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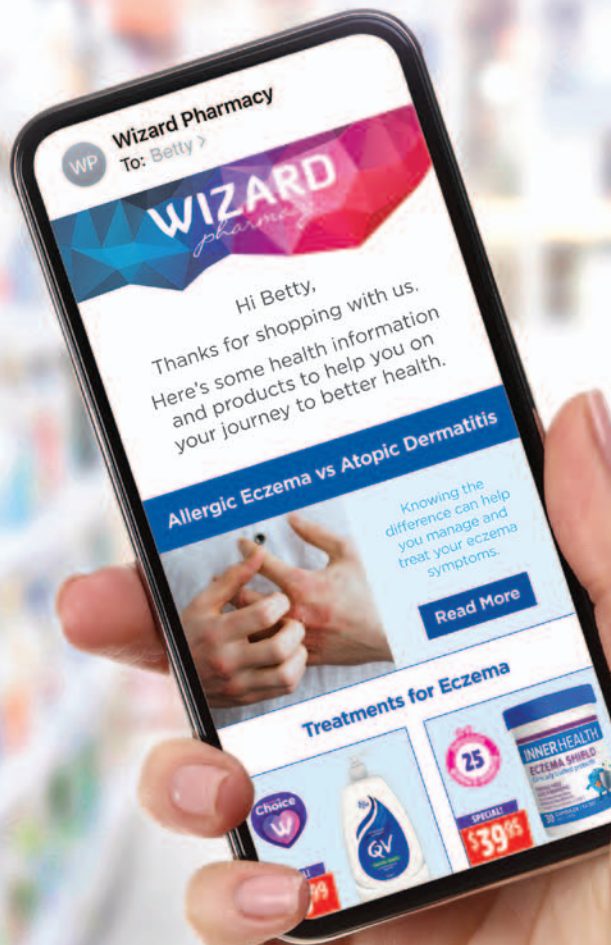
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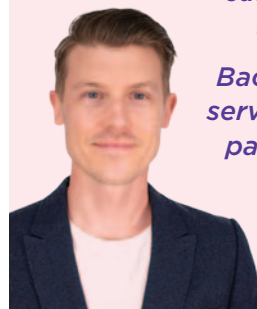
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Gavin Feilding
MARKETING MANAGER

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Australia COVAX rollout slipping back

AUSTRALIA'S COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout campaign is slipping behind other developed nations, an analysis by strategy firm, Provocate, reveals.

Australia fell five places in the past month from 5th to 10th of 14 nations benchmarked by the Australian Department of Health, overtaken by Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and the European Union at the same point in their own vaccination rollouts.

Lower ranked countries, such as New Zealand, South Korea, Canada and Japan, also grew at about double the pace of Australia in their third month of rollout.

Provocate Managing Director,

Troy Billsborough, noted that while the Victorian outbreak had boosted vaccination uptake over the past week, the daily number of patients receiving the jab was still half the 200,000 a day required to meet the Federal Government's target of completing the campaign by the end of the year.

"Australia's lagging rate of vaccination at home is having a significant impact on its global standing, as well as the risk of market share losses to competitor countries that reopen faster," he said.

"We remain concerned that the daily boost in COVID-19 immunisations driven by Victorian lockdown fear will only be temporary unless governments can harness this lapse in vaccine hesitancy to their advantage.

"Our outlook remains unchanged - until Australia is consistently averaging at least one million jabs in arms per week, every week, then business should plan for a vaccine



rollout completion closer to 2023 than 2021."

However, Tourism Minister, Dan Tehan, told a conference in Sydney yesterday that 4.2 million Australians had already received a COVID-19 jab, including one million just in the last 13 days - compared to 47 days for the first million doses.

"My hope is that we will continue to see that apace...our hope is that we will have all Australians vaccinated by the end of the year," he said.

"We think that's tracking very well."

Wizard solutions

WESTERN Australian group, Wizard Pharmacy, is offering franchisees access to marketing solutions designed to drive awareness and foot traffic with strong promotional activity.

The franchise model has been designed to support owners to deliver "maximum value" to customers.

See **cover page** for more information.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a front cover page from Wizard, plus full pages from:

- Sigma Healthcare
- PSA Onshore Conference

Refresh yourself

UPDATE your pharmacy knowledge and experience the Northern Territory this Sep at the 46th Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Onshore Refresher Conference in Darwin.

The annual event features pre- and post-conference tours to the Red Centre, Alice Springs, Katherine and Kakadu. See **page five** for more.

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DNA sample busts pharmacy thief

A THIEF who broke into a South Yarra pharmacy using a manhole from a neighbouring hotel has been placed on a 12-month community corrections order with drug and mental health treatment conditions.

Dandenong Magistrates' Court heard that 43-year-old George Koutsoupas was staying at the Hotel Clarendon next door to Oggs Pharmacy on Toorak Road, when he clambered through the manhole to get into the then closed store.

The Court was told Koutsoupas stole medications and perfumes valued at more than \$87,000, during his after-hours raid in May or Jun 2020.

The thief was busted after a sample of DNA was discovered on a drink bottle he discarded while he

was in the pharmacy, the *Greater Dandenong Leader* reported.

Koutsoupas has been arrested by police multiple times since Aug 2020, initially being found in a parked car with quantities of testosterone, ice, heroin, GHB, gloves, a torch and a screwdriver.

