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Travel boost for APP2021

MOVES to ease travel restrictions in the lead up to Christmas are set to open the door for in-person pharmacy events in 2021.

Welcoming the National Cabinet announcement that State and Territory border restrictions are set to be eased across all jurisdictions, except Western Australia, former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President and Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) Convenor, Kos Sclavos, said the decision would allow pharmacists to reconnect with each other after a challenging 2020.

"It's been a tough year for the community pharmacy industry, who have been working tirelessly to support Australian patients," he said.

"Easing of travel restrictions is a positive step forward and means that APP delegates have something to look forward to."

"Borders opening is a chance for our interstate Guild members, community pharmacy colleagues and industry to book a well-earned break on the Gold Coast for APP2021.

"After this tumultuous year, I encourage delegates to lock APP2021 into their calendars and



register early at Super Early Bird rates, which saves them over \$200 off standard rates.

"There's a lot to look forward to at APP2021, especially reconnecting with our colleagues.

"The safety and well-being of attendees is our number one priority and we're working closely with the venue to mitigate any risks associated with COVID-19.

"We may not be able to handshake, but that won't stop us from reconnecting with colleagues, getting the latest industry updates, networking, earning CPD credits and building our skills."

CLICK HERE for more.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of the latest news.



CHP Australia

Diamond Awards Winners

Sales Awards

Most Preferred Supplier (pharmacy sales < \$100m)
Arrortex

Most Preferred Supplier (pharmacy sales > \$100m)
Ego Pharmaceuticals

QUM Excellence (pharmacy sales < \$100m)
H.W. Woods

QUM Excellence (pharmacy sales > \$100m)
Sanofi-Aventis Healthcare

Marketing Awards

Best Marketing Campaign of a Consumer Healthcare Product - Large Budget
GlaxoSmithKline - Panadol

Best Marketing Campaign of a Consumer Healthcare Product - Small Budget
Bayer Australia - Canesten

Best Healthcare Professional Marketing Campaign
Ego Pharmaceuticals - QV Intensive w Ceramides & QV Flare Up

Best Digital/ Social Media Campaign
Care Pharmaceuticals - Hydralyte

Best Launch of a Consumer Healthcare Product
Aspen Pharmacare Australia - Fleurstat

Best PR Campaign
GlaxoSmithKline - Osteo Up-schedule

Judges Commendation
Care Pharmaceuticals

Full details [HERE](#)

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Victoria to broaden naloxone access

LEGISLATION put to the Victorian Legislative Assembly last week is set to widen the authorisations to supply hypodermic needles and supply, possess and administer naloxone.

Presenting the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Bill 2020*, Victorian Health Minister, Michael Foley, said the legislation would facilitate peer-to-peer distribution of needles obtained from authorised Victorian Needle and Syringe Programs (VNSPs) and anti-overdose treatment, naloxone, which is available at no cost to drug users through the Naloxone Subsidy Initiative.

Foley said that while uptake of naloxone in the state had increased significantly since Nov 2018, when VNSPs become “the front door for access”, with at least 900 reported uses of the drug to reverse overdoses, the rate of people who go to a pharmacy to access naloxone after visiting a needle and syringe program can be as low as 50%.

“Evidence from consumers, service providers, health professionals and researchers tell us strongly that naloxone needs to be accessible in a more diverse range of settings and that peer distribution is vital to maximise reach to those most vulnerable or isolated,” he said.

“While pharmacy access remains essential, it is important to broaden access points because people who use opioids are often reluctant or unable to engage with primary healthcare to discuss or manage their opioid use.

“The Government also committed to enhancing the role of peers in naloxone programs.

“Again—given naloxone’s life-saving properties and negligible risk of misuse—the government is open to considering allowing naloxone, once it has been supplied, to be subsequently distributed by any person to any other person.

“This would allow peers to be actively involved in the distribution chain in order to get naloxone into



the hands of the people most in need—but least able—to obtain it.

“To achieve these objectives, the Bill will create a new power in the [*Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances*] Act [1981] enabling regulations to be made regarding the classes of people authorised to supply, possess, administer and use naloxone, in addition to currently approved suppliers such as pharmacies.”

