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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

TGA's eight fines

THE TGA has issued eight infringement notices totalling \$105,600 to Nature's Puff Pty Ltd and its director, for the alleged unlawful advertising of eight flavours of two disposable nicotine vaping products on its website.

Six infringement notices totalling \$99,000 were issued to the company, and two notices totalling \$6,600 were issued to the director, shared the TGA.

These infringement notices follow fines of \$588,840 recently issued to a group of companies for the alleged unlawful import of nicotine vaping products that contained prohibited ingredients.

Free flu shots for all in Qld

THE Queensland Government has announced state-wide, no-cost influenza vaccinations for Queenslanders from Sat 22 Jul.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Qld President Shane MacDonald said that the move will encourage more people to make an influenza vaccination a part of their regular healthcare.

"All Queensland age groups have the lowest or second-lowest influenza vaccination coverage of any state or territory this year," shared MacDonald.

"Particularly at risk are young children, of which less than 20% are vaccinated against influenza this year.

"Vaccination rates among Queenslanders aged five to 15 years is the lowest in Australia, sitting at just 11.1%," he added.

"We have already seen the deadly impact of low vaccination rates across the country, and if we don't act now it will only get worse.

"Removing cost barriers and



giving Queenslanders greater access to vaccines through community pharmacies is a great first step to improving vaccine uptake," MacDonald said.

"Pharmacists can vaccinate patients six months and over, meaning many families can come into their pharmacy together for their flu vaccines.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Qld Branch President Chris Owen said, "this program will remove any financial barrier to immunisation".

"Flu vaccination is not only for your protection but for those families and friends who may be more at risk.

"Anyone who has an existing booking at a pharmacy this week, don't cancel, it will be free," he said.

AI detects food allergies in infants

DIGITAL health tech start-up, MyOr, has an artificial intelligence platform, MyorCare, which can predict and mitigate the risk of food allergies and related conditions in infants.

To be launched in pharmacies in Sep, CEO Dr Ariel Katz said, "we have the potential to know if people are at-risk before any signs or symptoms of the condition appear.

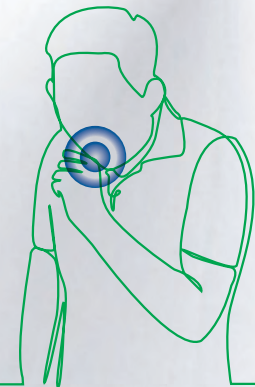
"This will have a colossal impact as we can change individual lives and create a collective effect on healthcare," said Katz.

MyorCare uses a survey that parents complete, providing information about family history, environment, and other risk factors.

The company's AI algorithms analyse this data to determine the newborn's risk of allergies and related health conditions.

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Control myopia

EYERISING International Pty Ltd's Myopia Management Device has been listed in the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration with an ARTG No: 41275.

The technology is indicated for treatment at home of myopia or short-sightedness utilising low level red light therapy.

The device is based on the work of Prof Mingguang He, a well-known ophthalmologist and myopia expert.

The device is already in use overseas with growing global market potential as myopia increases across populations including students, stated Eyerising.

The company has finalised distribution licences and first sales have occurred in Japan, New Zealand and Turkey, with Eyerising targeting a minimum rollout in 10 countries by the end of this year, with Austrade assisting in its distribution.

VPA positions

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) is asking pharmacists to share and, if interested, apply for the following positions below:

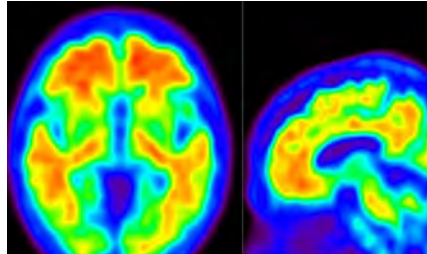
- Pharmacist - Authorised Officer, [HERE](#).
 - Pharmacist - Project and Engagement Officer, [HERE](#).
- Position descriptions are available on the VPA site [HERE](#). For further information email the registrar, [HERE](#).

Donanemab promising

ELI Lilly has confirmed today that a regulatory submission to the TGA is imminent and plans for a PBS listing application are under way for its novel biologic medicine donanemab, indicated for the treatment of early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

The company will work with the medicines regulator, Federal Government and its reimbursement advisors to "ensure that Australians with early Alzheimer's disease receive access to donanemab at the earliest opportunity," shared Tori Brown, General Manager, Eli Lilly Australia & New Zealand.

The announcement comes as a landmark international research paper has just been published, [HERE](#), looking into the efficacy and safety of donanemab as demonstrated in a Phase III trial with 1,736 participants, with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease and amyloid and tau pathology.



Participants showed 35% slowing of clinical (cognitive and functional) decline over 18 months, while across the whole study group there was a 22% slowdown in disease progression.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said donanemab has been shown to slow the progression of symptoms of early Alzheimer's disease.

"These results provide much needed hope for people who are developing symptoms, have mild cognitive impairment or who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease," McCabe said.

Training wanted for scope, shows report

THE UTS Interim Barometer May 2023 Report showed that last year, 70% of employee pharmacists had a pay increase, but despite this wage increase one-third of those surveyed are considering leaving community pharmacy.

