

Yarra Lane



expert advice
in one place



With decades of experience as JPH Group, Avant-garde, Makin and Kinsey, and Cargill & Associates operating under their own brands, we are excited to announce our integrated professional services offering under one roof.

Yarra Lane operates across taxation, accounting, law, mortgages, conveyancing, insurance, and financial planning, while remaining a leader in the pharmacy space.

While you can expect to see a change of name, some different colours, and some slick new technologies in each of our business arms, our commitment to you is the same.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a cover page from Yarra Lane.

New name for JPH Group

PHARMACY business support provider, JPH Group, is bringing its integrated professional services brands, Avant-garde, Makin and Kinsey, and Cargill & Associates under one roof as Yarra Lane.

The business operates across taxation, accounting, law, mortgages, conveyancing, insurance and financial planning, while remaining a leader in the pharmacy space.

Yarra Lane will embrace new technologies across each arm of the business while maintaining its commitment to pharmacy.

See cover page for more.

Vic pharmacists' scope to expand

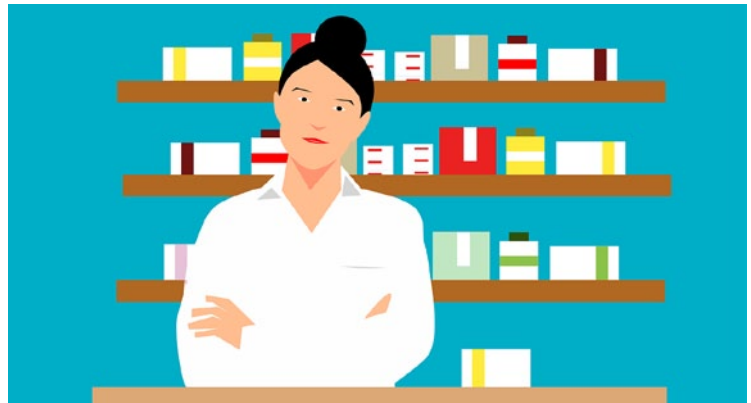
PHARMACISTS in Victoria will be able to provide oral contraception and travel vaccines to patients if Labor wins the State election this weekend.

Incumbent Health Minister, Mary-Anne Thomas, announced that Labor will also trial pharmacist prescribing for urinary tract infections (UTI), should they retain office.

Under the proposed model, the State Government would fund pharmacists to deliver a range of services to ensure patients do not face out-of-pocket costs.

The pre-election pledge has been welcomed as a win for women's healthcare in the State, by Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Victorian Branch President, John Jackson.

"Giving patients greater access to medicines and healthcare, whether it is renewing prescriptions for oral contraception, treatment for a UTI, or vaccination for overseas travel, is a great step forward for all



Victorians," he said.

"Allowing women to access oral contraception and treatment for UTIs directly from their local pharmacist is about equitable, affordable, and timely access to healthcare.

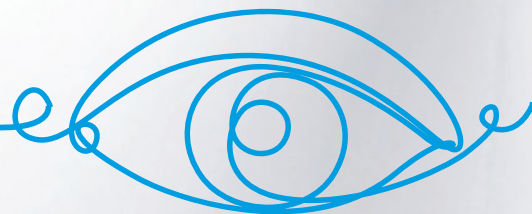
"All Australians have felt the pressure on our health system. When patients can't see their GP, they're instead seeking care at a hospital Emergency Department or not getting treatment at all, which

is regularly putting patients at risk of further complications.

"Pharmacists are accessible, skilled healthcare professionals that can work collaboratively with other healthcare providers to ensure all patients can access the care they need, when they need it.

"It's fantastic to see the Victorian Labor Party agree that pharmacists can and should be playing a greater role in primary healthcare."

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PBS co-payment must go lower

LOWERING the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment from \$42.50 to \$30 is a welcome move, but further cuts are needed, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Speaking at the Guild's annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra last night, Twomey reiterated the organisation's call for the general co-payment to be reduced to \$19.

"I did not do five years of tertiary education to have a conversation [with a patient] about which medicine they have to delay, which medicine they have to defer, or which medicine they have to go without," he said.

"[But] the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said in the year before the [COVID-19] pandemic over 900,000 Australians had to delay, defer or go without their essential medicines.

"These people, the 900,000 identified by the ABS, are not the seven million Australians who have the concession card.

"They're the working poor, they're Australians who are not wealthy enough to have a disposable income, but not poor enough to be on some form of



social security benefit.

"To fully address the 900,000 Australians, to get that figure down to zero, the general co-payment needs to go further still, it needs to go from \$30 to \$19.

