

**Dispensing ePrescriptions**  
How it works now and into the future

**REGISTER NOW**



FREE Webinar: Wed 3rd June 7:00 pm

FRED

## Keep an open mind and say yes

**EARLY** career pharmacists and students looking to establish themselves in the profession are being urged to keep an open mind about the potential roles they could pursue.

A series of speakers at last night's Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Connect webinar urged aspiring pharmacists to make the most of opportunities as they emerge.

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said the pharmacists were increasingly opting to work across multiple sectors at the same time, rather than pursuing careers in one specific area.

"Be open to the idea that you don't have to be locked into one sector in terms of where you're working at the moment, or where you will be working," he said.

"I've reflected on my own career, and I can say when I was going through university, I would have been the last person who would

have expected to end up having an academic career, I would have had no idea what working in general practice would be like and by no means would I have even considered being the President of the PSA.

"So keeping an open mind to what careers present and when opportunities do present themselves let your default answer be yes, and deal with the consequences of that later.

"Having that mindset of taking those opportunities and seeing what doors and opportunities they open is a really crucial thing."

Pharmacist-turned Federal MP, Emma McBride, urged pharmacists to embrace opportunities to lead.

"Pharmacists have all the attributes to be leaders," she said.

"We know how to listen, we know how to work with others, so I'd really like to encourage pharmacists to consider leadership roles - whether that's in community



pharmacy, where I started, in the hospital or general practice setting, where there is a chance to have a say to step up and do that.

"Often someone isn't going to tap you on the shoulder, so you have to be willing to take that first step."

McBride told early career pharmacists that they have the community trust and training to make a difference for their patients and the future of the profession by embracing leadership roles.

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from Sigma.

### Coughing charge

**POLICE** in Britain have charged a man who spat and coughed on a pharmacy staff member, after being refused a full week's supply of methadone, last month.

The man then threatened to shoot another pharmacy employee and burn the store down, *Chemist and Druggist* reports.

A Police Investigations and Review Commissioner revealed the man claimed to have COVID-19 when he was arrested by police, noting his behaviour was "extremely concerning and distressing for the pharmacy staff and arresting officers".

### Pharmacies impacted in US unrest

Pharmacists in the US state of Minnesota are working under "disaster-type" conditions, with the state's Board of Pharmacy reporting 16 stores have been looted or set on fire during a week of civil unrest.

Minnesota Board of Pharmacy Executive Director, Cody Wiberg, has urged patients to contact their normal pharmacy before venturing out to fill prescriptions, noting chains were diverting phones to nearby stores to ensure

ongoing access to medicines.

*ABC5 Eyewitness News* reported that one pharmacy in St Paul has been reduced to a pile of rubble, with owner, Jim Stage, operating from a sister location.

"It's a disaster-type situation so we're filling people's prescriptions based on medical history that we can get and gather and prescription bottles because we have no record as of now so we're doing our best to safely take care of patients," he said.

### UniSA to assess deprescribing options

**RESEARCHERS** from the University of South Australia have secured \$1.5 million in funding from the Federal Government to investigate deprescribing in aged care.

Lead researcher, Dr Emily Reeve, said the "typical older Australian has four chronic health conditions and is taking six regular medications, one of which is inappropriate, with the potential harm outweighing any benefits".

"Withdrawing inappropriate medication may seem straightforward, but it's not," she said.

"It's complex due to a lack of evidence-based guidelines based on robust and internationally recognised methodology."

The study will directly address the overuse of antipsychotic medications in aged care facilities, which was highlighted in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety interim report.

# 50% OFF VSL#3®



Your customers will enjoy \$5 cashback with every purchase. Visit [medlab.co/vsl3rebate](http://medlab.co/vsl3rebate)

Strictly limited time offer. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.



	10 Sachets	30 Sachets
Sigma	319079	Sigma 319087
API	46508	API 46509
Symbion	621757	Symbion 621765

**ORDER NOW**  
1300 369 570  
[orders@medlab.co](mailto:orders@medlab.co)

## Pharmacy an under-tapped resource

### Dispensary Corner

**DID** the ancient Jews get high? Probably, according to archaeologists in Israel who claim to have found cannabis residue on artefacts from an ancient temple.

