



Fri 18th June 2021

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Leaders rough it

PHARMACY Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch Director, Monique Mackrill, and Sigma Healthcare's Amcal and Guardian Pharmacy Head, Kurt O'Brien, braved the elements last night in support of the Vinnies CEO SleepOut.

Sacrificing home comforts for a night roughing it in Launceston, Mackrill has raised \$6,885 to support homeless Australians, while O'Brien slept on the streets of Melbourne, having secured more than \$10,950 in donations.

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SOUTH Australia Premier, Steven Marshall, is set to give the greenlight for a record number of rural and remote pharmacies to join the COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) rollout. Announcing plans to activate

community pharmacies as COVAX sites, Marshall said the SA Government was "looking at about 100 rural and remote pharmacies" to take part in the expansion of vaccination services in the State.

"South Australians have now received more than 425,000 COVID vaccination doses as we ramp up the rollout throughout our state," he said.

"Making it easier for people to be vaccinated is another key plank in our COVID-19 plan, which is keeping South Australians safe and our economy strong during the pandemic and we now have more people employed than ever before in the history of the state."

SA Health Minister, Stephen Wade, said "it makes perfect sense to enable the community pharmacy workforce to provide more options for people to get their COVAX, especially in rural and remote areas".

"Community pharmacists are trained vaccinators who already

Ramsay makes sustainable switch

RAMSAY Health Care is ditching excessive plastic packaging in favour of a more sustainable option to ensure chemotherapy medications are kept safe and at the right temperature.

Ramsay Pharmacy General Manager of Operations, Michelle Lynch, revealed the company has worked with medical supplier, Baxter Healthcare to move to Woolcool packaging. "Changing medication packaging systems is not an easy

or straightforward task," she said. "[But] the Woolcool solution is brilliant and we are already seeing a massive reduction in the plastic used across Ramsay.

"Woolcool thermally outperforms polystyrene and is far more environmentally responsible." play a fundamental part in providing access to immunisation for South Australians, administering seasonal influenza as well as a range of other vaccines," he said.

SA plots pharmacy COVAX rollout

"There is already a strong community acceptance and uptake of pharmacist vaccinations in Australia and there is existing capability within the pharmacy network."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia SA/NT Branch President, Robyn Johns, described the decision as "pleasing", noting that "bringing community pharmacists on board will expedite the completion of the rollout protecting more people sooner".

With changes to the storage requirement for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recently approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Johns also said "all vaccine providers including community pharmacists - must be able to support all patients by administering the most appropriate vaccine for them".





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Dispensary Corner

FEAR of discovering they are seriously ill is a factor preventing many Irishmen from seeking medical advice when they are feeling unwell research from LloydsPharmacy reveals.

The survey, conducted as part of Men's Health Week, found 42% of men had delayed visiting a health professional, with 41% preferring blissful ignorance to learning what the true cause of their ailment was.

Responding to the survey's findings, LloydsPharmacy Superintendent Pharmacist, Denis O'Driscoll, urged his countrymen not to simply "soldier on" groaning to their partners, and visit a health professional when they are feeling unwell.

"When it comes to healthcare, seeking advice from a health professional early on is critical," he said.

"For some health issues delaying engaging with health services can leave them untreatable."

Tas falling behind: Guild

behind the rest of Australia with no confirmed plans to activate community pharmacies to join the campaign, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia warns.

Tasmanian Guild Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, has voiced concerns over the lack of communication about expanding the vaccination program to include pharmacies, while other jurisdictions have.

"We have no information on whether planning has even started in Tasmania," O'Byrne said.

"I understand that in Tasmania the Federal and State coordination of COVID-19 vaccinations means that approximately 31% of the adult population has received at least one of the two required doses, which is a solid achievement.

"However, there are many areas across Tasmania with limited or no local appointment availability for a COVID-19 vaccination, making it difficult for many people to receive this important protection against infection – which potentially leads to apathy and hesitancy. "Our members as trained

healthcare professionals are

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committed to supporting the Government's efforts by playing their part in delivering the vaccine to their local communities."

O'Byrne noted Queensland has already started its community pharmacy COVID-19 vaccine rollout, while governments in NSW, Victoria and the Northern Territory are expected to announce the activation of limited numbers of pharmacies in the coming weeks (**PD** 16 Jun), with some moving towards a mid-Jul start date.

While Tasmanian pharmacies are yet to get the green-light to become COVID-19 vaccination sites, the State Government is expected to announce that pharmacists have been added to the vaccination schedule in Tasmania, allowing them to administer COVID-19 shots in State-run hubs.

TWC prepares for Masterclass

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) will provide a comprehensive update on a range of topics including medicinal cannabis, chronic pain management and the role of pharmacists in palliative care, at its annual Masterclass event this weekend.

The 2021 Masterclass will see more than 1,000 delegates gather online with the event being hosted virtually for the first time.

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, said the program aimed to push pharmacists "beyond their current knowledge levels... providing them with the most up-to-date clinical and leadership expertise so they can continue to take care of their communties".

"This year's event will also be the launch vehicle for several exciting initiatives, which we are looking forward to detailing over the next few months," Hart said.

The 2021 TWC Pharmacist of the Year winner will also be announced during the event.

TGA investigates counterfeit HGH

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is working with Sandoz Pty Ltd and Novartis Australia, to investigate reports that counterfeit vials of Novartis-Bio Somatropin Human Growth Hormone (HGH) are in community circulation.

Both companies have confirmed that they do not market the medication in Australia, with Novartis noting that the packaging and invalid batch number on an intercepted box of the vials suggested it was a counterfeit.

The TGA also warned that it was illegal to supply counterfeit Somatropin HGH vials in Australia, adding that it was working with the Australian Border Force to help prevent further shipments of the fake medication from entering the country.

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EDITORIAL Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman info@pharmacydaily.com.au

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> ADVERTISING AND MARKETING Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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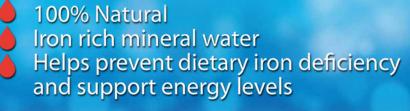
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