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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

## Burnout survey

RESEARCHERS from ANU are conducting a survey to investigate COVID-19 induced burnout in pharmacists. [CLICK HERE](#) to participate.

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# Roll-on pharmacy COVAX roll out

ALMOST all of the 4,090 community pharmacies that submitted expression of interest applications to join the COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout campaign are suitable to provide vaccines, the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) says.

In an update released to pharmacy owners late last week the PPA said stores deemed "suitable" would be put forward to the Federal Department of Health "for potential selection to participate in the COVAX rollout".

However, the statement added that "being deemed suitable does not mean the pharmacy will be invited to participate".

In a joint statement released this morning, Queensland branches of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, called on the State and Federal governments to engage community pharmacies as soon as possible.

Guild Queensland Branch Acting President, Chris Owen, said the need for community pharmacists to be involved in the rollout nationally was vital, but more acute in the Sunshine State.

"For several years, community



pharmacies across Australia have been safely and intimately involved in the rollout of critical vaccination programs," he said.

"The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is the most critical health initiative in our generation.

"Given the need to vaccinate as many Australians as quickly as possible and the decentralised nature of our state, community pharmacies must be part of the solution."

PSA Queensland Branch President, Shane MacDonald, echoed Owen's call, describing the involvement of community pharmacists in the campaign as "imperative to leading the State out of the pandemic".

"While some Queensland

pharmacists in hospitals, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and general practice are already administering COVID-19 vaccines, the majority of pharmacists are currently on the sidelines ready and eager to help," he said.

"As the supply of the vaccine increases, patients need community pharmacists on board so that a lack of available providers does not become the next barrier in slowing the vaccine's uptake.

"On Friday, the Department of Health advised that 4,000 community pharmacies are suitable COVID-19 vaccination sites, so the sooner we get them started the better."

## Wodonga win

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) Wodonga has been named the 2020 TWC Victoria Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) at the group's Lead Beyond conference in Melbourne earlier this week.

The winner of the TWC National PotY Award will be announced in Perth on 18 May at the final Lead Beyond event. See [page three](#) for more.

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## Syd Uni grad targets PhD

UNIVERSITY of Sydney School of Pharmacy is celebrating former Indigenous student, Alexander Burke, commencing his PhD.

The Wiradjuri man, who graduated with First Class Honours is set to help shape the way pharmacy and health students are taught about Indigenous health and culture.

## Meds safety life or death

AUSTRALIA is playing “a game of Russian roulette” with aged care residents paying the price, by failing to address barriers to the provision of pharmacist-led services to improve medicines safety, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, has called on the Federal Government to allocate \$200 million over the next four years to enable residential aged care facilities to engage pharmacists directly and tackle inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications and sedatives.

“It is alarming that this issue... this is a game of Russian roulette, and unfortunately our older Australians are paying the price,” he said.

“Some of the stories heard by PSA are truly horrifying.

“The most heartbreaking aspect of this is that these problems are largely avoidable.

“Medicines are developed, prescribed and dispensed to support good health – and when used properly, have the potential to greatly improve quality of life.

“But when used incorrectly, they can cause more harm than good, and in the most devastating of



circumstances, ultimately lead to death.”

“We need a stronger connection between health care and aged care, and pharmacists as the custodians of medicine safety, can help bridge this divide.”

“PSA calls on the Federal Government to revise aged care funding instruments, investing \$200 million over four years to support residential aged care facilities to directly engage pharmacists.

“Embedding pharmacists in aged care facilities will improve aged care medication management, ultimately reducing medicine-related harm amongst residents.”



## Dispensary Corner

PHARMACY staff around the world have been rushed off their feet during the COVID-19 pandemic, but one enterprising worker has managed to find time for a second job.

An unnamed Spanish pharmacy employee, who runs a travel business on the side, is facing the ire of the national police force after being busted flogging fake negative COVID-19 certificates to allow clients to travel to Morocco.

The 24-year-old was arrested in El Ejido, near the city of Almeria, on the country's south coast, on Mon, and charged with selling fake Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests to allow people to fly out of the country, *Reuters* reported.

Spanish authorities said they had discovered seven cases where the suspect had allegedly sold counterfeit certificates, adding they had yet to conclude their investigation.

A number of other fraudsters in Spain and the Netherlands have been arrested in relation to similar schemes, while two Indian laboratories have been shut down after it emerged they were found to be issuing fake PCR results.



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Pictured above: Pharmacist Manager Maree Harper from the TWC Wodonga team collecting their award last night at the Gala Awards event of the Victoria 'Lead Beyond' Conference.



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