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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page on the Guild's Pharmacy Assistant National Conference.

## PA2022 rego

EARLY bird registration for the 2022 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA2022) closes on Thu 01 Sep.

A range of registration options for the event, which will be held in Brisbane on 28 to 29 Oct, are available.

See page four for more.

## MM22 deadline

PHARMACISTS have until 11.59 pm (AEST) to submit abstracts for the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's (SHPA) Medications Management 2022 conference.

CLICK HERE for more.

# Addiction dashes ownership dreams

SYDNEY-BASED pharmacist, Rohan Rapyal, is set to be sentenced for his "active" role in supporting an international criminal syndicate.

The 30-year-old's initially successful pharmacy career "unravelling" as a result of spiralling debt stemming from drug addiction, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

A sentencing hearing at the Downing Centre Court on Fri, was told that Rapyal had entered guilty pleas to two counts of supplying commercial quantities of prohibited drugs, and attempting to possess a commercial quantity of an unlawfully imported border controlled drug.

The court was told that the pharmacist was supplying ketamine, methamphetamine, cocaine and other substances in varying quantities.

Rapyal's barrister, Nicole Carroll, said the aspiring pharmacy owner had a "fall from grace" that saw him arrested for driving under the



influence of drugs several times, as a result of his addiction.

"It was no doubt his undoing," Carroll said.

"He lost his employment and pharmacy qualifications.

"He became heavily involved in the supply of drugs in NSW... it caused him to no longer be a positive member of the community."

The court heard that Rapyal racked up a significant debt

to drug dealers, who extorted \$400,000 from his family.

Rapyal was arrested after detectives from the Redfern Region Enforcement Squad raided his home in Epping in Jul 2020.

Carroll told the court that Rapyal was no longer dependent on drugs, but noted that he would require supervision to help him avoid relapse.

The case has been adjourned until 16 Sep.



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## 2022 PATY state winners announced

**HIBISCUS** Day and Night Pharmacy's Jessie Chen will be seeking to secure the Northern Territory's third successive Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) Award, after claiming the Territory title.

The Darwin-based PA will face competition from peers from across the country at the national final, which will be held at PA National Conference (PA2022) in Brisbane in Oct, including Lanyon Pharmacy, ACT's Caitlin Smith, Moodie's Pharmacy, NSW's Alex Wood, Queenslander, April Wheeler from Priceline Pharmacy Morayfield.

Paige Ross from Christie's Compounding TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) will represent South Australia, with TWC Rosney Park's Terri Bakker taking the Tasmanian PATY crown, while Carlene Cerros from Blooms The Chemist Casey Central, and Bronte Wheatcroft of Donneybrook Pharmacy, took out the Victorian

and Western Australian Awards.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey noted that "the calibre of PATY nominees is always extremely high".

"PATY is the premier award for pharmacy assistants in Australia," he said.

"This prestigious award was created to recognise pharmacy assistants who go the extra mile to help patients and who are proactive in developing their own careers."

The 2022 PATY winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, a Guild training package of their choice, return flights, accommodation and registration to both APP 2023 and PA2023, and an invitation to join the 2023 PATY National Judging Workshop.

State winners of the Glucojel Super Star Award have also been announced with Chen's colleague at Hibiscus Day and Night Pharmacy, Yee Hui Ooi, in the running to give the store a potential double.

Lanyon Pharmacy is also in



contention to have staff claim both PA Awards, with Simon Tyler set to represent the ACT in the race for the national Glucojel Super Star Award.

Sheppard Road Pharmacy's Stephanie Goodisson has taken the NSW Glucojel Super Start crown, with Nicole Miller from the Gold Coast Super Clinic Amcal Pharmacy set to represent Queensland, while TWC Hilton's Sharon Worster will be competing for the title for SA.

Tasmanian Mel Nicolle from TWC Latrobe, Victorian, Kate Cameron from Community Chemist Grovedale, and St James Newstart Pharmacy, WA's Bianca Busby round out the finalists.

