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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

### Cultural care is critical: SHPA

GAPS in the provision of hospital pharmacy services for Indigenous Australian inpatients and processes to measure must be addressed, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

Marking NAIDOC Week, the SHPA noted that while close to two-thirds of hospital pharmacists reported having specific processes for Indigenous inpatients, just 14% conducted any service outcome measurement.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, urged members to "start and support conversations around culturally safe care this week, and every week – we must do it together."

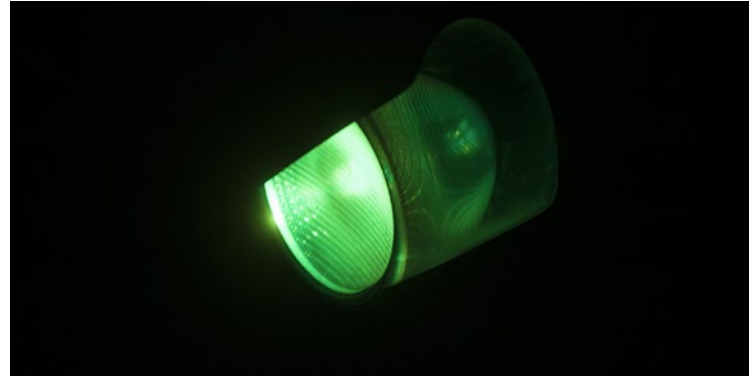
## UTIPP-Q gets green light to continue

COMMUNITY pharmacies in Queensland will be able to continue to provide women suffering from urinary tract infections (UTIs) with access to treatment under the State's controversial pilot program.

The UTI Pharmacy Pilot - Queensland (UTIPP-Q) had been set to come to an end yesterday, but was given the green light to continue by Queensland Health, despite criticism from the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

In a message to participating pharmacies, seen by *Pharmacy Daily*, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch noted that Queensland Health had extended the program while it "continues to work through the consultation and decision-making process to determine next steps".

"The implementation in Queensland has been a great success to date with over 9,000 women accessing UTI treatment through Queensland community



pharmacies," the Guild said.

"The availability of the service at the right time and in the right place for women, coupled with the professional services provided by you and your colleagues, has made this a service that has been extremely valuable to the community.

"[The] extension is a clear endorsement of the UTIPP-Q and service, its safety, effectiveness and the care you have given thousands of women across Queensland.

"It's an obvious conclusion from

the extension, that the recent scaremongering commentary from the AMAQ and RACGP has been found to be baseless, with no clinical evidence of adverse outcomes forthcoming.

"We appreciate the hard work of all UTIPP-Q pharmacists and pharmacies.

"Your dedication and commitment to the UTIPP-Q has again highlighted the contribution and value of community pharmacists in the health and healthcare of the Queensland community."

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## Australians shine as FIP 'rising stars'

AUSTRALIA'S female pharmacy educators are leading the way, with four women being named among the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP's) inaugural list of 20 FIPWiSE Rising Stars.

University of Newcastle Lecturer and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW Branch Vice President, Dr Sarah Dineen-Griffin, and University of Sydney School of Pharmacy trio, Dr Sarira El-Den, Dr Irene Um, and PharMIbridge co-lead, Dr Claire O'Reilly, were joined on the list by a quartet of UK-based academics, and peers from 12 other countries.

FIPWiSE (FIP Women in Science and Education) Chair, Professor Claire Thompson, said the Rising Stars program aimed to promote, encourage and inspire women in the fields of pharmaceutical sciences and education.

"There are still many gender inequities in pharmaceutical science and pharmacy education," she said.

"We intend to publish a new list each year, shining a light on the Rising Stars within these areas of practice, and celebrating their fantastic achievements."

Criteria for inclusion in the list involved nominees demonstrating their achievements, innovations and significant impacts in pharmaceutical sciences or pharmacy education, being a "pathfinder" in the profession despite challenges, and going "above and beyond" for the pharmacy profession.

"On behalf of the FIPWiSE panel, it was a real pleasure to learn about the diverse achievements of women in pharmaceutical science and education around the world," Thompson said.

"The impact that these individuals are having on innovation and education is incredible, and needs to be valued and celebrated."

Commenting on being named on the Rising Star list, El-Den, said she was "very proud to be recognised

among such amazing colleagues, [as] Claire, Sarah and Irene", while O'Reilly noted "[it's] great to see so many Aussies in the list".

