

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from SkinB5.

## Win with SkinB5!

SKINB5 is offering Australian pharmacies the opportunity to win "the ultimate product to combat maskne" in these crazy COVID-19 days.

The whole team will benefit, with the prize including 10 SkinB5 Skin Purifying Masks worth a total of \$429.

For entry details see [page 3](#).

## Opioid webinar

NPS Medicinewise has released a special webinar on the role of pharmacists in supporting patients living with chronic non-cancer pain.

An interdisciplinary panel discusses the evidence-based approaches for managing pain and the role of pharmacists in reducing opioid-related harms.

The session includes a range of associated training and online CPD activities - for more details see [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## Border boon for pharmacy

VICTORIAN Pharmacy Guild Branch President Anthony Tassone says this week's announcement about the reopening of the NSW/Vic border from 23 Nov is "fantastic news" for pharmacists who have been persevering through the strict lockdowns over recent months.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced the move on Wed, saying the reopening at 12.01am on Mon 23 Nov should give the community the confidence to make plans, book holidays and reunite with family members.

Tassone (pictured) said the decision "shows the great progress being made in tackling the COVID pandemic's second wave," and was welcomed not only by all Victorians but also all Australians.

"The border closure has been hard on many people across the community, particularly regional community pharmacies with disruptions at times for their own workforce community to and from work, as well as sourcing locum pharmacists," he said.

"While patients could cross the border to seek healthcare, the reopening will be an important step to returning to some sort of normal for them, as it can be stressful



for them feeling assured they can access the care they need."

He also noted the impact on pharmacy proprietors with interstate ownership interests, who have been unable to visit their pharmacies and offer direct support to their teams without undergoing a period of quarantine.

"This pandemic has exhausted and drained everybody, and it has been very difficult for some working in community pharmacy on the frontline to have any respite and to just 'take a break'.

"The border reopening is another step closer to feeling like one country again and hopefully more border re-openings can follow suit," Tassone concluded.

## NZ govt support

MORE than 100 applications have already been lodged by New Zealand community pharmacies for a Ministry of Health Relief Fund which is being administered by the country's Pharmacy Council.

A total of NZ\$1.7 million is up for grabs, with the initial tranche of \$500,000 now almost fully allocated.

The Council said "we are pleased to advise that relief for some pharmacy teams is now happening," with the funding aiming to assist community pharmacies which have been on the front line of the pandemic.

The fund is particularly targeting criteria such as providing services to Maori or Pacific peoples, working as a sole practitioner, and those in independent or independent franchise-held pharmacies.

To support the Fund, the NZ Pharmacy Council has also been helping to find pharmacists and technicians for some pharmacy employers, with the Council saying "we are currently struggling to find about 10 to 15 technicians".




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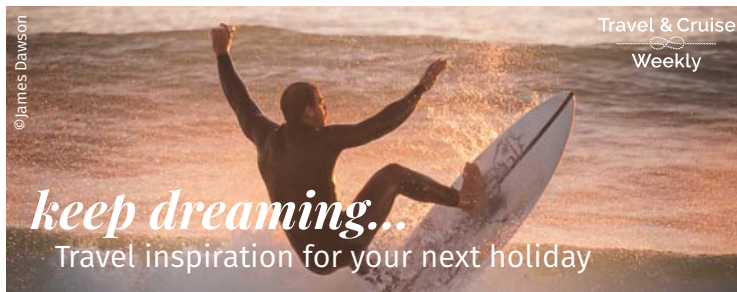


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## UK deliveries

**HOME** delivery of pharmacy products is once again being funded in England, as the country enters a new month-long lockdown in an attempt to contain COVID-19.

NHS England has confirmed the move, which is applicable for “clinically extremely vulnerable” patients who are unable to access medicines.

## Win with Hemp Oz

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Hemp Oz are giving away the full range of Hemp Herbal Tea plus a glass tea pot worth RRP\$90.00

Your Cuppa Hemp Herbal Tea - This week Sydney based Hemp Oz celebrated a major milestone with the launch of Australia's First Hemp functional Teas. The Hemp Oz Herbal Tea range is inspired by nature and driven by science combining the finest organic herbal medicines with Australian organic hulled Hemp seeds. Hemp Oz teas are a must for boosting the immune, good gut health, reducing inflammation and supporting a great night's sleep.

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**Q: Which Hemp product is in the Hemp Oz Tea?**



To win be the first to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

## Corum takes Arrotex cash

**CORUM** Group Limited says it plans to “accelerate key product development and business expansion” after issuing 60 million shares to Arrotex in a \$3.3 million capital raising (**PD** breaking news).

Arrotex is Australia's largest generic and private label OTC supplier, servicing 3,400 pharmacies across the country.

The move is the first investment in a listed company by Arrotex, and involves a “placement agreement” for the issue of the new shares at 5.5c each, a 21% discount to the Corum share price when its trading was halted (**PD** yesterday).

Arrotex Executive Chairman, Dennis Bastas (**pictured**), said “we believe Corum is ideally positioned as a technology platform provider to Australian pharmacy and related healthcare sectors,” confirming that as part of the transaction he would join the Corum Group Board.

He said he looked forward to assisting the company to “create enhanced shareholder value”.

A previous proposed 63 million share issue by Corum to BMM Group Administration Pty Ltd, the company linked to Pharmacy4Less owners Feras and Assad Karem, was terminated earlier this month (**PD**



02 Nov), under a now dropped deal under which BMM was to advise Corum on the development of a cloud-based Head Office pharmacy software solution.

That project is now set to be completed in-house by Corum, the company said earlier this week.

Corum also raised several million dollars about six weeks ago (**PD** 29 Sep) in a rights issue which helped it take 100% control of the PharmX electronic ordering gateway.

Corum Group Chairman Nick England said “we are excited to welcome Arrotex as a strategic shareholder and an industry leader in Dennis Bastas to the Board.

“Corum now has the people, relationships and capital to execute its growth strategy,” he said.



## Dispensary Corner

**LONG** seen as somewhat of a nuisance in terms of making it hard to hear, scientists have discovered a key use for earwax in the diagnosis and management of several mental health conditions.

Researchers from the University College London's Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience said their new home-based earwax test enables easy measurement of the stress hormone cortisol, which can be used to track anxiety and depression.


“Cortisol sampling is notoriously difficult, as levels of the hormone can fluctuate, so a sample might not be an accurate reflection of a person's chronic cortisol levels,” said lead researcher Andres Herane-Vives.

In contrast to testing of blood, urine and saliva, “cortisol levels in earwax appear to be more stable, and with our new device it's easy to take a sample and get it tested quickly, cheaply and effectively,” he said.

The testing gadget resembles a cotton swab but is fitted with an added “brake” to stop it going too far into the ear.


Herane-Vives said his team was also looking at other applications for the device, such as potentially measuring glucose levels from earwax samples which could be a breakthrough in the management of diabetes.

The study was published in the *Heliyon* journal, with the team now setting up a company called Trears to bring the sampling device to market.



## YOUR PHARMACY CAREER PODCAST

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Open to Australian Pharmacies only. Competition **ends on the 30th November 2020. The winners** entry and photo will be shared on social media.

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