## Mandated out of job: pharmacist

**FORMER** New Zealand-based pharmacist, Louise Burnside, is turning to politics after being "mandated out of" her job due to her views on COVID-19 vaccines.

Burnside has put her name forward for the Napier City Council elections, claiming she had seen "more vaccine-injured people ending up in ICU than patients with COVID", [Stuff.co.nz](https://www.stuff.co.nz) reported.

However, Te Whatu Ora - Health NZ's National Immunisation Program's Acting Director, Rachel Mackay, told the publication that no one had been admitted to ICU as a result of COVID-19 vaccine-related adverse events.

Burnside was previously a pharmacist with the Hawke's Bay District Health Board up until Nov 2021.

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## Dispensary Corner

**MAYBE** it's two years of limited travel, but TikTok users' newfound freedom has fuelled an unlikely obsession. Filming animated signage outside French pharmacies and creating videos with a techno backing track has become the latest craze on the social media platform. TikTok users appear to be particularly enamoured with the flashing cross-shaped signs that feature animated neon green images of the Bowl of Hygieia and crosses.



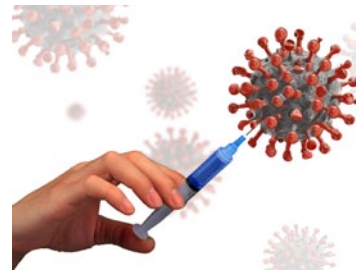
## No consent no vaccine

A FORMER Jetstar employee who was dismissed by the airline for not being immunised against COVID-19 attempted to get a pharmacist to sign a document acknowledging that she did not consent to being vaccinated.

The Fair Work Commission heard that Annuziata Cinque presented at Pharmacy4Less Reservoir on 18 Mar, for a vaccination appointment.

Cinque initially provided a signed consent form, but told the pharmacist that she was "attending for the injection after receiving a draconian threat of sacking" by her employer if she was not vaccinated.

"I also advised the injecting practitioner that the Federal Health Department Immunisation Guidelines Criterion 2 prohibits any injecting by an injecting practitioner, of any persons attending for injections under any undue pressure, coercion or manipulation... and that the sacking threat made against me constitutes undue pressure," she said.



Cinque then asked the pharmacist to sign document acknowledging that she was not voluntarily presenting for vaccination and that the practitioner would be "committing a criminal act of assault and battery", if she administered the vaccine.

The pharmacist told Cinque that she was not prepared to sign the document.

The Fair Work Commission ruled that Cinque's dismissal was fair, and she had made it clear to the pharmacist that despite signing a consent form, that she did not consent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, MPS Group Technical Manager, LaCorium Health.**



### What is Onychomycosis?

**ONYCHOMYCOSIS (OM)** refers to a fungal infection that affects the toenails or fingernails. Fungal nail infection is a common foot problem in all age groups, but especially in older adults.

The infection caused by the fungi is primarily confined to the nail, but it can occasionally spread to the surrounding skin.

Onychomycosis accounts for half of all nail disorders, and it is the most common nail disease in adults. Toenails are much more likely to be infected than fingernails. Infection and inflammation in the area of the nail matrix eventually led to a proximal nail dystrophy.

Onychomycosis is not life threatening, but it can cause pain, discomfort and disfigurement and may produce serious physical and occupational limitations.

Symptoms of a fungal nail infection include white, yellow, or brown discoloration of the nail, thickening of the nail, build-up of debris under the nail, scaliness, distorted shape of the nail and brittleness. While fungal nail infections are considered mostly as a cosmetic concern, without treatment the infection may lead to pain, irritation, and loss of the nail. If you are unsure whether you have a fungal nail infection, consult your GP or pharmacist.



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## Priceline deal

**WESFARMERS'** owned pharmacy banner, Priceline Pharmacy, will continue as a major sponsor of the Western Bulldogs AFLW team.

The group announced a two-year extension of its partnership with the team, having been a foundation sponsor since 2017.

Priceline Pharmacy General Manager, Andrew Vidler, said the sponsorship deal would enable the brand to help raise the profile of women's sport in Australia and promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle.



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Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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