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### Today's issue of PD

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

- RJS Machinery
- Sigma Healthcare

### COVAX name change backed

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved AstraZeneca's submission to change the name of its COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) to Vaxzevria.

The name change brings the CSL-produced shot in line with the branding in the European Union and Canada.

The move is expected to alleviate confusion and facilitate international recognition for Australians who have received the AZ shot, when travel restrictions are eased.



## COVID guidance useless in the bush

ADVICE that pharmacies in COVID-19-affected areas should operate multiple teams to mitigate against the impact of positive cases, will not work for rural pharmacies, Bourke-based pharmacy owner, Peter Crothers, believes.

With rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the north-west NSW town, Crothers said some of the guidelines for pharmacies impacted by the pandemic were simply not implementable.

"The recommendation to split staff into two teams and roster them apart is a good example of advice that is simply useless to many pharmacies," he said.

"Many rural pharmacies - even quite large ones - simply don't have the depth in their rosters to be able to split their team and it means they've been left without an effective staffing response in the case of becoming a close exposure site."

In a statement issued by the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA), Crothers said that with the escalation in COVID-19 cases numbers in recent days, supporting his staff had become an overwhelming concern, rather than attempting to roll out new services.



"It's wonderful to see other parts of the community pharmacy network being put to the test and rising to the challenge, it really is," he said.

"But out here we just don't have the means, and no-one is offering us any useful resource assistance - we need financial workforce incentives that reflect the much higher costs of recruiting and retaining staff in the bush, but they simply don't exist.

"I don't think anyone would describe me as professionally unmotivated but, far from expanding services, I've actually had to cut our trading hours as

a result of COVID-related staff stress and, now that we're under lockdown, new services including COVID vaccination are just impossible to think about."

With calls from professional bodies including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) for pharmacists to be empowered to work to their full scope of practice growing, an RPNA spokesperson warned such moves would fail to achieve equity of access for patients if supports are not implemented for rural pharmacy (PD 23 Aug).

"The network is only as strong as its weakest link," they said.

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## Pharmacies see COVAX uptake surge

**AUSTRALIA'S** COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) campaign is gathering pace with the number of doses administered through community pharmacies jumping 245% in the last week.

Data from the Federal Department of Health revealed that as of Fri 20 Aug, pharmacies across the country had administered 182,235 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine since 23 Jul, up from 52,678 on 13 Aug.

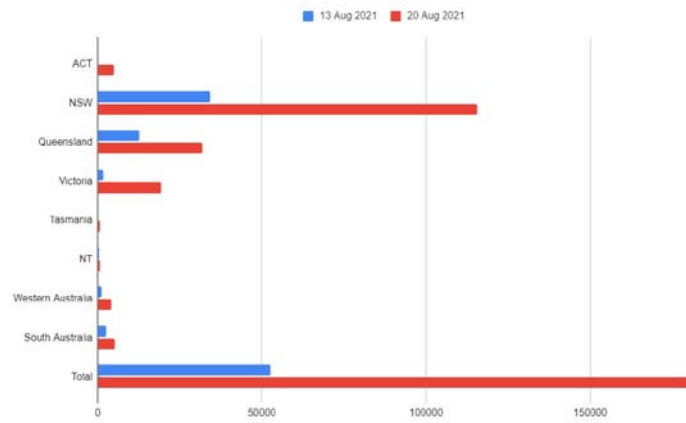
Pharmacies in NSW lead the way in terms of number of doses given (115,656), followed by Queensland (31,737) and Victoria (19,208).

Vaccination uptake through ACT pharmacies has surged from 68 on 13 Aug to more than 5,000 last Fri.

Last week also saw the start of the pharmacy COVAX rollout in Tasmania, with 528 shots administered to 20 Aug.

Of the 974,440 doses distributed to pharmacies across the country, 18.7% have been administered, up from 6.13% of the 859,800 that had

COVAX doses administered through community pharmacies.



been made available to the sector at 13 Aug.

The data revealed that pharmacies in the Northern Territory had administered the highest proportion of the doses allocated to the sector (57.4% of 1,200 doses), followed by the ACT, where 31.8% of the 15,800 shots have been administered as of 20 Aug, with NSW ranked third for

use of allocation (25.4% of 455,500 doses).

**MEANWHILE**, UNICEF is running its Give the World a Shot campaign, to boost COVAX accessibility in developing countries.

"We'll only begin to recover when people in lower-income countries have access to vaccines, tests and treatments," UNICEF said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to donate.

### Driving change

**INDEPENDENT** pharmacy group, Pharmacy Alliance, is implementing a strategic partnership with Medmate Australia, to drive digital transformation in the sector.

