



Find out everything you need to know



We just want to help COVAX rollout

WESTERN Australian pharmacists are frustrated at having to turn away patients who are eager to have COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX), Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow says.

Speaking on *The West Australian's The West Live* podcast yesterday, Ngeow said 512 pharmacies across the State have been told they meet the Federal Government's criteria to become COVAX sites, and legislation has been enacted to allow them to administer the vaccines, but the final green-light has yet to be given.

"Everything's in place," he said.

"We're ready to go - this pandemic isn't over [and] we have to get people vaccinated.

"We know there's no supply issue, because the Australian production line has the capacity for one million doses a week.

"The Commonwealth has already said we can do it, the State legislation is in place, so there's an ongoing frustration for pharmacists themselves about 'why can't we start'?"

"We want to help Western Australians do this.

"If we get the 512 pharmacies on



board now, we'll bring forward the rollout by about six months."

Adding to the sense of frustration, Ngeow said that patients have been coming to his pharmacies on a daily basis asking for the vaccine.

"We're forced to deny them that access purely and simply because we don't have the vaccine in stock," he said.

Ngeow also dismissed concerns over pharmacists' abilities to manage anaphylaxis, raised by former AMA President and Federal MP, Professor Kerry Phelps earlier this week (*PD* 08 Jun).

"As part of the pharmacist's training they've done the full training around anaphylaxis and

how to treat it," he said.

"They do it as part of their accreditation and training to do the influenza vaccine, so it's the same training with COVAX."

MEANWHILE, data from a WA vaccine safety surveillance program published in *BMJ Open*, has shown that patients who received flu vaccines in pharmacies between Mar and Oct 2020 experienced a lower rate of adverse events following immunisation than those who had the jab in other healthcare settings (*PD* 10 Jun).

Today's issue of *PD*

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

Cannabis event

PHARMACISTS looking to learn about medicinal cannabis can earn up to 12 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) points at the Australian Medicinal Cannabis Symposium.

See **page three** for more.

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Dispensary Corner

FOR those still pondering the value of investing in cyber security measures, news that Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) is on the lookout for a deal on 30,000 new laptops after a major attack last month, may highlight the benefits.

The Emerald Isle's COVID-19 ravaged health system has been reeling for more than three weeks, with systems slowly being restored.

HSE CEO Paul Reid, said close to a third of the organisation's servers had been decrypted, but "it's a trail of disruption that was left behind in terms of restoration".

Reid added that a "significant proportion" of the organisation's 80,000 user laptops and access points were heading for the scrap heap after the attack, with initial plans to replace 30,000 devices, *thejournal.ie* reported.

"This is horrendous for our staff and it's extremely difficult for many people coming to our services, experiencing delays" he said.

Discounter satisfies Aussie shoppers

CHEMIST Warehouse has come out on top of the annual Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards in the Chemist/Pharmacy of the Year category for the first time.

Welcoming the result, based on customer satisfaction ratings collected from the Roy Morgan Single Source survey of more than 50,000 Australians, former Pharmacy Guild of Australia Communications Director, Greg Turnbull, who joined Chemist Warehouse as an independent advisor earlier this week, (PD 07 Jun) said it reflected well on the discount group.

"This win is a great achievement for the Chemist Warehouse pharmacies and staff across Australia," he said.

"Winning this award is a



testament to the dedicated and passionate team who continue each day to encourage customers to live well, get well and stay well, despite the confronting times we have all faced over the past year with the COVID pandemic.

"Chemist Warehouse is

exceptionally proud of the team across Australia who have remained committed to providing Australians with affordable medicines and the full range of accessible wellness solutions.

"It's great to get feedback that reflects the care taken by Chemist Warehouse pharmacists and staff, and the high satisfaction levels of the more than two million Australians who visit their local Chemist Warehouse every week."

Queen's B'day

THE next edition of *Pharmacy Daily* will be published on Tue 15 Jun, as NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT mark the Queen's Birthday on Mon.

Challenge yourself: Turner

GETTING out of his comfort-zone and taking advantage of networking opportunities have been key to shaping Scrypt Venture's Operations Manager, and former National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association President, Sam Turner's career, he says.

Turner shared his experiences and career insights in the latest episode of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*, released this week.



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