In addition to having four Australians listed among the 20 rising stars of pharmacy education, University of Sydney School of Pharmacy Professor of Medicines Use Optimisation, Professor Parisa Aslani, was part of the FIPWiSE panel, who assessed the candidates.

## General rego numbers dip

PHARMACIST registration numbers are at an all-time high, topping 36,000, for the first time.

However, the latest Pharmacy Board of Australia figures for the three months to 31 Mar, revealed the number of pharmacists holding general registration has fallen for the first time since Mar 2017 - down 235 on the Dec 2021 figures.

NSW has seen the largest fall in general registration numbers, down 89, followed by Victoria, with 18 fewer pharmacists holding general registration compared with the Dec 2021 reporting period.

While general registration numbers are down, provisional registration figures have increased to 2,006 - up 616 on the Dec 2021 quarter.

## FOR ADULTS 60 YEARS AND OVER, SEVERAL INFLUENZA VACCINE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

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**It's important to discuss influenza protection and vaccine options with your older patients.**



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### Dispensary Corner

**SITTING** professional registration exams is stressful at the best of times, but the tension ratcheted up a couple of notches for aspiring pharmacists in the UK this week.

The British General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) confirmed that intern pharmacists who were scheduled to undertake their registration assessment on Wed faced significant delays, across five of the 113 test centres nationwide.

BBC News reported that candidates at the Nottingham test centre were forced to wait for several hours, due to "significant problems".

GPhC CEO, Duncan Rudkin, said the organisation had apologised to students affected by the delays.

"This is completely unacceptable, and we fully appreciate the significant stress and disruption this must have caused for them in such a high-stakes assessment," he said.

"We are advising the candidates in Nottingham that we will accept the severe delay as grounds for appeal if they do not pass."

Royal Pharmaceutical Society President, Professor Claire Anderson, described the delays as "appalling".

"It is not acceptable that foundation trainees were subjected to such traumatic and chaotic circumstances on what was already a stressful day," she said.

## Free flu vaccine programs extended

**STATE-FUNDED** free influenza vaccination services are set to continue across the country for a number of weeks.

Health authorities in Western Australia and South Australia announced the extension of their free jab programs until 31 Jul, yesterday, while Queensland Health also confirmed it would continue to fund its campaign until 17 Jul - in line with NSW's decision (PD 30 Jun).

Victoria was the first jurisdiction to continue to offer free flu shots until 10 Jul (PD 28 Jun).

The moves to extend the free programs have been welcomed by pharmacy representatives, with new Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) WA Branch President, Lusi Sheehan, confident the decision will boost uptake of the vaccine.

"We know that cost is a significant barrier to many people getting a regular flu shot," she said.

"Being able to deliver another month of vaccinations at no cost to



the public makes a big difference.

"We need to make it easier for all Australians to be protected against influenza every year."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, noted that the State's free flu jab campaign had been a success, with close to 207,000 doses administered through the community pharmacies since it

was launched on 24 May.

**MEANWHILE**, Tasmania has yet to confirm whether it will continue its free flu vaccination program beyond its original end date of 06 Jul.

However, **Pharmacy Daily** understands that State Government officials are considering extending the campaign, with a decision expected next Wed.

### TGA awaits application for infant COVAX

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is clearing the way for Pfizer to seek approval for its COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) to be administered to infants aged six months and older.

While the regulator has yet to receive an application from Pfizer for the vaccine to be given to children under five years, it has granted a provisional determination, paving the way for the company to seek the green light for the expanded use of the vaccine.

The TGA said the provisional determination was the first step in having the vaccine listed

on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) for the immunisation of infants.

"Approval and potential supply in Australia would only commence should the vaccine be approved as safe and effective by the TGA and recommended for administration to this age group by ATAGI (the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation)," the TGA said.

Under current measures community pharmacists in a number of jurisdictions would be authorised to administer the vaccine to infants, once it is approved for that cohort.

### PSA backs UTas

**THE** University of Tasmania's (UTas) fast-tracked pharmacy program (PD 29 Jun) will help boost the State's pharmacy workforce, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, David Peachey, believes.

The program will be conducted over three rather than four years, accelerating students' learning and enabling them to "get into pharmacy sooner", Peachey said.

"We need to encourage more students to take up pharmacy degrees by making a career as a pharmacist more attractive."