

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from Sigma Healthcare.

## PSA21 Virtual

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is promising a Zoom call like no other when its annual national conference kicks off online tomorrow morning.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said the event will include a 3D exhibition, allowing delegates to connect with exhibitors, while an online meeting hub will provide a platform for pharmacists to catch up with colleagues.

"Even without the face-to-face element, you will still have the opportunity to learn from and build relationships with experts and politicians," he said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## COVAX - it's now or never warns Guild

PHARMACIES have until one minute to midnight (AEST) to register to join Australia's COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) campaign, or miss out completely, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, warns.

Speaking during a Guild webinar last night Twomey urged the more than 5,800 Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) approved stores across the country to sign up before tonight's 11.59pm deadline.

"This is the absolute cut-off, you will not be given an extension," he said.

"I strongly encourage all of you to register and become approved.

"[I know] some of you may be hesitant to participate and I understand that.

"You can still choose not to order vaccines [once you've registered], but you cannot opt-in at a later date.

"Please participate. Please become approved."

During the webinar Twomey announced that the Guild will launch a public relations campaign urging Australians "if you're over 18

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get the vaccine".

"The goal is for all Australians to be fully vaccinated by a community pharmacy," he said.

"The outcome of this campaign will be to push and pull people to community pharmacy to get vaccinated, and it will have a lasting legacy.

"It will not only increase trust in the public's mind of community pharmacy, but it will also help us increase the vaccine services available through community pharmacy.

"I know that in the not too distant future all Australians will be able to be vaccinated against all diseases through their community pharmacy.

"This is a big opportunity for all of us to put the shoulder to the wheel to not only ensure that lockdowns are a thing of the past in 2022, but to have a great leap forward in our scope of practice agenda."

Twomey also confirmed that the Federal Government removed requirements for "new Australians" to present a Medicare card to receive the vaccine, after



pharmacists in western Sydney aired concerns that many recent arrivals had not been issued a card.

"It is still a requirement for Australians with a Medicare card to give you their Medicare card, because it is an important part of ensuring that record and occasion of service is uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register," he said.

"But what it does is it no longer precludes those new Australians who do not have a Medicare card from receiving the service.

"It is in all our interests to ensure that all of our community is vaccinated."

Registered stores will receive vaccines by 23 Aug at the latest.

## Pharmacy has Hepatitis C role: PSA

COMMUNITY pharmacists are well-placed to offer public health interventions to support efforts to eliminate Hepatitis C, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) WA Branch President, Dr Fei Sim, believes.

Marking World Hepatitis Day, Sim noted that more than a third of people living with Hepatitis C remain undiagnosed, with just 8% of those who have been diagnosed receiving treatment.

"Local pharmacists are well-placed to offer public health initiatives that support the early

identification and treatment of Hepatitis C, as well as ongoing patient self-care," she said.

"Australian pharmacists can make a significant contribution to the [World Health Organization] 2030 target by raising Hepatitis C awareness, facilitating screening, providing referrals to access the appropriate antiviral treatments (particularly in rural and remote Australia) through collaborative arrangements and the implementation of self-care programs."

## Cannabis advertiser fined over \$10,000

AN UNNAMED "Sydney-based individual" has been fined \$10,656 for alleged unlawful advertising of medicinal cannabis.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) says it had raised concerns with the alleged offender on several occasions, noting it was illegal to make reference to the substance Cannabidiol (CBD) in the advertising of CBD oil or other medicinal cannabis products.

All goods containing CBD are included in Schedule 3, 4 or 8 of

the current Poisons Standard, and cannot be advertised to the public unless the substance is also included in Appendix H.

It is alleged the individual referred to a prohibited representation on the website advertising the CBD oil as a treatment for "cancerous tumours," as well as restricted representations relating to Alzheimer's Disease.

The website and social media advertising must be removed immediately, the TGA has ordered.



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## Wesfarmers offer undervalues API

**WESFARMERS'** \$667 million bid to acquire pharmacy wholesaler, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) falls significantly short of the market rate, the API's Board believes.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning the Board said that after reviewing the offer it had "unanimously concluded that the indicative proposal undervalues API, is not compelling and is not in the best interests of API shareholders" (*PD* breaking news).

"The Board notes that the indicative proposals implies a premium of 18.7% to the three-month volume weighted average price (VWAP), which is significantly below the Australian market average for transactions of this nature," the company said.

API described the bid as

"opportunistic" given the impact the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns have had on the business, but stressed its "wholesale and retail businesses are strategically well positioned in the growing health, wellness and beauty sector".

The Board forecast "substantial medium-term growth in Priceline's earnings contributions", noted the "continued rollout of Priceline Pharmacy franchise stores", and the "attractive outlook for discretionary health and beauty spending as COVID restrictions unwind", while also highlighting the strength of the banner's digital health and beauty offering.

Increased certainty of additional funding provided to API's pharmacy distribution business through the remaining four years of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement



alongside the resetting of generics supply and Pfizer's decision to return to mainstream Community Service Obligation wholesalers, were identified as reasons to reject the bid.

"The Board will only progress a change of control transaction on terms that recognise the fundamental value of API and are in the best interests of API shareholders as a whole," the company said.



## Dispensary Corner

**COVID-19-INDUCED** lockdowns have highlighted the value of having a good hobby, something to take the mind off the monotony of spending the vast bulk of our time within the walls of our homes.

In many respects it's given us a taste of some of the elements of life in an Antarctic station - without the chill.

However, life for Australian Antarctic explorers is set to get tougher, with one of the key recreational activities on Australia's Macquarie Island station, home brewing, being banned from next summer under a new alcohol policy.

Home brewing has been a key hobby for thirsty workers at the base since the mid-1970s, but Australian Antarctic Division Director, Kim Ellis, said the ban was being imposed as it was not possible to safely manage consumption, hygiene standards and alcohol content.

The ABC reported the new policy was not in response to any specific incidents, rather the risks of overindulging and being exposed to the frozen continent's harsh realities.

With that in mind Dispensary Corner is off to check in on his Indian Pale Ale.

## Pharmacy Connect postponed to 2022

**COVID-19** has forced the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to scrap plans to host its annual Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney for the second successive year.

The Guild confirmed the event, which had been slated to take place between 03 and 05 Sep, was being postponed until 2022 after the NSW State Government announced the extension of

Sydney's current lockdown until at least 28 Aug.

Guild NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, said that while the decision to postpone was tough to make it was the correct one, as pharmacists "are focusing on what matters most - the health and safety of their patients".

Delegates will be able to seek a full refund of their registration or transfer it to next year's event.

## Sunscreen guide

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released updated guidelines for the regulatory requirements and standards for sunscreens - including their ingredients - in Australia.

The *Australian Regulatory Guidelines for Sunscreens Version 2* notes permitted indications which may be made by specific products.

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