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## Guild dismisses stale old arguments

**CRITICISM** of Western Australia's decision to expand the State's Community Pharmacy Immunisation Program (*PD* 21 Apr), rely on tired old arguments, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) National President, Dr Karen Price, warned that allowing pharmacist immunisers to administer a broader range of vaccines, including HPV and DpTA to patients 11 years and older, could have "unintended consequences" (*PD* 22 Apr).

A spokesperson for the Guild's WA Branch, said the comments from the RACGP and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) appeared to be "a simple regurgitation of tired old arguments that in WA stretch back to 2015".

The Guild noted that medical groups appeared to be "conveniently" overlooking the more than one million COVID-19 vaccines administered through pharmacies since Jul 2021, and 180,000 influenza jabs given through the state's pharmacy network last year.

"Further they seem to discount that pharmacists are tertiary



trained medicines experts and administration of vaccines is recognised by the Pharmacy Board of Australia as being within their scope of practice," they said.

"As [the] Government has recognised, without pharmacy the COVID-19 vaccination program would never have achieved the level of cover it did, thereby saving countless lives and unnecessary hospital admissions.

"The RACGP in its own report has advised parliament, [that] WA does not have the GPs needed to provide the level of primary health cover the state requires.

"If anyone or any group truly

believes in vaccinating the population then they cannot possibly put their hand on their heart and oppose an expansion of pharmacy vaccinations with any level of credibility.

"Ensuring services to patients is critical and given we're still in the COVID-19 pandemic and with reports of a bad influenza season approaching, that is where pharmacists are focusing their efforts.

"Should the AMA or the RACGP wish to meet with the WA Branch to have meaningful discussion about improving services to the patient, our door is open."

### Today's issue of *PD*

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

- Wizard Pharmacy
- Sigma Healthcare

### Building loyalty

**WIZARD** Pharmacy is providing franchisees with a complete business platform that enables them to build stronger connections with their customers.

The group aims to build consumer loyalty with its Wizard Rewards program.

See **page four** for more.

### National brand with a local face

**PHARMACY** owners looking to strengthen their business can access the recognition of a national brand while retaining their local identity with Sigma Healthcare's Guardian banner.

The group offers tailored business support programs to suit the needs of pharmacies.

See **page five** for more.

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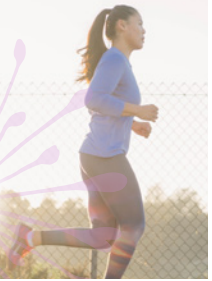
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## PSR voices concerns over NQPSPP

**COMMONWEALTH** agency, the Professional Services Review (PSR), is warning the North Queensland Pharmacist Scope of Practice Pilot (NQPSPP) could put patients at risk.

The agency raised compliance and regulatory concerns about the pilot with the Federal Department of Health earlier this year, the Royal College of General Practitioners' (RACGP's) *News GP* website reported.

PSR Director, Professor Julie Quinlivan, warned that authorising pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics could be a potential source of patient harm, flagging issues around prescribing records.

"[The pilot] does not include a requirement that pharmacists implement a recognised system of medical record keeping so that consultation records are able to be retained for statutory periods and able to be independently reviewed by an external regulator to ensure that prescribing was appropriate," she said.

"All other professions have a requirement that patient records must be kept that enable another practitioner to read the records and safely provide ongoing patient care.

"If records are created in the trial, how will other practitioners involved in patient care access them?"

"How will one pharmacist share records with another?"

"How long will records be retained?"

"Who can access the records?"

"Will record systems be able to be updated and will full patient histories be maintained including all previous medical history, medications, allergies and social situations?"

"These are questions a regulator would ask."

Quinlivan added that the proposed pilot was inconsistent with Commonwealth legislation.

"It is a concern because current Commonwealth legislation states who may prescribe Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescription



medication and pharmacists are not listed as being able to do this," she said.

"Further, the TGA [Therapeutic Goods Administration] carefully evaluates whether a medication is a prescription medication or an "over-the-counter" medication after careful literature review and consideration of patient safety and calls for submissions.

"It is a concern that the TGA might perform such a comprehensive task, find that a medication should remain a prescription medication, and then a trial can ignore this finding."

## Kynd batch recall

**PHARMACIES** are being urged to review any stock of iNova Pharmaceuticals' Kynd Stress Relief tablets, following a recall of one batch of the product, announced last week.

