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Mon 9th March 2020

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PSA elections

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling for nominations for its Branch Committee elections.

Nominations will be open until 27 Mar, with State Branches to declare if ballots are required.

Voting will open on 14 Apr and close on 11 May.

CLICK HERE for the 2020 Branch Committee election nomination form.

Further information about the elections can be found **HERE**.

PGAQ supports Qld Govt's pill push

THE Queensland Government is seeking federal support to down schedule the contraceptive pill, a move the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland (PGAQ) has welcomed, amid pushing for even more contraceptive upheaval.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said she would campaign to Prime Minister Scott Morrison on the matter, which would see women access the pill freely from pharmacies without ever having to renew their initial prescription.

The push was announced



yesterday on International Women's Day, alongside the declaration of the launch of a trial of pharmacies providing treatment for urinary tract infections (UTI), set to commence in the coming weeks.

PGAQ Branch President Professor Trent Twomey welcomed the news, but called for a comprehensive solution to the contraceptive pill issue, which goes beyond existing supply arrangements.

"While down scheduling sounds great, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidy for S4 medicines associated with the oral contraceptive and other contraception medications needs to be maintained," he said.

"The better solution involves

minor changes to the current Drug Therapy Protocols, and I would urge the Government to move now, as down scheduling could take years.

"There is more work to be done if Queensland women are going to have the same access and ease of service as women in the UK, New Zealand and parts of Canada.

Professor Twomey also hailed the Government's efforts to stop potentially preventable UTI hospitalisations.

"In 2018, there were over 20,000 potentially preventable hospitalisations in Queensland due to urinary tract infections and kidney infections...this trial will help to support Queensland women by providing convenient, appropriate, safe and effective treatment for uncomplicated UTIs."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, a front cover wrap from Pharmacy Sleep Services plus full pages from:

- WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods
- Keyromar

WANT A FREE WESTFIELD VOUCHER?



The franchise business model is under increased scrutiny industry-wide as many Franchisees feel that the relationship is weighted in favour of the Franchisor. We want to know if members of the retail pharmacy sector share that sentiment.

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Mon 9th March 2020

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SA reduces flu jab age restrictions

SOUTH Australia is bracing for another severe influenza season, by allowing pharmacists to administer flu vaccines to children aged 10 years and older (PD breaking news).

SA Health Minister, Steven Wade, announced the measure on Fri, having told the State Parliament earlier in the week that it was one of three the Government has been working on to improve herd immunity, alongside the provision of free vaccines for people experiencing homelessness.

"The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong, demonstrated commitment to public health," he said.

"We introduced the meningococcal B vaccination program and catch-up, the first in Australia for children and infants and the first for young adults in the world.

"We also introduced free flu vaccines for under-fives, and we are working to have pharmacists give flu vaccines to children aged 10 years and above, dropping the threshold from 16 years."

Welcoming the decision, Pharmacy Guild of Australia South Australian Branch President, Nick Panayiaris, said the move would take the State into line with other jurisdictions, where pharmacists have been authorised to vaccinate patients aged 10 and older.

Panayiaris said it would also boost herd immunity, and reiterated the Guild's call for State and Territory Governments to include community pharmacists in the distribution of **National Immunisation Program** vaccines for high risk patients.

"Clearly pharmacists are part of the solution and giving pharmacists the ability to practise at their full scope, applying their training and expertise will bring great benefits to our health system," he said.

Wade added the provision of free flu vaccines for homeless South Australians was "a tangible way of helping them avoid the flu or minimising its impact if they do get the flu".

"As part of this initiative all South Australian GPs and immunisation providers will be



able to offer the vaccinations free of charge to people experiencing homelessness," he said.

"In addition, drop-in services like Streetlink Youth Health services and RDNS will be able to provide the vaccine free of charge to any eligible clients."

However, Wade did not specify whether or not pharmacists would be included among the "immunisation providers" eligible to administer vaccines to homeless patients.

C-YA to HCV

BRISBANE-BASED clinical pharmacist Andrew Pfeffer has been recognised by Gilead Sciences ANZ with a grant for his innovative way to tackle HCV, the C-YA! project.

Pfeffer aims to create a new mobile medical centre to treat ex-offenders with HCV, with clinics to commence operating out of Beenleigh and Logan City in Queensland.

Pharmacy

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Lifeblood issues COVID-19 update

BLOOD donors who have been in contact with a patient who has been confirmed as having the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) will be unable to donate for 28 days, under measures announced by Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Chief Medical Officer, Dr Joanne Pink, last week.

