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1. Stough C, et al., Psychopharmacology (Berl) 2001;156(4):481-484. Funded by a Research Grant from Keenmind Pty. Ltd. 2. Stough C, et al., Phytoter Res 2008;22(12):1629-634. 3. Benson S, et al., Phytoter Res 2014;28(4):551-559. Funded by Soho Flordis International (SFI). 4. Downey LA, et al., Phytoter Res 2013;27(9):1407-1413. Funded by Soho Flordis International (SFI).



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## Fair Work amendment to hurt workers

**INDUSTRIAL** relations reforms proposed by the Federal Government to support Australia's jobs and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, could make it harder to hold employers to account for underpayments, Professionals Australia (PA) warns.

The union group, which includes Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has raised a number of concerns about the *Fair Work Amendment (Supporting Australia's Jobs and Economic Recovery) Bill 2020*.

In a submission to the Education and Employment Legislation Committee Inquiry, PA CEO, Jill McCabe, said the Bill would give employers the power to decide who was a casual member of staff and undermine enterprise agreements.

"Even before the pandemic, Australia's industrial relations system was not delivering fair outcomes for the nation's workers," she said.

"Historic low wage growth, systemic wage theft and

institutionalised job insecurity and casualisation has made life increasingly difficult for workers and their families.

"Australia's post COVID-19 economic recovery presents a significant opportunity to tackle these longstanding problems which have undermined productivity and innovation, acted as a handbrake on economic growth and resulted in deteriorating outcomes for workers and their families.

"Industrial relations reform in a post-pandemic world must focus on delivering high quality, well-paid and secure jobs which put money back into local economies and provide the certainty workers need before they can make investment decisions like buying a first home or new car.

"The 'reforms' proposed in this Bill fail to deliver on these critical objectives."

The PA submission raised concerns that provisions included in the Bill to introduce criminal sanctions for underpayment of employees were



undermined by the wording used.

Under section 2324B employers will face prosecution if they "dishonestly engage in a systematic pattern of underpayment".

However, PA said the definition of "dishonesty" the Bill introduces to the Act's dictionary at Section 12 means it will be virtually impossible to convict an employer, given it must be established beyond reasonable doubt the underpayment was not only 'dishonest according to the standards of ordinary people', but 'known by the defendant to be dishonest'.

### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus a front cover page from Floridis.

### Claim your mind

**INTEGRATIVE** medicine specialist, Floridis's KeenMind could help patients reduce nervous tension and find focus.

See today's **front page** for more.

### Win for Flo Baby

**INDEPENDENT** infant product review site, Tell Me Baby, has awarded Flo Baby Saline Nasal Spray its Top Baby Health Product award for the third consecutive year.

The hattrick of wins was secured through reviews from parents who had purchased the product.

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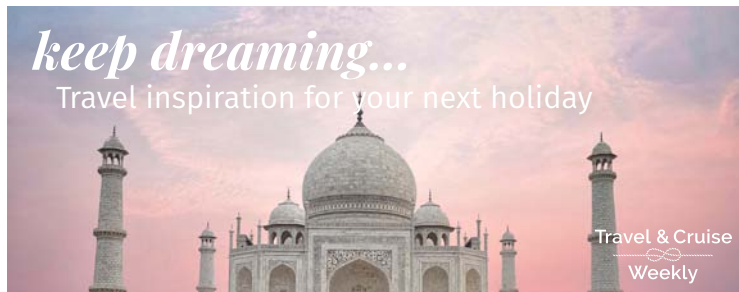


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## Ramsay growth

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange (ASX) listed health provider, Ramsay Health Care has reported revenue growth of 3.9% over the first half of the 2021 financial year.

The group which includes 59 community pharmacies said the network had seen revenue rise despite a number of stores being closed temporarily or operating at reduced hours due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

The company added that "the operating performance of the pharmacy business was also impacted by higher costs due to the COVID-19 environment".

Across the business, Ramsay reported a 4.2% fall in earnings before finance costs and tax, compared with the prior corresponding period, while total revenue and other income climbed 4.1% to \$6.6 billion.

## OTC CBD 'simply won't do the job'

**MAXIMUM** dosage levels for Pharmacist-Only medicinal cannabis products "simply won't do the job" for thousands of patients, Federal Shadow Health Minister, Mark Butler, believes.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, Butler voiced support for the Narcotic Drugs Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2021, but added "there still remains much to be done in the emerging area of therapeutic use of medicinal cannabis".

