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## Words matter in COVID-19 vax push

**POLITICAL** and health leaders need to choose their words wisely when it comes to COVID-19 and vaccines, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch Vice President, Anthony Tassone, warns.

Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* there needed to be a collaborative and concerted effort by the Government, Departments of Health at State and Territory level, health professionals and patient groups, to provide clear and accurate information to the public for them to make an informed decision as to whether they would like to receive the vaccine.

“Unfortunately, some public comments, no matter what the intention may be – can cause confusion for patients,” he said.

“When announcing the ‘circuit breaker’ five-day lockdown and Stage Four restrictions in Victoria the Premier, Daniel Andrews, stated, ‘This is not the 2020 virus, this is different, this is something very, very different’, which has

prompted some patients to query whether they should even bother receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

“If the virus is ‘very different’ will the vaccine even work?”

“I’m sure the Premier would be a very strong supporter for the COVID-19 vaccine – but language matters particularly when we are discussing a newly developed medicine where there is already a level of hesitancy amongst the public to receive it.”

Tassone welcomed the Therapeutic Goods Administration’s decision to grant provisional approval for the AstraZeneca vaccine (*PD* 15 Feb), but added that inter-professional rivalries needed to be put to one side to support the successful rollout of COVID-19 vaccines over the coming weeks.

“Combine this with recent public commentary from the Australian Medical Association President, Dr Omar Khorshid, questioning pharmacy’s and pharmacist’s ability to respond to rare anaphylactic



reactions from vaccines, [and] it could dissuade some patients and potentially reduce the uptake of the vaccine from the range of providers who will be offering it as part of the Australian government’s program,” he said.

“We will know and understand in time what impact variants such as those seen in reported British and South African strains will have on the anti-body response and overall protection offered by the available vaccines we have for patients.”

Today’s issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus a full page from *Storbie*.

### Little Big Biz pod

**PHARMACY** ecommerce specialist, *Storbie*, has launched a new podcast series, *Little Big Business*, providing advice, resources, and tips to help make your complex business a big success.

See **page three** for more.

### Vale Wingfield

**BRITISH** pharmacists are mourning the passing of Pharmacy Law and Ethics Association (PLEA) Founder, Joy Wingfield.

In a statement released last night, PLEA said it was “deeply saddened to report the death from COVID-19” of Professor Wingfield.

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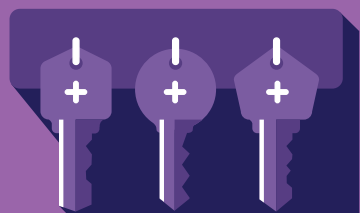
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**AMH**  
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## Medlab, Arrotex to fast track S3 CBD

**BIOTECH** firm, Medlab, has signed a non-binding Heads of Agreement (HoA) with generic medicines group Arrotex Australia, to develop and distribute a Pharmacist-Only medicinal cannabis product.

With commercial terms set to conclude on or before 01 Jul, the companies are looking to develop a fast track for the clinical package required for final lodgement of an application with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for "a near future Schedule 3" approval for Medlab's NanoCBD.

Medlab CEO, Dr Sean Hall, described the HoA as "a major milestone for both the Australian market and the budding partnership between Medlab and Arrotex".

"Unlike many CBD producers, Medlab can deliver to the

pharmaceutical standards required for TGA approval and this partnership will now enable direct application into clinical practice through Arrotex's extensive network," he said.

Arrotex CEO, Dennis Bastas, said the company recognised the "significant opportunity the down-schedule of CBD to Pharmacist-Only medicines schedule represents for both patients and pharmacists".

"As the largest dispensary and over-the-counter supplier in Australia, we believe Arrotex is best placed to deliver this to community pharmacy," he said.

"Critically, it will be important that this opportunity is realised via the availability of highly efficacious, quality CBD formats, so we are excited to be pursuing this opportunity with Medlab, one of the leading innovators in this space."



Former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Kos Sclavos, said the protocols being developed through the Medlab, Arrotex collaboration would ensure pharmacists dispense the specific CBD formulation for the approved indications.

"The protocols will also include referral pathways to doctors," Sclavos said.

## Dispensary Corner

**INSTANT** coffee and the phrase "good choice" is not something many coffee aficionados would stomach.

However, research from the Australian Centre for Precision Health at the University of South Australia (UniSA) suggests instant or filter coffee could be the healthy options for java junkies.

A genetic study found that long-term, heavy coffee consumption - classified as six or more cups a day - can increase the amount of lipids in your blood to significantly heighten your risk of cardiovascular disease.

The researchers noted that unfiltered brews including, espresso-based beverages, French press, Turkish and Greek coffees containing the potent cholesterol-elevating compound, cafestol.

"There is no, or very little cafestol in filtered and instant coffee, so with respect to effects on lipids, those are good coffee choices," the authors said.



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\* T&C'S APPLY

**Live CPD is back**

**IN PERSON** CPD is coming back to Sydney, with Pharmeducation's Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses hosting a two-day event at the Holiday Inn, Potts Point on 06-07 Mar, with limited places still available.

Pharmeducation will also host a one-day seminar in Cairns on 28 Mar.

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# BIG BUSINESS COMPLEXITY. LITTLE BUSINESS RESOURCES.

Let's be honest, running a pharmacy is complex. Day-to-day operations that would be straight-forward for a typical retail business can have a whole bunch of 'gotchas' that wouldn't even cross the mind of most business owners.

Wouldn't it be nice if there was someone who just got it? Someone to help you navigate these challenges? Some helpful tips and advice for your specific challenges rather than another 'Top 10 things' that you don't have time for?

Introducing Little Big Business – powered by Storbie, a new source for advice, resources and tips & tricks to help your complex little business be big and be successful. Produced by people who understand the challenges you face and designed to help you succeed and navigate complexity on a limited budget.

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