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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news as well as a full page from Sigma Healthcare.

## Natural switch

**MOVING** his Night and Day Bayswater Guardian pharmacy to the Amcal brand is a natural evolution for proprietor, Christopher Andrzejewski. See **page four** for more.

## Nasal COVAX

**RESEARCHERS** from the University of Sydney have developed a new nasal vaccination strategy that induces potent lung immunity and protection against COVID-19. Initial studies in mice show the vaccine generated a strong immune response.

# Tas scope of practice review critical

**TASMANIA'S** upcoming review of pharmacists' scope of practice will provide an important opportunity for authorities to improve access to healthcare across the State, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, believes.

"The review of pharmacists' scope of practice in Tasmania must recognise the recent announcements from the Queensland and NSW governments, committing to a trial where appropriately trained pharmacists will be able to diagnose, prescribe, treat and manage a range of acute and chronic conditions," O'Byrne said.

"The Queensland and NSW governments have shown that they understand that pharmacists are a valuable healthcare resource which is currently underutilised in this country, particularly given the extreme GP shortage in regional and remote areas."

O'Byrne acknowledged that



pharmacists would need to undertake "significant post graduate qualifications" and work within set protocols before being able to offer such services.

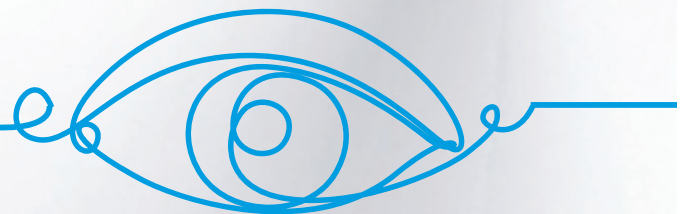
"Initially not all pharmacists and pharmacies may offer the extra services as it will be mandatory to undertake significant additional education required by relevant State authorities, with additional changes to pharmacy environments required to meet clinical and patient expectations," she said.

"However we expect that over

time all pharmacists will develop their full scope skills, with universities meeting the needs of future students in expanded undergraduate courses."

O'Byrne's comments came after Tasmanian Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, told delegates at the Tasmanian Pharmacy Conference dinner last weekend, that the review would be key to shaping the future delivery of healthcare services to ensure positive outcomes for all Tasmanians regardless of where they live.

# DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Eye Relief



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## WACHS program a workforce booster

**THE** Western Australian Country Health Service's (WACHS's) Pharmacy Intern Program (PD 15 Nov) will help boost the rural pharmacy workforce in the State, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the program, which will see nine pharmacy graduates undertake their intern year in regional parts of WA, had set a national benchmark that will support a future pipeline of pharmacists working outside major metropolitan areas.

The WA Government has also agreed funding for nine pharmacists to undertake the SHPA Foundation Residencies in rural and regional parts of the State, enabling communities to benefit from increased local specialised medicines expertise.

"On behalf of our members in WA we congratulate WA Minister for Health and Mental Health, Amber-Jade Sanderson, WA Health, and WACHS Chief Pharmacist,

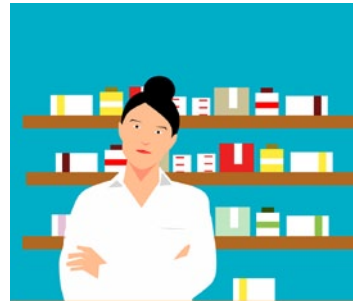
Adam Hort, on expanding a single pharmacy intern placement to nine annualised hospital pharmacy interns and nine foundation residents," Michaels said.

"Surveys from the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) tell us that over 80% of pharmacy students want to work in hospital pharmacy, and this expanded training program will provide these opportunities.

"We know the best way to attract young clinicians to regional and remote areas is formalised local training programs with commensurate supports such as accommodation subsidies and travel allowances.

"The WACHS Pharmacy Workforce Plan ambitiously achieves this and helps WA Health to achieve several workforce recommendations in the *Sustainable Health Review – Final Report.*"

Michaels added that the investment in the pharmacy workforce would help ensure



Western Australians are able to benefit from hospital pharmacist services at the bedside whenever they are receiving care.

"These additional clinical pharmacy resources will also enable WACHS to further expand collaborative pharmacist prescribing initiatives such as Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting (PPMC) for inpatients which have been a major success throughout WA hospitals to improve safety, capacity and efficiency over the past few years in a collaborative and multidisciplinary manner," Michaels said.

## Omnipod alert

**INSULET** Australia Pty Ltd has informed the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) that it has received reports of problems with the Omnipod DASH Personal Diabetes Manager (PDM).

The company has warned that issues, including battery swelling, fluid leaking from the battery and in rare cases, extreme overheating which may pose a fire hazard, have been identified.

The TGA noted that all Omnipod DASH PDM units with the part number PT-000011 and reference numbers PDM-INT2-D001-MM or SKT-AUS-D001-MM andUDI number, 10385082000146, may be impacted by the issues.

