



**Mag-Sup**  
High absorption magnesium  
Pharmacy only.

Available in 50's, 100's and 250's from Symbion, Sigma and API.

50's PBS & RPBS Listed

Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.

## Today's issue of PD

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

- Willach
- Sigma Pharmaceuticals

## Robotic solution

PHARMACY solutions specialist, Willach, aims to be more than a supplier, delivering space saving systems to boost your dispensary performance. See **page five** for more.

## Healthy returns

SIGMA Healthcare aims to help pharmacy owners grow their businesses and generate more sales and profits by joining its Wholelife Pharmacy and Healthfoods brands.

See **page six** to discover more about the banner.

# Time to roll out pharmacy COVAX

STATE and Territory governments are being urged to act swiftly to add community pharmacies to their COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout plans.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, noted that measures announced in the *Victorian Government Gazette* last week, authorised pharmacist immunisers to work in different settings to administer COVAX.

The authorisation included conditions around the locations pharmacists can administer the vaccines, including hospitals and mass vaccination centres.

"With the statement from National Cabinet in April that States and Territories can choose to incorporate community pharmacies into their rollout plans for the COVID-19 vaccine in rural and remote areas where there is no or limited other points of access – the Guild is actively advocating across all States



and Territory governments for pharmacies to be utilised in their jurisdictions," he said.

"It appears that limitations of stock allocation and uncertainty of the volumes of stock that will be received in the coming weeks and months, is having an influence at the State level in some jurisdictions in including community pharmacies in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the immediate term.

"Now that the Commonwealth have completed their review of the expression of interest (EOI) process and deemed almost 4,000 pharmacies nationally as 'suitable' to participate in the rollout – now is the time for State and Territory Departments of Health and governments to include pharmacies in their COVID-19 vaccine roll out plans especially in areas of limited patient access."

# Transform your Pharmacy

Dream It | Design It | Make It Happen

We design spaces which reflect the way you work, and create efficiencies throughout your pharmacy with particular emphasis on dispensary operations.

We have a unique combination of hands-on pharmacy operations experience paired with hundreds of pharmacy design projects.

find out how we can help





## Guild fears increased merchant fees

**PLANS** to merge BPay Pty Ltd, eftpos Payments Australia Limited and NPP Australia Limited will hurt small businesses and consumers, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia warns.

In its submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) the Guild noted that the vast majority of pharmacies are classed as small businesses and “are more vulnerable to business costs and economic challenges” than larger companies.

“The Guild is very concerned over the impact this merger could have on our smaller members, especially where it appears there is no desire to give small business a meaningful voice on how this amalgamation would operate and ensure that businesses of all sizes are heard,” the Guild said.

“If the entity is approved, it may lack the incentive needed to help small business in reducing costs to assist business viability.

“It is noted that there is a



proposal for a small business subcommittee, however, the Guild believes the voice of the small business community should be at the top table and not a subcommittee.

“Small business should be afforded equal representation to that of the major banks and in the absence of that certainty, we are unable to support the proposed amalgamation as it currently stands.”

With Australia becoming an increasingly cashless society, the Guild said the merger was likely to

reduce competition and increase fees, prompting the organisation to call for greater access to Least Cost Routing (LCR) to assist in reducing costs.

“The Guild is of the view that the proposed merger does little to nothing to pursue an increase in the availability of LCR,” it said.

“It is our belief that the proposed merger would make it more difficult for new players to enter the market and therefore would be unlikely to put downward pressure on merchant fees.”

## Winter is coming

**SUPPLIERS** wanting to showcase products for the upcoming cooler season are being invited to participate in **Pharmacy Daily's** upcoming Winter Spotlight feature.

The special add-on option provides the ability to promote products or services via a series of listings including an image, description and call to action.

For more information contact our team at [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Your Pharmacy Career Podcast returns

**PHARMACY** specialist, Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast* is back for its second season, with the first episode featuring an interview with Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone.

With more than a decade's experience as a pharmacy owner, Tassone's stores have been recognised for community

engagement and customer service excellence on multiple occasions at both a State and National level.

Alongside his leadership role in the Guild, Tassone has served on a range of advisory boards for multi-national pharmaceutical companies, and he is now a Director of the National Return of Unwanted Medicines Board.

