

Today's issue of PD

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

- EzyMed
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

TGA approves Anapen

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted approval to list Allergy Concepts' Anapen 500, Anapen 300 and Anapen 150 Junior adrenaline autoinjectors on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia CEO, Maria Said, welcomed the approval saying, "having the Anapen 500mcg dose available to those weighing 60kg and over in Australia, is an important step".

"The listing of Anapen also provides welcome relief to those at risk of anaphylaxis, who have long been reliant upon one device, and severely impacted during manufacturing delays, product recalls, or supply shortages," she said.

Bubs & Co available

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' alcohol and sugar-free teething gel, Bubs & Co is now available through pharmacy wholesalers, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, Symbion and DHL.

The gel offers soothing relief from the pain and discomfort associated with infant teething.

See **page five** for more.

Pandemic leave provisions extended

THE Fair Work Commission (FWC) has extended provisions in Schedule X of the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020 until 31 Dec, to authorise unpaid pandemic leave for staff who are forced to isolate as a result of potential exposure to COVID-19.

The measure, which was approved by the Full Bench of the FWC, will also provide a facility for employees to take twice their allocation of annual leave at half-pay should they need to quarantine.

Newly elected Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the organisation "recognises the need for such measures during these challenging times and did not oppose the application to extend provisions".

The extension of the Schedule X provisions has also been backed by employee pharmacists' union, Professional Pharmacists Australia.

"We welcome the FWC's decision, which will provide pharmacy employees [with] additional leave benefits and peace of mind at a time when there is still uncertainty around the pandemic,"



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a spokesperson said.

While the FWC announced the extension of the unpaid pandemic leave provisions under Schedule X of the award, it confirmed that the operation of the Schedule

Y provisions, facilitating paid pandemic leave in the Aged Care Award, the Health Professionals and Support Services Award and the Nurses Award would cease from 29 Mar.

"The emergency circumstance which caused us to award the paid pandemic leave entitlement for aged care employees do not appear to have pertained for some time now," the FWC said.

"It is therefore our provisional view that Schedule Y should not be further extended."

Ezy DAA solution

PHARMACISTS looking to maximise their dose administration aid (DAA) business can automate packing while boosting their business growth with EzyMed.

All preparation is done within an ISO8 Therapeutic Goods Administration approved clean-room facility, which caters for sachet and blister cards.

See **page four** for more.

Sunburn? DermAid!

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* Consult a doctor before use on children under 2 years of age.

¹ Due to corticosteroid responsive skin conditions

DermAid 1.0% w/w: **ASK YOUR PHARMACIST – THEY MUST DECIDE IF THIS PRODUCT IS RIGHT FOR YOU.** Always read the label. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly talk to your health professional.

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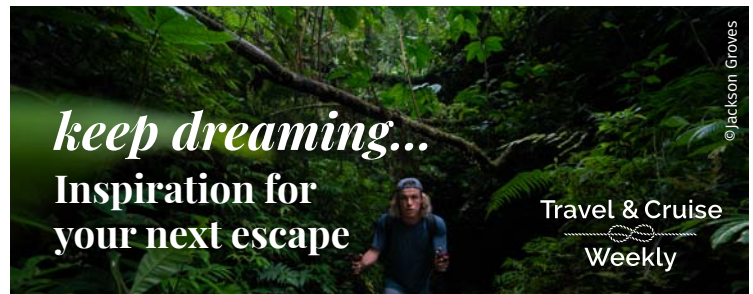


LOYALTY



DISPENSE

DISPENSE WORKS
PHARMACY SOFTWARE



Pharmacies braced for Bris lockdown

COMMUNITY pharmacies in Brisbane will remain open throughout the city's COVID-19-induced lockdown to ensure patients retain access to critical medicines.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch Acting President, Chris Owen, said pharmacies across the city were "well-prepared" for the three-day lockdown, which was announced yesterday.

"As primary healthcare providers, community pharmacies are here to help all Queenslanders, and already have protocols in place to ensure their safety and wellbeing," he said.

"These include ensuring all Queensland patients have fair and equitable access to their essential medicines; ensuring patients maintain adequate social distancing while in store;



and putting in place maximum purchasing limits to ensure supplies of items like PPE, masks and hand sanitiser can be fairly distributed across the community.

"As essential primary healthcare services, Queensland's vast network of over 1,200 community pharmacies will continue to be on the frontline of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and remain

open to service members of the community."

Owen advised Guild members to visit the organisation's website to access support or advice regarding government directions.

He also encouraged patients to visit getmycovidvax.com.au to complete an eligibility check and see when they may be eligible for their COVID-19 vaccination.

Wholesale cops face mask fine

VICTORIA-BASED wholesaler, Bulk Buys Pty Ltd, has been fined \$13,320 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for alleged unlawful importation of surgical face masks.

