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## Pharmacists drop off sub-register

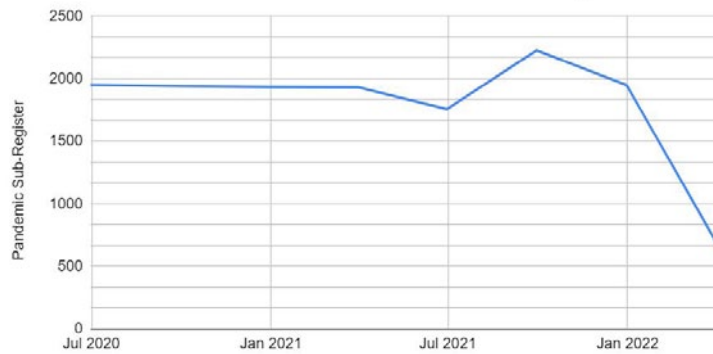
**FEWER** than one-in-three pharmacists who were on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA's) COVID-19 sub-register at the end of Dec 2021 are still on it.

Pharmacists who had been added to the sub-register in Apr 2020 on an opt-out basis were required to contact AHPRA to join the 2021 sub-register by 05 Apr 2022, if they wanted to continue to practice until 21 Sep 2022, transition to general registration, or drop their registration.

Registration data released last week showed 1,950 pharmacists were on the sub-register as of 31 Dec 2021 (*PD* 04 Apr), however that number has shrunk to 635 as of 06 Apr, when those who did not opt-in to remain on the register were removed.

In a statement released yesterday, AHPRA noted that registered health professionals who held non-practising registration prior to being placed on the sub-register, and did not

Pharmacists on the COVID-19 Pandemic sub-register



opt to continue on it, or transition to general registration, have returned to that status.

If all 1,315 pharmacists who were on the sub-register have dropped out of the profession, the pharmacy workforce could decline by almost 4% on the Dec 2021 figures, when the Jun 2022 registration data is released later this year.

Of the 12 professions listed on the sub-register, pharmacists account for the fourth largest cohort of the 20,730 health

professionals who have remained on the register, behind nurses (15,302), midwives (1,836) and medical practitioners (1,374).

More than a third of the pharmacists who have opted to remain on the sub-register are based in NSW, with Victoria providing almost one-in-four of the 635 pharmacists on the sub-register, while two Northern Territory-based pharmacists, and five from the ACT have decided to continue on the register until 21 Sep.

### Today's issue of *PD*

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

### TGA issues fines

**PERTH-BASED** company, Kardwi Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, and Sydney's Ferngrove Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, have been issued infringement notices of \$13,320 each for alleged contraventions of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reported that both firms allegedly failed to provide information on a contact person responsible for medicine safety.

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



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AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

## Virtual training

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) pharmacy staff have been updating their skills and knowledge over the last two weeks, attending the network's latest virtual Academy Live and Masterclass Forum events.

Close to 200 pharmacists from across the country joined the online sessions covering a broad spectrum of topics from cognitive and mental health to the role of the gut microbiome in healthy immune responses, smoking cessation and coaching patients on self-injecting biologic medicines for chronic diseases.

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, said it was pleasing to see so many pharmacists sacrifice their time to expand their knowledge.

Non-pharmacist staff were introduced to new private label skincare ranges, and trained to better support patients with osteoarthritis.

## Monash No 1 for pharmacy training

**MELBOURNE'S** Monash University has topped the 2022 QS World University Rankings by subject for Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

The University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has been rated in the top three globally for the last five years, before taking out the top spot this year.

Monash University President and Vice Chancellor, Professor Margaret Gardner, said securing the number one ranking was a proud achievement for the institution.

"Not only does this ranking place us as the number one university in Pharmacy and Pharmacology, it also demonstrates the excellence of our research and education in this field, which is critical for the future health of our community," she said.

"It is a testament to the leadership of Faculty Dean, Professor Arthur Christopoulos, and the commitment and dedication of all Faculty staff.

"I offer my sincere thanks



and congratulations to all who contributed to this remarkable result."

Commenting on the result, Christopoulos noted that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the Faculty had adjusted its training to support the evolving role pharmacists have played.

"We've evolved our pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education programs to address the urgent global workforce demands in the rapidly expanding healthcare sector," he said.

"It's a dynamic vocation and we're

so proud that Monash has been recognised for its agility, resilience and global excellence in this field."

