

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news.

### Indigenous focus

LIFE Pharmacy Group (LPG) is supporting its employees to further understand, engage with and connect to Australia's Indigenous culture and history.

The group has recently rolled out two online learning modules focused on cultural capability, demographics and factors linked to Indigenous health across the country.

To date more than 300 members of LPG staff have completed the modules, which have become a compulsory part of the induction process for new staff.

LPG has also commissioned Wiradjuri artist, Paul West, to create its LPG Platypus, as part of its NAIDOC week celebrations.

## Tas extends free flu vax program

TASMANIAN pharmacies will continue to provide free influenza vaccines to patients aged 10 years and older until 31 Jul, with Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, extending the State's program this morning.

With the free vaccination campaign originally set to expire tomorrow, Rockliff said his Government wanted "to give every Tasmanian the opportunity to be vaccinated against influenza".

The move follows similar extensions in South Australia and Western Australia last week (PD 01 Jul), with NSW and Queensland moving the end of their programs to 17 Jul, while Victoria's campaign is set to end on 10 Jul.

With recent weekly case numbers in Tasmania exceeding 350, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, welcomed Rockliff's decision.

"Having a flu vaccine from your local community pharmacy is an

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easy way to protect yourself against the flu, and from potential serious complications," she said.

"While many Tasmanians have already received their flu vaccine, 25% of people over the age of 65 are yet to do so and infants between birth and five are also vulnerable with low vaccination rates.

"Although pharmacists working in community pharmacies are not able to vaccinate infants, we encourage all parents and grandparents to make sure that they have had their flu vaccination to help protect the very young."

While backing the extension, O'Byrne called on the Tasmanian Government to follow other jurisdictions in lowering the minimum age patients can be to have their flu shot administered by a pharmacist from 10 to five years, in line with COVID-19 vaccines.

"With extended opening hours and in many cases 'walk in' appointments available,

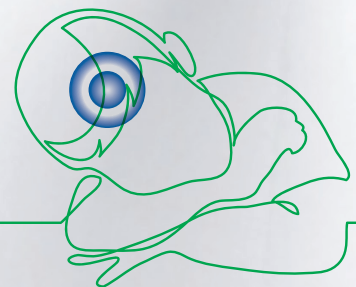


pharmacies provide an excellent opportunity for family members to receive their vaccination at the same time," she said.

"Pharmacies often have already established relationships with parents and families.

"It can be difficult when the whole family comes in for their vaccinations and we have to explain that we can vaccinate their 12-year-old but not their nine-year-old sibling."

## DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Children's Pain Relief



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## ATAGI green lights Novavax booster

AUSTRALIANS aged 18 years and older, who do not want to receive an mRNA-based COVID-19 booster shot, can now opt to have Novavax's Nuvaxoid vaccine.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) released its recommendation on the use of Nuvaxoid boosters, this morning, following a meeting last Wed.

ATAGI noted that while mRNA COVID-19 vaccines remain the preferred option for patients aged 18 years and older, Nuvaxoid can be administered to "people who have a contraindication to mRNA vaccines", or "who do not prefer an mRNA vaccine".

The advisory group noted that it was continuing to review information including epidemiology, and variant-specific vaccines for COVID-19, but was not currently recommending that healthy people aged 16 to 64 years should get an additional booster.



MEANWHILE, with 10,000 new COVID-19 cases being recorded each day in NSW, the State's Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, described people who have delayed getting a booster as "crazy".

Hazzard warned that new "pesky little variants" were infecting people who had either previously had COVID-19 or had received two primary doses of a vaccine, but noted that a booster shot could provide critical protection against

serious illness.

"If you have had two (doses), or one, and you don't have number three, to put it bluntly, you're crazy," he said.

NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, added that the emergence of the BA4 and BA5 sub-strains of the Omicron variant were behind an increase in hospitalisations, which are expected to peak later this month.

"I'm concerned about this picture," she said.

## CHW lands deal

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) is set to roll out the full range of JSHealth Vitamins products across its 408 Australian stores over the coming weeks.

As part of an exclusive deal, CWH will be the only retailer in Australia with access to the 48 SKU range, which includes supplements, skincare, marine collagen and plant-based protein powders.

