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PSA PI scheme backed by members

MOVES by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) to launch a professional indemnity (PI) insurance product are a response to members' desires for an alternative to current offerings, CEO, Mark Kinsela, says.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Kinsela said the PSA Board had set a focus on building its member value proposition by developing products to help and support pharmacists throughout their careers.

He noted that responses to member surveys had indicated there was a demand for the PSA to provide PI insurance, which was reinforced with the first sale of the product coming within 20 minutes of its launch last weekend.

Kinsela said the PSA had identified international insurance broker, BMS, to facilitate the new PI scheme, in part due to its history of working with peak professional bodies and its ability to provide cover for the



expanding services pharmacists are set to provide, including the administration of COVID-19 immunisations.

The new policy will be available exclusively to PSA members on an opt-in basis - not as an opt-out as previously reported (*PD* 04 Mar).

With cost identified as a "big factor" for pharmacists - particularly those in the early

stages of their careers the PSA PI policy will be available from \$170.50 to \$182.60 per year.

While the scheme is set to put the PSA in competition with the profession's leading indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), Kinsela told *Pharmacy Daily* that the Society would continue to "welcome and work with PDL".

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Monash honours Fred IT CEO

FRED IT CEO and co-founder, Paul Naismith, has been honoured by his alma mater, Monash University, for his success in developing pharmacy IT infrastructure.

Naismith was named as one of 11 recipients of the university's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Monash noted that under Naismith's leadership Fred IT has launched innovative services including, eRx Script Exchange, MedView and has introduced real-time prescription monitoring systems to save lives and reduce the accidental misuse of prescription medicines.

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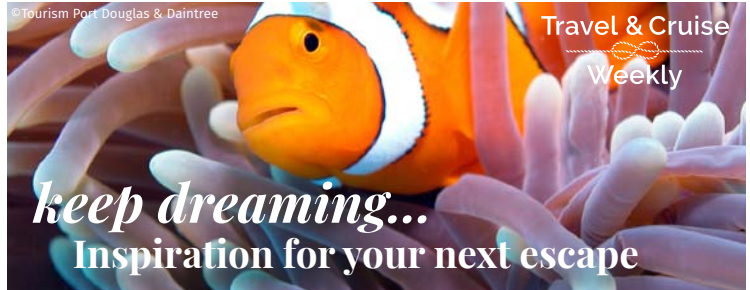
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New markets for Maxigesic IV

AFT Pharmaceuticals has signed an exclusive licensing agreement with Aguettant Essential Medicines to distribute Maxigesic IV in eight new European markets.

Under the deal Aguettant has rights to the medicine in Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland, with sales of the medication due to commence in these territories next year.

AFT Managing Director, Dr Hartley Atkinson, said the agreement extends Maxigesic IV's footprint across Europe, noting that in Spain alone more than 2.5 million surgeries are performed annually, while a further 1.1 million are performed in the nordic nations, with Maxigesic IV offering a non-opiate alternative for pain relief.

Victoria needs to address OST fees

COVERING pharmacists' dispensing fees for opioid substitution therapy (OST) could be key to removing barriers to accessing treatment for patients in Victoria, State MP, Dr Tim Read, believes.

Speaking in the Victorian Legislative Assembly earlier this week, the Greens MP, noted that while some OST medications have been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), the dispensing fees have not been covered, leaving patients with out-of-pocket expenses.

"They [dispensing fees] are typically \$30-\$35 a week, and that fee, I am told by pharmacists, has not increased in 30 years," he said.

"When you consider the interaction that they have with the patient, the consumables and the time spent, that is not a lot for them to ask.

"But patients often do not have the money and do not pay.

"It sets up a tension between the pharmacist and the patient, and patients too often fall off the wagon.

"I had one patient die almost certainly as a consequence of not being able to pay for her methadone.

"I think we have a system that puts up significant barriers to people receiving the best treatment to stop their heroin or other opioid use, and methadone, naloxone and buprenorphine are regarded as the best treatments for heroin addiction.

"There are more than 50,000 people using this kind of treatment in Australia, and every state other than Victoria provides some form of subsidy or access.

"So I think this is a real challenge for the Victorian Government and one that I recommend the government accept.

"I think that with these dispensing costs, when compared to the costs



of, say, the hospital admission of the patient that I mentioned—who fell off the wagon, used heroin and got a heart valve infection and spent months in hospital—a \$30-to-\$35-a-week dispensing fee pales into insignificance."

Read also flagged concerns over the shortage of doctors prescribing OST in Victoria, noting it was a role that nurse prescribers could fill in the future.

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Dispensary Corner

PRINCE Harry and his wife Meghan Markle have become embroiled in a curious trademark lawsuit, arguing about the name of a deodorant sold in the Philippines.

The World Trademark Review website notes a Jul 2020 application from a businessman named Victor Martin Soriano for a new antiperspirant called "Archewell Harvatera".

A formal opposition notice to the name has been lodged with the Intellectual Property of the Philippines by Cobblestone Lane LLC, the former royal couple's private company.

Archewell happens to be the name of the Duke and Duchess' private foundation which aims to "unleash the power of compassion to drive systemic cultural change".

But in the Philippines the term is apparently also being already used for branding a range of products including engagement rings and cosmetics.



WA pharmacy reform on the table

POLITICIANS from Western Australia's four main parties are committed to moving forward with key reforms of the community pharmacy sector after next week's State election.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, welcomed written statements of support for the Guild's 2021 General Election Platform, from WA Labor, WA Liberal Party, the Nationals WA and the Greens WA.

"We were very pleased to have received such a strong level of commitment to community pharmacy," Ngeow said.

The Platform urged the incoming Government to utilise community pharmacy within the State's primary health network to improve patient outcomes.

"As a key part of the primary healthcare sector, the WA

Branch thought it of the utmost importance to develop and advocate on a set of reforms which are effectively a blueprint for community pharmacy to deliver improved and more cost-effective health outcomes for all Western Australians," Ngeow said.

"There can be no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for better utilisation of the training, expertise and experience within community pharmacy.

"I believe that the strong commitment received from the major political parties in Western Australia is recognition of that."

Having secured the support of the major parties, Ngeow said that following the election the Guild will commence working with the State Government to address the Platform's immediate



priorities including expanding the pharmacy immunisation program to include COVID-19, the National Immunisation Program and travel vaccines, to implement continued dispensings on a permanent basis, to ensure greater inclusion of the community pharmacy sector in emergency and disaster planning, and to push for a review of the Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreement 1985, to address the current imbalance in landlord/tenant relations.

SAS update

HEALTH professionals are being invited to attend one of two webinars walking through changes to the Special Access Scheme (SAS) and Authorised Prescriber Online System.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration noted that the SAS Category B online form has been updated to reflect legislative changes.

CLICK HERE to register now.

This week Pharmacy Daily & Evolt are giving away an Evolt 360 Body Composition package valued at \$2500 - a high tech body composition platform that is proven to increase profitability, drive foot traffic, whilst engaging with the local community and establishing brand loyalty. To learn more click **HERE**. Click **HERE** to enter & to see last weeks winner.



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