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## All pharmacies, all vaccines: Twomey

**PHARMACIES** across the country should be given access to Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines as well as doses of the AstraZeneca shot to support the national vaccination program, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Twomey welcomed calls from Western Australian Premier, Mark McGowan, for greater access to doses of the Pfizer jab, in the wake of the updated advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) that the AstraZeneca vaccine should be restricted to those 60 years and older.

Speaking before today's National Cabinet meeting, McGowan said the change in vaccine advice meant WA needed more than its current weekly allocation of 30,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

"If there's more vaccine supplies, we are ready willing and able to collaborate with the Federal Government to boost the Pfizer



vaccine rollout through our State-run clinics, GPs and pharmacies, to help protect Western Australians," McGowan said.

Responding to a comment from a Perth-based pharmacist posted on social media, calling on the Federal Government to "get its act in gear and realise pharmacists' involvement [in the vaccine rollout] is crucial", Twomey called for "all

pharmacies" to be activated to administer "all [COVID] vaccines".

**MEANWHILE**, Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, said the number of doses of the Pfizer vaccine coming into Australia will increase over the coming months, with *The Australian* reporting that 1.7 million are due to arrive this month, while a further 2.8 million are expected in Jul.

### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Ezymed
- Choice Pharmacy
- TerryWhite Chemmart

### Making DAAs Ezy

**AUTOMATED** dose administration aid (DAA) packing solution, Ezymed could help pharmacy owners grow their business without the extra workload.

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See **page four** for more.







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<sup>^</sup>IMS MIDAS data, Absatz MAT04/2019. \*Lang C, et al., Planta Med 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG. PRPDS2020





## Get an ownership opportunity

**PHARMACISTS** looking to find an opportunity to get into ownership are being invited to joining the Choice Pharmacy brand.

See **page five** to discover how Choice Pharmacy Bomaderry partner, Glenda, took her first step into ownership 12 months after joining the group.

## RPMA cuts to reduce meds access

**RURAL** pharmacy owners are expressing concerns that they will have to reduce trading hours in response to changes to the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA).

In a statement released by the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) today, one Queensland pharmacist outlined his plans to adjust to reduced RPMA payments.

"We currently open five and a half days a week, but I intend to reduce trading to weekdays only," he said.

"This year has seen our wholesaler do away with its Sat morning delivery service that I had enjoyed for the past 20 years, due to the costs of making the delivery on a Sat morning.

"So if we get a script after 2pm on a Thu and we need to order the stock, the patient can no longer have it on Sat, but now have to wait till Mon - or Tue if it is a direct distribution or a fridge line.

"So Sat have lost their 'functionality' as far as a day of

getting medication to patients: this will be the most likely place we will trim costs."

A Western Australian pharmacy owner revealed the changes to the RPMA had forced them to reduce hours and to reconsider participating in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

"I have reduced hours on a daily basis, now closing 30 minutes for lunch," the owner said.

"I will be monitoring other days of the week to assess viability and make a future call on this too.

"I have also reduced staff hours.

"I have not participated in the COVID vaccination program because paying for extra staff - ie another pharmacist - to cover the time involved is totally out of my reach.

"I haven't reduced my costings of Dose Administration Aids as yet - we have a large elderly population so I need to be careful with this."

A NSW-based pharmacy owner said the increases in funding for other Seventh Community



Pharmacy Agreement funded services did not offset cuts to the RPMA experienced by a number of rural and remote pharmacies.

"In fact, since many of the services either require a second pharmacist or a high volume of customers to be feasible many small turnover remote and isolated pharmacies find themselves worse off," he said.

"Those that have lived in small remote rural communities understand the importance of the community pharmacy.

"For many residents it is their only contact with health professionals."

## SA pharmacies face break-in spree

**SOUTH** Australian Police are investigating seven break-ins at community pharmacies in Adelaide between 25 May and 03 Jun, with stores in the Windsor Gardens, Walkerville, Greenacres, Marden, Mile End and Plympton Park areas targeted by thieves.

CCTV footage of a raid at a pharmacy on Muller Road, Greenacres, on 03 Jun, showed two suspects smash their way into the store - with one striking the door multiple times with a metal bar, before the second thief broke through the glass with his shoulder.

