

## Today's issue of PD

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

## Arrotex mental health push

**ARROTEX** Pharmaceutical's Chemists' Own will use its annual Help Us Help Our Local Community campaign to support the Mental Health Foundation Australia.

The campaign will run from Oct through to Dec and pharmacies across the country will come together to raise awareness of the importance of mental health and support the cause through in-store sales of Chemists' Own products.

Pharmacies will be able to register to participate over the month of Sep and participating pharmacies from each state will go in the draw to win a prize for their store and a \$12,000 donation to Mental Health Foundation Australia.

The campaign aims to help break the stigma around mental health at a grassroots level.

## Moderna COVAX approval welcomed

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) decision to approve the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) for people aged 12 years and older, is set to give community pharmacies a shot in the arm.

Welcoming the approval, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said the move to authorise the vaccine for adolescents would help increase community coverage against the virus.

"Increasingly we are seeing evidence of younger people being affected by the Delta strain of COVID-19, so it is imperative that this age group is protected along with the rest of the community throughout Australia," he said.

"Community pharmacies will be administering the Moderna vaccine as soon as supplies are available and extending the age-group eligibility is a common-sense move to ensure more people are protected.

"Importantly the availability of the Moderna vaccine means there are now two mRNA vaccines available in Australia – Moderna and Pfizer.

"The rate that patients are



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flocking to community pharmacies to have their vaccinations has highlighted the pivotal role community pharmacists are playing in the campaign to maximise vaccination uptake."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, told *Pharmacy Daily* that some States and Territories will need to grant approval for pharmacists to administer the vaccine to patients younger than 18 years.

However, Guild Victorian Branch

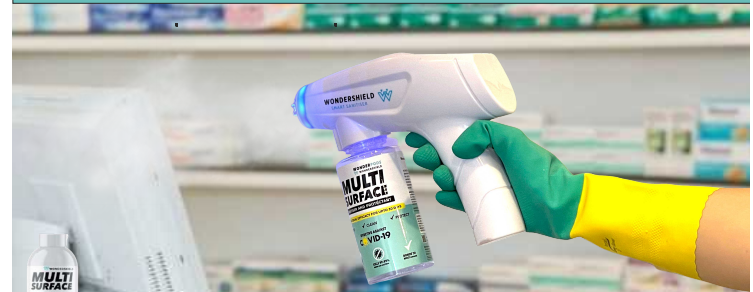


President, Anthony Tassone, noted orders in the State were aligned to TGA approval on COVAX, meaning no changes would be required.

**KILLS COVID-19 TGA LISTED ARTG 354310**

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## No monkeying around with COVAX

**PHARMACIES** across the country are playing a vital role in boosting uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations (COVAX) with Sydney-based pharmacy owner, Christine Kelly, setting up a pop-up occupational staff health clinic at Taronga Zoo.

Kelly, who owns *ThePharmacy* in Leichhardt, told *Pharmacy Daily* that “as a health professional, pharmacists have a moral obligation to do everything we can to vaccinate and ultimately protect our community”.

“Sometimes this takes an extra level of innovation to reach out and engage, beyond the doors of our pharmacy,” she said.

“This is why we set up a staff occupational health clinic in collaboration with Taronga Zoo as provided for under the NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards.

“Taronga Zoo is playing a proactive role to provide a safe work environment by offering their staff and volunteers the ability to get vaccinated.

“Also, as a key attraction in the Australian travel and tourism industry, they are showing



leadership and readiness when borders reopen.

“The Taronga Zoo clinic ensured all Zoo staff and volunteers could be vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine, in a familiar and friendly environment.

“Additionally, those attending provided a support structure for others that were still hesitant to get vaccinated.

“In this situation they were supported by their colleagues, friends and loved ones being vaccinated with them.

“Feedback from the clinic shows that the approach worked, and

it helped those that were ‘on the fence’ take that next step and get the jab.”

Kelly, who ran the clinic on Thu, said her team was able to upload vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) within minutes of patients receiving their shot, and “a lot of people were getting the pings through the immunisation register as they were sitting there for their 15 minute observation”.

The Pharmacy team will be back at Taronga Zoo in four weeks time to give staff and volunteers their second dose.

## Natalis enters ACM partnership

**ARROTEX** Pharmaceuticals’ pregnancy multivitamin brand, Natalis, will continue its partnership with the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) for a further 12 months.

The partnership deal will see Natalis sponsor the ACM’s virtual conference, while the College’s logo will be displayed on the point-of-sale materials.

