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## Stay cyber secure: ADHA

HEALTH professionals are being urged to adopt “good password practices” to combat the threat of cyber attacks.

Marking International Computer Security Day, Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) CEO, Amanda Cattermole, called on pharmacists and other health providers to use “strong, memorable and unique” passwords to protect personal and patient data from the threat of malicious actors.

“Developing and using good passwords is a contemporary life skill everyone can adopt to protect themselves at home and at work,” she said.

“Having weak passwords is comparable to leaving your front door open when you leave home or leaving your car unlocked.

“It’s an invitation to unauthorised access and cyber compromise.

“If you suspect someone knows your password, choose a new password immediately to reduce the likelihood of unauthorised access to information.”

The ADHA has warned health workers not to share passwords, noting they could be held responsible if sensitive information is disclosed as a result, and to use a



unique password for each account to prevent a “domino effect”.

The agency also advised health professionals to use a password manager with a “very strong master password” to boost cyber security.

Cattermole reported that 81% of confirmed data breaches involved weak, default or stolen passwords.

Figures from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner for the first six months of 2020 showed the health sector accounted for 22% of all reported data breaches (PD 04 Aug).

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of the latest news plus a full page from Essity.



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[Click here for more info](#)

## NAPSA survey

**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) student survey is set to close today with respondents eligible to enter a draw to win a 2021 Australian Medicines Handbook.

The survey provides students with the opportunity to share their views on a range of topics including the pharmacy curriculum, rural placements and future employment.

The results from the survey will be used to shape NAPSA's policies and position statements.

**CLICK HERE** to take part.



## Specialisation not elitism: Sansom

**DEVELOPING** specialisations in the pharmacy sector could deliver new career paths for graduates, Commonwealth Department of Health Special Advisor and pharmacist, Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO, believes.

Speaking on a webinar last week, Sansom rejected the idea that the development of specialisations within the profession would fuel elitism.

"Specialisation within a profession like pharmacy is a sign of maturity not a sign of elitism," he said.

"I regard my GP as a specialist in general practice - every trained medical practitioner's family has a GP.

"[The fact] there are specialisations simply reflects the variety and enormity of the material that's now in health.

"I get frustrated by people who say, 'oh the elitists...' they're not

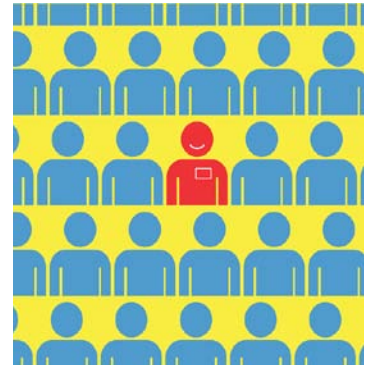
the elite, they are people who have a specialisation in an area because that area is now so broad."

Sansom said the introduction of a PharmD program, which the Government and Pharmacy Guild of Australia have pledged to pursue under the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (**PD 23 Jun**), would help foster specialist career paths for graduates to pursue.

He added that students were graduating with "HDs in commitment", but were being drained of their enthusiasm, because the profession did not provide a platform for them to go to a higher level.

"To think that we are discouraging a [specialist] career path for people is an indictment almost on this profession going forward," he said.

"I'm very sad that we don't develop that career path around that structure.



"It doesn't demean the community pharmacist, at all, they are still specialists in community pharmacy care."

While support of a shift into specialisation, Sansom noted that it could create additional challenges, as "governments don't necessarily like everyone becoming a specialist, because it means everyone gets higher fees".

## Qld Guild seeks to Share the Dignity

**RESPONDING** to an increase in cases of domestic and family violence in 2020, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch is supporting Share the Dignity.

Branch President, Trent Twomey, said members had donated, sourced and packed more than 500 essential items to support vulnerable women escaping domestic violence or living in crisis.

"It's been a tumultuous year for many Queenslanders with the bushfires and floods earlier this year, and then the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

"Domestic and family violence sadly increased during COVID-19, with 4.6% of all women reporting that they experienced violence from Feb to May this year."

"During this time, sadly 33% of women surveyed reportedly said they experienced violence in their relationship for the first time."

"We're proud to Share the Dignity and hope that the 45 bags we are donating will help these



women in need and support them in the lead up to Christmas."

"These donations are in addition to the essential items that Queensland community pharmacies are also collecting for Share the Dignity and vulnerable women.


"The Guild is proud to have a long-standing relationship with Share the Dignity and founder Rochelle Courtenay, having donated bags to this valuable cause since 2017.