"I know the very real financial pressures that our Federal Budget is under, and we know this can be done, and can be done in a cost neutral way to the Commonwealth purse that does not adversely effect the viability of Australia's 6,000 pharmacies."

Twomey added that the pharmacy sector was "not exempt from the workforce challenges

that many other professions are also facing".

"But where others say they are at capacity and can do no more, we are here with an arm extended in partnership to say, 'we can do more, we can do more to not only keep Australians healthy and productive and out of hospital, we can do more to save the Federal purse money'," he said.

"We can do more to address the some 670,000 potentially preventable hospital presentations that are clogging up our emergency departments each and every year."

PSA backs WA vax expansion

MOVES to allow patients to access more National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines through Western Australian pharmacies is being welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Under measures announced yesterday, people aged 11 years and older will be able to receive dTpa and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations, patients over 15 years of age will be able to get Meningococcal ACWY shots, and people aged 16 years and older will be able to get measles, mumps and rubella vaccines from community pharmacies.

PSA WA Branch President, Lusi Sheehan, said the decision was "a vital step in ensuring accessible healthcare for all".

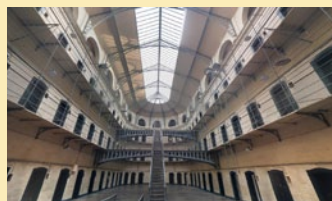


Third jail sentence for pharmacy bandit

A GEELONG man is behind bars for the third time this year after pleading guilty to breaking into two pharmacies last month.

Geelong Magistrates Court heard that Liam Power was caught stealing medications from a pharmacy on Pakington St after smashing his way into the store using a brick.

Magistrate, John Bentley, sentenced Power to three



months jail time.

"This is the third prison sentence you've had this year," he said.



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Dispensary Corner

NO ACICLOVIR will be required, apparently, under a plan to control invasive carp species by releasing herpes into the wild.

Australia's newly released National Carp Control Plan looks into the feasibility of using "cyprinid herpes virus 3", also known as the carp virus or koi herpes virus (KHV), as a biological agent to control carp populations, according to a report in *Field and Stream*.

Apparently KHV is different to the sexually transmitted herpes which affects humans, and cannot infect people but rather damages the kidneys and gills of the pesky fish species.

The proposal follows "rigorous scientific investigation" into the use of KHV, and is one of the most comprehensive and coordinated assessments of a biological control strategy for aquatic environments ever undertaken, says a summary from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Carp are one of Australia's most significant pest species, having been introduced in the mid-19th century and now being the most dominant large-bodied fish in most of the waterways of the Murray-Darling Basin.

The research paper stresses that no decision has been made about whether to actually introduce herpes to control the fish, but rather the report aims to provide comprehensive information to the government so it can make an informed decision - see the report at agriculture.gov.au.

COVAX taskforce leader honoured

COVID-19 Vaccine (COVAX) Taskforce National Coordinator, Lieutenant General John Frewen, has been awarded the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Distinguished Service Medallion.

The award was presented by Commonwealth Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, at the Guild's annual dinner at Parliament House in Canberra last night.

Butler said Frewen played an important role in boosting vaccination rates, particularly by bringing community pharmacies into the rollout.

"There was no more accessible place for Australians to go for health advice and their vaccine during the pandemic than their local community pharmacist," Butler said.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, also praised Frewen's decision to use pharmacies as part of the vaccination rollout, describing it as being pivotal in helping to maximise uptake of the vaccines.

"Since Lieutenant General Frewen made that decision and community pharmacies began vaccinating for COVID-19 in Jul last year, we have delivered some 9.5 million doses to patients across the country," Twomey said.

"That's 9.5 million doses helping Australians protect themselves against this virus and remain healthy or minimise the effects of the virus if they contract it.

"The accessibility of community pharmacies and the fact they are open later and longer has meant that patients have been able to get their vaccination easily and when it suits them.



"Lieutenant General Frewen recognised this and saw the pivotal role community pharmacies could play.

"It was one of the most significant health policy decisions we saw during the pandemic."

DDS Vitamin Hub

DISCOUNT Drug Stores (DDS) is launching a new online Vitamin Hub to provide patients with simple advice about vitamins, minerals and supplements.

DDS Head, Patrick Stoll, said the hub would provide a powerful offer for customers.

"Millions of Australians currently purchase vitamins regularly, so this is an exciting space to play in, while supporting our franchise partners in driving key health solutions alongside considerable revenue," he said.

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