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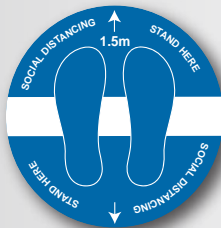
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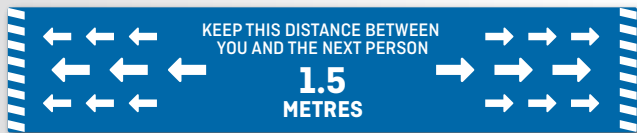
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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from MSC Signs.

## Pharmacy crash

STAFF at a northern NSW pharmacy escaped injury after a car crashed through the store's entry doors.

Macksville Pharmacy owner, Patrick Ward, told local news outlet, *Guardian News*, that the car smashed into the pharmacy after its brakes failed.

The incident occurred shortly before 5pm yesterday, with Ward working late into the evening to ensure the pharmacy was secured.

## COVID signs

WITH COVID-19 restrictions easing in many parts of the country, using signage and personal protective equipment remains critical.

See MSC Signs' cover wrap for sneeze screens and a range of in-store signs for more.

# PSA rejects 'one-sided commentary'

CRITICISM of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) push for emergency dispensing to be implemented permanently, is damaging to inter-professional relationships, PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman (pictured), believes.

Responding to allegations made by former Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Expert Committee - Quality Care Chair, Dr Evan Ackermann, that extending Continued Dispensing would be damaging to patient care (PD 06 Jul), Freeman said the push to extend the measures was justified as patients had been able to retain access to vital medicines during recent crises.

"It is because of the Continued Dispensing arrangements, that 75,000 Australians have benefited from safe, secure and timely access to medicines when faced with a global pandemic, bushfires and social isolation," he said.

"These Australians may have gone without these medicines, posing real and imminent harm to their health.

"We need a health system which is agile and able to respond to

emergencies like these and we need all health professionals to come together as a team to support each other in caring for the community.

"Pharmacists are experts in medicines – ensuring safe and quality access to medicines – Continued Dispensing is just one of the many tools pharmacists use as part of a holistic care team.

"PSA has robust standards and guidelines supporting pharmacists to make evidence based and clinically appropriate decisions around continuous dispensing.

"It is now time to make Continued Dispensing arrangements permanent.

"PSA will not get drawn into a back and forth with an individual, sitting on the sidelines with a tainted view on the pharmacy profession.

"One-sided commentary such as this is doing nothing to progress patient care and are damaging when pharmacists and GPs on the ground are building collaborative relationships."

Freeman also rejected Ackermann's claim that the PSA was "asleep at the wheel" during the recent Seventh Community



Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA), and had failed its members and the public by not pushing for 60-day dispensing, and alleged the PSA "fell over backwards for the business demands of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia".

"The 7CPA agreement supports the vital role of pharmacists in primary care delivering better health outcomes for patients," Freeman said.

"PSA worked closely with the Department of Health and Minister for Health over 18 months on this forward-looking 7CPA that will achieve genuine and positive outcomes over the term of the agreement."

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## Dispensary Corner

**GOOD** news on the coronavirus front from Indonesia, where the country's Minister for Agriculture is claiming a eucalyptus-based "antivirus necklace" can help prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Minister, Syahrul Yasin Limpo, says the innovation was created by the country's Health Research and Development Agency after testing of 700 eucalyptus species found "one kind could kill the coronavirus".

Syahrul, the former governor of South Sulawesi, said wearing the necklace could "kill" 42% of COVID-19 if worn for 15 min.

"We have tried it. If we use it for 30 minutes it can kill 80%.

"We have also produced a roll-on - if we ever get cut by a knife the wounds can be healed by applying the product," he added.

A rival politician, Mardani Ali Sera, said he was concerned about the country's reputation.

"If clinical trials and public trials by experts have not been carried out and there are unilateral claims, I am afraid we will become a laughing stock to the world's public," he said.

However, if it was scientifically tested and proven effective it could become a major export for Indonesia, Mardani said.

Other local experts are also somewhat skeptical, with Herawati Sudoyo of Jakarta's Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology telling the *Jakarta Post*: "We know that the world has not yet found a cure for the disease...I think it would be wise for us not to spread further claims to a panicked society".

## Delivering lockdown aid

**PHARMACY** owners in Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdown zones are working with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure patients retain access to medicines throughout the ongoing crisis.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the profession was striving to support vulnerable patients living in public housing who require critical medications, including opioid replacement therapy.

"The Guild has had ongoing and regular contact with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services throughout the COVID pandemic and have previously helped coordinate medicine supply services for returned traveller patients quarantined in hotels," he said.

"Likewise with the public housing towers in North Melbourne and Flemington under lockdown, the Guild has been closely working with the Department and member pharmacies to help ensure ongoing



medicine supplies including opioid replacement therapy.

"Many patients who are residents in these towers have chronic conditions, are vulnerable and have other risk factors.

"The Guild and our members continue to stand ready to do what we can to ensure patients receive the important treatments they need."

**MEANWHILE** pharmacists including Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Head of Pharmacy Futures, Dan Guidone, have used social media to offer their support to pharmacies in the lockdown zones.

## FIP on masks

**ALL** patient-facing pharmacy staff members should "at least wear a mask" to protect them against the risk of contracting COVID-19 the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) believes.

## Guild Update

### COVID-19 Infographic

**THE** Guild has developed a simple infographic to assist pharmacy staff in managing, assessing and advising patients with cold and flu symptoms during COVID-19.

With the cold and flu season now in full swing, patients will be presenting to pharmacies for symptomatic relief.

However, it is important that pharmacists provide appropriate advice and treatments to patients in managing their cold and flu symptoms, while recognising they may have COVID-19, especially in areas that have been identified as virus hotspots.

Pharmacists should encourage any patient with a fever or symptoms of a respiratory tract infection (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) to isolate and arrange testing for COVID-19.

Patients should be referred to their GP or local respiratory clinic, or can search for the closest testing centre at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)

The infographic is available [HERE](#).

## Win with BioSilk

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