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Guild launches flu vax ad campaign

TELEVISION advertising funded by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, urging people to book an appointment for an influenza vaccine at the local pharmacy will air nationally tonight.

Launching the new ad campaign, Guild Acting National President, Nick Panayiaris, noted that getting vaccinated was the best way to protect people from what is forecast to be a severe flu season.

“The combination of COVID-19 and a severe flu season makes having a vaccination all the more important this year to help prevent against influenza and its complications,” he said.

“Vaccination is a way to protect people from serious disease caused by influenza and getting vaccinated against the flu also helps protect other people, especially those who are too sick or too young to be vaccinated.

“Last year influenza numbers were down, largely because of

lockdowns and isolation.

This year is anticipated to be a lot different and we are already seeing a resurgence of influenza infections and increased hospital presentations.

“The Queensland Government’s decision to provide free flu shots is welcome and other States and Territories should also look at ways to help remove out-of-pocket costs as a barrier for patients in their jurisdiction.”

Panayiaris noted that many patients downplay the risks posed by the flu, but stressed that, “getting vaccinated is the way to protect yourself and your community”.

“You can be confident in your local community pharmacists’ skills and ability.

“Pharmacists can vaccinate people across a wide range of ages, from children to elderly adults... in some States pharmacists can vaccinate children from five years of age.



“Community pharmacists are among Australia’s most accessible and trusted healthcare professionals and so are very well-placed to administer flu shots.

“There is often no waiting time to receive a flu vaccine at a pharmacy.”

The TV campaign will also be supported by online advertising to raise awareness of the importance of flu vaccinations and the availability of shots through community pharmacies.

Today’s issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

TWC Arana Hills nets PotY title

BRISBANE’S TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) Arana Hills store is set to compete for the TWC 2021 Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) crown, having claimed the Queensland title last night.

Managing Partner and former Queensland Firebird, Karen Brown, said she was “super proud” of her team’s efforts over the last 12 months.

“On top of administering over 20,000 vaccines, we have continued to expand our health services and community engagement,” she said.

See **page five** for more.

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Legionnaires' alert in Sydney

NSW Health is urging people who have been in the Sydney CBD over the last 10 days to be on the lookout for symptoms of Legionnaires' disease.

Authorities have reported five individuals, who independently visited locations on York Street, Park Street and Martin Place, as well as Museum Station in the 10 days prior to the onset of their symptoms, have been hospitalised, and are being treated for pneumonia.

"These five cases follow a number of recently identified cases of Legionnaires' disease throughout Sydney," NSW Health said.

"Public Health Units across NSW follow up every case of Legionnaires' disease and work closely with local councils in the management of cooling towers."

Qld pharmacies deliver 25k flu jabs

COMMUNITY pharmacies across Queensland are bracing for a surge in demand for influenza vaccination services, after the State Government announced it would fund free shots until 30 Jun.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, reported that in the four days since the Government announced it would subsidise vaccinations, thousands of patients have accessed free shots through community pharmacies.

The program is open to Queensland residents aged five to 64 years, who are ineligible for flu vaccines through the Commonwealth-funded National Immunisation Program (NIP), with pharmacies receiving a \$21.95 fee for each vaccination administered (PD 24 May).

"Almost 200,000 Queenslanders have already chosen to receive their flu vaccinations through community pharmacies since 01

Mar," he said.

"With this week's announcement of free influenza vaccines until the end of Jun, we're expecting that number to rise significantly.

"Approximately 25,000 Queenslanders have already accessed a free influenza vaccine through community pharmacies in under four days, with tens of thousands of more bookings already made.

"I'm hearing from community pharmacists across the state that there has been a lot of interest from Queenslanders looking to take advantage of the free vaccines."

Owen said existing infrastructure from the Guild's Corporate Health Program, including GuildLink software to record vaccination services to the Australian Immunisation Register, and its Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) with the Queensland Government, had enabled pharmacies to roll out free vaccines within hours of the



announcement on Mon.

"Without this software and SOA, the State would not have been able to move so quickly," he said.

The Guild has also launched a new website - www.qldfreevax.com.au - to help consumers to book free flu vaccination appointments at their local community pharmacy.

Other State and Territory Governments are expected to announce the rollout of similar free flu vaccination schemes in the coming days.

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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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Tassie Budget a win for meds safety

TASMANIA'S \$150 million investment in digital health infrastructure, announced in yesterday's State Budget, is "a win for medicines safety", the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

The upgrades will allow hospitals, GPs, community health, allied health and specialist care providers to access shared electronic records of patients.

PSA Tasmanian Branch President, David Peachey, said the decision will help pharmacists and other health professionals to deliver improved health outcomes for patients in their care.

"Tasmanian pharmacists are keen to see systems that can centralise patient data across different methods of care and also with My Health Record, which will improve the care we can provide our communities," he said.

"This is also a win for medicine safety, as patient's histories can travel with them.

"We can then ensure that therapy continues or is not duplicated.

