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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover page from EzyMed, and full pages from:

- Smith & Nephew
- TerryWhite Chemmart

## Ezy DAA solution

PHARMACISTS looking to maximise their dose administration aid business can automate packing while boosting growth with EzyMed. See cover page for more.

## Plumpton PotY

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has named its Plumpton pharmacy as its 2020 NSW Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) at its Lead Beyond conference in Sydney on Mon.

The National TWC PotY title will be announced next week. See page five for more.

# Approval pending but money is there

AUSTRALIA'S "network of world class pharmacies" is yet to get approval from the Department of Health to join the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, but \$35.8 million has been allocated for a "temporary community pharmacy program" in the 2021/22 Budget.

In a vaccination program delivery package issued to stakeholders last night, the Department of Health noted "the Australian Government is committed to providing all Australians with access to a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine and has committed \$1.9 billion to the Australian COVID-19 vaccine program".

"2021/22 Budget measures include \$35.8 million for a temporary community pharmacy program, which will leverage the national network of world class community pharmacies, to administer both vaccine doses to patients throughout Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the national rollout," the Department said.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia

National President, Trent Twomey, welcomed funding announcements in last night's Budget noting they would help community pharmacies as front-line healthcare providers and small businesses, while addressing specific concerns for regional, rural and remote patients.

Twomey also described the Government's \$17.7 billion investment in aged care over the next four years as an "important advance" but said the Budget was a missed opportunity to fund community pharmacists to deliver at-home care.

"The Guild has urged the Government to commit to greater funding for pharmacists to supply dose administration aids to ageing patients who are able to stay at home," he said.

"This is important to help ensure medication adherence for these vulnerable patients, and we are disappointed this has not been factored into the aged care package at this stage.

"We will, however, continue to



work with the Government on this proposal."

Twomey was also disappointed that the Government did not act on the Guild's pre-Budget submission to boost access to opioid dependence treatment through community pharmacies (PD 02 Feb).

"They are some of the most disadvantaged patients in the country, and the divergent set of State-run programs and lack of either Federal or State funding has meant that access to this program is unaffordable for many of them," he said.

Australian pharmacists and owners, we'd like to hear from you!

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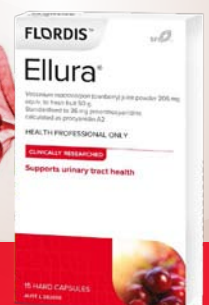
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## Budget lays foundations for reform

LAST night's Federal Budget lays the foundations required to rebuild Australia's aged care sector, but more need to be done to boost medicines safety, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, welcomed the Government's \$17.7 billion investment in aged care, in response to the findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

"The Morrison Government has laid the foundation for rebuilding our aged care system from the ground up," he said.

"[But] more must be done to reduce avoidable hospital admissions and deaths caused by

medicines and help to restore faith and trust in the aged care sector.

"Residents in aged care facilities deserve to have timely and regular access to the expertise of a pharmacist if they require advice and support with their medicines and medicine management.

"Having pharmacists on the ground within aged care facilities must happen if we are serious about improving medicine management and resident safety.

"Pharmacists as custodians of medicine safety must play a key role in bridging the divide between healthcare and aged care, to reduce harmful medicine use and improve quality of life for older Australians."

**MEANWHILE**, Macquarie University Director of the Centre



for Health Systems and Safety, Professor Johanna Westbrook, called for better use of data in the aged care sector.

"While residential aged care providers remain data rich but information poor, people will continue to suffer pressure ulcers, mistakes in their medication administration and poor care," she said.

Westbrook called on researchers, government, aged care providers and the IT sector to work together to design effective and compassionate solutions to optimise the use of information to improve medication use patterns.

## Not too late to register for APP

WITH a week to go to the start of the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) on the Gold Coast, Convenor, Kos Slavos, says it's not too late to register.

