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Registration numbers hit record high

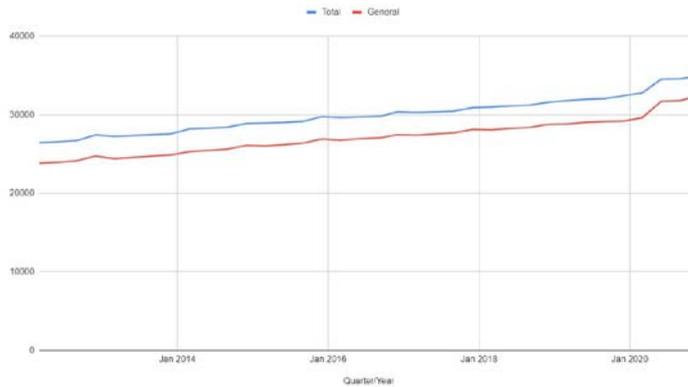
PHARMACY Board of Australia registration data shows the number of registered pharmacists across the country is at a record high.

The latest quarterly updated showed 34,922 pharmacists were registered with the Board as of 31 Dec 2020, with 32,393 holding general registration - a figure that includes 1,936 pharmacists who were brought onto the pandemic sub-register in Apr last year.

Excluding those on the sub-register, the number of pharmacists holding general registration has increased by 837 since Mar 2020, the last reporting period prior to the introduction of the pandemic register.

While overall registration figures are at historic highs, the Dec 2020 quarter saw the number of provisional registration holders hit their lowest level (1,399) since the Board started publishing the data in Mar 2012, when there were 1,759 pharmacists with provisional registration.

Pharmacy Board of Australia total and general registration figures Mar 2012 to Dec 2020



The number of provisionally registered pharmacists aged under 25 years has fallen by 47% since the Board released its first round of registration figures, with 598 in Dec 2020 compared to 1,113 in Mar 2012.

The latest Board statistics also show the numbers of pharmacists holding non-practicing registration increased for the second successive quarter to 1,118, however, the

number is 236 lower than Dec 2019's record high of 1,354.

Board figures showed the 35 to 39 years age bracket had the highest number of non-practicing registrants (193) up by 28 since Sep 2020.

The profession's gender mix has remained largely static, with women accounting for close to 63% of registrants, and 66% of general registration holders.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from *Willach*.

Dispensary boost

ADDING a dispensing robot to your pharmacy could help optimise your space and deliver greater efficiencies.

See **page four** to discover more from Willach Pharmacy Solutions.

CPD expectations

WITH the COVID-19 pandemic easing the Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced that it expects all pharmacists to take the necessary action to meet their continued professional development (CPD) before renewing their registration in 2021.

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Dental update

PHARMACY assistants have a key role to play in educating patients about how they can improve their oral health, with half of Australians believed to be taking care of their teeth properly, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Announcing the launch of a new pre-recorded training webinar developed by Guild Learning and Development, and oral hygiene specialist, TePe Australia, the Guild said 80% of pharmacists and PAs are consulted for oral healthcare advice five or more times a week.

The 15 Tips for a healthy mouth webinar feature's TePe's dentist, Dr Michaela von Geijer, who discusses the ins and outs of oral disease and how best to prevent them through good oral hygiene.

Pharmacist, Rachel Morrison will also talk about how to talk to patients about oral health.

Should Board record immuniser nos?

RECORDING pharmacists' immunisation training as part of the profession's annual registration process could be useful, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

Following the publication of the Pharmacy Board of Australia's survey of immunisers, released yesterday, which noted that "at present [the] Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Board do not have any data on the number of pharmacists in Australia who have completed a recognised immunisation training program", Tassone said the profession's vaccination workforce was growing.

"Whilst there is not a centralised real time database that contains the number of trained pharmacist immunisers, what we do know is the total workforce is growing every week and month," he said.

"All across Australia, more pharmacists are answering the call

to become trained as an immuniser further growing pharmacy's capacity and role that will be played with mass vaccination programs such as influenza and COVID-19.

"Going forward it would be useful for the Board to collect this information as part of their annual surveying of pharmacists on registration renewal.

"What is even more important though is for state and territory governments to recognise the full scope of practice of pharmacists and include more vaccinations that pharmacist immunisers are authorised to administer to patients so they can get the full benefit of our training and expertise."

The Board's survey received responses from 1,776 pharmacists who indicated that they were undergoing or had completed a recognised immunisation training program, with more than 97% of those pharmacists saying they



would be willing to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program.