The University of Sydney was ranked equal 14<sup>th</sup> for Pharmacy and Pharmacology - number two in Australia - ahead of the University of Queensland, which was 30<sup>th</sup> on the global ratings.

Three other Australian institutions were ranked in the top 100 for Pharmacy and Pharmacology, with the University of Melbourne coming in at joint 55<sup>th</sup>, the University of Adelaide equal 70<sup>th</sup> and the University of NSW 84<sup>th</sup>.

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## Revised Code of conduct released

**PHARMACISTS** are being urged to familiarise themselves with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA's) revised Code of conduct.

The regulator released an advanced copy of the Code yesterday, with the document applying to 12 of the 15 professions under AHPRA's remit from 29 Jun.

"The Code sets out [the] National Boards' expectations of professional behaviour and conduct for practitioners registered in these professions, which promotes safe and effective care and helps to keep the public safe," AHPRA said.

"Practitioners have a professional responsibility to be familiar with and to apply the Code.

"The shared Code sets the same expectations for all 12 professions subject to the Code.

"This consistency supports inter-professional practice and contributes to safety and quality in healthcare.

"The public can also use the Code to better understand what they

can expect from registered health practitioners and if the care they provide meets expected standards.

"The Code does not apply for the Medical Board of Australia, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia or the Psychology Board of Australia.

"These Boards have profession-specific codes of conduct or codes of ethics in place which you can read on their websites."

AHPRA CEO, Martin Fletcher, said the Code was revised to ensure it continued to be relevant and useful for practitioners, and more accessible for health consumers.

"The review included extensive consultation with the public and numerous stakeholders, and we thank them for their input," he said.

"The revised Code is contemporary, more useful and more accessible to both practitioners and the public because of these contributions.

"We strongly encourage practitioners to familiarise themselves with the code before it comes into effect in Jun."



Key changes to the Code include information about practitioners' responsibilities in relation to bullying, guidance for employers about ensuring performance targets and other business practices are consistent with the Code, and additional information about vexatious complaints.

The revised Code also provides principles to guide behaviour including when an issue is not specifically addressed by the Code.

**CLICK HERE** to read the revised Code of conduct.

## Dispensary Corner

**AUTHORITIES** in Germany have launched a formal investigation into allegations that a man underwent more than 90 COVID-19 vaccinations in order to sell proof of immunisation cards to people who didn't want to get the jab themselves.

Reports from Berlin claim the man from the eastern city of Magdeburg had the injections administered at centres across the Saxony region over a period of several months.

The probe recently caught up with him at a centre in Eilenberg, where workers noticed he had turned up for a COVID-19 immunisation for the second day in a row.

News agency *dpa* says police confiscated several blank vaccination cards from the man, who now faces criminal charges for defrauding the state-sponsored job program.

There is a significant anti-vaxxer movement in Germany where the overall vaccination rate is only about 75%, but those who refuse to get the jab find life quite difficult because vaccine passports are required for many everyday activities such as entering restaurants and workplaces.

The reports say the 60-year-old's vaccinations were across a variety of brands including Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca, with health officials unsure about the overall impact of multiple jabs on his own health status - although they're pretty sure he won't be catching COVID-19 any time soon.

## US wage data

**PHARMACISTS** in the US earn an average salary of AUD\$167,765, according to data released by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

California-based pharmacists had the highest average income, \$195,061, with those in Alaska taking home roughly \$194,754.

Pharmacists in Rhode Island reported the lowest average salary in the US - \$147,370 - according to the Bureau, with their peers in Tennessee earning the second lowest wages - \$154,030 a year.

## SHPA celebrates members' successes

**HOSPITAL** pharmacists and technicians from across Australia have been celebrated by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) this week.

Monash Health Clinical Pharmacist, Megan Clark, was named as the 2021 SHPA Early Career Pharmacist of the Year yesterday, with the Society recognising her commitment to improving pharmacy services in neonatal, paediatric and maternity populations.

The Western NSW Local Health District Clinical Pharmacy Service, claimed the 2021 SHPA

Hospital Team Innovation of the Year Award, for its work in implementing and embedding a virtual pharmacy service in the Western NSW Local Health District and the Far West Local Health District in 2020, to ensure rural patients receive the same standard of care as patient in large urban hospitals.

The 2021 SHPA Resident of the Year Award went to Victoria-based clinical pharmacist, James Ford, for his presentation, *Hospital outreach medication review to reduce opioid use following surgery*.

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