Arrotex added that further initiatives were being explored for 2022, including the ACM logo being added to the Natalis packaging and additional involvement in national ACM conferences and other midwife-centred education activities.

## Vaping update

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued updated information about nicotine vaping products to assist pharmacists ahead of the items becoming Schedule 4 medicines on 01 Oct.

With no vaping products currently listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), pharmacists will be allowed to dispense unapproved products through the Authorised Prescriber scheme or the Special Access Scheme Category B.

Pharmacies will be able to source products that meet minimum safety and quality requirements from Australian sponsors or directly from overseas suppliers.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.

## Philips ramps up CPAP supply chain

**PHILIPS** Australia expects an initial delivery of replacement DreamStation CPAP and BiLevel PAP devices to arrive by late Sep, following a product recall related to a safety hazard caused by foam degradation (*PD 28 Jul*).

In an update issued by the company last week, Philips said it “aims to address all affected devices within the scope of this correction but due to the volume of devices and different models that have been affected, we regret it may take some time to repair or replace patients’ devices.”

“Philips has mobilised the necessary resources across the company to address the component quality issue,” the company said.

“The priority is to replace the foam with the new material in all the affected devices either by



repairing or replacing with like devices.

“The company’s efforts include wide-scale, global ramping up of manufacturing, repair, services, and supply chain to support this corrective action.”

Philips urged patients or their carers to register their devices via the company’s website - **HERE**.

Philips added it would provide further updates regarding its repair and replacement plan, including for other affected models.

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### Dispensary Corner

**WANNABE** Casanova, Stephen Cooper's efforts to "keep up" with the sexual stamina of his younger lover, have left him red-faced.

The 46-year-old Englishman was busted after pilfering a packet of erectile dysfunction treatment, Viagra (sildenafil), from a Staffordshire pharmacy on 19 Mar.

A Magistrate at the North Staffordshire Justice Centre heard the offence occurred just eight days after police had executed a drugs warrant at his home, where they found a small quantity of cannabis on a bedside table.

Prosecutor, Karen Wright, revealed that Cooper had a history of light-fingered behaviour, having been caught attempting to pocket four packs of Viagra from the same pharmacy a month earlier, however the pharmacy team did not report the initial incident, after he apologised.

Defending Cooper, lawyer, Iain Haley, described the offences as being "low level", and stressed the 46-year-old was no "hardened criminal".

The Magistrate opted against a stiff penalty for the offences, ordering Cooper to forfeit the cannabis for destruction, and pay £35 compensation and a £22 surcharge.



## Health top cyber target

AUSTRALIA'S healthcare sector is increasingly coming under attack from cyber criminals and malicious actors, the latest Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) *Notifiable Data Breaches Report* reveals.

In the six months to 30 Jun, close to one-in-five notifiable data breaches occurred in the health sector, with 56% of those incidents linked to criminal attacks.

OAIC and Privacy Commissioner, Angelene Falk noted the healthcare industry has continued to top the list for data breaches.

"During the past six months the majority of notifications by health service providers involved malicious or criminal attacks, whereas in previous reports human error has been the leading cause of data breaches," she said.

Falk urged healthcare providers to boost their security services to combat the increasing number of cyber attacks.

"Malicious actors target health



service providers due to the valuable information they hold," she said.

"Health information is sensitive in nature and needs to be treated carefully.

"Handling this information appropriately underpins the trust in a provider-patient relationship.

"Health service providers can embed good privacy in their practice by understanding their privacy obligations, improving security, revising systems and processes for responding to breaches, and training staff on secure information handling practices."



### Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Blaine Woods, Network Partner, 2021 Pharmacist of the Year Finalist, TerryWhite Chemmart Keperra, QLD**



**Having a customer's trust is a privilege.**

**WORKING** as a pharmacist in the community is a fulfilling role and it has helped me to forge many strong customer relationships. We all choose this profession to help people with empathy, kindness and honesty. We see people in both joyful and tough times and we are relied upon to help clarify uncertainties, fix problems and sometimes, just to listen. Hearing how much our help has meant to someone through these times is often eye-opening and reminds us of the trust that customers have in us.

One of our key pharmacy values is to build trust. We build trust by being a service that can be relied upon - we follow through, we call back, we make sure that product is in when we say it will be, we deliver on time.

Delivering on these expectations isn't always easy and there have been times that I have moved mountains and travelled long distances to get a medication for a customer or spent hours researching an answer to a question.

I'm not alone in doing these things - all the pharmacists around me and, I am sure, around Australia do the same. Having a customer's trust is a privilege that comes with responsibility and hard work. #WPD2021

## Win with Cheeki

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