

# Five good reasons to switch

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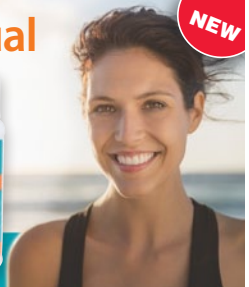


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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover from TerryWhite Chemmart.

## TWC switch

PHARMACY owners looking to access business support, marketing expertise and education, are being invited to switch to the TerryWhite Chemmart network. See cover page for more.

## Blackmores rise

BLACKMORES is increasing its minimum order value for freight-free shipping to \$200 excluding GST per order from 01 Oct, with a \$12.50 (ex GST) delivery cost added to orders below the minimum value, due to rising freight costs.

# Pharmacist workforce contracts

NEW Pharmacy Board of Australia registration data shows a decline in the number of pharmacists holding professional registration for the first time in five years.

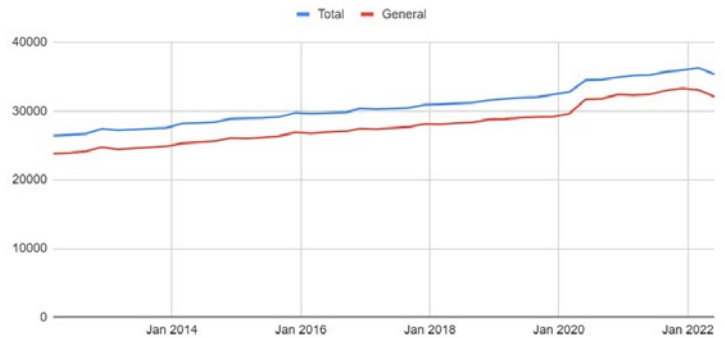
The figures for the Jun quarter revealed that total registration dipped by 2.5% to 35,368, while the number of pharmacists holding general registration fell by more than 1,000 (3.1%), to 32,709, the biggest fall on record.

The decrease in general registration numbers in Jun was seen across all jurisdictions and age groups, with the exception of the 40 to 45 years bracket, which increased by six, compared to the Mar figures.

Provisional registration numbers also fell in the three months to 30 Jun, with the ACT and the Northern Territory the only jurisdictions to report increases in this category.

Despite losing 432 women, the Board's registration data found that female pharmacists account for 63.7% - up 0.4% - with 482 men

Pharmacy Board of Australia Total and General Registration figure to June 2022



dropping out of the profession in the last quarter.

In addition to falling numbers of registration holders, the pharmacist workforce has also been impacted by an increase in the number of people holding non-practising registration - 1,338, a 13% jump compared with the Mar figures, and just 16 shy of the record high of 1,354 set in Dec 2019. Meanwhile 642 pharmacists

were on the COVID-19 pandemic response sub-register at the end of Jun, down from 1,888 at the end of Mar.

Recent figures released by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) revealed the sub-register has shrunk to include 1,792 health professionals following last week's cut off for practitioners to opt-in to remain on the register.



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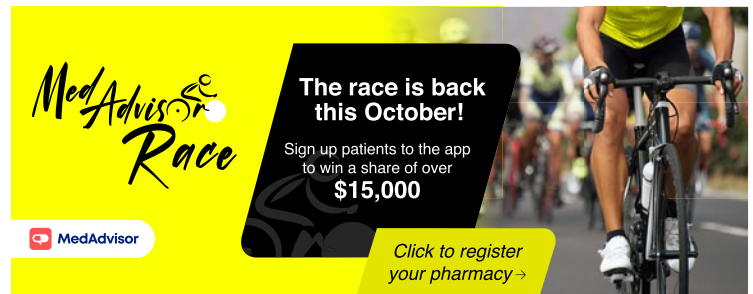
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## NSW extends emergency supply regs

**EMERGENCY** supply regulations in NSW are set to continue until 28 Oct, allowing pharmacists to provide prescription medications to patients without prescriptions.

The emergency measures, which were initially implemented in response to the 2020 Black summer bushfires, had been due to expire today, but were extended for four weeks by NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant, yesterday.

Under the temporary authority pharmacists must be satisfied that the provision of the medication is essential for the patient's well-being, that the substance has previously been prescribed for the individual, and there is an immediate need for the medicine for the continuation of treatment.

Pharmacists must also check that the medication has not been provided to the patient under the authority in the previous 12 months.

Pharmacists are required to document in the patient's pharmacy record that an attempt was made to contact their usual prescriber, and report the supply of the medication to the patient's last known prescriber.

The extension has been backed by Pharmacy Guild of Australia Acting NSW Branch President, Catherine Bronger.