"We didn't get to meet face-to-face in 2020, so we've really dialled it up for 2021," he said.

"It's almost like we've packed two years' of value into one APP."

**CLICK HERE** to register and check out the APP program.

## RPMA renewal

THE submission window for the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) renewal applications is now open and will close on 14 Jun.

Applications received outside the window will not be accepted by the Pharmacy Programs Administrator.

**CLICK HERE** for more information about the application process.

## We're on the hunt... Advertising Operations and Social Media Coordinator

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# APP 2021

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## Arthropfram fine

### SYDNEY-BASED

pharmaceutical company, Arthropfram Pty Ltd, has been fined \$13,320 over alleged contraventions of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The business was issued with an infringement notice relating to "the alleged failure to provide information of a contact person responsible for medicine safety", the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said.

"Once a product enters the market, a pharmacovigilance system established by the responsible company is necessary to detect, assess, understand and prevent adverse effects and other medicine-related problems," the TGA said.

"Notifying the TGA of a sponsor's pharmacovigilance contact person is a requirement under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* and is an integral part of an effective and robust medicines safety system."

The TGA urged people to report suspected non-compliance and "questionable practices".

## Jailed for sexual assault

**DISGRACED** pharmacist, Hany Samir Ibrahim, will spend up to two years behind bars after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old patient in a consulting room at pharmacy Mascot on 01 Jul 2019.

The NSW District Court heard Ibrahim had taken the woman into a private room when she came to the pharmacy seeking access to emergency contraception, where he lifted up her clothing and inserted his finger into her vagina, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

Shocked and uncomfortable the woman eventually stood up and pulled her clothing back on, while Ibrahim asked her not to "talk to anyone", adding "this is a private conversation".

The 47-year-old pharmacist had initially denied the allegations, before entering a guilty plea in Sep 2020 (**PD 07 Dec 2020**).

Speaking during a sentencing hearing on Tue, Ibrahim said he was "very regretful and ashamed" of his actions.

"She was a poor girl who trusted me and I did a terrible thing," he said.

"I don't know why I acted unprofessionally like that.

"I found myself [doing] this



horrible thing."

Pushing for a custodial sentence, the prosecution told Judge Mark Williams that the "breach of trust and [the] vulnerability of the victim should be taken into account".

Williams issued a two-year jail sentence with a non-parole period of nine months, after taking into account a number of issues including "his otherwise good character and record" the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

Ibrahim's pharmacy registration has been suspended since Jun 2020, after the NSW Supreme Court overturned a NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal granting him permission to practice under strict conditions (**PD 16 Dec 2019**) allowed him to pursue his career despite facing charges.

## Dispensary Corner

**THEY** say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and it appears McDonald's believes there's a similar route to tackling vaccine hesitancy follows a similar path.

The fast food giant is partnering with the White House in the US to boost uptake of COVID-19 vaccines by redesigning its McCafe cups to promote vaccination information and the US Health Department's 'We can do this' slogan.

Health Secretary, Xavier Becerra, said the partnership "will help more people make informed decisions about their health and learn about steps they can take to protect themselves and their communities".

Meanwhile ride-share companies, Uber and Lyft, have also joined the US vaccine campaign, providing free trips for people going to vaccination centres to get their COVID jabs.

Uber and Lyft will also promote the vaccines on their apps.

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# Smith+Nephew

## + Wound Care and the NDIS

Pharmacists and Pharmacy Assistants can play a role in supporting participants to get their wound care needs met under the NDIS.

A pharmacy does not need to be registered to supply products to all patients using the NDIS. As long as the patient has enough budget available in their plan and are self-managing their plan, they will be able to claim back their expenditure from the NDIA.

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**TerryWhite Chemmart Plumpton**



Pictured above: Carlene Streater and Rimnel Ram from the TWC Plumpton team collecting their award at the Gala Awards event of the New South Wales 'Lead Beyond' Conference held on Monday 10th May.