"Please, if you are able to give back this year, support Share the Dignity and the 'It's In The Bag' campaign.

"They're still collecting bags for women in need this Christmas."

**CLICK HERE** for more.

### 3-WAY ACTION TO HELP EXTINGUISH INFLAMED FUNGAL SKIN INFECTIONS



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**HELP EXTINGUISH MORE THAN THE ITCH**

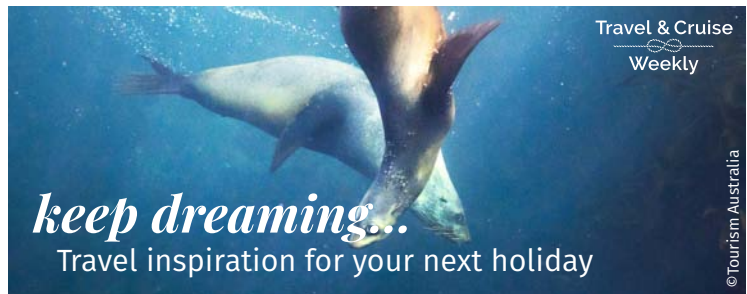
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 References: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information. Date of Most Recent Amendment 26 October 2018. 2. Van Cutsem JM, Thiépoint D. Miconazole, a broad-spectrum antimycotic agent with antibacterial activity. Chemotherapy 1972;17:392-404.

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## Dispensary Corner

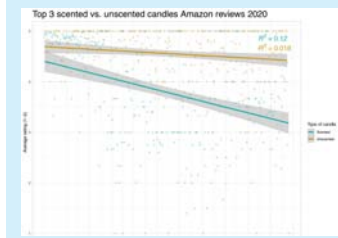
IT'S now become well known that one of the symptoms of COVID-19 can be a loss of smell, and that is now believed to in turn had a unexpected significant impact on reviews of scented candles.

US-based Harvard University student academic Kate Petrova noticed a tweet from someone noting that there were "angry ladies" all over the website of a company called Yankee Candle, reporting that none of their Thanksgiving deliveries had any smell at all.

She did some investigation, using customer reviews of the three most popular scented candles sold by Amazon and finding that for the three years to Jan 2020 the average rating of the products was 4.3 stars out of five.

However since the beginning of the COVID-19 period customer satisfaction with scented candles has been dropping, she said, with her analysis finding "since the beginning of this year, the proportion of reviews mentioning lack of scent grew from <2% in Jan to close to 6% in Nov".

She said the results showed scented candles were an "unexpected victim of the COVID-19 pandemic".



## NDSS fraud lands ban

A SYDNEY-BASED pharmacist who shipped medications ordered under the National Diabetes Subsidy Scheme (NDSS) to overseas patients has had his professional registration suspended.

A NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard that Albert Young, ordered products through the NDSS, using patients' NDSS registration numbers, and sold them to ineligible clients through Amazon, under the trading name BeanPharmaAus, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

Evidence from Australian Post showed the pharmacists had shipped 17 packages overseas between Feb and May 2019 either in his name or under BeanPharmaAus.

The tribunal was told that Young's registration was cancelled by the Pharmacy Council of NSW in May 2019, a month after he was let go by Minett's Pharmacy in Chester Hill, where it was discovered that he had inappropriately removed stock from the store.

However, the tribunal heard Young continued to work as a locum



at another pharmacy in western Sydney after his registration was cancelled.

The tribunal ruled that Young will not be able to review his registration suspension until Nov 2024 at the earliest.

"The cancellation of registration reflects the seriousness of Young's professional misconduct (and) the potential harm to the health and safety of the public which he has caused," the tribunal said.

"(The cancellation) will provide a deterrent to other pharmacists who may be tempted to misconduct themselves in the same or similar manner and will enhance the confidence of the public in the integrity of the profession of pharmacy."



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Matt Boulter, Network Partner at TerryWhite Chemmart Marion Compounding, SA.**



### DAAs - the best customer loyalty program

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) has a proud history of providing safe, timely and reliable customer focused medicine packaging and quality use of medicines to our local communities. And with direct support now provided through the TWC Dispensary Excellence Program, it is now even easier to identify the value of DAAs under the new community pharmacy agreement.

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The ultimate value of a DAA is loyalty which provides clear commercial benefits for my pharmacy but more importantly the health benefits of our customers. To find out more about how TWC can help you be a health leader, click [here](#).

## Win with Powerhouse Pharmacy Brands

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