A research paper published last week in the *Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University* confirms traces of cannabinoids on an altar which once stood in a temple at Tel Arad in the Negev Desert.

The scientists conclude the substance was probably burned to heighten the experience of worshippers, with the altar found to be covered in key cannabis components such as THC and CBD, burned with dried animal dung to achieve the appropriate temperature to release the psychoactive elements of the drug.

**LOCKDOWNS** in South Africa have led to some desperate measures, including an effort by some thieves to tunnel into a liquor store to pinch about \$25,000 worth of alcohol.

The Shoprite LiquorShop within Johannesburg's Newtown Junction shopping centre has been closed for some weeks during the COVID-19 restrictions, which had meant the sale of alcohol was prohibited.

The store's manager entered the shop on Fri in preparation for a grand reopening as restrictions ease, only to find a large hole in the solid concrete floor which had been accessed from stormwater tunnels beneath the building.

**STATE**, Territory and Federal Governments may not be optimising the reach of influenza immunisation campaigns during the COVID-19 crisis by failing to tap into pharmacists' capabilities, University of Western Australia School of Social Sciences Senior Lecturer, Dr Katie Attwell, believes.

Attwell told a recent World Federation of Public Health Associations webinar that ensuring the accessibility of a potential COVID-19 vaccine would be key to any successful campaign, with community pharmacy one of a number of possible sites where patients could access immunisation services.

"It is likely that if and when the COVID vaccine becomes available, State Governments will want to use a range of delivery mechanisms to get the vaccines out to the public, which may include their own resources as well as the private sector, including



pharmacists," she told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"The Government would likely rely on the relatively recent history of pharmacists vaccinating the public with flu vaccines, and the lessons from this experience."

She added that health policy makers need to reassess how pharmacists are used to deliver vaccines going forward.

"Pharmacists may presently be an under-tapped resource in terms of flu vaccination, particularly during the COVID lockdowns," she said.

"It makes sense for the Federal Government to consider how to better utilise pharmacists, particularly for opportunistic walk-in appointments that could reach even shoppers who were not planning to visit the pharmacy.

### Clock ticking for national dental deal

**DENTISTS** are warning the oral health of millions of Australians is in the balance with the current National Partnership Agreements (NPA) on Public Dental Services for Adults set to expire on 30 Jun.

In a statement issued this morning, the Australian Dental Association (ADA) called on the National Cabinet to renew the arrangements.

ADA President, Dr Carmelo Bonanno, said a two-year extension of the deal would allow a more permanent solution to be developed.

"If the NPA funding isn't extended, we estimate around 720 patients a day, or 180,000



a year, will miss out on dental services they so badly need," Bonanno said.

"This will result in waiting lists getting even longer, and people's dental issues will get even worse as they wait years for treatment.

"The National Partnership Agreements expires on June 30 and as yet there's no concrete plan for its continuation or replacement."

### Blackmores' SPP

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange (ASX) listed health brand, Blackmores, has opened its Share Purchase Plan (SPP), which offers eligible shareholders in Australia and New Zealand the opportunity to purchase up to \$30,000 of new fully paid ordinary shares.

The non-underwritten SPP aims to raise \$25 million in addition to its fully underwritten institutional placement, which secured \$92 million for the company.

Blackmores has stated the funds will be used to return the business to sustainable and profitable growth (*PD 27 May*).

# PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

## AVAILABLE NOW



PDE	EAN	Description
961367	9311171002419	APRONS PLASTIC DISP 100PK
961375	9341571013817	SURGICAL GRADE SAFETY GOGGLE CLEAR POLYCARBONATE
960 567	9311171012428	3PLY LEVEL 2 - SURGICAL MASK WITH EAR LOOPS CTN50 Complies with AS4381 TGA Registration Number: 332292
961151	9311171000012	NO GLOVES™ VINYL SML 10PK
961169	9311171000029	NO GLOVES™ VINYL MED 10PK
961177	9311171000036	NO GLOVES™ VINYL LGE 10PK

To place your orders, click on the Sigma Connect logo:

