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COMMUNITY pharmacy organisations must use the profession's elevated profile during the COVID-19 pandemic to push to extend pharmacists' scope of practice, World Pharmacy Council President, Doug Hoey, believes.

Mon 6th June 2022

In a statement following the Council's annual conference in Paris, France, last month, Hoey noted that pharmacies around the globe have played significant roles in supporting public health efforts throughout the pandemic.

"This is a very opportune time to be meeting together," he said.

"We recognised early in the pandemic that community pharmacy would have a vital contribution to make to deliver care to our patients as physicians and hospitals closed clinics, and in our communications we have exchanged information about the wide range of newly authorised

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, a front cover from Flordis plus a full page from Sigma Healthcare. pharmacy services, research, and public recognition of pharmacies, summarised in the 2020 and 2021 sector analyses, WhatsApp and *Capsule* publications.

"Our challenge now is to ensure that we build on the public appreciation and the success of the new services provided during the pandemic to secure the new and expanded services for the future, with the funding needed to deliver viable income streams."

Delegates at the Council meeting also discussed the issues associated with pharmacy activities currently being classified under retail not health care within the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classification system.

The Council has written to the UN to seek a review of the classification model.

Cough relief

FLORDIS' Prospan uses a five-action formula to provide patients with relief from cough symptoms, using ivy leaf extract, EA 575, to clear "stubborn chest congestion". See **cover page** for more.

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Mon 6th June 2022

AACP cuts reaccreditation cost barrier

THE Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) is set to scrap reaccreditation fees from 01 Jul, as the demand for accredited pharmacists' services grows.

The decision to cut fees has been welcomed by AACP co-owners, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, described the move as "a very positive development", which he expects will ensure more pharmacists can work to their full scope of practice.

"All pharmacists should be able to prescribe, dispense, administer and review as an integral part of their everyday practice and the removal of the fees is an incentive towards this aim," he said.

"The reaccreditation fee removal will be an incentive which will no doubt encourage pharmacists to work to their full scope.

"I encourage all pharmacists to become accredited and take



advantage of this proactive decision by AACP.

"This is an important step in achieving full scope of practice for the profession."

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, added that the "removal of reaccreditation fees will reduce barriers to pharmacists remaining accredited".

"We know there will be increased demand for accredited pharmacists especially with the recent aged care funding announcement and now is the time to expand the workforce," he said.

"Accredited pharmacists make up an important part of the pharmacy profession's ecosystem, and medication management reviews are an evidence-based clinical service proven to enhance the safe and effective use of medicines.

"Quite simply, we need more accredited pharmacists and more medication reviews being done."

TGA issues COVID ad fine

a \$2,664 infringement notice by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for alleged unlawful advertising of therapeutic goods in relation to COVID-19.

The regulator noted that "any representation made in advertising of therapeutic goods which refers to COVID-19 (explicit or implied) is a 'restricted representation' and cannot be used without prior approval from the TGA".



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administered worldwide to date.

A booster shot can be given to adults aged ≥18 years

after completion of primary vaccination with SPIKEVAX or another approved COVID-19 vaccine.^{2*}

ATAGI recommends a winter dose

≥4 months after the initial booster for those at higher risk of severe COVID-19.³ Provisional approval. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can be co-administered with the annual flu shot.³

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▼ This vaccine is provisionally approved and is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

References: 1. Moderna Data on File. 2. Spikevax Product Information, 18 February 2022.

3. https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses#winter-dose. Accessed 25 March 2022.

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Mon 6th June 2022

Anti-ageing drug ad clampdown

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued an infringement notice of \$2,664 to a NSWbased individual for allegedly advertising a product that was not on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

The TGA alleged that the person advertised on their company website, a therapeutic good containing nicotinamide mononucleotide and promoted it as an antiageing medicine.



SOUTH Australia's Malinauskas Government is set to invest more than \$2.7 million in pharmacy, to deliver on its election commitments.

The funding announced in last week's State Budget included a \$900,000 three-year trial of three 24-hour pharmacies in metropolitan Adelaide, and an \$810,000 commitment to fund a "pharmacists' package" over the next two years.

In addition to the initial funding the Government has estimated it will spend a further \$470,000 a year from 2024/25 "to train pharmacists to conduct medication reviews, equip them to better help people with mental ill-health warning signs, improve access to palliative care medication after hours, and improve assistance for patients with respiratory illness". Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) SA Branch President, Robyn Johns welcomed

the funding, which will also

support pharmacists to better help patients with mental ill-health warning signs, and assist patients with respiratory illnesses.