"Frankly, the Government doesn't appear to be doing much in that area, particularly in the area of improving access for patients across the country to safe, affordable and effective medicinal cannabis products," he said.

Butler noted that an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found 600,000 patients were using medicinal cannabis products to treat chronic conditions, however, just 5% were accessing

the medicines through the Special Access Scheme, while others were sourcing them "outside the legal framework".

He added that the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) decision to allow products containing a maximum daily dose of 150mg of cannabidiol (CBD), to be dispensed over-the-counter (OTC) by pharmacists, would do little for many patients who could benefit from higher dose CBD medicines.

"A range of patient advocacy groups have indicated that that is a sub-therapeutic dose," he said.

"For many, many conditions 150mg a day simply won't do the job."

"The other point I'd make is that, even though this decision has now been made and is in operation, there are actually no products on the register that activate the decision."

"There actually are no approved products that would be able to be sold by a pharmacist to a patient in



accordance with this decision.

"So, until there is, this is very much an abstract decision of no particular impact for patients across Australia."

Butler said that under the existing framework the process of gathering evidence and conducting clinical trials to support an application to have a product approved on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods could "potentially take years".

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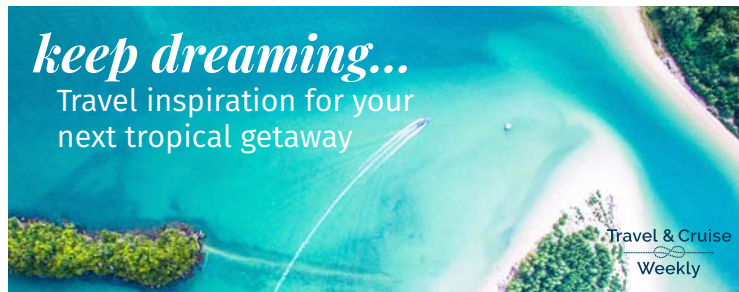
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## College appoints Kopanakis as CEO

**THE** Australasian College of Pharmacy has appointed Dr Dimitri Kopanakis (**pictured**) as its new CEO, following Kathy Knack's resignation last Dec (**PD** 04 Dec 2020).

College President, Michelle Bou-Samra, said the Board had conducted a rigorous recruitment process to identify a candidate with significant experience in education management.

"Kopanakis' international experience in leadership and management combined with his passion and history in education and training are a significant asset," Bou-Samra said.

"We are very excited Dimitri has

joined the College as CEO for what will be a year of continued growth.

"His background as an academic and senior executive covers all levels of education from early childhood to higher education and vocational education and training, including positions in the corporate and not-for-profit sector."

Kopanakis was previously the CEO of the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts, from Mar 2016 until Feb 2019, before establishing Dimitri Kopanakis Consulting, which provided management consultancy services to not-for-profit, education and corporate entities in Australia and overseas.

Kopanakis' LinkedIn profile noted



he was a "sessional academic/consultant, producer" between Dec 1999 and May 2014, working in the Oceania, Asian and European regions.



## Dispensary Corner

**OVERCOMING** misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines is likely to become more challenging for pharmacists in Western Australia, as the No Mandatory Vaccination (NMV) party plots a significant state election campaign.

With WA voters going to the polls next month, the NMV party has confirmed anti-vax candidates will run in each of the state's 59 constituencies.

Speaking with *The Australian*, University of WA vaccination policy expert, Katie Attwell, said that while the group was unlikely to win seats she expressed concern that "they'll spread misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccination rollout".

"The concern is if people aren't paying attention they might think vaccines are mandatory when they are not," Attwell said.

"It might recruit people who are not particularly worried about vaccines but don't want to be told what to do by government."

## Win an Evolt 360 package

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T&C'S APPLY

## ASL webinar

**FRED** IT Group is hosting a webinar covering the rollout of the Active Script List (ASL) model for electronic prescriptions tonight at 7pm (AEDT).

The session will cover tips on preparing pharmacies for the new e-script model, with demonstrations using Fred NXT Dispense and Fred Dispense.

**CLICK HERE** to register for the free event.



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