"CCTV obtained from the various locations show two men wearing dark clothing, hoodies, gloves smashing the front doors before entering and stealing medications," SA Police said.

"Police suspect the break-ins are all linked."

**MEANWHILE** an SA Police Dog sniffed out a suspect who smashed his way into a pharmacy in the Marion area of Adelaide in the early hours of Fri morning.

The thief was apprehended in a nearby reserve, where he was arrested without incident, *Adelaide Now* reported.

## CPAP warning

**PHARMACIES** are being urged to "quarantine and remove from sale an unsold units" of Philips CPAP and BiLevel PAP devices, following concerns being raised over a product defect.

A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration told *Pharmacy Daily*, that it was working closely with Philips on its global recall of the machines after concerns were raised that they may put patients at risk of toxic particulate and chemical exposure.

**CLICK HERE** for more.



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## Community first for TWC PotY winner

A **DRIVING** force in raising awareness for health conditions in her community, TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) Goondiwindi's Emma Conway (**pictured**), has been named the 2021 TWC Pharmacist of the Year (PotY).

Since joining the rural Queensland pharmacy's team as an intern in 2018, Conway has become a pillar of the community and a driving force when it comes to raising awareness about health conditions with her patients, TWC CEO, Duncan Phillips said, during the group's virtual Masterclass event on Sat.

"There is nothing Emma wouldn't do to support her community and I am incredibly thrilled she is our 2021 PotY," Phillips said.

"One of Emma's most successful campaigns was her event with TradeMutt, which helped promote discussions around mental health, and more recently Emma bravely shaved her head raising \$18,000 for Cancer Research as part of the World's Greatest Shave."

Announcing Conway's win, TWC Founder, Terry White, described her as "a recognisable force in her



Gundy community - always putting the needs of her customers and community first, which was very much on display during the peak of COVID-19, when she provided regular vital information through their [TWC Goondiwindi's] social channels".

Accepting the 2021 TWC PotY title, Conway said it was an incredible honour and privilege.

"I am beyond thrilled to be recognised alongside so many

amazing pharmacists," she said.

"I am lucky to work for such a progressive and innovative pharmacy team, which allows me to explore new and creative ways to engage our community."

As the 2021 TWC PotY, Conway will receive funding towards further education to support her efforts to develop more innovative programs to help patients in and around Goondiwindi.

See **page six** for more.



## Dispensary Corner

**LOVELORN** Northern Irish pharmacist, Richard Lyness, is facing spending time behind bars if he fails to control drunken urges to contact a former girlfriend.

The 38-year-old was placed on probation and ordered to do community service by Belfast Magistrate's Court for his eight-month long email, text, social media and phone calling campaign to woo his ex-partner, *The Irish News* reported.

The Court heard 170 emails, more than 30 text messages and 677 calls were logged in a single two-week period, while Lyness also made daily contact with the woman through Facebook and Instagram.

A reference provided by a Christian evangelical group on Lyness's behalf noted that alcohol was a factor in the incidents.

District Judge, Liam McNally, issued a restraining order to ensure Lyness leaves the woman alone until 2023, noting "there's very little [that's] Christian about the behaviour just repeated to me".

"If you contact her in any shape or form I will sentence you to five months imprisonment on that charge," McNally said.

"If you go back on the drink, get drunk and decide, 'I must pick up my phone or iPad and send a WhatsApp', just think twice."

While Dispensary Corner is loath to offer advice on matters of the heart, Lyness should consider deleting her number.

## Win thanks to SNOTTY For Little Noses

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

## Tattoo aftercare

**ALMOST** half of all inked Australians fail to follow skincare advice after having their first tattoo, the *think before you INK* report reveals.

The research commissioned by Bepanthen Tattoo, found just one-in-three people knew how to care for their tattoo before they got it, with 73% saying they had no idea of how much their first tat would hurt.

Tattoo artist, Lauren Winzer, advised Aussies to get "clued-up" before getting inked.

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**Emma Conway**

TerryWhite Chemmart Goondiwindi, QLD



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