The decision to recall batch #106585 was made after consumers reported experiencing allergic reactions, including rashes, swelling of the throat, tongue, eyelids and/or face, tingling or burning sensation on the skin, and general skin redness and itching.

"Pharmacies, other retailers and wholesalers who have purchased this product are advised to inspect stock immediately and quarantine all units from the affected batch," the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

"All unsold units of the affected batch will be removed from the market."

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## Dispensary Corner



**KEEPING** secrets from your spouse is rarely a smart thing to do, as one British man discovered, when his asexual female friend inadvertently outed him as the father of her twins.

After discovering his long-time friend was planning to have a child using IVF, the 31-year-old father-of-one offered to step in as a sperm donor, but never mentioned his philanthropic deed to his wife.

However, his role in the conception was revealed when the then heavily pregnant mother-to-be invited the married couple out for dinner to thank them for his contribution to helping her fulfil a dream she never thought would be possible, the *Daily Mail* reported.

"I was just as shocked and asked my friend if he hadn't told his wife," the woman said in a post on *Reddit*.

"He tried to explain to both of us he hadn't thought it'd matter as he has no rights to them at all.

"The three of us got into a huge argument and his wife demanded to know why I wouldn't tell her that her husband had offered this in the first place.

"I feel very guilty for not checking with his wife first but it honestly never occurred to me that he wouldn't have done that first so I thought if he was offering she had to have already given the okay.

"Am I the a\*\*\*\*\* in this?"  
"I don't know what to do."

## New graduates ready

**COMMUNITY** pharmacy is providing fresh employment opportunities for Queenslanders through a State Government-backed training initiative.

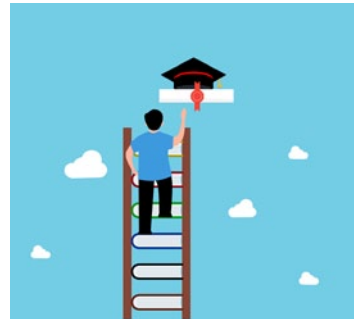
More than 20 students successfully completed the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Fundamentals of Community Pharmacy course this month, preparing them to take on pharmacy assistant roles.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, said the fully subsidised program has been "instrumental in giving people the opportunity to up-skill and commence a career in community pharmacy."

"We are delighted to give people the opportunity to join the respected pharmacy profession," he said.

"Course graduates report positive job satisfaction after employment, particularly around being able to support the local community and their healthcare needs."

Dianne Grayson, who graduated



from the program last year after losing her previous job due to the COVID-19 pandemic, said the course had enabled her to find new employment.

"Having my career taken away from me was very difficult to deal with and presented many challenges," she said.

"I thought this would be a great career, helping people and working in the health industry, so I applied.

"[And] I received a job offer on my last week of vocational placement."

The next course will commence on 03 May in Brisbane, Townsville and Toowoomba.

## What are pharmacy owners looking for?

**RESEARCHERS** from the University of Western Australia and the University of South Australia are investigating what non-technical skills and attributes employers are looking for in pharmacy graduates.

The team has invited pharmacy owners to participate in an online survey that could assist in developing future pharmacist training programs.

"The scope of the skills employers are looking for goes further than this including personal awareness and insight, managing stressful work

environments, ability to be flexible and think creatively to address issues, confidence with asking for help, and a positive attitude," they said.

"Possessing and cultivating these and other non-technical skills increases job satisfaction and performance as well as patient care.

"Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify non-technical skills and attributes that community pharmacist employers value in pharmacy graduates."

**CLICK HERE** to participate now.

## Guild Update



### Medicinal cannabis

**FROM** 28 April 2022, extemporaneously compounded medicinal cannabis products must have an approval under the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) Special Access Scheme (SAS) or Authorised Prescriber Scheme (AP).

Prescriptions written on or after 28 April 2022 must not be dispensed in the absence of an SAS or AP approval.

This is a new requirement for compounded medicinal cannabis products and aligns with the regulations for other unapproved medicinal cannabis products supplied as finished goods.

The intent of this regulation change is to provide greater visibility of the number of prescriptions and the indications for which they are being written, to enable an application to be queried or rejected by the TGA if there are significant clinical safety risks for the proposed patient.

The TGA website has further information on the recently revised process for seeking [SAS and AP approvals](#), and updated versions of the [quality standard for medicinal cannabis products and the relevant guidance](#).



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