"This is particularly important for the patients moving between methods of care who are at most risk of medicine-related harm."

As part of the State Budget, the Tasmanian Government has committed funding over two years to implement an extended Bedside Medication Management trial across the health system.

Under the trial, pharmacy technicians will take on the technical and administrative process of ordering, administering and monitoring medications within wards, reducing nurses' workloads.

While the PSA has broadly welcomed funding announced in the Budget, Peachey noted that it has overlooked a number of key issues facing pharmacists in Tasmania.

"PSA is keen to see action on the Tasmanian Liberals' 2021 election commitment to review pharmacists' scope of practice,



which still has not been funded in this Budget," he said.

"We also want to see after-hours pharmacist services expanded so that more Tasmanians can better access the medical advice and expertise of pharmacists, which could also reduce emergency department presentations for non-critical care.

"PSA is committed to working with the Tasmanian Government to support the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians, as well as continuing to advocate for optimal patient care and access to life-saving medications."

NSW seizes \$1m of illegal NVPs

NSW Health has seized more than \$1 million worth of illegal e-cigarettes and liquids containing nicotine this year.

NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant said retailers were being put on notice that if they sell illegal nicotine vaping products (NVPs), "they will face consequences".

"NSW Health regularly conducts raids on retailers across the state to protect young people from these harmful devices," Chant said.

"You will be caught, illegal items will be seized, and you could face prosecution, resulting in being fined or even jailed."

Under the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act*, retailers caught selling illegal NVPs will face up to six months in jail, fines of up to \$1,650, or both, Chant warned.





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✔ Minimise discomfort

✔ Enjoy activities without distraction

✔ Being able to do things you love



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Cochrane review on Magnesium for skeletal muscle cramps (Garrison et al, Sept 2020)

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Medtronic implant update

MEDTRONIC Australasia is updating software for a number of Cobalt and Crome Implantable Defibrillators and Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy Defibrillators, which were manufactured before Jul 2021, after a fault was identified.

Patients who have implanted devices listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration **WEBSITE**, are urged to make an appointment with their cardiologist as soon as possible to get the software updated.

The fault may cause a loss of pacing or inadequate Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy support, and/or loss of the Recommended Replacement Time indicator.

To date no serious adverse events or permanent harms have been caused by the fault.

Gun shown in robbery

QUEENSLAND Police are hunting for an armed bandit following a robbery at a Gold Coast pharmacy last night.

The suspect (**pictured**) entered the Chempro Chemist store on Olsen Avenue, Parkwood, shortly after 7pm and ordered staff to hand over medication.

Police reported that the man showed pharmacy employees "what appeared to be a handgun tucked in the waistband of his trousers".

"The man, who was wearing a surgical mask, dark hooded jumper and light coloured track pants, fled on foot after stealing a quantity of medication," a police spokesperson said.

"No one was physically harmed." Police have appealed for anyone who witnessed the incident, has dashcam footage or relevant CCTV images from their business to come forward.

A spokesperson added that the police would like to access



vision from Tonga Place from 7pm onwards, to assist with their investigations.



Dispensary Corner

AN ARMED robber, who held up the same pharmacy in Dublin, Ireland, twice in four months last year, will spend four years behind bars.

William Gaynor, 56, entered the Medipharm store brandishing a knife, demanding "Xanax and cash", before jumping onto the dispensary counter on 13 Feb 2021.

Staff handed over a quantity of the medication and about \$450 in cash, and Gaynor fled the store, only to be apprehended a short time later.

Four months later Gaynor returned to the pharmacy armed with a corkscrew and ordered staff to give him Valium and cash.

He was given approximately 150 Valium tablets and close to \$450, but was once again arrested shortly after leaving the pharmacy, after staff members activated a panic button.

Gaynor entered guilty pleas in relation to both robberies.

Black triangle for Teva's Austedo

TEVA Pharma's Huntington's disease treatment, Austedo (deutetrabenazine) will remain in the Black Triangle Scheme for five years after it is first supplied in Australia.

The decision was announced in an Australian Public Assessment Report.

Win with Dermal Therapy

Dermal Therapy and *Pharmacy Daily* are this week giving away a \$50 Woolworths gift card each day.

Dermal Therapy Lip Balm enriched with Manuka Honey is a highly concentrated formula containing a synergistic blend of



ingredients designed to heal and hydrate severely dry and chapped lips, keeping them smooth and healthy. Enriched with MGO 400+ Manuka Honey providing a healing, hydrating and soothing effect.

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TerryWhite Chemmart Arana Hills, QLD



“ Super proud of my team who have worked so hard over the past 12 months. On top of administering over 20,000 vaccines, we have continued to expand our health services and community engagement to truly make a difference in the health and wellbeing of our community. ”

Pictured: L to R: TWC Executive General Manager Nick Munroe, Rhonda White and TWC Group Operations Manager Michael Beaumont with the TWC Arana Hills team - Madi Low, Network Partner Karen Brown, Peter Fairgray and Rhiannon Green



**TerryWhite
Chemmart.**