

Mon 23rd August 2021

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### Today's issue of *PD*

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

- HealthOne
- RJS Machinery

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Pharmacists can order Molnlycke products through major wholesalers.

See page three for more.

#### P2 face masks

PPE Tech is rolling out an extensive online, broadcast and billboard campaign to support the uptake of its Australian made P2 face masks.

See page four for more.

## Full scope may stretch rural practice

HIGH costs and limited access to an adequate workforce in regional and remote areas could make working to full scope of practice an impossibility for many pharmacists, the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) warns.

While the group backed efforts by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) to push for better utilisation of pharmacists' skills, the RPNA said "for many pharmacies the fundamentals needed to embrace full scope of practice simply aren't in place".

"We've been told by rural pharmacy owners that their staffing has been so stretched for so long that they simply can't contemplate any new services, no matter how much they want to, and the more isolated they are the worse-off they are," an RPNA spokesperson said.

"For many, the welfare of their staff team is the main consideration, with levels of burnout rising steadily during the pandemic.

"A lot of these owners feel unsupported, particularly on the matter of rural workforce financial incentives, where community pharmacy still lags 20 years behind rural GPs.

"And yet we have some pharmacy leaders and groups pushing the line that those choosing not to participate are unmotivated and even implying some don't deserve to survive.

"Nothing could be further from the truth.

"For these pharmacies, the 'just do it' mantra that they hear from the big banner end of the profession is not just unhelpful, it's downright dangerous."

The RPNA warned the Australian pharmacy network was at risk of becoming a two-tier system, split between those with the capacity to practice to full scope and underresourced stores.

The organisation welcomed Guild National President, Trent



Twomey's comments that the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020 was "not fit for purpose" (*PD* 19 Aug), but warned "fixing the Award alone won't solve rural community pharmacy's problems".

"We need pharmacy remuneration that addresses health disadvantage and postcode inequity," the spokesperson said.

"[And] we need a properly funded Rural Pharmacist Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) that is at least comparable to the GP WIP.

"Without workforce incentive money rural pharmacies already struggling with higher labour costs, will be completely priced out of the jobs market."



## TWC stores record 55k COVAX bookings

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) pharmacies are experiencing high demand for COVID-19 vaccination services, with more than 55,000 bookings made across the group's network.

Currently more than 330 stores across the TWC brand have commenced administering doses of the vaccine, with CEO, Duncan Phillips, expecting the number of TWC pharmacies involved to

surpass 400 in the coming weeks. Phillips said the brand had "invested significantly in resources, systems and training to support our network of vaccinating pharmacies to deliver a safe, professional and efficient vaccination experience for all Australians."

"We are committed to supporting our network with everything they need," he said.



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1. Schellenberg R, et al. Dose-dependent effects of the Cimicifuga racemosa extract Ze 450 in the treatment of climacteric complaints: a randomized, placebo-controlled study Evid Based Complement Alternat Med. 2012;(f): article ID 2603101. 2. Drewe J, et al. The effect of a Cimicifuga racemosa extract Ze 450 in the treatment of climacteric complaints—an observational study with Cimicifuga (Septimental Septimental Septiment





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## Dispensary Corner

**WITH** romantic nights out off the cards for those in lockdown across the country, data from adult retailer, Sexyland, suggests couples are keeping the sparks alive with lusty nights in.

Sales figures for the period from 18 Jul to 18 Aug, showed a significant increase in purchases of "couples games" compared with the month of Apr - up 200% in Queensland, while "fetish items" surged by 179.3% in Victoria during the same timeframe.

Sexyland National Marketing Manager, Rebecca Grech, said the data showed couples were using "these tough times to strengthen and explore their own intimacy".

"Australians are youthful, fun-loving people, who are obviously taking this opportunity to experiment a bit more than usual," she said.

"And that, above all, is really healthy."

With that in mind, pharmacy staff may be advised to brace for a whole new category of injury care in the weeks ahead.

## Sisterhood spirit thrives



**THROUGH** the challenges of lockdowns, stores across the Priceline Pharmacy network are continuing to raise funds for the brand's Priceline Sisterhood Foundation.

Over the last year pharmacy teams, customers and suppliers contributed \$1.4 million to the Foundation, with \$485,818, raised during its most recent campaign in Jul, Priceline General Manager, Andrew Vidler, said.

"At a time when store teams have been doing it so tough with lockdowns, it's incredible to see how much they've been able to raise," he said.

"It shows how deeply store staff and our customers care about their communities. "It proves that by banding together we can make a huge difference to the lives of others.

"We want to thank every member of the Priceline family for helping us to help women and their families."

Priceline Pharmacy Carlingford Court in NSW, has led the way, raising \$17,307, during the most recent campaign, earning the right to host an exclusive in-store performance by ARIA Awardwinning star, Samantha Jade, for their efforts.

Jade has also co-written a song called "Beautiful and Golden", which will be released this week to mark the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation's 10th anniversary.

**Pictured**, the Priceline Pharmacy Carlingford Court team.

## TGA moves on COVID treatment

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted provisional approval to GlaxoSmithKline's COVID-19 treatment, Xevudy (sotrovimab).

The monoclonal antibody treatment has been included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) for the treatment of patients aged 12 years and older and weighing at least 40kg, with COVID-19 who do not require initiation of oxygen and are at increased risk of progression to hospitalisation or death.

"Sotrovimab has been shown to reduce hospitalisation and death in patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who do not require supplemental oxygen and are at high risk of progression to severe disease," the TGA said.

The Australian Government has secured 7,700 doses of the treatment for the National Medical Stockpile.

The decision to grant provisional approval for sotrovimab follows similar authorisations by regulators in the US, Canada and Singapore.



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