



Vic pharmacists fearful for future

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Wed 14th October 2020

### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus a full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

### TWC training

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart is offering 1,000 modules and personalise learning paths for any pharmacy role through its iLearn Platform.

See page four for more.

## Time to heel

**START** the summer on the right foot with Nova Pharmaceuticals' MediSOL Premium Heel Balm 120ml two free for every 10 offer.

Pharmacies can also secure a tray of six MediChoice Inhalers on orders of 24 units or more. Find out more on **page five**. PHARMACY owners in Victoria are voicing concerns over their stores' future viability after being excluded from the latest round of State Government Business Support Fund grants (PD 23 Sep).

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly yesterday, Liberal Party MP, James Newbury, accused the Victorian Government of failing businesses with its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This Government has yet again let the private sector down," he said.

"Pharmacies are not eligible for the third round of the Government's Business Support Fund, yet brothels and prostitution services are."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told **Pharmacy Daily**, that the organisation had written to relevant ministers, urging the Government to reconsider the decision to exclude community pharmacies from the grants. "It doesn't seem sensible that for instance a general practice within a large medical centre can apply for this funding, but a co-located pharmacy there cannot - despite both primary healthcare providers being able to operate in some form through the COVID restrictions and lockdowns in greater Melbourne," he said.

"We are yet to receive a formal written response and will continue to advocate on behalf of our members – some of whom are genuinely scared of the prospects of their own pharmacy's survival and the impact for their patients and staff on the other side of the pandemic.

"This issue remains unresolved and continues to be of concern to the Guild and our members.

"Just because community pharmacies have been a 'permitted business' through the COVID restrictions – does not mean that some aren't without significant



LEADN MOD

challenges for their ongoing viability."

Tassone said businesses are hoping that an easing of restrictions as part of the much anticipated "roadmap to recovery" will provide a boost for the economy.

"There is only so long that businesses, and pharmacies are no exception – can survive on life support of government assistance such as JobKeeper from the Federal government and other such as commercial tenancy relief at the state level," he said.



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## NSW moves for COVID-safe ID option

PHARMACISTS in NSW will be able to use patients' digital driver's licences as a COVID-safe contactless ID option when dealing with requests for medications such as pseudoephedrine, under legislation before the State's Legislative Assembly.

NSW Minister for Customer Service, Victor Dominello, said the Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020 would give the digital licence the same status as the physical licence (PD 18 Sep).

"Following enactment of the bill, pharmacists selling pseudoephedrine will have the benefit of being able to confirm the identity of their customers without having to touch their licence card," he said.

"The enhanced security of the digital driver licence will provide better assurance to industries, such as pharmacies, in considering issues like fraud when they are dealing with customer transactions and purchases.

"The increased security measures that come with the digital driver licence will better protect privacy and security and also detect criminal behaviour in relation to wrongful usage of driver licences."

Liberal MP, Eleni Petinos, noted "at the time the digital driver's licence was launched we could not have imagined the important benefit that it provides today - a no contact IT check and COVID-safe ID option".

"Pharmacists, second-hand dealers, publicans, security guards, bottle shop retailers and police are required to take and hold a person's licence card in order to check its validity and confirm a person's identity, age or authority to drive," she said.

"On the other hand, the digital

## Transition of care program funded

NORTHERN Sydney Primary Health Network (PHN) has secured Federal Government funding for two hospital discharge follow-up services.

The hospital to home support services delivered by Just Better Care and KinCare, aim to reduce the risk of re-admittance to hospital by helping patients to improve medication adherence and not eating well.

The services have been designed to help patients to settle back into their home life after surgery.

In 2019 the services assisted 338 people, after stints in public and private hospitals in Sydney's northern suburbs.

The services funded by Sydney



North Health Network enable the Just Better Care and KinCare teams to visit clients in their home on return from hospital, supporting them to live the way they want.

The teams are there to remove the burden of daily tasks and specialised care, helping people put all their effort into recovery.



driver licence can be easily verified by sight without the need for the checker to touch the mobile device."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, told Pharmacy Daily the move would support pharmacists recording patients' ID as part of Project Stop, noting a number of pharmacists in the state have been involved in a trial.

#### WADA 2021 **Prohibited List**

THE World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has released its 2021 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, which will come into force from 01 Jan 2021.

The list designates what substances and methods will be prohibited both in and out of competition, and which substances will be banned in specific sports.

The 2021 list has been redesigned to include a table of contents providing a nonexhaustive list of examples outlining medical conditions for which substances in different classes may be prescribed.

## Wally Masur Cup

**CAPITAL** Chemists Group has announced a Community Program Partnership with Tennis Australia ACT.

The partnership will see the introduction of the Wally Masur school-based tennis competition in Term 2 2021.

The new tournament will give students in years five and six the opportunity to compete in a friendly and supportive environment.

## Win With Blue Jacar

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## Dispensary Corner

#### AUTHORITIES in the

Netherlands had their hands full dealing with "fortune hunters" last week, after almost 300 packets of cocaine washed up on a Dutch beach.

The incident at the Kaloostrand in Borssele prompted a modern-day gold rush, with local police saying "certain people from all over the Netherlands came to try their luck on the beach because maybe even more packages will wash up".

Six people were arrested under suspicion of drug possession, with officers citing two men who "drove a few hundred kilometres to 'get some fresh air'" and were found with cocaine in their vehicle.

WITH the current importance of correct use of Personal Protective Equipment, we just couldn't resist the opportunity to highlight the inventiveness of a US woman whose safety approach is doing the rounds of the internet this week.

Computers have long had measures in place to protect against viruses, but it's the first time we've seen the software applied to COVID-19.



## Fred IT Group scoops Vic iAward

#### PHARMACY software

provider, Fred IT Group's role in the introduction of electronic prescriptions has seen the business named as the winner of the 2020 Victorian iAward for Business and Industry Solution of the Year.

In a statement announcing the win, Fred IT said the rollout of the national e-script system was "vital to modern healthcare delivery, and has been important in providing patients with greater flexibility in accessing medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic".

The company added e-scripts have been delivered within a six-month timeframe through collaboration with the Federal Department of Health, the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) and more than 90 industry vendors, including prescription



exchange services, MediSecure. Fred IT will host a webinar this evening at 7pm (AEDT) to introduce its MySL Active Script List e-script system.

The webinar will feature lessons learnt during the rollout of e-scripts

today, with the token model and Communities of Interest, and will be hosted by Fred IT CEO, Paul Naismith, with ADHA Medicines Safety Program Director, Andrew Matthews.

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