

Today's issue of PD

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

TGA's vaping crackdown

MELBOURNE-BASED

company, Australia Utopia Pty Ltd has been hit with fines totalling \$93,240, in relation to alleged unlawful advertising of nicotine vaping products on its website.

The announcement that the business had been issued seven infringement notices marks the continuation of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) crackdown on advertising breaches associated with vaping products, since they were scheduled as Prescription-Only from 01 Oct.

Alongside the fines, Australia Utopia has been ordered to "immediately remove all advertising of nicotine vaping products from the website".

The TGA issued eight infringement notices totalling \$106,560 to Sydney-based firm, Mason Online Pty Ltd, over the weekend (PD 22 Nov), while RV Global Ecommerce Pty Ltd, and two individuals from Melbourne have been issued fines since the products were upscheduled.



Skilled migration return welcomed

PLANS to reopen Australia's international borders to skilled migrants, including overseas-trained pharmacists, from 01 Dec, will ease the sector's workforce shortage, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the move was "an important step in helping to address serious workforce shortages" for community pharmacy owners, with hospital, retail and industrial pharmacist roles added to the temporary Skills Priority List earlier this year (PD 13 Jul).

"Community pharmacies are currently struggling with workforce shortages and workforce distribution inequities," he said.

"These issues compound the challenges that community pharmacies face in providing services, especially to regional rural and remote populations.

"These tend to have high rates of chronic disease, lower health literacy and socioeconomic status and therefore are in greater need of more healthcare support.

"In many of these regional, rural and remote areas of Australia the workforce shortage has been acute at times.




"The Guild advocated strongly and successfully to have pharmacists returned to the Priority Migration Skilled Occupations List to help fill workforce gaps.

"The additional workforce achieved through skilled migration will contribute to ensuring that community pharmacies can continue to provide quality primary healthcare to the community, especially during the pandemic.

"The announcement regarding the opening of borders is good news for this sector and for all patients."

Speaking at a Senate Community Affairs Committee hearing earlier this month, Guild Clinical Governance and Workforce Senior Pharmacist, Claire Bekema, said the profession's status on the temporary, rather than long-term, skilled migration list was hampering regional and rural pharmacy owners' efforts to attract overseas talent (PD 12 Nov).

"The pathways to permanent residency are limited, and therefore we're not attracting skilled pharmacists from overseas," she said.

"We really need to be on the medium-to-long-term skilled

migration list, and that's what we're advocating for. It's just opening up the options and the attractiveness of Australia for these skilled migrants."

While the Guild has welcomed the reopening of borders for skilled migration, members of union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia's Activist Group on Facebook, have suggested other measures are required to combat workforce shortages.

One pharmacist said skilled migration was "not the solution unfortunately - it may contribute to the workforce, but it won't solve everything", while others stressed the need for improved remuneration and conditions for employee pharmacists to keep people in the profession.

Integrated online

PHARMACY website specialist, Storbie's bespoke industry specific website integrations can help pharmacies run online stores without digital headaches.

The platform has been designed to integrate with leading pharmacy software providers, including Fred IT, Corum Health and Z Software. See **page four** for more.

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Pharmacy 360 registration open

REGISTRATION for the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's (SHPA's) Accredited Pharmacist Conference, Pharmacy 360, on 23-24 Feb 2022, is now open.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the event, which will be held in Adelaide, will focus on improving communication and connections to enhance patient safety.

"At the heart of Pharmacy 360 is a contemporary focus on centralising the patient experience," she said.

"Our comprehensive two-day program includes key clinical updates, focused skills development, a sweeping State of the Nation and much more."

Details of the conference's program will be updated in the coming weeks.

CLICK HERE to secure discounted registration now.

OTC Pill decision delaying inevitable

MEASURES enabling community pharmacists to dispense oral contraceptives over-the-counter (OTC) will be implemented at some point, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Twomey told the Consumer Health Products Australia (CHP) Conference last week that despite the Australian Committee on Medicines Scheduling's (ACMS's) recent decision not to down-schedule oral contraceptives (**PD 19 Oct**), it was "a matter of when, not if" they would be made available on an OTC basis.

"A real missed opportunity was the ACMS... which again did not side with common sense, did not side with the evidence and most certainly did not side with consumers or Australian women, in making the oral contraceptive pill more available," he said.

"It is completely nonsensical that you can receive the emergency contraceptive pill from a



community pharmacist, but you cannot receive the preventer to start with.

"The evidence is overwhelmingly there.

"The jurisdictions in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) that are doing this are putting Australia in the absolute minority, so this is only a matter of time.

