



## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### Brain bank set up

**VETERANS** suffering from traumatic brain injury and their families will benefit from a new research initiative based at Concord Hospital.

The NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the Australian Veterans' Brain Bank should improve health outcomes for service men and women by increasing understanding of the impacts of repetitive head injuries.

The Australian Veterans' Brain Bank, the sister organisation to the Australian Sports Bank, will work in partnership with the National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Neuropathology Department.

## Call for an MBS fee for immunisers: PSA

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has used its pre-Budget submission to urge the Federal Government to introduce a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) payment for pharmacist immunisations modelled on the Level B payment available to GPs.

The MBS fee would be available in all primary care locations where pharmacists vaccinate.

PSA's 2023-24 Pre-Budget Submission also highlights the need for nationally consistent vaccination standards for all patients to receive all vaccinations from their local pharmacist, regardless of their age or type of vaccination.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim (**pictured**) said: "We need to be doing everything we can to remove barriers and encourage more Australians to get vaccinated and be protected against preventable diseases like influenza, Meningococcal and HPV."

"For many Australians pharmacists are the most



accessible healthcare providers, with extended opening hours and short wait times.

"We could be taking advantage of this, but instead governments have restricted the vaccinations we can provide in a pharmacy or general practice," Sim explained.

"Each state and territory has its own set of rules in place about which patients can be vaccinated by pharmacists, depending on age and the vaccination itself."

"In NSW, a pharmacist can provide a catch-up vaccination for the HPV shot missed during COVID lockdowns, but not in the ACT."

"A five-year-old can be vaccinated against influenza by a pharmacist in Victoria, while they would have

to wait up to six weeks for a GP appointment in the Northern Territory or Tasmania - some of the jurisdictions with the worst wait times for GP appointments.

"Harmonising vaccination standards across the country, allowing pharmacists to play a greater role in vaccination programs, will reduce confusion across the states, public and healthcare professionals," Sim concluded.

### Sigma changes

**SIGMA** has announced three changes to the composition of its Board, including the appointment of two new Non-Executive Directors - Neville Mitchell and Annette Carey - as part of its overall business renewal.

Sigma also announced the resignation of pharmacist David Manuel as a Non-Executive Director after 13 years.

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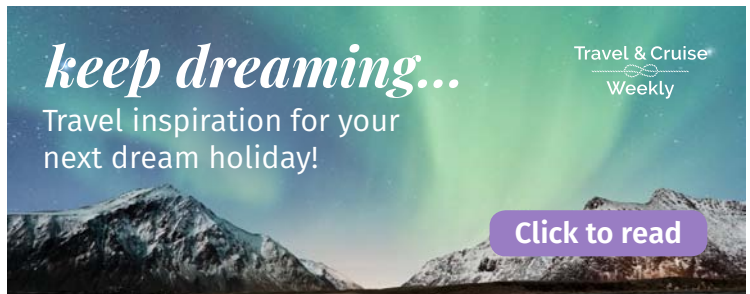
## Fed up with recurring cystitis?

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## Dispensary Corner

**A GROUP** of 15 primary-aged school kids have received medical attention in Mexico after taking part in a social media challenge involving clonazepam.

The ridiculous craze, dubbed “the last one to fall asleep wins” has been highlighted in an official alert from the country’s Health Department which urged the public to report outlets making the drug available without prescription.

The latest batch of students to be affected were treated at a school in the north-central city of Guanajuato, where the local mayor urged parents to supervise the social media usage of their offspring.

“As a rule, girls and boys shouldn’t have social media accounts, it’s bad to start with,” Alejandro Navarro ironically posted on Facebook.

It was the fourth school impacted by clonazepam overdoses, with the Mexican Government warning of side-effects such as drowsiness, dizziness and nausea, loss of balance, coordination problems, difficulty thinking or remembering, headache, muscle or joint pain, blurred vision, tremors, incontinence or urinary retention.

## Guild’s LGBTQ+ webinar

**AS WE** approach World Pride 2023 in Sydney, the Pharmacy Guild is reminding its members of the importance of providing inclusive care to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ+) community.

To assist in this effort, the Guild will be hosting an online training session next Tue 07 Feb from 6-7:30pm for Guild members and their staff.

It is specifically focused on how to provide equitable care to LGBTQ+ individuals who may face discrimination when accessing health services and may have poorer health outcomes.

This webinar highlights what a recent study has revealed about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBTQ+ people in Australia and their mental health, as well as rates

of family and domestic violence and economic situations.

The Pride and Pandemic study engaged 3,135 people across the country in an online survey and focus groups exploring the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic among LGBTQ+ people in Australia over the age of 18 years.

Almost two-thirds of participants felt that their mental wellbeing had gotten worse since the beginning of the pandemic.

Of the 57.6% of respondents who had received a mental health diagnosis before the pandemic began, 71% reported their conditions worsening.

To register for the Pharmacy Guild’s LGBTQ+ Introduction Webinar **CLICK HERE**.



## GP misconduct

**THE NSW** Civil and Administrative Tribunal has cancelled general practitioner Dr Shaun Segal’s registration, with a non-review period of one year, for alleged inappropriate personal communication and a personal relationship with a patient.

Learn about the Tribunal’s case against unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct **HERE**.

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