**CLICK HERE** to listen to the latest episode now.

We're on the hunt...

## Advertising Operations and Social Media Coordinator

Are you looking for a new role that offers a variety of responsibilities to keep your day invigorated?

The Business Publishing Group is the leader in B2B publications across travel, cruise, business events and pharmaceutical sectors and is after a team player to join our sales and marketing unit.

The role will require assistance with development of the daily editions, liaising with clients, social media activities as well as an assortment of other tasks – for which on the job training will be provided.

If you have a penchant for design, a keen eye for detail and a willingness to learn, this could be the role for you.

Candidates with customer service, travel industry experience, organisational skills and Adobe Suite proficiency would be highly desirable.

Applications close 21st May 2021.

Send your CV and covering letter to [jobs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:jobs@traveldaily.com.au)



## Visit Pharmacy Platform at APP. Find us at stand 152 – 153!

Pharmacy Platform supports our members through the delivery of innovative brands, and a suite of professional services, programs and technologies that elevate pharmacy businesses at all growth stages. Speak to our team about how we can partner to grow your business.

We will also be hosting sessions at APP lead by industry experts.

Click here to lock in your spot!

[info@pharmacyplatform.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacyplatform.com.au)

## PHARMACY PLATFORM

Our Brands





**AMH CHILDREN'S DOSING COMPANION IN BOOK OR ONLINE. ORDER NOW.**

To find out more go to [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au)



## Pharmacist tied up in robbery

**POLICE** in Texas are hunting a gunman who tied up a pharmacist during a robbery on Sat, the *Seguin Gazette* reports.

The suspect entered the pharmacy wielding a gun and demanded cash.

Local police reported that the pharmacist handed over an undisclosed sum of money, before the suspect gained access to "various medications".

The bandit then hit the pharmacist before tying him up in a back room and fleeing.

"The pharmacist was eventually able to free himself and was able to call the police," a police spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that the suspect appeared to have been acting alone, and there were no other people in the pharmacy at the time of the alleged robbery.

## Budget health literacy boost positive

**FEDERAL** Budget funding to develop a national health literacy strategy as part of efforts to improve preventative health is being welcomed by Consumer Healthcare Products Australia (CHP).

Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, allocated \$1.9 million towards improving preventative health, including establishing an evidence-based "prioritisation framework" and a national consumer strategy to strengthen partnerships between health policymakers and the community.

The Department of Health said the initiative would "help refocus health funding towards prevention, to ensure that Australians are not just living longer, but living well for longer".

CHP CEO, Dr Deon Schoombie, said the measure would help tackle low health literacy associated with a range of poor health and policy outcomes, and boost Australian's self-care capabilities.



"Health literacy plays a pivotal role in informing and guiding our health behaviours and lifestyle choices, and is a key enabler of greater self-care and preventive health action," he said.

"We are encouraged to see this often underappreciated and undervalued component of health, prevention, and greater self-care getting clear policy attention.

"However, ongoing investment, and structural and cultural

reforms in Australia's health and care systems will be necessary to equitably address Australia's inadequate levels of health literacy, and enable greater self-care.

"Engaging, supporting, and empowering individuals to participate in the proactive management of their health should be defining characteristics of Australia's healthcare systems, services, and supports."



# Discount Chemist™

## WORK & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Direct Chemist Outlet Mt Cooloolm are looking for a full time pharmacist in charge to work with a dedicated team!

The position comes with a generous salary.

Direct Chemist Outlet is a group that encourages pharmacy ownership through partnership and a terrific business opportunity will be offered to the suitable candidate on commencement of employment which can be exercised after 6 months of full time work.

Please call our General Manager Sarah Brooks on **0422 070 730** or Barbie Rogers on **0492 188 143** or email application to [sarah@directchemistoutlet.com.au](mailto:sarah@directchemistoutlet.com.au)



## Health Care Homes Trial concluding

**THE** Federal Government has confirmed the Community Pharmacy in Health Care Homes Trial will end on 30 Jun.

The Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement-funded program was part of a package of measures to support new and expanded pharmacy programs including the incorporation of medication management programs within health care homes.

A Pharmacy Guild of Australia

spokesperson noted the Health Care Homes model was designed to help Australians better manage their conditions by giving them access to coordinated, integrated care, tailored to their needs.