"The oral contraceptive pill will be made available to Australian

women without a prescription through community pharmacy - it's a matter of when, not if."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, has previously described the ACMS's failure to down-schedule the Pill, as "very disappointing" (**PD 20 Oct**), and stressed the organisation would continue to lobby regulators to improve accessibility to the contraceptive.



It's your last chance to nominate the next Innovative Pharmacist of the Year!

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Dispensary Corner



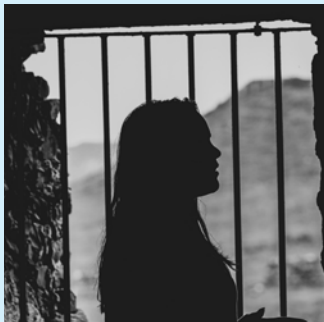
LIFE has not been easy over the last three years for US pharmacist-turned-jailbird, Natalie Cochran.

From running a lucrative ponzi scheme, swindling approximately \$3.4 million from 11 investors, the 41-year-old tragically lost her husband, Michael, in Feb 2019, before being sentenced to 11 years behind bars for fraud involving fake government contracts.

However, it transpires Cochran's husband's passing at Bowers Hospice House in West Virginia may not have been as "natural" as initially believed, with a special grand jury indicting the former pharmacist on murder charges last week.

Raleigh County Prosecutor, Ben Hatfield, told *MetroNews* that an autopsy on Michael Cochran's recently exhumed remains provided fresh evidence that he may have been killed, rather than passing away peacefully.

With Cochran currently being held in Federal custody, State prosecutors will need to file a motion to secure a writ for her to appear before local courts on the murder charge.



New Qld CHO named

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland Branch has welcomed the appointment of infectious diseases specialist, Dr John Gerrard, as the State's new Chief Health Officer (CHO).

Queensland Guild Branch President, Chris Owen, said he was confident that Gerrard will provide strong leadership, as the State navigates the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I have no doubt that Queensland will benefit greatly from Dr Gerrard's recent experience as Director of Infectious Diseases at Gold Coast University Hospital," he said.

Owen noted that the incoming CHO has already played a significant role in Queensland's pandemic response, treating the State's first COVID-19 patient.

"Given this experience, it's hard to imagine a candidate more suited than Dr Gerrard able to advise the State Government through the next phase of the pandemic," he said.



Owen took the opportunity to thank former CHO, Dr Jeannette Young, who has been appointed as Governor of Queensland, saying "community pharmacists could not have had a better partner than Dr Young in helping us navigate this pandemic, as we provided frontline care to our communities".

"As a State, we owe a great deal to Dr Young for her incredible leadership during the course of this pandemic," Owen said.

APP2022 set to be biggest ever: Sclavos

WITH COVID-19 restrictions easing and both domestic and international borders reopening, Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP2022) Convenor, Kos Sclavos, says next year's event could be the biggest ever.

Announcing that representatives from AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna will be presenting as part of the event's clinical program, Sclavos said it "should make for some very engaging discussion around the vaccine rollout and international learnings we can take onboard as we deliver for our local communities".

"Registration for APP2022

is now open, and with early-bird pricing still being offered, delegates have the chance to save more than \$100," he said.

"With the borders opening up across Australia, we think numbers at APP2022 have the chance to be some of the biggest we've ever seen. I would hate for anyone to miss out."

Sclavos added that while "it is increasingly unlikely that we'll have any interruptions due to borders reopening and Australia's increasing vaccination rates", delegates unable to attend due to COVID would be able to access a full refund of their registration.

Pharmacy Guild Update



Pfizer clinical resource

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy and Guild Learning and Development have partnered to deliver a complimentary Pfizer clinical resource guide for pharmacists.

Following the successful launch of the A-Z of AstraZeneca and Moderna Myths and Facts guides, the Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) and Guild Learning and Development announced the release of Pfizer Facts for Pharmacists.

The clinical resource guide, developed in a partnership between the ACP and Guild Learning and Development, pulls together several sources of information on the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination for easy reference for community pharmacists.

The Australasian College of Pharmacy's President, Michelle Bou-Samra, said the clinical guide would provide invaluable support as community pharmacists are now beginning to offer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations.

"We received overwhelming feedback from the AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine resources we released for pharmacists," Ms Bou-Samra said.

"With the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination now in community pharmacies Australia-wide, pharmacists across Australia are in the unique position to be able to offer all of the approved COVID-19 vaccines."

Pfizer Facts for Pharmacists and other complimentary COVID-19 resources can be viewed at acp.edu.au.



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