Dispensary Corner

CCTV footage from a US pharmacy showing a locum pharmacist pilfering 80 hydrocodone pills has led to the capture of a murderer.

Police in St Clair Shores, Michigan, reported surveillance images showed pharmacist, Paul Dickson, pocketing the pills shortly before the store closed.

Dickson was arraigned on charges of embezzlement and unlawful dispensing of prescription medicine in Jun.

However, the case took an unexpected turn last month, when he was finger-printed and the prints matched 68-year-old prison escapee, Leonard Rayne Moses, who had been on the run since fleeing custody in 1971 when he was attending his grandmother’s funeral, having been jailed for murder.

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Harvey quits as Choice's TGACC rep

DISILLUSIONED by the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) handling of complaints relating to the marketing of healthcare products, public health advocate, Dr Ken Harvey, has resigned from the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Consultative Committee (TGACC).

In an article posted on the *Pearls and Irritations* public policy journal, Harvey said the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Framework was "in tatters".

"Having failed to halt a wave of wrongful conduct and in the face of growing numbers of complaints the TGA has given up on systematic enforcement," Harvey said.

While Harvey praised the TGA's action on COVID-19 advertising breaches, he said the regulator "had largely failed to deter unethical promotion, especially of 'complementary medicines'".

He added that "instead of investigating, and where necessary



prosecuting unlawful conduct, the regulator is now closing files".

"As the Choice representative on the former Complaint Resolution Panel and Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council and, more recently the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Consultative Committee (TGACC), I had tried to

encourage the TGA to focus more on consumer protection and less on industry assistance," he said.

"However, like others, I have concluded that, given its current leadership, the TGA will not change.

"I have now resigned as the Choice representative of the TGACC."

TGA mask alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a product defect alert for some Softmed branded surgical masks following a post market review.

These face masks have been supplied under the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) entry 333133 by the sponsor M House.

"This alert was issued, utilising an abundance of caution, as some product did not meet the fluid resistance claims, as labelled, in post-market testing undertaken by the TGA," the regulator said.

CLICK HERE for more.

Fuzzy faced Mo Foes press on for PSS

FACING tremendous itchiness and dismissive looks from strangers, *Pharmacy Daily* Editor, Nick O'Donoghue (pictured), and *Australian Journal of Pharmacy* Editor, Chris Brooker, are more than halfway through their morning escapades to raise funds for the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS).

The rivals have spent Nov cultivating what some may describe as "impressive" moustaches - others may not be so kind - in support of the PSS, which has seen a significant increase in calls from pharmacists throughout 2020, as profession



has been on the frontline of the bushfire and COVID-19 crises.

With two week left before the duo finally get to remove their facial fuzz you can show your appreciation by donating to the PSS **HERE**, and leaving #MoFoePD or #MoFoeAJP in the message box.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Karen Brown, Network Partner at TerryWhite Chemmart Samford & Arana Hills, QLD.**



Nurturing your pharmacists

I REALLY encourage the mentality that pharmacists are health professionals...not dispensers. The current pandemic has only reaffirmed this view with pharmacists becoming even more recognised for the critical role they play in managing the health of Australians.

The TerryWhite Chemmart Pharmacist education programs such as Masterclass and the Dispensary Excellence Program play a significant role in this notion by reinforcing our position as "experts in care". These programs make it incredibly easy for my team to learn and expand their knowledge - nurturing our pharmacists to practice to their full scope and ultimately, make a real difference in their communities.

The future of pharmacists is the concept of 'speciality pharmacists' and this is something I certainly nurture with my team. We have pharmacists who are dually qualified - such as Diabetes Educator and Nutritionists - and pharmacists who have additional training in Pain Management, Fertility, Natural Medicines, Maternal Health, Weight Management, Sleep Apnoea and Medication Management. Such breadth in speciality, combined with regular participation in community health initiatives, help these pharmacists to stand out in their community as true health leaders.

Finally, empowering pharmacists to value themselves through coaching, and even by charging for their service and knowledge, is critical to nurturing the 'innovation within'. To find out more about how TWC can help you be a health leader, click [here](#).