

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news plus a full page from **Nova Pharmaceuticals**.

## Be winter ready

**WINTER** is coming and Nova Pharmaceuticals' Medi Choice range has products to help tackle sore throats, nasal congestion, pain and germs. See **page four** for more.

## COVID ad breach

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has fined Perth-based business, V P & Associates Pty Ltd \$26,640 for alleged unlawful advertising of its plant-based nasal and oral solution, Liquim.

The company claimed the unregistered product was 99.9% effective against COVID-19.

## TGA green-lights COVAX incentives

**NEW** measures have been approved to allow health professionals, businesses and media outlets to develop their own materials about COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The arrangements will also permit businesses to offer a range of rewards to people who have been fully vaccinated under the

Federal Government's program.

"The new arrangements, which will be in place until the end of 2022, will give health professionals and Australian businesses more flexibility to contribute to the national conversation about vaccination," the TGA said.

"Health professionals can enhance vaccine uptake by publicly supporting vaccination."

**RISK-AVERSE** bureaucrats are stalling the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines by providing poor advice about community pharmacy's capacity to join the immunisation campaign to State Governments, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Speaking to *Sky News Cairns* following the announcement that Boonah-based pharmacist, Sue Pocock, had administered Australia's first COVID-19 shot at a community pharmacy, Twomey stressed there was no increased risk posed by having doses of the vaccines administered in pharmacies.

"[Other State Governments] are receiving poor advice from their risk-averse state-based bureaucracies," he said.

"There is no level of risk here that is elevated compared to general practice or compared to Queensland Health.

"Community pharmacies have been assessed by the same expression of interest process that



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## States receiving poor advice: Twomey

the Commonwealth Government assessed general practice by.

"The pharmacies have done the same level of training - the exact same module that is run by the Australian College of Nursing, so the infrastructure's there, the training's there [and] the customer demand is there."

The Guild President said engaging community pharmacies to administer the vaccines could also help tackle vaccine hesitancy, with pharmacists able to reassure patients about the safety of the immunisations and provide them, once the patients feel comfortable having a shot.

Twomey added that gaining State approval for community pharmacies to start rolling out COVID-19 vaccines would be crucial in the coming days, as Australia nears the 12-week mark since general practices started administering the AstraZeneca shot.

"The big bottleneck that we have that's going to be right across



Australia from next week is, we're going to have all those people who have received their first shot [will] start rocking up for their second shot," he said.

"How is the general practice network going to handle the demand to not only give the second shot, but also to continue at the levels they have been of giving the first dose?

"It makes absolutely no sense not to use the 4,000 pharmacies [that have been approved by the Federal Government]."



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## Phelps' pharmacy post unhelpful

**FORMER** Federal MP and Australian Medical Association (AMA) President, Professor Kerry Phelps (**pictured**), is being accused of scaremongering, after questioning pharmacists' abilities to manage anaphylaxis.

Minutes after the announcement the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, had become the first person to receive their COVID-19 vaccine in a community pharmacy yesterday, Phelps posted, "I wonder how many community pharmacists have actually managed a case of anaphylaxis?" on Twitter.

Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, described Phelps' post as "unhelpful" and suggested, "if this was a workplace it would be deemed bullying".

"During a health crisis the public rightly expect and deserve their health professionals to work together as a team for their interest not [the] self-interest of

practitioners," he said.

"We literally need all immuniser hands on deck to undertake this massive task of vaccinating all eligible patients in our population.

"To read her comments whilst in Melbourne during lockdown, knowing that at my own pharmacy and those of many of my colleagues we are turning away ready, willing and eligible patients every day for COVID-19 vaccination as we don't have stock is absolutely insulting."

Speaking with **Pharmacy Daily**, Tassone called on Phelps to "stop being a detractor" of her pharmacy colleagues, warning that negative comments about the profession had the potential to cause harm.

"Stop undermining suitably trained and competent health professionals who are only wanting to help protect their patients and communities on a pathway to recovery," he said.

Responding to Phelps' tweet, Monash University Faculty of



Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Education Professor, Dr Tina Brock, called for greater collaboration between health professionals to support the vaccine rollout.

"COVID vaccination is a race," she said.

"Let's run this as a relay, handing the baton between fields (all working at top of scope) to get the entire population fully vaccinated as safely and quickly as possible".

