

Fri 10th Dec 2021



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No barriers to accessing kids' COVAX

STATE and Territory Governments are set to implement necessary regulatory reforms to ensure pharmacists can administer paediatric COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) from 10 Jan 2022.

While pharmacists are restricted from administering influenza vaccines to children under 10 years of age (and older in some jurisdictions), Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, has confirmed they will be eligible to participate in the rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech children's vaccines.

Speaking during a Guild update webinar on Wed, Twomey noted that following the Therapeutic Goods Administration's decision to grant provisional approval for the use of the vaccine in children aged five to 11 years, pharmacists in Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia will automatically be authorised to administer the shots to that

Today's issue of *PD* **Pharmacy Daily** today features two pages of news.

However, he noted that "the ACT, NSW, the Northern Territory and Tasmania, have not put in changes to their framework yet to allow it".

"But each and every one of them have written to the Commonwealth Government to say 'do not stress', they will have the regulatory framework in place by Mon 10 Jan 2022," he said.

During the webinar Twomey said pharmacists participating in the paediatric vaccination program would be required to use a specific, orange-capped vial, for drawing up

doses of the vaccine for children under 12 years, and not the purplecapped vials that are currently available.

He added that a new compulsory training module will go live on the COVID-19 training website from 20 Dec, while pharmacies looking to participate in the program will be required to submit orders for stock no later than 17 Dec.

"The program will start on Mon 10 Jan 2022, so you cannot administer childhood COVAX until that date," he said.



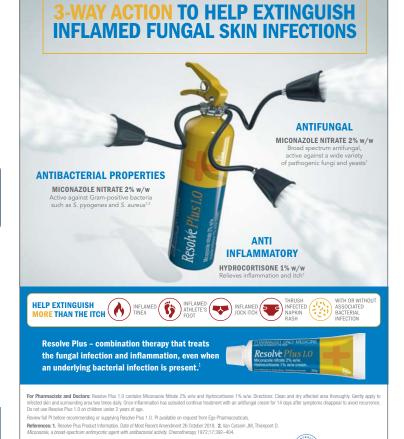
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Pharmacy Daily

PSA honours FredIT CEO

FREDIT CEO, Paul Naismith, has been named as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Victorian Branch's Pharmacist of the Year.

The pharmacy IT pioneer, was hailed for his role in developing user-friendly software for the sector, and electronic prescriptions.

The PSA's Victorian Branch also honoured 85-year-old Bill Horsfall for his contribution to the profession, presenting him the organisation's Lifetime Achievement Award, at a ceremony last night.

Melbourne-based cancer services specialist, Shefali Parekh, took home the PSA Victorian Early Career Pharmacist of the Year title, while Laura Carfrae, was named as the branch's Intern Pharmacist of the Year.

Long-serving pharmacy owner, Jim Burns - who is now in his 90s - was presented with the PSA Victorian Pharmacist Medal, for his continuing contribution to the profession and his community in Croydon.

No desire for change

RETAIL giant, Woolworths, will not push for reform of the pharmacy ownership and location rules if it is successful in its bid to acquire wholesaler, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API), the company's CEO, Brad Banducci, insists.

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In an open letter published in the Australian Financial Review today, Banducci stressed that "Woolworths greatly respects pharmacies' role in the community", and that the company would not push to be allowed to co-locate dispensaries within supermarkets.

"Through our proposal to acquire API, a business that essentially services pharmacists, we are committed to helping them successfully operate their independently owned businesses," he said.

"Our investment thesis is predicated around strengthening the role of community pharmacies.

"Woolworths Group has been clear – publicly and in conversations with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and senior political stakeholders – that it fully supports the community pharmacy model, including the long-established

ownership and location rules.

"In my time at Woolworths, we have never lobbied for these rules to change.

"Quite simply, you will not see pharmacies relocated into our supermarkets.

"Those who suggest otherwise should rest assured that the law does not allow it.

"And we are not, and will not, advocate for any change to those laws.

"API is a business that supplies and supports independently owned pharmacies.

"It does not own pharmacies and neither will Woolworths."

Addressing the Woolworths and Wesfarmers bids for API during a webinar on Wed, Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the rival retailers were seeking to buy the wholesaler to access the Priceline Sisterhood's database, which would give them the ability to target the loyalty program's members.

Twomey also noted that both companies had stated that they had no plans to push for reforms of the pharmacy location and/or ownership rules, if they successfully acquired API.



Dispensary Corner

OUT-OF-DATE advice about emergency contraception from a London-based pharmacist has left a British model suffering some horrific side-effects.

Lucy Bennett said the male pharmacist advised her to take a double-dose of the morning after pill, on the grounds that she was "too big" for the standard treatment.

"What transpired was a kick in the gut to my mental health, thrush, vaginosis and the worst period of my entire life," she said in a post on Instagram.

"I had pains I thought you only experienced in child birth."

Bennett said she subsequently went to a sexual health clinic, where she was seen by a female nurse, who immediately said she had been given poor advice by the pharmacist, and was urged not to repeat the double dose.

"She told me there was no evidence to support what the pharmacist had said, and that his knowledge was beyond outof-date," Bennett said.



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