The deal will see Pharmacy Alliance offer electronic prescription enabled e-commerce websites to its 700-plus pharmacies to deliver online capability for prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Pharmacy Alliance members will also have the option to list their pharmacy on the Medmate App to boost their digital presence and reach more customers.



## Set Up for Success: How to run a successful COVID-19 vaccination clinic in community pharmacy

At Pharmacy Platform we have considered all aspects of your business, and there are some considerations to help ensure that you are set up for success in the COVID-19 vaccination roll out.

[Click here to read more](#)

Email [george.vatousios@pharmacyplatform.com.au](mailto:george.vatousios@pharmacyplatform.com.au) for more information.

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## Dispensary Corner



**DESPITE** strong scientific evidence showing the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines, the willfully ignorant are stubbornly refusing to accept the glaringly obvious.

Instead of fading into a fringe nuisance, the anti-vaccine movement is disturbingly becoming increasingly vocal and confrontational.

With Australian conspiracy theorists taking to the streets of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Tweed Heads over the weekend to protest against public health orders, British anti-vaxxers have taken it up a notch, descending on the head offices of media organisations.

Protesters occupied the headquarters of *ITV News* and *Channel 4 News* in London yesterday chanting scientifically unproven claims about COVID-19 vaccines and accusing the organisations of pushing vaccine passports, which they said were "incompatible with British values".

However, true-to-form the misguided and clearly ill-informed mob thought it had stormed the offices of the *Daily Mail*.



## Pharmily mourns Gilbert

**PHARMACISTS** from across Australia are mourning the passing of one of the profession's most influential leaders, Emeritus Professor Andrew Gilbert AM.

A Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Fellow and former Director of The Quality Use of Medicines and Pharmacy Research Centre, Gilbert passed away on Fri 20 Aug, surrounded by his family.

The South Australian pharmacist was internationally renowned for his research and consultancy work in areas of medicines policy and health practice change, PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman said.

"The loss of Professor Gilbert, Andy, affects me deeply," Freeman said.

"He had such a big influence on my career.

"Andy was a mentor who took me under his wing, provided me with many opportunities, and offered a voice of reason when I felt uncertain.

"I know he played a similar

role for many in the pharmacy profession.

"I am lucky to have called him a friend.

"Andy was instrumental in securing federal funding of Home Medication Reviews for at-risk people in the community, and further research on medication management issues in the veteran community.

"PSA extends its condolences to Andy's wife Marg, his daughters Kate and Alice, and the rest of his family. His legacy and impact on pharmacy practice will not be forgotten."

In a tweet posted yesterday, University of Sydney Dean of Pharmacy, Professor Andrew McLachlan, said Gilbert's "transformational research... continued to improve the lives of communities".

"Andy inspired, mentored and developed many in the #pharmily who continue to reap the benefits of his generous guidance and good grace," McLachlan said.

## Mill named PSA ECP Board Director

**ADELAIDE-BASED** pharmacist, Deanna Mill, has been appointed as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) new Early Career Pharmacists (ECP) Board Director.

The announcement follows the conclusion of Western Australian, Lauren Burton's term (**PD 15 Jun**) as a National Board Member.

With experience across hospital, community, rural, metropolitan, teaching and research settings, PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, welcomed Mill's appointment.

"Deanna's achievements to date are very impressive, and we warmly welcome her to the PSA National Board," he said.

"She is passionate about elevating ECP voices around the country and inspiring the broader profession to see beyond the current state of pharmacy practice, enabling innovation."

Freeman also thanked Burton for her contribution to the PSA over her three-year term.

"Lauren brought far more to the PSA Board in addition to her advocacy for ECPs," he said.



## Guild Update

### Increased Vaccine Supply

**WITH** community pharmacies rapidly joining the COVID-19 vaccines rollout, Australia is now passing new milestones.

More than 16 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have now been administered (15,892,260 as of 18 Aug).

Supply constraints are being tackled; an extra one million Pfizer doses have been sourced from Poland, and Moderna vaccines are expected soon.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison says "The Australian Government has already secured 25 million Moderna doses, with the first million expected to arrive in Sep".

"Planning is underway for these vaccines to roll out through approved pharmacies and other providers," he said.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is continuing to work with the Australian Government to maximise supplies through community pharmacies.

It's encouraging that while queues for COVID-19 testing can be long and delay people for hours, COVID-19 vaccination is readily and quickly available through accessible community pharmacists.

Across Australia, pharmacists are accelerating the vaccine rollout, helping return society faster to more normal social and economic activity.

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