"This is a welcome announcement in response to the Guild's advocacy given that the temporary authority has ensured continuity of care throughout the bushfires, floods and pandemic," she said.

"The Guild continues to advocate for the temporary authority to be made permanent and to be extended to a standard Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed pack.

"This is because the current arrangement requires the



pharmacist to break the standard pack resulting in wastage and extra cost to the patient.

"For the past two years, across Australia, medicines supplied under this type of protocol made up less than 0.1% of PBS medications supplied and pharmacists have supplied medicines under this arrangement in a safe and efficient manner."

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Canada backs pharmacist Rx

**PHARMACISTS** in the Canadian province of British Columbia (BC) will be granted limited prescribing powers from 14 Oct.

Under the new authorisation, pharmacists will be able to renew prescriptions for a limited time for people who have lost their GP.

The pharmacist prescribing rights in the province are set to be extended in early 2023, to include initiating treatment for conditions such as urinary tract infections, allergies, acne and indigestion.

Pharmacists in BC will also be authorised to prescribe oral contraceptives.

The changes are part of a five-year plan to address problems in the health system.

## No COVID payments for pharmacies

**COMMUNITY** pharmacies are likely to be excluded from accessing future COVID-19 Pandemic Leave Disaster Payments from 14 Oct.

National Cabinet announced that it would continue to provide "targeted financial support" for workers in aged care, disability care, aboriginal healthcare and hospital sectors, once the mandatory isolation requirements are removed next month.

The new pandemic leave payment will be funded



on a 50:50 basis by the Commonwealth, and the States and Territories.

Final details of the eligibility and compliance for the program will be released by Services Australia, with arrangements to be reviewed at the Dec meeting of National Cabinet.

## APC adds international exam centres

**OVERSEAS** trained pharmacists looking to sit the Australian Pharmacy Council's Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences (KAPS) exam, in Nov, will be able to register to take the test in four new jurisdictions.

The APC announced that it has opened exam centres in Botswana, India, Sri Lanka and Taiwan.

Pharmacists from India will be able to sit the exam in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Gurgaon or Noida, while those from Taiwan will



have the option of sitting the KAPS assessment in Kaohsiung or Taipei City, with the Botswana centre in the country's capital Gaborone, while Colombo will host the Sri Lankan facility.

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## Dispensary Corner



**EGYPTIAN** pharmacy owner, Ahmed al-Ezaby, is allegedly facing 547 years behind bars in relation to breaches of the country's ownership laws.

Under Egyptian legislation a pharmacist can own two pharmacies, but should manage only one of them, to avoid the establishment of chains, *Egypt Independent* reported.

However, the 72-year-old al-Ezaby, is alleged to have established a chain, controlling multiple stores using the names of pharmacists in exchange for monthly fees, in breach of ownership rules.

The publication reported that the Cairo Court of Appeal confirmed a previous ruling disqualifying al-Ezaby from the Pharmacists Syndicate and banning him from practising as a pharmacist.

A spokesperson for the pharmacist has denied that any final court rulings have been made against him, and dismissed reports of his arrest which emerged yesterday.

## FIP launches asthma, COPD support

**PHARMACISTS** can now access two new resources to support patients with chronic respiratory diseases from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

Launched in The Hague earlier this week, *Chronic respiratory diseases - A handbook for pharmacists, and Knowledge and skills reference guide for professional development in chronic respiratory diseases*, aim to support pharmacists to provide services to patients with conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

FIP Lead for Practice Development and Transformation,

Goncalo Sousa Pinto, said the resources define the knowledge and skills that pharmacists need to acquire to provide services for chronic respiratory conditions.

"Chronic respiratory diseases impose significant health and economic burdens on individuals, healthcare systems and society overall," he said.

"As healthcare delivery undergoes a paradigm shift towards a people-centred care approach to optimising therapy and health outcomes, pharmacists are well-positioned to play a unique and complementary role in an interprofessional, collaborative care model to manage chronic

respiratory diseases."

Writing in the foreword to the FIP's handbook, International Primary Care Respiratory Group, CEO Sian Williams and the organisation's President, Professor Ee Ming Khoo, noted that pharmacists play a key role in chronic respiratory disease management.

"We urge pharmacists to consider how they can improve their community's respiratory health, and enhance their engagement, so that we can all live in a world where everyone is breathing and feeling well through universal access to the right care," they said.

### Publication break

WITH NSW, the ACT and South Australia marking Labour Day, and Queensland celebrating the Queen's Birthday, on Mon, 03 Oct, **Pharmacy Daily** will be taking a publication break.

We will return to publishing on Tue 04 Oct, with all the latest news relating to the Australian pharmacy sector.

Have a good weekend!



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