

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Direct Chemist Outlet**.

Guild elections

NOMINATIONS for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Branch Committees are set to close next Fri.

Ballots will open on 07 Oct and close at 5pm AEDT on 04 Nov, with counting set to start at 9am AEDT on 05 Nov.

Prep for success

DIRECT Chemist Outlet (DCO) is looking to help pharmacy owners "compete with the big guy" by becoming part of the "DCO family".

Find out more about joining the group on **page three**.

Trained and able but underutilised

HEALTH authorities need to use the skills they insist pharmacists should have, to help boost vaccine rates, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* after reports of a hepatitis A outbreak in regional Victoria emerged, Tassone said the State Government needed to engage community pharmacy to support efforts to increase uptake of the hep A vaccine.

"The training program for pharmacist immunisers in Victoria that has been approved by our Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) covers a much wider range of preventable diseases than those we are currently allowed to vaccinate against [including hep A]," he said.

"Unless the Victorian Government is prepared to fully align what pharmacists are trained to do against what we're allowed to do – then one can only assume

Victorian pharmacist immunisers are currently overtrained.

"It doesn't really make much sense to stop pharmacists from administering vaccines they have been trained to provide."

Tassone said the rollout, and uptake of, pharmacist administered vaccines had been proven to be safe, effective and accepted by the public.

"Let's move to the next step and allow pharmacists to provide the vaccines they have been trained to administer," he said.

Tassone also called on State and Federal Governments to implement a funding model to ensure patients who chose to be vaccinated at a community pharmacy do not face out-of-pocket costs that would be covered by Medicare if they had gone to a GP.

"Why should a member of the public endure out of pocket costs to receive a vaccination under the National Immunisation Program, but



not from a GP or nurse?" he said.

"This goes against a fundamental principle of national medicines policy around equity of access for all Australians.

"With a number of GP's currently not practising at medical centres but rather telehealth – community pharmacies will continue to be a critical access point for vaccinations by the public.

"Let's respond to the next outbreak of an infectious virus infection – whatever it may be, with a fully utilised workforce actually allowed to do what they're trained to do."

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Dispensary Corner

TWIN criminals, Nicholas and Patrick Johnson-Tucker are set to share a cell for the next nine years or more after pleading guilty to robbing a pharmacy in Ohio.

The duo were arrested shortly after robbing a CVS store in Middletown, on 02 May, during which they threatened two staff members before tying them up and making off with more than 8,000 pills with a value of US\$11,129.

Nicholas was indicted for aggravated robbery, two counts of kidnapping, carrying a concealed weapon and two counts of tampering with evidence, while Patrick faced indictments relating to aggravated robbery, two counts of kidnapping and failure to comply with the signal of a police officer, *Journal-News* reported.

Police reported the pair were arrested after crashing their getaway car after a short pursuit, adding the brothers had admitted choosing the pharmacy as a target for their crime after an internet search.

Local prosecutors have said the duo are now being investigated in relation to a similar pharmacy robbery near Cleveland, using DNA.



Masks, tramadol stolen

THIEVES in Sydney made off with more than 500 face masks and prescription painkillers after an early morning raid at a north shore pharmacy.

The criminals pried open the doors of Wards Pharmacy in Wahroonga in the early hours of Wed morning before ripping out the alarm system, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

Pharmacy owner, Catherine Ward, said she arrived at the store on Wed morning to discover the damage, with the thieves breaking into locked security cabinets to access Schedule 4D medications.

"I had everything locked away," she said.

"I'm very strict with security, but they managed to take drugs, boxes of tramadol.

"They went through shelves and smashed the alarms - they completely trashed the place.

"We haven't had anything like this happen before and it couldn't have come at a worse time, being an independent up against the big discounters is tough.

"We're looking at putting even more security in now.

"It won't be happening again."

Ward has urged other businesses



in the area to ramp up their security following the burglary.

"It's always been a safe area, but I've heard of a few other incidents like this over recent months," she said.

Ku-ring-gai Police have said an investigation into the break-in is ongoing, and a spokesperson has issued an appeal for any witnesses to come forward.

A neighbouring business has provided CCTV footage of two men wearing hoodies running from the pharmacy to assist with police investigations into the raid.



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[...see more info](#)

Asthma updates

GSK has welcomed confirmation of the updates to the Australian Asthma Handbook that were announced in May.

The company backed the use of regular daily low-dose inhaled corticosteroids with short-acting beta agonist (SABA) as needed for mild asthma, with SABA only potentially appropriate if symptoms are infrequent.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily & Plunkett's are giving away a his and her NS Working Hands prize pack worth RRP\$35.88

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