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Pharmacy welcomes Budget 2020-21

MEASURES aimed at boosting access to new medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), increased investment in aged care and additional funding for mental health services, announced in last night's Federal Budget, are being welcomed by the pharmacy sector.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Acting President, Michelle Lynch, said the Government's \$2.8 billion investment in listing new medicines over the next four years would improve access to medicines,

while adding that the PBS Unique Identification Framework will improve medicines safety "by allowing the assessment and tracking of medicines when they come into Australia, through to dispensing of medicines to patients".

"This will support medicine recalls and reduce the potential for counterfeit medicines," she said.

Lynch added the allocation of funding for 23,000 home care packages for aged care patients and \$5.7 billion to be spent on mental health, would lay the groundwork

for the future with opportunities for pharmacists to do more to improve the safe use of medicines in the areas of aged care and mental health.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, has also voiced support for the Budget measures.

"The Government has rightly declared mental health and suicide prevention as a national priority," she said.

"Community pharmacies are the most accessible of all health destinations, and as such pharmacists and their staff play an important role in identifying and assisting patients with mental health issues.

"On aged care, we strongly support the significant announcement of \$1.6 billion for an additional 23,000 home care packages for older Australians who want to keep living at home."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from *Nova Pharmaceuticals*.



CHP Australia
Industry Update

Modern Manufacturing Strategy

Last Thursday, the Prime Minister announced a \$1.5 billion **Modern Manufacturing Strategy** "to make Australian manufacturers more competitive, resilient & able to scale-up to take on the world".

- o \$1.3B Modern Manufacturing Initiative
- o \$107.2M Supply Chain Resilience Initiative
- o \$52.8M Manufacturing Modernisation Fund expansion
- o \$50M Industry Growth Centres expansion

"Medical products" were designated a National Manufacturing Priority area.

CHP Australia notes that the rationale & policy objectives of the strategy strongly reflect insights & recommendations included in our **Supplementary 2020-21 Pre-Budget submission**.

Throughout the strategy's proposed "co-design", CHP Australia will continue to advocate for mechanisms that have clear scope to harness the economic potential in, & incentivise investment across all medicines sectors, including nonprescription products.

[Read more here](#)

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Review full PI before recommending or supplying Resolve Plus 1.0. PI available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals.

References: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information, Date of Most Recent Amendment 26 October 2018. 2. Van Cutsem JM, Thienpont D. Miconazole, a broad-spectrum antimycotic agent with antibacterial activity. *Chemotherapy* 1972;17:392-404.

Resolve Plus

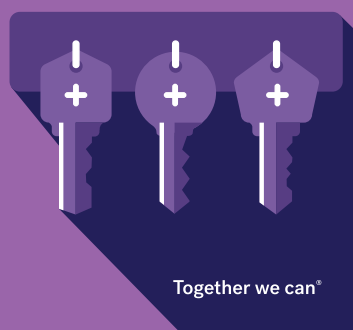


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Medicines Australia backs Budget

THE Federal Government's commitment to improving the health of Australians as part of the nation's COVID-19 pandemic recovery through investments guaranteed funding for new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings, is being welcomed by Medicines Australia.

Responding to last night's Federal Budget, Medicines Australia CEO, Elizabeth de Somer, backed a number of measures aimed at protecting the health of Australians and the economy, announced by Treasurer, Josh Frydenburg.

"The linkages between our health and productivity have never been clearer, with the Government's announcement of the new medicines funding guarantee, worth at least \$2.8 billion over four years, starting immediately and at the same time, removing the requirement for cost offsets for new medicine listings on the PBS," she said.

"This is going to allow for medicines to be listed faster, without the need to find additional



savings from other critical health areas."

de Somer also backed the Government's \$12 million investment to modernise the Therapeutic Goods Administration's business systems to streamline processes for the pharmaceutical industry and reduce red tape for new medicines.

Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, also announced the Government will "complete new long-term agreements with

Medicines Australia and the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association to commence at the expiry of the current agreements to 2022", as part of the planned \$467 billion health and aged care Budget over the forward estimates.

"These agreements, to be finalised over the coming months, will help ensure continued access to new medicines for patients and provide certainty for the medicines industry and incentives to invest in Australia," Hunt said.

Nova deals

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is offering a buy three get three free deal for orders of SCARmed Silicone Gel 15g.

Pharmacists can also secure a 30% discount on orders of 24 units of Nova's MediChoice Inhaler, with the company offering six free units on orders of its MediChoice Saline Nasal Spray 30mg.

See **page four** for more.

Win with Bayeco

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Bayeco are giving away a Bayeco Green Tea Multi Action Serum worth RRP \$49.95.

This serum gives your skin instant hydration boost so that it feels and looks soft, silky and smooth. Supercharge glowing skin with Genecare OSMS, a natural active derived from silver beet. It locks in moisture and prevents water loss to plump and soften skin to give a youthful glowing look. For more click here.



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Website: www. powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au

Q: Where is this product made?



To win be the first to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Cannabis research cost recovery

FEDERAL Budget papers reveal the Government will provide for the administration and regulation of medicinal cannabis research, cultivation and manufacture.

"This will provide for full cost recovery for all medicinal cannabis commercial licence holders and maintain the existing partial cost recovery for non-commercial research licence holders," Budget papers noted.

"The Government will also support the continued functions of the Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of



Cannabis to provide advice and guidelines on the regulation of medicinal cannabis."

The measure will result in an additional investment of \$1.7 million over the next four years.

Walk more

PATIENTS with osteoarthritis of the knee may benefit from the use of a supplement containing pycnogenol, an Italian study reveals.

Data from the Gabriele d'Annunzio University found *Arborvitae* may be effective supplementary management in controlling mild to moderate signs and symptoms associated with osteoarthritis in otherwise healthy subjects.

The study reported improvements in walking distance at three months.



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Dispensary Corner

AN IRISH pharmacist has narrowly avoided a prison sentence after pleading guilty to siphoning off prescription medications to share with his social group.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard John O'Meara, 42, was a "Jekyll and Hyde type of character" with a "party lifestyle" who fell in with the wrong crowd.

O'Meara lodged a guilty plea yesterday to charges relating to the possession of prescription tablets for sale or supply at his home on 24 Aug 2018, when police found 1,700 Xanax tablets and 330 Ritalin tablets.

The Court heard O'Meara was suspended from practicing as a pharmacist since Sep 2019, following an investigation into the three pharmacies he owns by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Judge Pauline Codd said O'Meara's actions had breached the trust members of the public have in pharmacists.

Issuing an 18-month suspended sentence, Judge Codd said she was taking into account the pharmacist's "particular vulnerabilities" from a young age and evidence that he was "using the supply of drugs as a means of sustaining friendships", *BreakingNews.ie* reported.



Wizard Pharmacy continues growth

WESTERN Australia's Wizard Pharmacy group is continuing its growth, announcing TerryWhite Chemmart Innaloo will join next month.

The Innaloo store will be the group's fifth takeover of 2020.

New franchisee, Aaron Van Vliet, said Wizard's approach to integrating pharmacy with broader health offerings and its partnership with RAC WA, were factors in his decision to switch over brands.

"We trust our customers will benefit from an even greater range of competitively priced products in store, an expanded professional service offering from the same pharmacy team they have come to know and trust, and an even better membership rewards program," he said.

"The Wizard brand will grow our



Pharmacy's position of preference with customers at Westfield Innaloo now and into the future as the fastest changing retail and healthcare environment Australia has ever seen continues to evolve."

Wizard Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, said the group was focused on supporting franchisees.

"This has been a challenging year for our pharmacy owners and our community, but Wizard is determined to provide outcomes that support success whilst providing value and our customer-centric care to as many West Australians as we can during these tough times," she said.

NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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