

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from Sigma Healthcare.

Amcal passion

PHARMACISTS with a passion for delivering healthcare to their communities are being invited to join Sigma Healthcare's Amcal banner. See page five for more.

Pfizer approval

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provisionally approved a paediatric dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six months to less than five years.

Use of the vaccine will be informed by advice from ATAGI.

PBS co-payment cut garners support

THE Federal Government's proposed *National Health Amendment (General Co-payment) Bill 2022* has passed through the House of Representatives with "tripartisan" support.

Debating the legislation yesterday, Independent MP, Dr Sophie Scamps, said the proposed cut to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment from \$42.50 to \$30 per prescription was "a small but significant and important cost-of-living measure".

The GP noted that the legislation has been supported by pharmacists in her Sydney-based electorate.

"One pharmacist in particular, who owns pharmacies in both my electorate of MacKellar and in Western Sydney, expressly told me how critically important this Bill will be in his Western Sydney practice," she said.

"He described how it is increasingly common for customers to ask their pharmacist which medicines are the least essential,

because they can't afford all of them.

"He told me that he believes cutting the cost of medications to a maximum of \$30 a script will make a significant difference to many of his customers.

"As a GP developing treatment plans for the average everyday Australian, I know that the cost of medications and therapies needs to be taken into account.

"I would like to acknowledge that the former government pursued this goal by decreasing the PBS safety net threshold.

"This Bill goes one step further by limiting the cost of each individual script for those not already on concession cards.

"But decreasing the cost of medicines is only a start when it comes to equity of access to health care in Australia.

"So I take this opportunity to call on the government to do more to make health care more accessible for all Australians."



Welcoming the passage of the Bill, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said it was the most significant change to the cost of medicines since the PBS was established 75 years ago.

"This will help reduce medicine non-adherence which directly contributes to higher healthcare costs, including preventable hospital admissions and readmission," Twomey said.

PHARMACY FOR SALE #SR73245

With a Sales FY 2022 of \$1,003,607 this pharmacy near the seaside is very popular with pharmacists and locals.

Front of shop has room to enhance. You could renovate to your liking and spend your days off soaking up rays of sunshine.

[Read More ...](#)

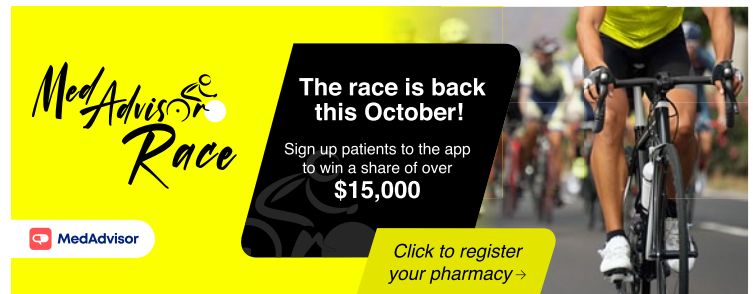
M: 0407 759 736 E: sue.raven@srpbs.com.au W: srpbs.com.au

Your trusted partner in healthcare

 For a tailor-made solution for your business, think Symbion.

Find out more at symbion.com.au





MedAdvisor Race

The race is back this October!

Sign up patients to the app to win a share of over **\$15,000**

Click to register your pharmacy →

Butler erred in defunding NPS: Ryan

Doctor-turned-Federal MP, Dr Monique Ryan, is urging the Federal Government to roll back its plans to defund NPS MedicineWise (PD 14 Sep).

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, in support of the Government's *National Health Amendment (General Co-payment) Bill 2022*, the Member for Kooyong said the Government should reconsider its decision to pull the pin on funding NPS MedicineWise, which was initially announced as part of the Coalition's Budget (PD 05 Apr).

Ryan said that over its 24-year history the organisation had played a key role in supporting the best-practice use of medicines and medication safety, and voiced concerns over the plans to transfer its functions to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

"Its importance has been highlighted in the reports from the Aged Care Royal Commission on

the safety of medications and the frequency of medication errors in aged-care facilities," she said.

"The Albanese Government Minister Butler had the chance to reverse the decision to cancel the NPS MedicineWise scheme, but he chose not to do so.

"I believe the Albanese Government has erred in not reversing the decision to cancel the NPS MedicineWise program.

"Proposals to transfer its activities to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care or to competitive grant processes are undeveloped and relatively underfunded.

"Given that the government spends \$14 billion a year on the PBS, the \$24 million a year spent on the NPS is a pittance, especially given that this program has delivered a net return on investment of more than two to one to the Federal Government by delivering more than \$1.1 billion in direct savings for the PBS and



NPS - improvements like a 25% decrease in the over-prescription of some antibiotics, prevention of 50,000 unnecessary scans for low back pain, and half a million fewer scripts for opioids, saving us more than \$9 billion.

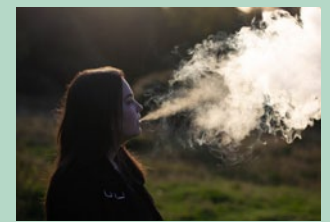
"The health of the Australian people and our budget bottom line will only be improved by ongoing support from our government for consumer education programs which improve health literacy."