"This Budget will allow pharmacists to continue using their expertise to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities," she said.

"These measures will improve health outcomes for South Australians, better utilising the skills and experience of our pharmacists, while also reducing pressure on other sectors of the health system.

"The \$1.75 million pharmacist package is a great investment in SA's most accessible healthcare workforces.

"There is still work to be done to improve the health and wellbeing of South Australians, including expanding vaccinations pharmacists can administer, embedding pharmacists in staterun aged care facilities, funding pharmacists in Aboriginal Health



Clinics, and employing transition of care pharmacists in all South Australian hospitals.

"PSA is looking forward to continuing our work with the South Australian Government to improve access to quality healthcare."

The SA Government is also funding a month-long free influenza vaccination program through community pharmacies and GP clinics.

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Mon 6th June 2022

Fred IT in ADF alliance

WITH baby formula in short supply across the US, Massachusetts-based pharmacy owner, Abram Agayby, is taking matters into his own hands.

Focused on making a difference in his community, Agayby said that once his wholesaler couldn't get formula for his store, he turned to his local Target store, before stocks dried up completely.

"It was nowhere to be found, no updates on when it would be available," he said.

"Then paediatricians started calling saying 'what to we do?" Agayby found a solution,

when his daughter stopped using formula, and he decided to give away excess supplies he had a home.

"I gave up my stash, then I figured somebody had stash at their house and they'd love to give it away as long as we can find an avenue for it," he said.

"I always use Facebook when I need help locally, so I posted on a group and said look there are parents out there that have formula and parents that need formula.

"People don't feel comfortable meeting each other, meeting a random stranger, but people feel comfortable coming here."



PHARMACY software provider, Fred IT Group is working alongside a consortium to deliver a pharmacy solution for the Australian Defence Force's (ADF's) new digital health system.

The new platform, known as the Health Knowledge Management system, will unify patient and clinical information across healthcare settings and stages of care in the ADF community.

Fred IT CEO, Paul Naismith, said the system will provide real-time patient information and care notes to ADF doctors, pharmacists and other care providers.

"We know that providing clinicians with access to smarter, real-time clinical decision-making tools saves lives and improves patient care whilst also making life easier for health professionals," he said.

"We are delighted to be involved in this project, which will strengthen the role of health information in patient care for the ADF community."

Dispensing solution, Fred Dispense Plus, is set to form the



backbone of the new platform, providing key real-time dispensing and medications information.

The system with enable smarter, safer dispensing as a result of improved safeguards against cyber risk, and faster, more secure access to clinical intelligence and third party applications, while retaining the functionality of Fred Dispense, used by the ADF since 2001, enhanced with a modern featurerich interface.

The new system is scheduled to begin next year.

Unlawfully imported RATs seized: TGA

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued four infringement notices totalling \$10.664, to an individual over the alleged unlawful importation of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RATs).

A total of 13,500 RATs, which were not included in the Australia Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) at the time of importation.

"The RATs were seized at the border and will not be released," the TGA reported.

"Under the Therapeutic Goods



Act 1989, products such as RATs must be included in the ARTG before they can be lawfully imported into Australia, unless an exemption applies."



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Lyndon Dyson,



Founder and CEO of Wizard.

Value...not discount

THERE is the belief that pharmacists have to compete on price to maintain sales, but this is neither smart nor practical. When you try to compete with discount chemist giants on price alone, you may start to see negative financial outcomes along with increased personal stress levels of business owners because they're not producing enough profit to be economically viable.

There is no bottom in the discount price war. Someone will always go lower. The only way to survive is to differentiate.

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The Discount Drug Stores Difference

The **Discount Drug Stores (DDS) 2022 conference** was a welcome chance to bring the national team together for the first time since the pandemic began. The 2-day event was filled with workshops, peer-to-peer engagement activities, guest speakers and insightful sessions from the DDS team, exploring their brand strategy to be **bolder, stronger and together.**

The conference was **an opportunity to celebrate, recognise and honour the award winners.** Thank you to all pharmacy and retail employees across Discount Drug Stores who continue to create a strong network. Congratulations to all winners, thank you to all attendees and participants that have provided ongoing support and dedication across our pharmacy and retail teams over the past year and beyond.

To be bolder, stronger, and together.

That's the Discount Drug Stores Difference.

