

## Today's issue of PD

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

- Storbie
- Sigma

## Storbie Bookings

**ONLINE** retail experts Storbie will host a webinar on Tue 20 Apr ahead of the rollout of its new Storbie Bookings appointment scheduling platform.

See **page four** for more.

## Sign up to DDS

**SIGMA** Healthcare is offering pharmacy owners the opportunity to join its Discount Drug Stores (DDS) group.

The banner provides customers with value while having the trappings of a national brand.

See **page five** for more.

# NSW pharmacies to get NIP access

**ELIGIBLE** patients in NSW will be able to get free seasonal influenza vaccines at their local pharmacy through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) after State Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, backed the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) call for pharmacists to be given access to the program.

PSA NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, welcomed Hazzard's commitment to the organisation's proposal, which will also apply to the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines, saying it will give patients greater choice as to where they can receive immunisations.

Felkai said that granting pharmacists access to NIP vaccines would be particularly useful for patients living in rural areas where they may not be able to go to a GP easily.

"In addition, some people do not visit a GP regularly, or do not have a GP," she said.



"Allowing pharmacist immunisers to provide NIP influenza vaccines will increase vaccination rates and herd immunity to influenza within the NSW community."

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said the move would build on NSW's "already high vaccination rates".

"PSA's vision for a safer, more accessible and more accountable health system, Pharmacists in 2023, is the foundation for all of

our pre-budget submissions. This commitment from the NSW Health Minister shows further confidence in the provision of safe, effective health care by pharmacists," he said.

"Consistent with our vision, PSA continues to work with governments around Australia to help achieve a future where pharmacists are increasingly involved, responsible and accountable for the medicine safety of their patients."



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## Healthy Kids' Guide returns

**GUARDIAN** Pharmacy's *Healthy Kids' Guide* is returning in print as well as online editions in 2021, after switching to a digital-only format last year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The guide is part of Guardian's long-standing commitment in assisting pharmacies maintain connections with local families, both through the guide's latest health advice and more broadly, by acting as a reminder for parents that access to expert advice is available at their nearby local Guardian Pharmacy.

The guide forms part of Guardian's broader focus on community lead initiatives in 2021, including its yearly Guardian Angels Knitting Program, set to come out later this year.

Download the guide [HERE](#).

## No timeline for COVAX EoI decisions

**PHARMACY** owners across Australia have been given no timeline as to when the latest phase of the Expression of interest (EoI) process for those seeking to join the national COVID-19 vaccination rollout will be completed.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) wrote to pharmacies that have submitted EoIs yesterday (**PD** 13 Apr), informing them whether or not they needed to provide further clarification on their application.

A spokesperson for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia told **Pharmacy Daily** that owners have yet to be given a clear date as to when they are likely to hear back from the PPA.

"Pharmacies now have a chance to respond and then the responses will be to be assessed and pharmacies advised whether they are successful," the spokesperson said. "No firm timeline has been



provided for this process."

Pharmacies that have been asked to provide additional information to support their EoI are required to submit it by 5pm AEST on 20 Apr.

With the Federal Government announcing plans to "recalibrate" the vaccine rollout, the Guild said there were no firm details as to how any changes to the campaign

would impact pharmacies.

However, the spokesperson said the Guild would support efforts to optimise uptake of immunisations through the pharmacy network.

"The Guild will continue to work with the Government to help ensure maximum possible community uptake of COVAX," the spokesperson said.

## Pilot testing for intern assessment tools

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is looking for pharmacists and interns to participate in its consultative workshops and pilot testing of new assessment tools for pharmacist interns.

The APC will host two workshops at the Savoy Hotel, Melbourne, on 22 May, and at the QT Hotel, Canberra on 29 May.

The Council will then pilot the tools in a few pharmacies and hospitals across the ACT, Victoria

and South Australia, between Aug and Oct.

Pharmacists looking to participate in the pilot must be a preceptor or supervising pharmacist, have no conditions on their professional registration and have supervised at least one intern for a year.

Interns must have intern pharmacist registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

**CLICK HERE** for more information about the pilot.

## UK expands Com-Cov vaccine study

**BRITAIN'S** Comparing COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule Combinations (Com-Cov) trial assessing whether different COVID vaccines can be used for first and second doses is being expanded, the BBC reports.