In a communique to donors, Pink said the organisation had introduced a 28-day donation postponement for people who have been in Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea



and Thailand, to ensure any risk of potential exposure in donation centres is minimised.

Pink stressed there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmissible by blood transfusion, and urged donors who have booked appointments to keep them where possible in the run up to Easter.

PSD nominations

THE final trial of standardised redactions to public summary documents (PSDs) is now accepting nominations from sponsors, with changes to be implemented from Jul.

Participation will allow sponsors the opportunity to provide feedback to the Department of Health on the usability and completeness of the info and details provided in the procedure guidance and supporting documents.

Nominations are due by 14 Apr - CLICK HERE.















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Mon 9th March 2020





Dispensary Corner

IN A climate obsessed with hygiene and cleanliness brought on by the COVID-19 outbreak, spare a thought for the people of Texas who have been forced to shop alongside a serial abuser of chilled goods.

D'Adrien Anderson was recently sentenced to 30 days in jail for taking ice creams out of their packaging, caressing the items with his tongue, before returning the tainted goods to the freezer for unsuspecting shoppers to purchase.

Not content with molesting several ice creams, Anderson bizarrely thought it was a good idea to post the stunt on social media; ultimately the action that proved to be his undoing.

He was also ordered to pay a US\$1,000 fine and US\$1,565 in restitution to Blue Bell Creameries, the company which was forced to replace all of its products in the supermarket's freezer section.

At the end of the day, it's nice to see people like this finally get their just desserts!





STAYING hydrated is great for maintaining your health, but if you are attempting a career in jewel thievery, ditch the H₂O!

Marcelo Romero was arrested for a string of robberies after police linked his DNA with many used water bottles found at several of his crime scenes.

Phillips: vaccinate now



TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is tackling influenza, with its pharmacists well-prepared to vaccinate, Chief Executive Officer, Duncan Phillips, said.

After last year's horrific flu season which saw 902 Australians die from the virus and 313,061 infected, TWC's Winter Defence campaign, which launched last week across its network of pharmacies, is encouraging all Australians to be prepared by vaccinating early.

"We are in a fortunate position across our large network of pharmacies to be able to help improve vaccination rates to avoid a repeat of last year's recordbreaking season," Phillips said.

"It is recommended that people get vaccinated three to four months before the peak flu season hits to ensure the best protection.

Pictured: Professor Robert Booy addresses the TWC Masterclass on influenza.

Amcal preps for e-scripts with new app

SIGMA Healthcare's Amcal pharmacy banner group is preparing for the implementation of electronic prescriptions, with a new app.

The Amcal app, which is available for Apple and Android phones, will allow customers to fulfil their prescriptions digitally and will prompt in-store consultation.

It also features an in-built carers' mode, designed to help those looking after others to manage multiple profiles from one place.

Amcal Head of Brand, Kurt O'Brien, said the app would



ensure pharmacists within the group are prepared for the introduction of e-scripts later this year

"We're excited to launch the Amcal app, which will utilise market-leading technology to fulfil the immediate demand for online prescriptions from consumers, while also strengthening our unique and trusted relationship with patients through our service-led approach to pharmacy care," he said.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Janice Hoogeveen, Group Marketing Manager,



TerryWhite Chemmart.

MAKING LOCAL AREA MARKETING EASY

ONE year on from launching our successful 'that's real chemistry' campaign which centres on the expertise and care of our pharmacists and the strong relationship they have with their customers—we have recently launched a new local area marketing tool to make building these connections even easier.

Last month we introduced iLAM - a web-based design and marketing tool to help our network of TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacies maximise their community connections through local area marketing.

The real magic we can unlock as a brand is to leverage the power of the national brand with our broad geographical reach and strong advertising investment and further enhance it locally. iLAM is exclusive to TerryWhite Chemmart and places the power in the hands of our pharmacy teams to create their own personalised artwork and talk to their customers easier than ever before.

Specifically iLAM will:

- Increase spend to market
- Reduce production costs
- Maintain brand consistency

We are excited to see the impact this tool will have on building deeper local customer connections for our network. If you would like to learn more or see a demonstration then talk to us or visit www.realchemistry.com.au.

Pharmacy Daily

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IS 2020 THE YEAR THAT YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER?

ARE YOU....

- 1. Worried that your pharmacy isn't standing out in the ever-crowded pharmacy sector?
- 2. Concerned that you don't seem to be tapping into the latest trends in the health and wellness market?
- 3. Keen to introduce new categories and products for the changing market, but don't know where to start?
- 4. Looking for the next big thing in pharmacy?

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APP Conference on the morning of the 21st March 2020.

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