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<sup>^</sup>IMS MIDAS data, Absatz MAT04/2019. \*Lang C, et al., Planta Med 2015;81:968-974.  
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## Stop hiding behind National Cabinet

**COMMONWEALTH** Government decision-makers are bungling the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations and need to activate community pharmacies to be vaccine hubs immediately, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, says.

Speaking at a media conference yesterday (*PD* breaking news), Twomey hit out at the “so-called experts... faceless men in the Commonwealth Government bureaucracy providing goodness knows what advice”, while leaving trained immunisers working in community pharmacies on the sidelines of the vaccination effort.

In an impassioned plea, Twomey called on the Morrison Government to add pharmacies to the rollout.

“We have the premiers onboard,” he said.

“In Victoria we know that Dan’s [Premier Daniel Andrews] back on deck and he’s supportive of community pharmacies.

“We know the Premier of South Australia, the Premier of Queensland, the Premier of Tasmania, the Premier of WA... they’re all onboard.

“Stop hiding behind National Cabinet and activate community pharmacy.”

Twomey noted that there were no delays in onboarding general practices to the scheme, and singled out Commonwealth Department of Health Secretary, Professor Brendan Murphy, for criticism.

“Brendan Murphy needs to step up here,” Twomey said.

“He deserves to take responsibility for this bungled rollout.

“Murphy is nowhere to be seen at the moment - he was rolled out by the politicians as the medical expert and everyone heeded his advice, and where is he now?

“He’s hiding behind the General [COVID-19 vaccine taskforce leader,



Lieutenant-General John Frewen].”

Twomey rejected suggestions that vaccine supply issues were responsible for the stalled rollout of COVID vaccination services through pharmacies.

“We have tens of millions of vaccines sitting in fridges between State and Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government,” he said.

“And we have tens of millions of Australians who want to get their vaccine.”

**CLICK HERE** to see the media conference.

### Today's issue of *PD*

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

- **Choice Pharmacy**
- **Packapill**

### Soothing ivy

**FLORDIS** is today showcasing its Prospan ivy leaf extract product for chesty coughs.

Prospan is the world’s top selling product in the ivy leaf category.

See the **cover page** for more.

### A Choice career

**PHARMACISTS** looking for a career “doing what you really enjoy”, are being invited to join Choice Pharmacy.

See **page four** for more information.

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## Police hunt pharmacy bandit

**QUEENSLAND** Police are investigating an alleged armed robbery at a Rockhampton pharmacy yesterday.

Staff at the pharmacy on Lawrie Street, Gracemere, were threatened by a man who demanded cash, claiming he had a gun, at 8am in the morning - however, the weapon was not drawn during the incident.

The man, described as being dark-skinned, wearing a blue mask and carrying a grey backpack.

Police reported that they were unable to deploy the dog squad, as the bandit fled the scene on a pushbike.



## Pharmacy COVAX activation too slow

**THE** health and wellbeing of Australians is unnecessarily put at risk because of the Federal Government's failure to activate approved community pharmacies to join the COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch Acting President, Chris Owen, believes.

Welcoming confirmation that 101 regional and rural pharmacies in the State have been given the green-light to join the 49 stores already administering COVAX by the Queensland Government, Owen called for all stores to be onboarded.

"Including 49 pharmacies in the rollout was a great first step," he said.

"A further 101 community pharmacies in rural and remote parts of Queensland are yet to be fully onboarded in the rollout but a lot more needs to be done.

"The Queensland Government has recognised this and requested the Commonwealth activate all community pharmacies in Queensland.

"The Queensland Government

clearly understands the value of community pharmacy - why doesn't Canberra?

"The lack of action in allowing all community pharmacies to actively vaccinate smacks of bureaucratic mismanagement and a bias towards other primary healthcare models.

"Not having all community pharmacies as local COVID-19 vaccination hubs puts Queenslanders at greater risk of transmission.

"Queenslanders are now having to endure further social and economic despair due to lockdowns."

**MEANWHILE**, Guild Western Australian Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, told *The West Australian* that plans to give the go-ahead for 67 community pharmacies in rural and remote parts of the state to administer COVAX from mid-Jul was too little, too late.

"Globally, the countries with good COVAX rates have used their pharmacies," he said.

"As we fall further behind



equivalent countries in achieving broad vaccination, there is a simple lesson for the Commonwealth Government, which is that it simply makes no sense to limit opportunities for the public to access the COVID-19 vaccine by delaying the involvement of pharmacies."

On the east coast, NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, revealed a plan for additional COVAX sites across the state will be announced tomorrow, with approved regional and rural pharmacies potentially set to get the green-light to start administering COVID-19 shots.

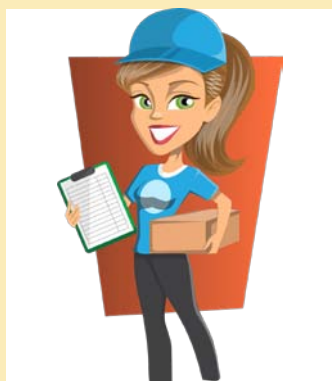
## Packapill drops delivery charges in WA

**PERTH-BASED** pharmacy delivery app, Packapill, is waiving fees to get prescription and over-the-counter medicines to patients in lockdown-affected parts of Western Australia.