The study being conducted by the Oxford Vaccination Group is hoping to recruit 1,050 patients who have previously received a dose of either the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine through the NHS over the past eight to 12 weeks.

Participants in the trial could receive a second dose of the same vaccine, or a shot of the Moderna or Novavax alternatives.

Chief Investigator, Professor Matthew Snape, said if the trial shows that mixed schedules can generate an immune response that is as good as the current options, it could "potentially allow more people to complete their COVID-19 immunisation course more rapidly".



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## Pharmacy suicide prevention training

**QUEENSLAND-BASED** pharmacy staff are being invited to take part in two free local early suicide prevention programs to support their communities.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch Acting President, Chris Owen, said the *Conversations for Life and Stronger Smarter Yarns for Life* workshops have been funded by the Federal Government and the Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Networks.

The sessions will take place in late Apr and early May for both community members and local pharmacists.

"By educating and upskilling Queenslanders in early suicide prevention, we hope to increase the confidence of community members and pharmacy staff so



they can engage in conversations with people at risk for early intervention," Owens said.

"The training promotes early conversations, community connections and social inclusion while reducing any stigma related to mental illness.

"The program will also highlight referral pathways to locally-led

suicide prevention services to support practical and ongoing community collaboration."

Owen added that pharmacists were "in a unique position not only to recognise suicidality, but to encourage others in the community to learn how to do it with this kind of training".

**CLICK HERE** to register.



## Dispensary Corner

**ACROSS** the globe parties and large gatherings have been on ice for more than a year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and it appears the wait for an end to the crisis is getting too much for some.

Irish police turned party poopers over the weekend after busting a less than subtle celebration at a house in Dublin, handing out around 50 fines for breaches of COVID-19 regulations.

Members of the state's public order unit raided the house, finding a marquee in the garden "with a fully-equipped DJ set-up" the *Irish Independent* reported.

During the search, police discovered quantities of cocaine, with a street value of \$7,800, alongside "a large number of empty laughing gas canisters".

While attendees at the party were fined \$230 each for failing to comply with COVID-19 rules, the hostess also landed a \$780 fine for breaching the *Health Act*.

It's certainly a party no one in attendance will forget, even if it ended on a downer.



## HEALTH & BEAUTY

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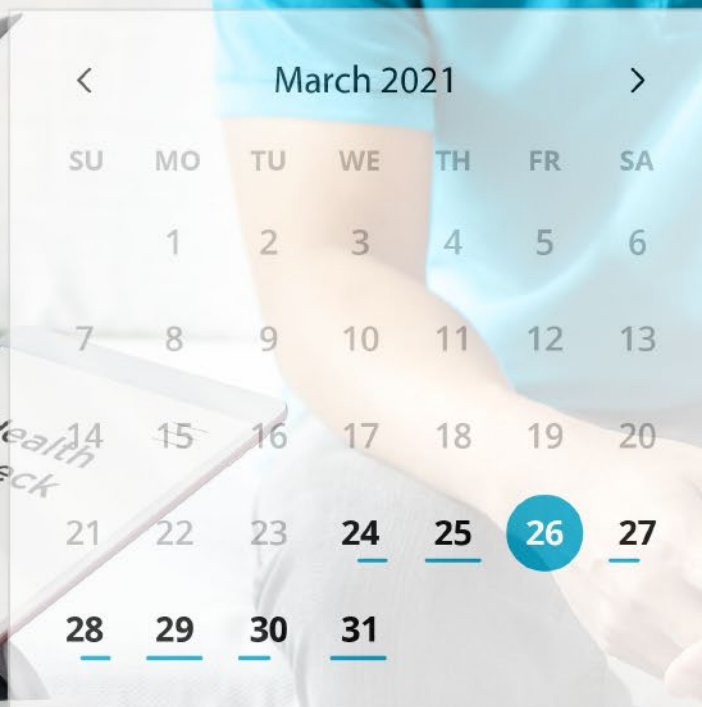
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Tuesday 20th April, 5:45pm (AEST)

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