Health professionals and patients are encouraged to report problems with medical devices to the [TGA Incident Reporting and Investigation Scheme](#), if they identify issues.

## ATAGI backs Pfizer bivalent as booster

**THE** Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended that the Pfizer COVID-19 bivalent Original/Omicron BA1 COVID-19 vaccine can be used as an alternative to other mRNA vaccines as a booster for eligible patients aged 18 years and older.

ATAGI noted that a clinical trial among people aged over 55 years has demonstrated that the Pfizer bivalent vaccine induces a modestly higher level of antibody response against BA.1 and BA.4/5 Omicron subvariants compared to the Pfizer COVID-19 original vaccine, when used as a

second booster dose.

"The trial included 305 people who received the Pfizer bivalent vaccine and 305 people who received the Pfizer original vaccine as a second booster dose," ATAGI said.

"Against the Omicron BA1 variant, the Pfizer bivalent vaccine provided 1.6 times higher neutralising antibodies compared to the original vaccine, in people without prior infection.

"The Pfizer bivalent trial and the Pfizer monovalent BA1 trial suggest that the safety profile of these vaccines is similar to the Pfizer original vaccine."

## Win a Maldives getaway at APP2023

**DELEGATES** attending the 2023 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP2023) on the Gold Coast will have the chance to win one of two holidays at the Club Med Maldives resort.

Conference Convenor and former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Kos Sclavos, announced that two winners will be able to enjoy five-night stays for two people at the resort's Deluxe Beachfront Terrace, flying with Singapore Airlines, valued at more than \$10,000.

"It's been so long since most of



us have travelled overseas - it's time to renew your passport, dust off your suitcase and enter to win one of two holiday packages," Sclavos said.

Eligible delegates can enter the competition [HERE](#).

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\*IRI Data, January 2022, Pharmacy, Hand Moisturisers

## Dispensary Corner

**THERE** are many things one can get away with when living off-the-grid, but it appears growing a cannabis crop in Ireland is not one of those things.

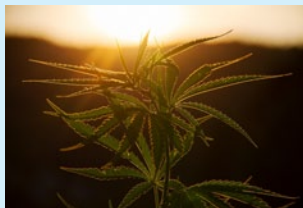
Horticulturist, Richard Goldfrap, 73, who lives in a remote area outside Cork, was brought before the Circuit Criminal Court earlier this week, charged with cultivating 40 cannabis plants.

Goldfrap's barrister, Donal O'Sullivan, noted that the aspiring gardener was not using hydroponics or special lighting to assist with the growth of the plants, when police raided his rural premises in Jun 2021.

While accepting the 73-year-old's crop was purely for personal use, Judge Eva Duffy, noted that it was not the first time Goldfrap had been before the Court in relation to nurturing his own cannabis, having previously been handed a three-year suspended sentence.

The Judge stressed that the law did not permit people grow their own medicinal products even if they had an "off-grid lifestyle".

Duffy opted not to issue a custodial sentence after Goldfrap provided four urinalysis tests that were clear of illicit substances, but warned "if you come back for a third time there will be no more chances".



## EBOS optimistic about TWC's future

**PHARMACEUTICAL** wholesaler, EBOS Group Limited, believes its TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) banner will continue to grow as Australia's community pharmacy market consolidates.

In an investor presentation released to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning the company said it was "optimistic about the future, with TWC to continue playing an important role in retail pharmacy".

The company noted that "pharmacies will play a wider role in delivering health services across the community" in the future, adding that "biologics represent a new opportunity for the industry, and TWC is well positioned" to support the use of those medications.

EBOS Executive General Manager,

David Lewis, told investors that the TWC network grew by more than 100 stores over the last three years, with more than 500 pharmacies now operating across the country.

He said the network would continue to expand by attracting pharmacy owners from rival banner groups and independent stores to join, while also targeting new pharmacies on greenfield sites.

Lewis said that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the TWC network has generated like-for-like sales growth above the industry average.

He added that three of the key success factors for the TWC brand were its focus on being "experts in care", strengthening its reputation as a trusted provider of prescription and over-the-counter



medicines and vaccines, and delivering high network partner satisfaction ratings by generating strong store performance.

Lewis noted that delivering best in class support and training for pharmacists through the TWC Masterclass program and back office systems was a key strategic priority going forward.

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

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“

I'm looking forward to greater opportunities to grow with the Amcal brand – offering our customers unparalleled products and services to deliver on their health outcomes. Joining Amcal not only provides greater competitive advantage but optimises our ability to negotiate with suppliers and offer private labels through aggregated buying strategies.

”

**Christopher Andrzejewski**  
Night & Day Bayswater Guardian

Night & Day Bayswater Guardian will convert to Amcal Pharmacy at the end of the year as the two brands join forces.

“

Joining forces with Amcal is a natural evolution for Guardian. Amcal's values are very similar to Guardian's, with a strong local focus, but with the added benefit of a recognised and sustainable brand proposition.

**Christopher Andrzejewski** - Night & Day Bayswater Guardian

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