In a statement released this morning, the contactless medicine delivery service said it was turning off all delivery charges in the app, regardless of location or order size to meet the needs of patients in WA, in the wake of the State Government's decision to impose COVID-19 restrictions yesterday.

"Packapill is immediately turning off all delivery charges to help West Aussies stay home and stay safe during these unprecedented times," a company spokesperson said.

"We know many people struggle to get to the pharmacy



or the doctor when lockdowns are in place, and there is a fear of contagion in all medical facilities.

"We are doing what we can to help, so that our risks as a state are reduced."

Packapill provides contactless medication delivery within three hours.

See **page five** for more.

## PSA announces 2021 PSOTY finalists

**WINNERS** of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) State Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) awards are set to go head-to-head for the national title next month.

Students demonstrated their professional skills, clinical knowledge and counselling techniques last night in the state-based competition, with the University of Western Australia's Ma Christel Joyce Manuel, claiming the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Wildcard place in the national PSOTY final.

Announcing the finalists for the 2021 Viatrix PSOTY Award, PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said the competition gave students an opportunity to grow and learn as professionals.

"The PSOTY award recognises some of the outstanding pharmacy students within the profession, and gives them a platform to apply their skills and to be judged on them," he said.

The finalists are:

- ACT - Juliet Contreras - University of Canberra
- NSW - Stephanie Worden - University of Newcastle
- Qld - Zoe Robinson - Queensland University of Technology
- SA/NT - Dharshan Rasiah - University of South Australia
- Tas - Ashlee Shaw - University of Tasmania
- VIC - Alex Loric - Monash University
- WA - Allira Payne - University of Western Australia
- NAPSA Wildcard - Ma Christel Joyce Manuel - University of Western Australia.

## Health professionals key to planning

**HEALTH** authorities around the globe need to engage frontline workers when designing and planning programs to bolster the uptake of services, International Council of Nursing CEO, Howard Catton, believes.

Speaking during an International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) webinar last night, involving leaders of the pharmacy, medical, nursing and physiotherapy professions, Catton said health professionals needed to be given a key role in developing health programs, as well as implementing them.

"What we're seeing is the more effective [COVID-19 vaccination] rollout programs appear to have much more significant healthcare professional engagement in their design," he said.

"We are agents who need to be involved in design and policy-making, not just to give us effective solutions to accessible healthcare, but other issues that



have emerged that are important to health, but are also about the world we want to live in, in terms of social justice, of equity, of sustainable health systems.

"These are all issues that health professionals collectively can bring a huge contribution to helping to design systems that are going to deliver all of that as well."

World Physiotherapy CEO, Jonathon Kruger, also called for health professionals to be engaged in policy planning, warning that

issues around long COVID will place significant pressure on public health systems internationally.

"From a public health perspective it's critical that we get engaged in this conversation at all levels," he said.

"We need to be in on all the policy conversations, because we want to stop the old adage of people falling off the cliff."

"We want to stop them at the cliff not catch them down the bottom."

### iNova partners with Farmaforce

**INOVA** Pharmaceuticals has announced a two-year deal that will see Farmaforce representing its brands to community pharmacies.

The agreement will see Farmaforce's representatives provide face-to-face services to more than 2,300 pharmacies across the country, while covering a further 1,200 stores via tele-sales.

The move will see Farmaforce manage brands including Gold Cross, Metsal and Invisible Zinc and Reef.

### Vaping alliance challenges restrictions

**MOVES** to limit access to vaporised nicotine and electronic cigarettes are being challenged by the World Vapers' Alliance.

The international group, which represents e-cigarette users in 23 jurisdictions launched its 'Back Vaping, Beat Smoking' campaign this morning, in response to the European Union's Tobacco Products Directive, which would restrict access to vaping products.

"This would spell disaster for vapers, for smokers and for public health," a spokesperson

for the alliance said.

"Millions of vapers may be forced back to smoking due to tax hikes, flavour bans, and other restrictions on vaping accessibility.

"If they ignore that vaping is 95% less harmful than smoking and has already helped millions to quit smoking, then they will miss a golden opportunity to save lives.

"Nearly 200 million lives can be saved if the right vaping policies are introduced, and 2021 is an absolutely critical year if this is to be achieved."



### Dispensary Corner

**BRAZILIAN** meatpacking giant, JBS SA, is putting some skin (well flesh) in the COVID-19 vaccination game, offering the chance to win free meat for a year to 50 families who get immunised at vaccine clinics it is setting up near its plants in the US.

The company has reported that 70% of its 66,000 employees in the US were fully vaccinated, but was hoping its meaty incentive would encourage unvaccinated staff, their families and people living near their processing plants, to get the jab.

JBS US CEO, Andre Nogueira, said the campaign aimed to boost vaccination rates in the broader community, as well as within the company's facilities.

"We've made great progress, and our vaccination rates are much higher than the rates in the communities that we call home," he said.

The company kicked off the campaign last weekend at its packing plant in Greeley, Colorado, where 300 workers were infected with COVID-19 last year, with six employees dying from the virus.







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