More vape fines

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is continuing its clampdown on unlawful advertising of nicotine vaping products, issuing infringement notices to MDNE Enterprises and an executive officer of the company.

The regulator has fined MDNE \$26,640 and the officer \$13,320, in relation to ads on three websites promoting the wholesale supply of vaping products.

The company is also alleged to have used social media marketing including influencers to promote vaping to teenagers and young adults.



spikevax™ bivalent
original / omicron
(elasomeran / imelasomeran)
COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 HAS EVOLVED BUT SO HAS SPIKEVAX VACCINE¹

Introducing SPIKEVAX BIVALENT

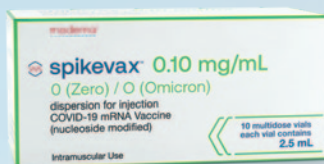
Next-gen COVID-19 vaccine

- Superior immune response against Omicron including the latest BA.4/5 variants¹

¹Comparing neutralising antibody titres to SPIKEVAX original.

- Safety profile consistent with SPIKEVAX Original¹

- Now available as a booster for adults ≥18 years¹



For more information call the Moderna Medical Information team on **1800 344 018** or visit www.modernatx.com.au

moderna

Moderna Australia Pty Ltd. Level 6, 60 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.
© Copyright 2022. Prepared: September 2022. AU-COV-2200051.MOD0105-A_PD_EDM_HP

Moderna's SPIKEVAX BIVALENT Original/Omicron COVID-19 vaccine has provisional approval as a booster for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 in individuals 18 years of age and older.¹ The use of these vaccines should be in accordance with official recommendation.¹

PBS Information: This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

▼ This vaccine 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.

BEFORE PRESCRIBING, PLEASE REVIEW PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM [HTTPS://MODERNACOV19GLOBAL.COM/EN-AU](https://modernacovid19global.com/en-au) OR FROM MODERNA AUSTRALIA ON 1800 344 018. PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE [HERE](#).

Reference: 1. Spikevax Bivalent Product Information, August 2022.



Scan for ATAGI booster recommendation



Scan to access Dosing Guide



Click here to follow Pharmacy Daily on Twitter



SHPA focused on return of MM2022

MORE than 550 abstracts have made the grade for the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's (SHPA's) Medicines Management 2022 conference in Brisbane in Dec.

The event has been extended to run over three days at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 01 to 03 Dec, providing delegates with 50% more opportunities for oral and poster presentations, and scientific sessions focused on reconnecting with patients, peers and networks.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said that "early registrations have been strong - a powerful signal from the profession that leading pharmacists and technicians from all areas of practice... are eager to gather and shape the future of medicines management".

CLICK HERE to register.

Andrews urged to act on cannabis

VICTORIAN Premier, Daniel Andrews, is facing calls from health and legal services to decriminalise cannabis use, ahead of Nov's state election.

In an open letter to Andrews presented to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Use of Cannabis Chair, Fiona Patten, yesterday, advocates from a broad range of sectors, urged the Premier to halt the "government's dogged pursuit of criminalising people who choose to use cannabis".

Drug legalisation lobby group, Unharm Campaigns Director, Sam Kidd, said the Government's current policies were out of step with the community.

"Over 11,000 Victorians are arrested for low-level cannabis possession every year," Kidd said.

"That's 30 every day, and it's Aboriginal people, people of colour, young people, and people experiencing homelessness who are disproportionately targeted.

"The huge number of arrests for

cannabis stands in stark contrast to the attributes of Victorians, 77% of whom support decriminalisation.

"The message from experts, the evidence and Victorians is clear - decriminalising cannabis is the right thing to do - it will make Victoria a fairer, happier and healthier place for us all."

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service CEO, Nerita Waight, said that cannabis use needed to be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal activity.

"If people have a problem with their cannabis use, they need healthcare and support, not harassment from police," she said.

"Being arrested and getting a criminal record makes it harder for people to find work, housing and support.

"It's time to treat drugs as a public health issue and get people the support they need to heal."

Waight added that the current approach to cannabis was "founded on racist attitudes".



"The criminalisation of drugs has been used by police to target Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, and other marginalised communities," Waight said.

"The overpolicing of our people needs to stop, and decriminalising cannabis is an important step on the path to decriminalising all drugs."

Get up to
20% OFF*
Ask us how!

Ultra Nature Selituss

Naturally better for you and your family



Advantages of Selituss...

- ✓ 2 Active ingredients...
Ivy Leaf Extract + Thymus Vulgaris
- ✓ All natural Chesty Cough Syrup for relief of mild bronchial chesty coughs
- ✓ Suitable for both Children & Adults
- ✓ 100% Australian Made & Owned



ORDER NOW



*Terms and conditions apply

Arrotex joins PharmXchange platform

GENERICS medicines company, Arrotex Pharmaceuticals, is the latest major supplier to join Corum Group's PharmaXchange digital sales and marketing platform.

