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PD team grows!

THE Pharmacy Daily team is absolutely thrilled to announce the arrival last weekend of James O'Donoghue, a precious new son for **PD** editor Nicholas O'Donoghue and his wife Theresa.

James came into the world on Mon and he and his mother are both happy and healthy, with the baby weighing 3.8kg.

Nicholas is currently on paternity leave, but assured **PD** readers that "I'm also OK for anyone who may have been concerned".

TGA publishes ad report

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released its 2020-21 report on Advertising Compliance, detailing a busy year dealing with over 2,070 reports of alleged advertising breaches.

COVID-19 was a key focus, with the agency taking "a range of strong and timely actions with warnings, cease and desist notices and a number of cases proceeding to infringement notices".

A directions notice was issued for the unlawful advertising of ivermectin as a cure for COVID-19, while the TGA ordered the remediation of a website including removal of references to a homeopathic COVID-19 product.

The TGA also issued more than \$1.3 million in infringement notices, and ordered the removal of "several hundred advertisements from online shopping platforms".

Key cases highlighted included compliance action taken against Lorna Jane and Pete Evans Chef making unauthorised COVID-19

claims relating to their products, while the TGA also highlighted examples of illegal advertising of unregistered weight loss products by community pharmacies and eBay Australia sellers.

Medicinal cannabis was also a focus, with the TGA reviewing over 450 complaints as it undertook risk assessments to identify Australian entities unlawfully advertising medical cannabis items while also recognising the need to support legal pathways for access.

Going forward, the TGA said "now more than ever we must continue to direct our focus toward public health and safety and ensuring that Australians can continue to be confident that advertisements are truthful and support the appropriate use of therapeutic goods".

See the report at tga.gov.au.

Guild welcomes NSW Premier

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has congratulated new NSW Premier, Dominic Perrottet, on his appointment, with Guild National President Trent Twomey saying he takes on the role at a particularly challenging time for the state.

"The Guild has worked closely with Mr Perrottet before, and his strong leadership and political background will help him to lead the state out of the pandemic," Twomey said.

NSW Guild Branch President David Heffernan added that "the Guild has always found Mr Perrottet to be willing to listen to advice and to act on such advice when it is in the interests of the state".

"He is committed, passionate and pragmatic," he added, thanking the outgoing Gladys Berejiklian for her "dedication to the pharmacy sector".

ACSQHC update

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) has released updated advice to support health service organisations with risk assessment in relation to COVID-19, and development of comprehensive plans to manage risks - [CLICK HERE](#).

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Wizard marks WA vaccination milestone

WIZARD Pharmacy has launched a campaign to further encourage COVID-19 vaccinations in Western Australia, with the state hitting one million citizens fully vaccinated against the disease last weekend.

Wizard Pharmacy team members - including staff from Wizard Pharmacy in the Perth suburb of Belmont (pictured) - are asking the community 'What's Your Reason?' for getting the jab, aiming to get patients to share why they decided to be immunised to urge others to do the same.

So far the most common reasons for getting vaccinated include "travelling again", "protecting family members and the vulnerable" and "ending lockdowns and restrictions".

Wizard Pharmacy Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, who was vaccinated to keep her family safe and healthy, said the group was incredibly proud to be part of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout and to be offering such an essential service to the community.



"We've already seen a huge uptake of the vaccines in our pharmacies with thousands of appointments booked in six weeks, and even more convenient walk-in vaccinations completed on top of that," she said.

"With the recent rollout of the Moderna vaccine exclusively through community pharmacy, we are expecting to see that number significantly increase," she added.

Moderna is available to patients aged over 12, while AstraZeneca is also offered to those over 18 years of age at selected Wizard pharmacies.

As of yesterday 79.9% of the eligible Australian population over 16 have had at least one dose.

Lots more photos of Wizard team members and their reasons for getting the jab are online now at facebook.com/pharmacydaily.

NAPSA regos

EARLYBIRD registration is open for next year's annual National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) congress, taking place at James Cook University Cairns from 22-28 Jan 2022 - [CLICK HERE](#).

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IDAA update

THE Pharmacy Programs Administrator has advised of a recent update for the Indigenous Dose Administration Aids (IDAA) Patient Information and Consent Form.

Pharmacies must use the most recent version of the form before providing any new IDAA services, with the current version available for download at ppaonline.com.au.

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Dispensary Corner

IT'S definitely good to keep active as you age, but a couple of adventurous middle-aged people in the UK probably took it a little too far when they broke into a water park at 2am.

The pair, a woman aged 46 and her 44-year-old male companion, were apparently having a somewhat merry night out in early Aug when they came up with the bright idea of sneaking into Aldershot Lido water park.

They climbed one of the towers and splashed water into the yellow slide (pictured) in order to reduce friction - which definitely worked, because they then jumped in, rode down and slammed into a barrier which was blocking the exit

Both shattered their feet and one had a broken leg after the incident, lying in agony as they banged on the slide to raise the alarm for several hours before being rescued by police who had been alerted by neighbours concerned that kids had broken into the pool.

The injured 46-year-old described the horrific incident as "like a scene out of the horror film Saw".



Monash faculty gets grant

THE Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (FPPS) has received an Inter-Faculty Transformation Grant worth \$49,000 to support international students across its six faculties and two Monash Malaysia schools over the next two years.

The grant recognises the work of a team of student-facing staff from the Faculty, who recognised that more needed to be done to ensure international students felt supported through the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year the FPPS program focused on communication, wellbeing activities and social/networking, with leading roles taken by Dr Nilushi Karunaratne as the Academic-Student Liaison Lead, Dr Betty Exintaris as the Resilience Lead and Dr Suzanne Caliph as the

Empathy Lead.

The group utilised several key recommendations in a report from youth mental health organisation Orygen, with regular academic-led meet-ups with students, periodic newsletters and wellbeing days.

"We've received a lot of really positive feedback from international students who have attended the regular Zoom events we've put on to help them feel supported and connected," said Dr Karunaratne.

"The program has been a big success for the FPPS, which is why we wanted to create this sense of belonging at each Monash faculty."

Dr Exintaris added that the program helped create an inclusive environment conducive to learning, and provides a conduit between students and support services.

Workplace jobs backed by MA

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has released a position statement on workplace vaccinations, with the biopharmaceutical industry strongly recommending immunisations for the "health and safety and protection of all employees".

CEO Elizabeth de Somer outlined the importance of jobs as a critical pillar of public health policy, saying "Medicines Australia is a powerful advocate for the COVID-19 vaccine and stands by those who require employee vaccinations to protect the health and safety of employees, manufacturers, frontline health workers, patients and the community".

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