“Through the community pharmacy trial patients have benefited from patient-centred, coordinated medication management services delivered by their community pharmacy of choice in conjunction with their Health Care Home,” the spokesperson said.

“The Guild thanks all community pharmacies that have participated in this significant trial with the goal of improving the health outcomes of people with complex and chronic conditions in Australia.”

Outcomes of the trial will be evaluated by the Department of Health, and a final report will be published on the Department’s website.



If your pharmacy has registered or provided services for this trial you will receive email correspondence from the Pharmacy Guild advising you of next steps.

Under the terms of the 6CPA program, all trial services must be completed in GuildCare software by 30 Jun in order to be paid.

For help with recording your Health Care Homes services, please call GuildLink on 1300 647 492 or email [support@guildcare.com.au](mailto:support@guildcare.com.au).



## Dispensary Corner

**IF THERE’S** anything that can make a COVID-denying anti-masker wear a mask, it’s a vaccine.

No strangers to conspiracy theories, the anti-vax community is now being galvanised by fears that people who have been immunised against the pandemic may be secretly “shedding” unwanted mRNA proteins onto their unvaccinated fellow citizens.

The utterly baseless theories are currently focusing on female fertility, part of a wider delusion that COVID-19 is part of a ploy to depopulate the world by “culling the masses”.

The solution, of course, is simple - to avoid being affected you need to keep away from immunised people - a term that most of us in the general population describe as very sensible “social distancing”.

A report on *Vice World News* quoted a Twitter post from one anti-vaxer saying “I am going to be watching these vaccine shedding stories like a hawk. Is my family going to need masks to protect ourselves from the vaccinated?”



# SAY HI

Catch the PD team at APP!

**CLICK HERE**  
to secure an appointment.

Pharmacy Daily

## Pharmacist fined over ‘near misses’

**AN AUCKLAND-BASED** pharmacist has been fined NZ\$6,000 and censured for “careless” mistakes in dispensing methadone, *stuff.co.nz* reports.

Between 2013 and 2017 the pharmacist erred when dispensing the medication, giving one patient a double dose, while giving two others higher doses than had been prescribed, the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal was told.

The pharmacist was also alleged to have dispensed methadone to patients without a valid script.

The Tribunal was told that while no harm came to any patients, the Auckland Opioid Treatment



Service said there had been “near misses”.

The pharmacist’s lawyer said that he realised he had made mistakes with methadone, he was not aware that he had made so many mistakes, adding he was “extremely grateful” no one had been harmed.

# A solution for every dispensary

We understand your patients always come first. We feel that's the same level of care you deserve. We're not just a supplier, we're a trusted partner, so we'll always work hard to ensure your needs are met.



There is a reason why over the past 15 years Willach has delivered over 1,000 dispensary solutions. We create spaces and systems that save time, optimise efficiency, reduce errors and improve medicine management, which maximises

returns and relieves some of the stress and pressure on owners and staff.

No matter the size of your pharmacy, contact us for a confidential discussion to explore the range of options available.

find out more

[www.willach.com.au](http://www.willach.com.au)  
Tel: (03) 9429 8222  
[info@willach.com.au](mailto:info@willach.com.au)

 **Willach** | Pharmacy Solutions  
WHERE THERE'S A WILLACH THERE'S A WAY



# WHOLELIFE

PHARMACY & HEALTHFOODS

## WANT TO GROW, DIFFERENTIATE AND FUTURE-PROOF YOUR PHARMACY TO GENERATE MORE SALES AND PROFIT?

*Be part of the dynamic health and wellbeing trend.*



**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WHOLELIFE PHARMACY & HEALTHFOODS,  
AUSTRALIA'S FASTEST GROWING PHARMACY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING DESTINATION?**

We are inviting pharmacy owners who are passionate about holistic health, retail excellence and leading positive change to join us for a detailed information session on the WholeLife concept at the APP Conference on the morning of the 22nd May, 2021.



**CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE A 2 MINUTE SURVEY & ONE OF OUR TEAM  
WILL SEND YOU YOUR EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE INVITATION**

[WWW.WHOLELIFE.COM.AU/REGISTER](http://WWW.WHOLELIFE.COM.AU/REGISTER)