Announcing the partnership with the Aussie brand, CWH Director, Mario Tascone, said, "at CWH we strive to deliver our customers accessible, affordable and high-quality lifestyle and wellness solutions".

"We are thrilled to partner with JSHealth and welcome them to the CWH family, in addition to providing our valued customers a direct line to the brand's popular products," he said.

## Amcal is Your Best Rated Pharmacy Brand

**Congratulations to Amcal who have been rated the best pharmacy brand in the 2021/2022 Finder Awards.**

**Attributed to its high scores in customer service and value for money, Amcal was recommended by 94%\* of surveyed Aussies.**



"Amcal's top performance across criteria ranging from customer service, value for money, range of products and customer service is testament to our team's unwavering commitment to providing Australians with expert health advice, today and every day.

To have this recognised and recommended by our customers in this way is an achievement to be proud of and we look forward to building on this exciting customer momentum."

**Kurt O'Brien**  
Head of Amcal



\*Statistics extracted from Dynata Customer Satisfaction Survey on behalf of Finder (2021/2022)

## UTIPP-Q extension disappoints GPs

**QUEENSLAND** Health's decision to extend the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot - Queensland (UTIPP-Q) (*PD 01 Jul*) is "very disappointing but not unexpected", according to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

The extension of the program coincided with the release of the UTIPP-Q outcome report, which concluded that it had "demonstrated that pharmacists have delivered safe and appropriate care that aligns to clinical protocols" and that "pharmacists have the appropriate skills, competencies and training to manage the empiric treatment of uncomplicated UTIs in the community pharmacy".

The report, which was initially leaked in May (*PD 17 May*) found that of 2,409 patients who participated in the trial (35% of total participants), and were able to

be contacted by researchers, 87% said their symptoms were resolved after pharmacist-initiated antibiotic treatment.

However, RACGP National Vice President, Dr Bruce Willett, described the trial as a "sham" and reiterated calls for it to be "scrapped".

"This is not a proper assessment and the RACGP will continue to vigorously oppose this measure that is putting patients' well-being at risk.

"This sham trial needs to be scrapped and a proper scientific assessment of this as a new treatment regime needs to be conducted, as would be the case of any new treatment regime."

Willett's latest criticism of the pilot followed Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen's call for the Australian Medical Association



Queensland (AMAQ) to re-engage with the trial's Steering Committee (*PD 04 Jul*) to address its concerns.

Like the AMAQ, the RACGP was initially part of the UTIPP-Q Steering Committee, where it was in a position to raise concerns about expanding pharmacists' scope of practice with Queensland Health, before it walked away in Feb 2020 (*PD 04 Feb 2020*).

## Spider venom trial gets funding

**RESEARCHERS** from the University of Queensland are investigating the potentially life-saving benefits of the K'gari funnel web spiders' venom.

The team secured a \$23 million investment to develop a drug, IB001, using a molecule found in the deadly spiders' venom, that could potentially prevent damage caused by heart attacks and strokes.

Researchers noted that "IB001 blocks the signals that causes heart cells to die, and when given immediately to heart attack victims could reduce damage to the heart and significantly improve outcomes for people with heart disease, particularly in rural and remote regions".

## Cannatrek to strengthen supply chain

**MEDICINAL** cannabis firm, Cannatrek, has secured a debt facility from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, to accelerate the construction of a new facility in Shepparton, Victoria.

Cannatrek CEO, Tommy Huppert, said the development will include outdoor and indoor grow facilities, an extraction plant, and a national distribution centre.

"Our Shepparton project will enable Australia to continue innovating in quality plant-based medicines for people experiencing chronic pain, anxiety



and insomnia, while also assisting with medical conditions including epilepsy, Parkinson's and terminal illnesses," he said.

## Sub-register may be extended: AHPRA

**PHARMACISTS** on the COVID-19 Pandemic Sub-register may continue to be eligible to work to their full scope, beyond 21 Sep, if needed, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) says.

The 2021 sub-register was established to grant temporary registration to health professionals, including pharmacists, to support the COVID-19 response.