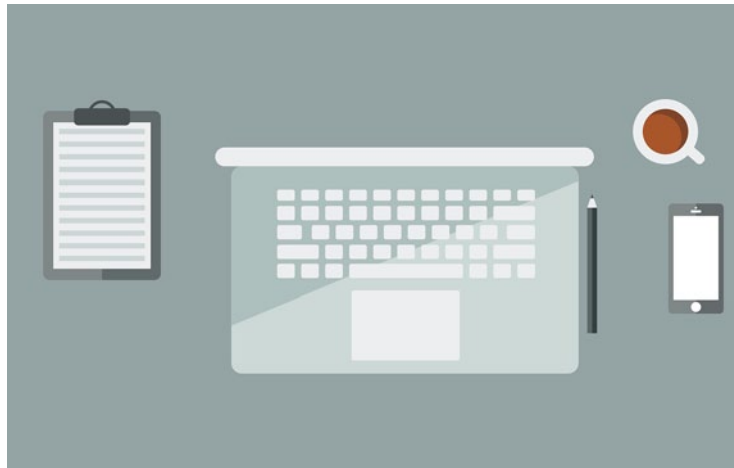
PharmXchange was launched in Jun (**PD** 22 Jun), as part of a pilot phase involving more than 200 pharmacies and 20 suppliers.

Arrotex, Executive Chair, Dennis Bastas, said the platform fitted in with the business's "vision of making it easier for community pharmacies to connect" with its brand portfolio.

"The convenience of a whole of market approach through the PharmX EDI integration and the opportunity to present brands, new product developments and promotions in a consistent way were also key factors," he said.

Corum Executive Chair, Nick England, welcomed the partnership with Arrotex.

"The launch of PharmXchange



delivers a key step in our strategy to enable trade between pharmacies and their suppliers through enhanced PharmX services," England said.

"We are delighted that Arrotex along with other key pharmacy industry suppliers have recognised the opportunity

that PharmXchange represents and have joined as commercial partners for pilot launch."

Announcing Corum's financial results for the year to 30 Jun (**PD** 30 Aug), England had forecast that the PharmXchange platform would provide "a great springboard for accelerated growth".



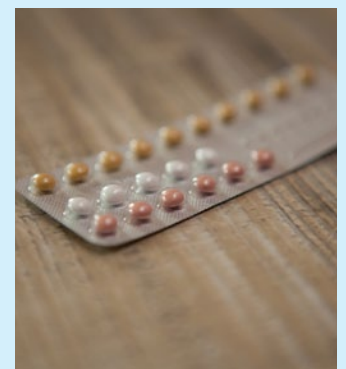
Dispensary Corner

IRELAND'S Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe, is being praised for granting funding to expand the Emerald Isle's free contraception program to women aged up to 30 years, in his Budget this week.

The move came after his cabinet colleague, Health Minister, Stephen Donnelly, came under fire for the previous cut-off age of 25, which had earned the program the moniker of "the Leonardo DiCaprio Scheme", owing to the aging Hollywood star's reputation for dumping girlfriends after their 25th birthday (**PD** 16 Sep).

Budget papers noted that additional funding would be made available in 2023 to expand the free contraception scheme as part of a women's health package to all those aged 16 to 30 years.

Coincidentally, it appears that DiCaprio, 47, himself has expanded his dating age range beyond women under 25 years of age, with reports that he has been seeing 27-year-old model, Jelena Noura "Gigi" Hadid.



RACF survey

PHARMACISTS have just two days to share their views on their interest and preparedness to work in embedded roles at residential aged care facilities (RACFs), as part of a survey by researchers from Monash University.

Findings from the survey will be presented as aggregated de-identified data and disseminated via peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.

To participate pharmacists must be registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

CLICK HERE to access the survey.

Best Body cops \$106k advertising fine

NSW-BASED supplement store, Best Body Industries, has been issued eight infringement notices totalling \$106,560, for allegedly advertising unapproved sports supplement products online.

An executive officer of the business has also been fined a further \$21,312 for "knowingly" promoting products that were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), and contained prescription-only medications.

"Sports supplements were legally declared to be therapeutic goods in 2020 when they make therapeutic claims and contain scheduled substances

or substances that may be prohibited for use in sport by the World Anti-Doping Authority," the TGA said.

"Sports supplements that contain undeclared or potentially harmful ingredients could cause serious health problems.

"It is also unlawful to advertise prescription-only medicines to the Australian public.

"This action follows earlier court proceedings brought against Evolution Supplements Australia and its Director in which a penalty of \$12 million was imposed by the Federal Court of Australia for illegally advertising sports supplements."



Deciphering doctors' handwriting since

Since our beginnings in 1937, we've built our reputation on making health advice and support more available and accessible for those in need. That's how we've **grown to become one of Australia's most recognised and trusted pharmacy brands** – and redefined what pharmacists are capable of with our range of health services that bring our pharmacists out from behind the dispensary.

Just as passionate about the healthcare of your local community as us?

Get in contact with us now at sigmahealthcare.com.au/contact-us/



85
YEARS
OF EXPERT ADVICE

 Amcal+