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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a full page from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

## Wesfarmers API bid deadline

**STAKEHOLDERS** have until this evening to make submissions to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regarding Wesfarmers proposed acquisition of pharmacy wholesaler Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API).

The ACCC launched an informal review of the planned deal on 06 Dec, under the Informal Merger Review Process Guidelines.

A provisional date for the announcement of the ACCC's findings has been set for 17 Feb 2022, with the regulator noting it may issue its final decision or release a Statement of Issues at this point.

Submissions can be made by email to [mergers@acc.gov.au](mailto:mergers@acc.gov.au) and addressed to Tim Byrne and/or Steven Lee.

## Pill decision confirmed

**ORAL** contraceptives will remain Prescription-Only, following confirmation of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) Notice of final decisions to amend (or not amend) the current Poisons Standard yesterday.

Outlining the reasons not to amend the current Poisons Standard with respect to 11 oral contraceptive substances, the Delegate of the Secretary for the Department of Health rejected submissions expressing concern that the interim decision not to down-schedule the Pill, would reduce access for women.

"I would like to reiterate that the decision to confirm my interim decision not to down-schedule these substances will not alter the current scheduling, restrictions or access to these substances from their current availability," the Delegate said.

"I have carefully considered the public health issues raised by professional peak bodies involved in women's health and I agree with their view that the benefits of oral contraceptives were not fully characterised in the interim decision.

"I agree that timely and



appropriate access to contraception forms an integral part of a woman's right to reproductive and sexual health.

"Several written responses raised concerns regarding barriers in the access of oral contraceptives at the current scheduling level, and the relationship between these barriers to access and the high rate of unplanned or unintended pregnancy in Australia.

"I consider that while the proposed changes would address some barriers affecting access to ongoing supply of oral contraceptives, I do not feel the benefits of supply from a pharmacist outweigh the risks to women's health when supplied without consultation from a medical practitioner."



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## Dispensary Corner



**WAITING** around at vaccine clinics for 15 minutes after receiving a COVID-19 jab can seem like an eternity, but one pop-up centre in the UK is going to offer something to make the observation period more palatable.

As part of a one-night event, the owners of Bradford's MyLahore restaurant will be adding COVID-19 vaccines to their menu to support the booster campaign.

With the Omicron variant spreading rapidly in the community, the owners of the British Asian cuisine establishment said they wanted to do their bit to support vaccination efforts.

The clinic will offer primary and booster doses, with clinical experts on hand to answer questions about the shots, and a broad menu featuring a range of classic British Asian curries, and options not traditionally seen on the dining options of curryhouses including steak.

## Tackling family violence

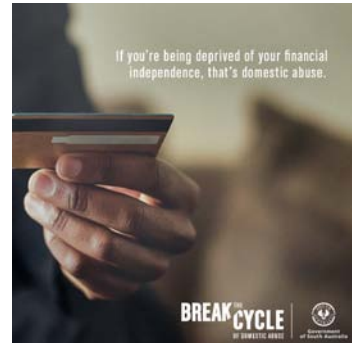
**COMMUNITY** pharmacies in regional parts of South Australia will play a central role in the State Government's Break the Cycle campaign to raise awareness of support services for victims of domestic violence.

As part of an initial trial, 20 pharmacies in Whyalla, Port Augusta, Murray Bridge, Coober Pedy, Padthaway, Naracoorte, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Renmark, Berri, Port Pirie and Victor Harbor, will dispense prescriptions with covers featuring the Break the Cycle message and a QR code that will take patients directly to the campaign's website for information about support services.

Announcing the launch of the pharmacy-based campaign, Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, Caroly Power, said it was important that women in regional areas know that there is support available to them.

"We will continue to ensure at-risk women and their children have access to support and help no matter where they live in South Australia," she said.

"Domestic and family violence



is not contained to particular postcodes and so we are reaching out to all corners of South Australia and investing in our regions to ensure at-risk women across the state know where to turn to for help.

"Putting new Break the Cycle advertising on pharmacy scripts is one of many new, innovative measures we're delivering to help reach South Australians experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence that might need that support."

Alongside the pharmacy-arm of the program, the State Government will rollout Break the Cycle advertising in GP waiting rooms, on-demand TV and online.

## Guild Update

### APP trade program

**THE** trade exhibition to be held with next year's major pharmacy conference on the Gold Coast is fully booked.

APP Convenor Kos Sclavos AM says this is the earliest he can remember the APP trade program filling up. All 420 stands are now sold and attendees will enjoy the work and advice of more than 200 exhibitors.

Attendees are encouraged to register early, at [appconference.com](http://appconference.com) and save using early bird rates.

Every attendee for the conference on 24-27 March will be protected by a 100% Refund Guarantee if unable to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns.

A full conference schedule is now available at the website, including important coursework opportunities ahead of the formal start to the conference.

Conference 'wrap' sessions will include Scope of Practice, Message Delivery in a COVID Context and Framework for Change – Pharmacy Trends.

## Young to address Guild IWD breakfast

**QUEENSLAND'S** new Governor, and the State's former Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, will address the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland Branch International Women's Day (IWD) Breakfast in Mar 2022.

The theme of IWD 2022 is #breakthebias, to raise awareness of bias in the workplace, with the aim of eliminating bias, stereotypes and

discrimination, Guild Queensland Branch Vice President, Amanda Seeto, said.

Seeto added that the confirmation that Young will address the breakfast in the Ballroom at Victoria Park on 08 Mar 2022, was likely to fuel interest in the event.

Tickets are available **HERE** for \$95 per person, with tables of 10 able to be purchased for \$850.

## Provisional determination for Vaxine

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted a provisional determination for South Australian biotech firm, Vaxine's recombinant protein-based COVID-19 vaccine.

The regulator noted that if approved the vaccine schedule was likely to follow a two-dose primary course given as intramuscular injections three weeks apart.



The TGA's announcement came as the European Medicines Agency (EMA) followed the World Health Organization's (WHO's) lead in approving Novavax's protein-based shot.



The Pharmacy  
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