Most pharmacists supported an increase in the scope of practice and generally feel confident and prepared, particularly in the supply of oral contraceptives already prescribed by a medical practitioner; and combination inhalers for patients with

asthma who have already had a prescription, the report uncovered.

Further, 81% of pharmacists support accreditation or mandatory requirements for training to expand their scope of practice.

When asked about confidence in substitution and preparedness to dispense biosimilars, 45% displayed 'confidence in substitution' and 57% showed confidence in their 'preparedness to dispense'.

\$300k PBS fraud

PHARMACIST Felix Yue-Sing Chan, who was sentenced on 10 Nov last year to two-years prison, is to be released on recognisance after one year and two months, reported news.com.au.

Yue-Sing pleaded guilty to three charges of obtaining \$300k for the supply of pharmaceutical benefits by means of false statements.

According to agreed facts tendered to court, Chan made 105 false PBS claims relating to 1,070 pharmaceutical items at Ginninderra Pharmacy, Priceline Queanbeyan and Priceline Bungendore.

One medication he falsely claimed was hepatitis C antiviral Maviret, costing nearly \$19,000.

Chan lodged \$56,435 worth of Maviret for two patients who never received it.

"The applicant knew on each occasion that he was making a false claim and used the real information of doctors and patients," the facts read.

While many of the fake transactions went undetected, an issue with the unique prescriber details of certain general practitioners raised the eyebrows of health authorities.

Once arrested, Chan admitted the wrongdoing to police, saying he "took matters into his own hands" due to extreme financial stress and said there was "absolutely no excuse" for his wrongdoing.

He voluntarily provided the police with documents.

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*Priceline Pharmacy retail units sales 1 Jul - 31 Dec 2022. ^2022 Priceline Pharmacy data.



Dispensary Corner

FOUR swimmers have been injured in dolphin attacks on a beach in central Japan, officials stated.

One man, in his 60s, suffered broken ribs and bites to his hands after a dolphin rammed him a few metres off Suishohama beach in the town of Mihama, Fukui prefecture, early on Sun.

Another man, in his 40s, sustained arm bites in a separate incident on the popular beach the same morning.

Two more people were injured by the mammals later in the day.

Fukui has now recorded six such attacks this year, local police said.

Signs have been put up telling swimmers to avoid approaching or touching the mammals.

While dolphins are not usually aggressive to humans, hostility towards swimmers is not unheard of.

Scientists have suggested that wild bottlenose dolphins find swimming alongside humans "incredibly stressful", finding evidence that it disrupts their behavioural routines such as preventing them from resting, feeding or nurturing their young.

As well as hostility towards humans, dolphins are known at times to behave extremely violently towards their fellow sea creatures.

In Cornwall, south-west England, a bottlenose dolphin was seen flipping a porpoise into the air as part of an aggressive attack.

Shape future for the end

WITH registrations climbing towards 1,000 delegates, the full program for the 2023 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference (23OPCC) to run from 13 to 15 Sep in Sydney has been released.

"Our sector is very passionate about the care they provide and OPCC really energises innovative thinking not just in the palliative care sector but also its connection with aged care, disability services and the wider health system," said Camilla Rowland, CEO, Palliative Care Australia.

Speakers include geriatrician Dr Sue Kurrel, Canadian researcher and podcaster Dr Hsien Seow, former Health Secretary Prof Brendan Murphy, Aboriginal nurse practitioner Kat Hooper, researcher Prof David Currow and many more.

Designed around the theme, 'With the end in mind, shaping stronger health systems, delivering quality palliative care', the program will roll out across three concurrent streams, picking up on topical issues in a post-COVID world related to sustaining and building the workforce, caring for diverse populations, future models of care, aged care and primary health reform, and the



best and latest in clinical care.

"We were blown away by the strength of the abstract submissions we received, the best and brightest speakers are lining up to share their work and knowledge at OPCC," shared Rowland.

"OPCC will bring all in the southern hemisphere together to shape the future."

Adding to the mix is a series of workshops exploring creative expression, Aboriginal culture, storytelling, the art of hypnotherapy, the use of song in palliative care, and more.

The full 23OPCC program featuring over 215 speakers, 15 plenary presentations, and 15 workshops can be viewed [HERE](#).

Standard registrations are open until 17 Aug, and a late fee will apply from 18 Aug.

See registration details, [HERE](#).



Guild Update

Updated wage sheets now available

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has updated its new wage rates sheet for members to reflect changes brought in for the new financial year.

It follows a decision by the Fair Work Commission to increase wage rates by 5.75% from 01 Jul.

A table of the new award rates can be viewed by members at the Guild's website [HERE](#).

The link takes you to wage sheets which provide information on the minimum wages to apply from the first full pay period commencing on or after 01 Jul.

Members are reminded that the Superannuation Guarantee increases from 10.5% to 11% from the first pay on or after 1 Jul (regardless of what period that pay is for).

Please note that if you are a sole trader or in a partnership in Western Australia, please visit the Guild's [WA Workplace Relations Page](#) to see information specific to State System employers in Western Australia.

The Guild says if members are located in NSW and are on an MBA or SEA/MEA please [CLICK HERE](#).

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