## TGA has Palmer COVAX concerns

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is warning Clive Palmer and other public figures against authorising ads promoting misinformation about COVID-19 vaccinations (COVAX).

In a statement released this morning the TGA expressed concerns about ads authorised by the former Federal MP, which have been broadcast on the *Grant Broadcasters Radio* network, and provide "an incorrect picture of the safety of COVAX".

"Such misinformation, in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, poses an unacceptable threat to the health of Australians," the TGA said.

The TGA has written to Palmer and the CEO of the radio network to remind them of their responsibilities.

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## Dispensary Corner

**AUSTRALIAN** Medical Association Western Australian Branch President, Dr Andrew Miller, is urging young men to look after their junk.

In a Twitter post this morning, Miller shared some pearls of wisdom noting, "there is more than one way your balls can get you killed".

"Selfie your important parts now and then," he said.

"Not just the lead singer, I mean the rest of the band.

"Feel for lumps or changes... compare the boys [and] see a GP if [you have] any concerns."

The sage words of advice were followed up with a warning that "keeping your pics to yourself is always the best policy".

Psychiatrist, Jane Fitch, suggested that "perhaps inspection with a mirror and palpation is sufficient."

Adding, "risk of universal prescription of genital selfies outweighs benefits".

## Health literacy concerns

**AUSTRALIA** needs to boost health literacy levels to increase consumers' capacity to manage and feel in control of their healthcare, Consumers' Health Forum of Australia (CHF) CEO, Leanne Wells, believes.

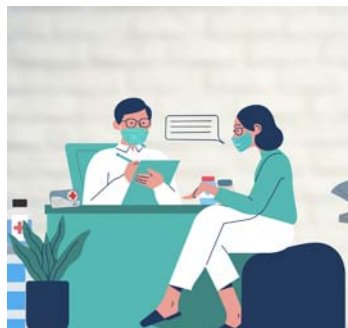
Launching the results of a national survey conducted by CHF and NPS MedicineWise, Wells noted that significant numbers of Australians reported that they "rarely or never felt comfortable asking their doctor, pharmacist or nurse when they needed more information".

The survey noted that 28% of people reported that they found information provided by health professionals confusing.

"We need to increase consumers' capacity to manage and feel in control of their health care, including around medicines," Wells said.

"This is a challenge when we know that 60% of Australians appear to lack the capacity to access, understand, appraise and use crucial information to make health related decisions.

"It's really important that we



strive to improve medicines literacy because we know people at higher risk of medication-related harm are people with multiple conditions, people who are taking lots of medications and people with English as a second language."

NPS MedicineWise CEO, Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Morris, said the organisation would continue to work with the CHF to boost health literacy and quality use of medicines.

"It's increasingly recognised that engaging consumers as partners in the development of health literacy resources, information and tools is essential to the success of these interventions," he said.



## Guild Update

### Take Home Naloxone

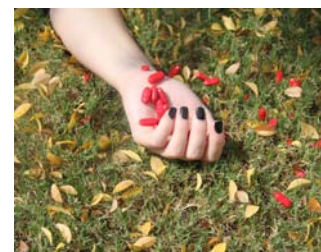
**THE** Australian Government has announced the Take Home Naloxone (THN) Pilot program will continue for an additional year to 30 June 2022 in the three jurisdictions where it is operating - NSW, SA and WA.

Continuation of the THN Pilot will benefit Australians in need, State and Territory governments, providers of alcohol and other drug services, pharmacies and emergency departments through the Commonwealth funding the provision of naloxone.

Naloxone will continue to be available for free and without a prescription to people who may experience, or witness an opioid overdose in the three pilot States.

The additional year for the THN Pilot recognises the impacts of COVID-19 on pilot activities and timeframes, including the demand placed on community pharmacies that has meant the potential reach and scope of the pilot has not been fully realised.

Information regarding registering and participating in the pilot can be found at: [naloxone-pilot registration and participation](#)



## Win thanks to Crampeze!

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Name two symptoms of muscle cramps?

To win, be the first person to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

## Permanent ban

**THE** NSW Health Care Complaints Commission has permanently banned massage therapist, Benjamin Steed, from providing any health services in any capacity.

The ban came after Steed, who had been employed at a health clinic in Dural, NSW, admitted sexually touching another person without consent.

Steed was subsequently convicted and sentenced to a 15-month jail term.



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