MEANWHILE the Board has noted that pharmacists who returned to the profession via AHPRA's pandemic sub-register will need to apply for general registration by 05 Apr, through a transitional pathway, if they wish to be available to support the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Eligible pharmacists who moved from non-practising registration to the sub-register will be automatically returned to non-practising registration on 06 Apr.

Rethinking asthma in pharmacy webinar

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) is partnering with the National Asthma Council (NAC) to host a webinar on Tue 06 Apr, to help pharmacists better support patients with asthma.

The 'Rethinking Asthma Management in Pharmacy' webinar will provide attendees with information about prescribing appropriate

medicines, correct inhaler device technique and strategies to boost adherence to therapy.

Lung Foundation Australia COPD Advisory Committee member and advanced practice pharmacist, Debbie Rigby, who is leading the implementation of the NAC's Asthma Right Care campaign will be the key speaker.

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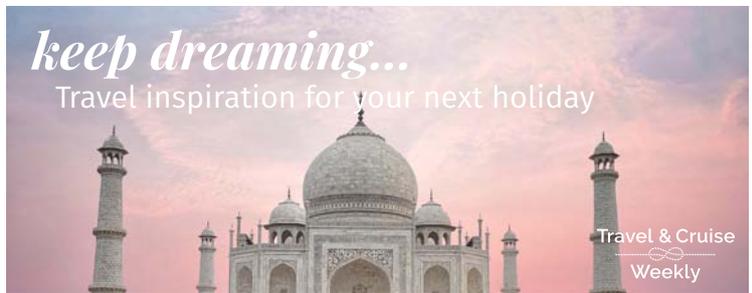
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PSA election nominations hit high

RECORD numbers of pharmacists are putting themselves forward to take on leadership roles within the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

A total of 119 PSA members have nominated to stand in the Society's State and Territory Branch committee elections, which will be held from 14 Apr to 11 May.

PSA CEO, Mark Kinsela, said the field of candidates reflected the "strong diversity we see in the profession".

"PSA members will be able to vote for a robust cross-section of pharmacists to represent them on Branch Committees," he said.

"More than half of all nominees are women, reflecting the strong leadership of women in the profession.

"Gender, age and cultural diversity has a powerful impact on leadership and ensures the peak body for pharmacists is focused on issues affecting the profession



and driving an inclusive agenda to improve health outcomes for all Australians through pharmacy".

The NSW Branch has the highest number of candidates (27) standing for 12 positions, with the Victorian Branch seeing the second highest number of nominees (20), followed by Queensland (18) and the South Australia/Northern Territory (17) with each branch having 10 places

up for grabs.

The ACT and Tasmanian branches will both see 13 candidates contest nine committee seats, with 11 nominees vying for nine spots on the Western Australian Branch committee.

The election will be managed by CorpVote, with successful candidates to take their positions on 01 Jul for a two-year term.



COVID-19-RELATED scandals are coming thick and fast on the Emerald Isle, with eight members of the Irish police under fire after having their hair cut.

The Irish Examiner has reported that the Dublin-based coppers got their hair trimmed by a colleague, who the publication noted "may have previously been a barber", in a city-centre police station in breach of COVID-19 guidelines.

The "scandal" has raised the ire for many across the country, with personal service outlets, including hairdressers and nail salons being closed since 31 Dec 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

The publication added that the incident has caused friction within the police force, with a number of female officers reportedly raising objections to their colleagues, with a police spokesperson saying it was "not in keeping with the spirit of the Government's guidelines".

After three months without a haircut several social media users in Ireland have noted decisions regarding COVID-19 restrictions have been made by a team of follically-challenged men including Health Minister, Stephen Donnelly (pictured left), Taoiseach, Micheal Martin (top right), and Chief Medical Officer, Tony Holohan (bottom right).



COVAX 'blame game' hurts confidence

PUBLIC confidence in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) program is being diminished by an ongoing war of words between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, Australian Medical Association (AMA) President, Dr Omar Khorshid, believes.

"Vaccines only protect the community when they are in people's arms and governments needed to work together to maximise access to available vaccines," he said.

"The Australian community has been patient and understands the need for a well-managed vaccine rollout that carefully



manages the administration of the vaccine on a priority basis with the limited supply we have access to.

"The Commonwealth Government needs to be transparent on the number of vaccines that have already been distributed, and what the projected quantities will be going forward."

Humira citrate-free PBS listing

PATIENTS with autoimmune conditions across rheumatology, dermatology, gastroenterology and ophthalmology with be able to access AbbVie's Humira (adalimumab) citrate-free formulation through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 01 Apr.

A survey of patients with inflammatory bowel disease found the new formulation was associated with a reduction in pre-administration anxiety and a decrease in injection site pain.



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