The company allegedly breached a condition of the Therapeutic Goods (Medical Devices - Face Masks and Other Articles) (COVID-19 Emergency) Exemption 2020, by importing surgical masks that were not, at the time of importation, included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and were not being imported for supply to the National Medical Stockpile.

The TGA noted such breaches were "of significant concern".

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US to double pharmacy COVAX sites

US PRESIDENT, Joe Biden, has announced plans to more than double the number of community pharmacies administering COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) over the next three weeks.

The move will see close to 40,000 pharmacies across the US providing COVAX by 17 Apr, as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program.

An official White House statement said Biden will also announce a new effort to fund

community organisations to provide transportation and assistance for the most at-risk seniors and people with disabilities to access vaccines.

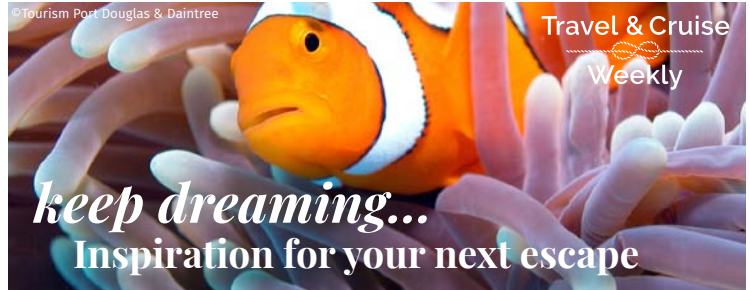
The news comes as Australian community pharmacies are set to wait until May, when the Pharmacy Programs Administrator is due to announce which stores have been approved to join Phase 2a of the national COVAX rollout (**PD 22 Mar**).



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Dispensary Corner

SOME people make strange career choices, but perspiration-phobe, Ali Burton's decision to become a personal trainer has to be up there among the most odd.

The 27-year-old Londoner won a disability claim after refusing to pick up used towels at a gym, telling her employers that other people's sweat triggered an anxiety disorder.

Burton had mentioned the issue before she started, but a few weeks into the job she was asked to pick up sweat soaked towels, *The Sun* reported.

She said that she was "embarrassed at having to explain and justify" her phobia.

"I was trying to say I cannot physically do it," she said.

"I said I can't have them physically touching my body."

An employment tribunal was told that the gym adapted her roster to minimise her exposure to sweaty towels.

However, Burton told the tribunal that her employer continued to ask her about her condition, which prompted her to file a complaint.

The tribunal ruled that Burton, who is still working at the gym, was the victim of harassment and should be compensated, with the sum to be decided at a later date.

It must be a nightmare for Burton to have to face her fears on a daily basis as she deals with perspiring gym-junkees.

Potentially, the infamously sweat-free Falklands War hero, Prince Andrew, could be her dream client.

VPA ownership concerns

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has raised concerns over reporting of pharmacy ownership in the state.

In its latest circular, VPA Chair, David McConville, expressed disappointment at "recent media reports or statements claiming that certain entities own hundreds of pharmacies without evidence to support the claims".

"The Authority reminds stakeholders that only registered pharmacists, companies of pharmacists and eligible friendly societies may own pharmacies in Victoria," he said.

"The Authority will continue to ensure that legislated ownership provisions are upheld.

"This is supported by comprehensive licence application assessment processes, pharmacy ownership audits and franchise reviews."

The VPA said it is committed to ensuring all pharmacies in the

state are owned, operated and controlled only by registered pharmacists.

Under Victorian legislation pharmacists, or pharmacy companies, "must not own or have a proprietary interest in more than five separate pharmacy businesses" in the state.

McConville said the VPA had written to licensees regarding the outcomes of a number of pharmacy business ownership audits in recent weeks.

"In cases where the pharmacy was operating under a commercial arrangement for which the Authority had not yet completed a detailed assessment, licensees were advised that a condition will be imposed on the licence.

"This 'commercial arrangement' condition details the action the authority may take if, after further investigation, the commercial arrangements are found to contravene the Act.

Starpharma launches anti-COVID spray

MELBOURNE-BASED

biopharmaceutical company, Starpharma, has signed an exclusive sales and distribution deal for its antiviral nasal spray, Viraleze, with Britain's LloydsPharmacy group.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) the firm said the spray contains 1% astodimer sodium (SPL7013), which has been shown to inactivate respiratory viruses, including more than 99.9% of strains of SARS-CoV-2.

Starpharma said the spray is available through LloydsPharmacy's online store, which warns "this isn't a



substitute for COVID-19 infection control measure, so please always follow Government guidelines for COVID-19".