Police found more ice during a raid on a house where Koutsoupas was living in Oct last year, and he was arrested in Mar this year as he left an unoccupied apartment in South Yarra, carrying a number of stolen items including a purse, a passport and two handbags.

Koutsoupas pleaded guilty to trespassing and stealing the drink bottle from the store, but was not charged with burglary.

Issuing a sentence of 138 days imprisonment - with 124 already



served up to Thu - and placing Koutsoupas on a 12-month community corrections order, Magistrate Suzette Dootjes noted drug use had been an issue for him for a number of years.

She urged Koutsoupas to take advantage of the support the corrections service and family would provide him when he is released later this month.

FIP AMR push

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has reaffirmed the global pharmacy sector's commitment to tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR), at the World Health Assembly this week.

FIP warned that failing to act against the emergence of drug-resistant infections and diseases could fuel further public health crises.

Guild Update

Pharmacy Connect is back

PHARMACY Connect is back in 2021, after a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event is being held 2-4 September at the Hilton Sydney.

With a theme of establishing better connections with patients, this year's Pharmacy Connect will cover the following topics: enhancement to e-health, digital technology to better connect with patients, maximising medication compliance and efficient business operations to support pharmacists to better connect with patients (business operations).

Pharmacy Connect was developed to meet the needs identified by pharmacy owners, pharmacy managers and manufacturers for an industry conference in the second half of the year.

The conference will feature a two-and-a-half day education program, trade exhibition, welcome reception and cocktail party.

The event is open to pharmacists, pharmacy owners, pharmacy staff, pharmacy group executives, pharmacy managers, interns, students and industry representatives.

For further information or to register go to www.pharmacyconnect.com.au.

Online pharmacy regulation overdue

TICK boxes allowing patients to prevent information about their symptoms being shared with their GPs, when ordering medications from online pharmacies needs to be blocked, after a former nurse overdosed on codeine bought on the internet.

The parents of Katie Corrigan (38) noted the mother of two had been prescribed codeine by her GP to manage a chronic neck problem, but the doctor had cut off her supply when he became aware that she was dependent on the medication.

"Despite no longer having the

prescription, Katie was able to access it so easily online," her mother, Christine Taylor, said.

"Tougher regulation is long overdue.

"It is not just the ease with which you can obtain these drugs online.

"It's the fact that you can do so without your own doctor even being aware."

Taylor said patients using online prescription services could tell the doctor "real or made-up" symptoms to access medication and say they did not want their GP informed about it.



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Dispensary Corner

EFFORTS to boost uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines have seen governments and businesses offer a range of incentives for those who get the jab.

Qantas has offered multiple "mega prizes" including a year's free travel for a family, while donut giant, Krispy Kreme, has pledged free treats to those who have been vaccinated.

Now Thailand's Mae Chaem district, in the country's north is getting onboard with a novel incentive to encourage locals to get immunised.

Starting this month villagers who have been vaccinated will go into a weekly draw to win a young cow.

The campaign will run for 24 weeks, with one local official noting that "vaccine registration numbers have gone from hundreds to thousands in a couple of days", since the offer was announced, *Reuters* reported.

Other Thai provinces have sought to induce people to get the shot with cash incentives and jewellery giveaways.

Time to tackle poor diets

PHARMACISTS are being urged to play an active role in helping patients to make healthier nutritional choices, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) believes.

Launching the FIP *Nutrition and weight management services: A toolkit for pharmacists* last week, University of Sydney School of Pharmacy Faculty of Medicine and Health's Associate Professor Ingrid Gelissen, said it was an area where pharmacists could provide greater support to patients.

"Pharmacists have an opportunity to make an even greater impact on the health of their communities by involving nutrition and weight management as a vital component of their approach to patient care," she said.

"This toolkit aims to provide support and guidance for pharmacists to be proactive in having conversations on diet and weight with their patients, and we encourage more of the profession to adopt these services."

FIP Practice Development and Transformation Lead, Goncalo Sousa Pinto, added that "poor diets are responsible for more deaths than any other behavioural risk factor, including tobacco smoking".



"Up to five million deaths per year could be prevented if populations were more physically active," he said.

"Pharmacists, while primarily trained to promote health through pharmacological means, are ideally placed to help people to improve their nutrition and manage their weight because their easy, frequent accessibility means they can be on hand to help people maintain lifestyle changes, which is something people often find most difficult."

The toolkit aims to equip pharmacists with general nutritional knowledge and weight management strategies to empower them to make a greater impact on the health of their communities.

More pharmacies on exposure list

PHARMACIES at the Brimbank Shopping Centre, Deer Park, and Stockland Point Cook Shopping Centre, have been added to the list of COVID-19 exposure sites in Victoria.

Shoppers who visited TerryWhite Chemmart Brimbank and/or the Direct Chemist Outlet at Brimbank Shopping Centre on 26 May (between 8.45am and 5.30pm), 27 May (from 11.45am until 9.30pm) and 28 May (from 8.45am to 6.30pm) have been asked to "get tested urgently and isolate" until they receive a negative result.

Patients who went to the Direct Chemist Outlet at the Stockland Point Cook Shopping Centre on 26 May between 3.30pm and 5.30pm have also been advised to get tested after a confirmed case visited the centre.

The update follows the addition of nine pharmacy locations to the list of exposure sites over the weekend, which included five Chemist Warehouse pharmacies.

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For more information visit: www.psaonshore2021.com.au