Currently 1,888 pharmacists hold registration through the sub-register - down from a high

of 2,228 in Sep 2021, 130 more than the previous low of 1,758 in Jun 2021.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia confirmed an extension of the register was possible, "if governments alert AHPRA and the National Boards to significant changes in need".

Across 12 regulated health professions, including doctors, nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and pharmacists, a total of 20,730 people are currently on the sub-register.

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### Dispensary Corner

**ISTANBUL'S** Ottoman-era Yeni Moda Pharmacy is set to become a museum after 120 years of dispensing medicines.

The transition from active community pharmacy to museum follows the death of the store's owner and former President of the Istanbul Chamber of Pharmacists, Melih Ziya Sezer, at the age of 90.

Sezer had owned the pharmacy for more than 70 years, and had announced the closure of the store in Mar as he battled chronic health issues.

Following Sezer's death last week, his son, Marmara University Faculty of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology Lecturer, Dr Ali Demir Sezer, confirmed the store would be turned into a museum to honour his father's legacy.

Local furniture maker Selahattin Yilmaz described the late 90-year-old to the *Daily Sabah* as not just a pharmacist, but "a real scientist".

"The medicine he made was usually 100% effective," he said.

"I think this place should be a museum, the disappearance of such an effort would be suicide."



## Swift takeover at NAPSA

**THIRD** Year Queensland University of Technology (QUT) pharmacy student, Flynn Swift, is set to lead the National Australia Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) for the 2022/23 term.

Swift was elected as the incoming NAPSA President, succeeding Monash University graduate, Verity Boustead, at the organisation's annual general meeting (AGM) over the weekend.

Swift will lead a Queensland dominated Board, featuring University of Queensland's Nuha Idris, Griffith University's Emma O'Donnell and Renee Rountree from James Cook University, alongside RMIT duo, Menah Bata and Georgia Bridges, University of Western Australia's, Gerrard Ferreira, and Elissar Mansour from the University of Sydney.

"It is a privilege to be elected as the 2022/23 President alongside such a highly qualified and dedicated team of Executive Directors," Swift said.

"I am very excited to work with the Board to continue advancing the excellent work that NAPSA does for our members."

Congratulating Swift on his election, Boustead said she was

stepping down "knowing that the Association is in good hands".

"I had the pleasure of working alongside Flynn as the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation Contact Person during my term, so I know that he is dedicated in everything he takes on," she said.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Acting National President, Nick Panyiaris, congratulated Swift and the new NAPSA Board on their appointments.

"The role of NAPSA cannot be underestimated," he said.

"The organisation has a very significant role to play in helping students plan their careers in community pharmacy and preparing them for the constantly evolving pharmacy environment in which they will work."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Fei Sim, noted the organisation has a long-standing relationship with NAPSA and she looked forward to "strengthening our rapport, and better supporting students".

Sim noted that Boustead had been "an exceptional role model for pharmacy students" during her term as NAPSA President.



### Guild Update

#### Pain awareness

**TO RAISE** awareness of both the problems of chronic pain and some of the effective management strategies, the self-help group and health promotion charity, Chronic Pain Australia, organises a National Pain Week which this year is being held 25-31 July.

The week aims to draw attention to the plight of people suffering from chronic pain and, by doing so, reduce the social and other barriers related to living with chronic pain. More details can be accessed [here](#).

Pain Australia says: "Everyone who has experienced pain knows what it is, but everyone's pain is different. Many different factors affect an individual's experience of pain and the exact contributors to pain are also different between individuals and between situations.

"Pain is one way our body's protective systems keep us safe. Danger detectors in the body send information to the brain, which may or may not create pain based on all the other information available, as well as previous experiences."

### Medtronic MiniMed Insulin Pumps alert

**MEDICAL** device manufacturer, Medtronic, has notified the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of a product defect correction relating to a number of models in its MiniMed Insulin Pumps range.

The company reported that damaged battery caps were affecting the power supply of certain MiniMed 600 and 700 series pumps.

The TGA reported that the damaged caps do not hold the battery into the circuit properly, resulting in a loss of power to the pump.

Patients are advised to contact Medtronic on 1800 777 808, to report any adverse events, if their battery cap has been damaged.

**CLICK HERE** to see the list of affected pumps.