The company added that it expected Viraleze to be available across the pharmacy group's 1,400 bricks and mortar stores in Apr in the UK.

Guild Update

Time to reconnect

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's newly elected National President, Professor Trent Twomey, has told pharmacy owners, pharmacists and pharmacy staff that he was looking forward to seeing them face-to-face at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2021).

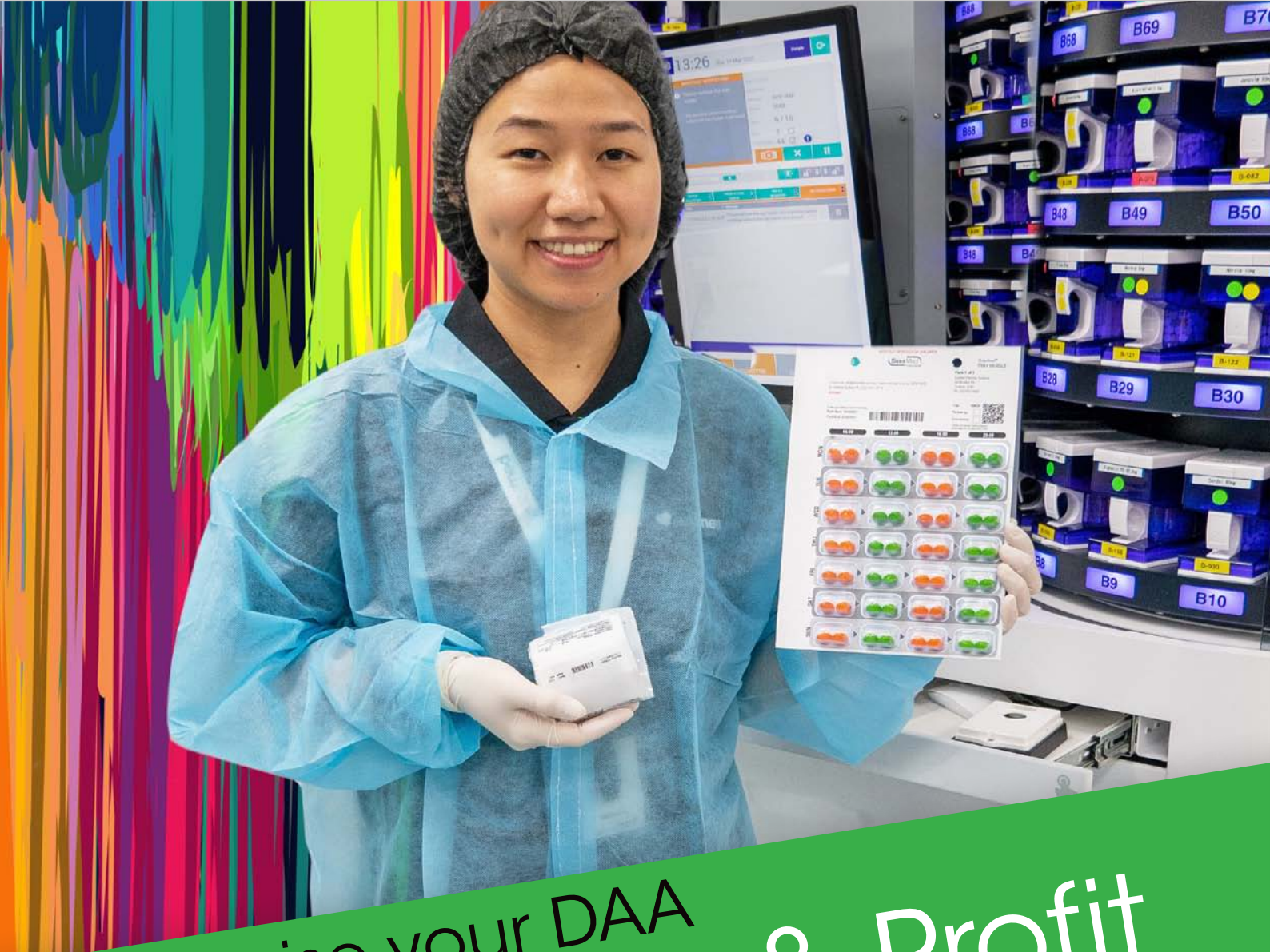
"I look forward to reconnecting with my pharmacy industry colleagues face-to-face on the Gold Coast in May," he said.

"It's been a busy year for all of us, and I encourage pharmacists and pharmacy staff to take some time out to reconnect at what will be an exciting, but COVID Safe, event.

"The APP 2021 event organisers have gone above and beyond with COVID safe planning.

"I look forward to being in the same room as my colleagues during APP, where I will be providing updates on the 7CPA, the state of the industry, our expanding scope of practice as pharmacists and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout."





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