr Tin Fei Sim, believes.

Speaking during the PSA Connect webinar last week, Sim outlined her motivations for pursuing a career as an academic, while also owning two community pharmacies, with the generation of research shining a light on the benefits pharmacists deliver a major factor.

“Over the last 10 years of my career as a pharmacist, I feel that pharmacists do so much every day for the 25 million people who live in Australia,” she said.

“Pharmacists do great work day-in day-out, and we have enormous impacts on people’s lives, but unfortunately often what we do with go unnoticed, unrecognised and unremunerated.

“With my involvement at PSA,

through advocacy, I have learned, and I’m now a strong believer, that to fix this problem what we need is evidence.

“We need strong solid evidence that can back up the great work that pharmacists are doing and then I can take that to advance the profession further.

“With the evidence, not only can we enable pharmacists to practice on an evidence-based approach, but we can use that evidence to create a positive influence that can bring every one in the profession forward.”

Sim urged students and early career pharmacists looking to pursue an academic career to seek out mentors who can guide them.

She added that the first step may require volunteering to take part in a small research project, or stepping out of your comfort zone to teach sessionally.

“I’ve always advocated not to do just one thing,” she said.

“If you’re interested in research



it doesn’t mean you have to just do research... continue to practice as a pharmacist, because we need people to come and teach the next generation of pharmacists who can actually bring real life examples, and to be able to inspire and bring currency in their knowledge to make teaching and research translational.

“We need clinicians who are researchers.

“We need business operators that are clinicians, and there’s nothing saying one person can only do one thing.”

AFT capital rising

AFT Pharmaceuticals is launching a capital raising effort to boost liquidity and reduce debt.

The company has announced it is undertaking an underwritten placement, which is expected to generate NZ\$10 million through the issue of new shares, with majority stakeholder, the Atkinson Family Trust set to divest approximately NZ\$3.5 million worth of shares, while CRG will sell its holding of 16 million shares.

The capital raising is expected to substantially increase the float of AFT shares from approximately 11% to 31% and is expected to provide a corresponding increase to trading liquidity.

The placement will be underwritten by Bell Potter Securities and Forsyth Barr Group at a floor price of NZ\$3.65.

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Dispensary Corner

EVERYONE is looking forward to a holiday after coronavirus lockdowns are lifted - but overweight travellers need not try booking at a hotel on Germany's North Sea.

The Beachhotel Sahlenburg has issued a new policy formally warning that "for reasons of liability, we would like to point out that the interior is not suitable for people with a body weight of more than 130kg".

Apparently the property prides itself on its "elegant designer furniture" which is just not strong enough to support heavier weights.

Authorities say they believe the anti-obesity policy does not amount to discrimination unless guests are so obese that they are considered to be disabled.

A BELGIAN doctor aged 103 is doing his bit to help out during coronavirus, raising funds for COVID-19 research by walking a marathon around his garden.

Alfons Leempoels is a retired GP living near Brussels, and started his 42.2km trek at the beginning of the month.

Each day he does 10 laps of his garden, each 145m long - three in the morning, three at noon, and four just before dinner.

He's following in the footsteps of 100-year-old Briton Tom Moore who raised more than £32 million for the UK National Health Service by walking around his garden.

"My children said I can walk at least as well as Tom Moore, and on top of that I am 103 years old," he told Reuters.

Back pharmacy's quiet achievers

BRITISH pharmacist turned reality TV star, Anna Vakili, is back behind the dispensary and is using her social media clout to pressure the UK Government into providing more support for the profession.

In an video posted on Instagram on Sun 07 Jun, Vakili, who gained celebrity status on the UK's *Love Island* series last year, expressed concern for the safety of pharmacists on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis, and called on Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, to back "pharmacy heroes" with appropriate funding and personal protective equipment.

Having pursued a career as an influencer, Vakili said she had returned to the profession in recent weeks to provide support for her former peers.

"Since I've been back, I've been amazed by the heroic work that pharmacists are doing," she said.

"So many of them are working day-

in and day-out on the frontline.

"They're putting themselves at risk by physically seeing patients, dispensing and delivering millions of prescriptions to the most vulnerable people.

"I believe that pharmacists and their staff are the quiet achievers in this battle to keep the UK healthy.

"On average 1.6 million people visit a pharmacy every day, and I'm sure that they would agree that these amazing National Health Service workers deserve more recognition and support from the Government.

"Last week I was working in a pharmacy that had no protective equipment - I'm just shocked that several months in so many pharmacies still don't have the protective equipment they need to stay safe.

"So many have received a third to a quarter of what they were promised, and they are having to rely on customer donations.



"So far five UK pharmacists have died on the frontline and there's a risk that number could increase.

"I'm calling on the Government to back our pharmacy heroes with more support.

"I know the Chancellor grew up working in his mum's pharmacy and I know that he values the work that pharmacists do."

Vakili warned that the cost of repaying Government loans provided during the crisis could put pharmacies out of business.

Pharmacists still amongst most trusted

WHEN it comes to taking advice during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Irish public believes the words of pharmacists can be trusted, the results of a poll reveal.

The research conducted by international polling group Ipsos MRBI, in Ireland, found 96% of respondents believed local pharmacists were trustworthy, putting the profession just behind nurses (97%).

While surveys taken around the world have long placed pharmacists amongst the most trusted professionals, the Irish poll showed a significant increase

SMH apologises

THE *Sydney Morning Herald* has withdrawn from claims it published on 30 May that personal protective equipment sold by Chemist Warehouse were "below standard".

The original piece reported that N95 masks sold by the discounter had been tested by an independent firm.

However, on Sat the publication issued a correction noting "the *Herald* no longer accepts that the company which tested the masks can be described as independent, as it also sells protective respiratory equipment".

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