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## Today's issue of PD

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

- TePe
- Sigma Healthcare

## Get the right pick

**TEPE** Australia's EasyPick is a simple and efficient way to clean between teeth.

Coming in three different sizes the TePe EasyPick can tackle all interdental spaces.

See **page three** for more.

## Wholelife focus

**SIGMA** Healthcare's Wholelife Pharmacy and Healthfoods offers franchisees the opportunity to be a disrupter, offering traditional and modern pharmacy services with a holistic approach.

See **page four** for more.

# Tasmanian Liberals make NIP pledge

**TASMANIA'S** Liberal Party is promising to provide more opportunities for pharmacists to support the health needs of patients across the State if re-elected on 01 May.

In a statement released this morning, incumbent State Health Minister, Sarah Courtney, said the Gutwein Government would "move to enable pharmacist immunisers access to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for the first time".

"This will take place in line with other states and territories, including NSW most recently, and further improve access to vaccinations for the local community, helping to support high Tasmanian vaccination rates," Courtney said.

"We will work closely with local pharmacy stakeholders to ensure appropriate training and resources are developed, having already seen very successful pharmacy NIP

access programs in other states and territories like Victoria, the ACT and WA.

"We recognise the role of GPs as the centre of care for patients, and their vital role in our communities, and these changes will only complement existing comprehensive GP provision around Tasmania.

"I thank GPs and pharmacists alike for their unwavering dedication to continuing improved patient care."

Courtney also pledged to undertake a scope of practice review for local pharmacists, to consider what other services and support the profession can safely provide for the community.

"On top of this, we will ensure pharmacists can access our \$3 million package for primary health services and local GPs, to provide after-hours services for their local communities, as well as our \$1 million Hospital Avoidance Co-



Investment fund which will match private sector investment on a dollar-for-dollar basis to support capital upgrades that improve or expand facilities to deliver improved after-hours care," she said.

"Finally, we will also guarantee continuity of the current arrangements for community pharmacy ownership, which ensures stability and certainty for local services."

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## Jab and a snag plan panned

**AN OPEN** offer from hardware giant, Bunnings Warehouse, to use its stores' car parks for mass COVID-19 vaccination sites, is being panned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The company, which is synonymous with sausage sizzles, has previously hosted pop-up COVID test centres, and Chief Operating Officer, Deb Poole, said it would be open to offering its premises to host vaccination hubs, if required, *The Guardian* reported.

La Trobe University Associate Professor in Public Health, Hassan Vally, suggested using the hardware giant's premises could "nudge" patients to get the vaccine, saying "everyone in the population seems to end up at Bunnings with some frequency".

However, Guild National President, Trent Twomey, rejected the idea.

"The proposal at this stage to use Bunnings as mass COVID-19 vaccination centres is a few tools short of a tool box," he said.

## Priceline cops COVID hit

**AUSTRALIAN** Pharmaceutical Industries (API) remains confident its Priceline Pharmacy business model will recover after reporting an 8% fall in gross profit during the first half of the 2021 Financial Year.

Announcing the half year results to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning, API CEO, Richard Vincent, said the results reflected the impact of COVID-19-related lockdown restrictions, with its Melbourne and Sydney CBD stores the worst hit.

"Priceline Pharmacy's like-for-like sales were down significantly in its two largest CBDs, with Melbourne down by 65% and Sydney down by 51%," he said.

"Priceline's large CBD footprint is impacting the speed of our recovery, but we are confident in the business model, the strength of which is strong like-for-like sales growth in suburban stores and in those states that were largely COVID-free and in the fact that we held our market share despite a reduction in market demand for cosmetics."

Vincent added that the company was engaging with CBD-based Priceline Pharmacy stores' landlords to amend leases, adding "these negotiations are helped by our proven determination to close



stores where we cannot achieve satisfactory rental agreements".

Despite the potential for store closures, Vincent said the Priceline Pharmacy network had remained static with 474 stores across the country, a number he said was likely to increase in the second half of the financial year, "as we partner with franchisees to open new stores in high traffic areas with significant profit potential".

Vincent added that while Priceline's retail register revenue was down by 10.7% to \$526 million, online sales saw a huge increase (52%) on the same period in 2020.

Meanwhile, API's pharmacy distribution revenue remained steady at \$1.46 billion, down 0.9% on the previous corresponding period, reflecting the loss of Chemist Warehouse over-the-counter volume, following the conclusion of a temporary agreement.

## Dispensary Corner

**WHEN** you're onto a good thing, you may as well keep going, and that's just what an Italian hospital "worker" did for 15 years.

The 66-year-old Ciaccio Hospital employee allegedly stopped showing up at Ciaccio Hospital in 2005, but the pay-cheques kept rolling in until Oct 2020, Italian news agency *Ansa* reported.

Local prosecutors claim the unnamed hustler raked in more than \$835,000, and allegedly threatened colleagues to ensure they did not report his absenteeism and to stop his manager for taking disciplinary action.

The man is now being investigated for fraud, extortion and abuse of office.



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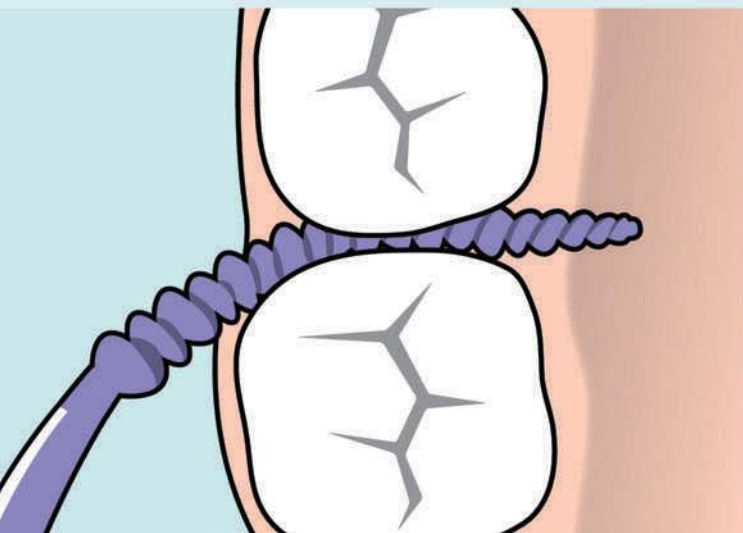
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