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## Qld's Moderna campaign gets started

**PHARMACISTS** in Queensland are starting to administer Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) today, with close to 80,000 doses allocated to stores across the state.

With the vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for all Australians aged 12 years and older, Brisbane's Beak and Breusch families were at the top of the line at Priceline Pharmacy George Street, this morning.

Twelve-year-olds, Archie Beak, and Tara Breusch (pictured), were

the first to receive doses of the Moderna vaccine in Queensland.

Welcoming the rollout of the mRNA vaccine, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, stressed the need for school children to be immunised.

"Increasingly we are seeing evidence of younger people being affected by the Delta strain of COVID-19, so it is imperative that children like Archie and Tara are protected along with the rest of the community throughout



Queensland," he said.

"With the arrival of the Moderna vaccine all adolescents and adults can be covered.

"This is great news for Queenslanders and all Australians. It's through vaccination that we come out of the pandemic - make sure you get vaccinated, and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to get vaccinated too."

Owen said the Guild had been "blown away" by the number of Queenslanders accessing COVAX through community pharmacies across the State.

"At 20 Sep more than 75,000 AstraZeneca doses had been administered through Queensland community pharmacies," he said.

"Regardless of your age, when you arrive at your community pharmacy, your pharmacist will undertake a health assessment and discuss the risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine."

### Make it happen

**GETTING** the chemistry of your store right can be critical to attracting patients and improving the efficiency of the pharmacy.

From front-of-shop features to the layout of the dispensary, design specialist, Pharmacium, aims to create efficiencies by tailoring your pharmacy to the way your team works.

See **page five** for more.

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### Today's issue of PD

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

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Pharmacium

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

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Join PSA as we celebrate excellence across our profession! A livestream broadcast of the awards ceremony will take place this Friday, 24th September, 5:30-6:15pm (AEST).

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## Keeping it clean

**THE** Sydney Opera House and Dettol Australia have launched a two-year partnership aimed at instilling life-long hygiene habits in young Aussies.

Through the partnership Dettol will support the Opera House in its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, by promoting health and wellbeing, through the new purpose-built Centre for Creativity, which is due to open early next year.

Dettol's handwashing tips and hand sanitiser will also be available across the Opera House to reinforce best-practice hygiene and assist in the return of artists, audiences and visitors.

## Attacks on TGA staff 'unacceptable'

**REPORTS** of threats, intimidation and harassment aimed at staff from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), by anonymous anti-vaccination campaigners, are "an unacceptable development", the Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) says.

In a statement condemning the threats against those working for the regulator, the PHAA and 31 other health bodies, voiced their support for the "vital work the TGA does to access and regulate new medicines and vaccines".

"The TGA has a strong reputation for being expert, independent and rigorous in its assessments of new products, and is similarly rigorous in its assessment of the safety of vaccines, so as to improve and protect the health of all Australians," the statement said.

"Another essential role of our medicines regulator is to challenge, and where necessary, prosecute those who seek to mislead the Australian public about important health information so as to pursue their own interests. This role is particularly important in the current global health crisis.

"Now is a time when Australians must have confidence in the assessments and recommendations of the TGA, and we believe Australians' trust in the TGA is well placed."

Speaking with *The New Daily*, PHAA CEO, Terry Slevin, said the TGA had become "a lightning rod for the disaffected", with some threats apparently coming from anti-lockdown protesters as well as anti-vaxxers, with figures "in the political sphere" possibly encouraging them.



"They're circulating mobile numbers of senior people in the organisation and encouraging their supporters to make threatening calls – they're sending things by various channels, images involving gallows and various other ghoulish kinds of behaviour," he said.

"Unfortunately, there's been various efforts of people to draw attention to the responsibilities and the decisions being made by the TGA."

## TGA issues tocilizumab instructions

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued instructions for pharmacies, to advise how to order Actemra (tocilizumab) ACTPen autoinjector and pre-filled syringe products, with shortages expected to continue until early 2022.

The formal instructions were issued yesterday, with the TGA

implementing the Tocilizumab Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) last month (PD 16 Aug).

Under the SSSI pharmacists can offer adult patients whichever subcutaneous device of Actemra is available, without prior contact with the prescriber.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Dispense Assist offers novel solution

**PHARMACY** software provider, Dispense Assist, is offering pharmacy owners a secure online tool to meet dispensing challenges when staff are stretched.

The platform enables Dispense Assist pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to login and dispense medicines using a pharmacy's dispensing system, freeing up in-store staff to deliver professional services.

The service can be booked at any point, with the company noting it "can be used when you



can't find casual or permanent staff to replace staff when on leave, [or] to help over-worked and stressed staff".

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Win with Wondershield

Wondershield and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away a Wondershield's Wonderpods starter kit.

Disinfect your pharmacy like a pro with Wondershield's Wonderpods. The starter kit includes a sleek nano spray gun, with 2 pre-filled pods of Wondershield's TGA listed alcohol-free solution. Once applied, Wondershield offers up to 30 days of antibacterial protection and is also effective against COVID-19 ARTG : 354310.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.



Who is the Founder of Wondershield?

For a chance to win, send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

## SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON TELEHEALTH!

Researchers at the University of Newcastle and Macquarie University are looking for pharmacists to complete a short survey about their views and experience with telehealth.



MACQUARIE University



For more information, and to complete the survey please **CLICK HERE**





## Dispensary Corner

**WHO** really benefits from anti-vaccination campaigns?

That was the question behind a somewhat edgy effort from North Carolina-based advertising agency, BooneOakley over the weekend.

In a bid to win over COVID-19 vaccine skeptics, the agency's owner, David Oakley, decided to put his advertising skills to work and hired a mobile billboard adorned with the slogan, "Don't get vaccinated", with branding and a web address for Wilmore Funeral Home beneath it.

The provocative message was then driven around Charlotte, ahead of the NFL clash between the Carolina Panthers and New Orleans Saints.

To the disinterested it could have seemed to be part of an anti-vax campaign, however, fans keen to learn why they should dodge the shot, soon discovered the undertaker's grim warning - "Get vaccinated now. If not, see you soon", with a link to a booking page to get a shot at a local health clinic.

"A lot of the advertisements that you see right now for pro-vaccine are very simple like, 'get the shot', 'get vaccinated'... we wanted to do something that saw things from a different perspective," Oakley said.

"The idea came about when we thought about who would really benefit from people not getting the shot and you kind of go back to the simple fact that people are dying that aren't vaccinated, so who benefits from people dying? A funeral home."

## Job seekers to join pharmacy sector

**BRISBANE-BASED** job seekers are being urged to take up the Queensland Government's Community Work Skills Program to retrain to work on the frontline in community pharmacies.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, described the fully-funded program which sees students graduate with an SIR20116 Certificate II in Community Pharmacy, as an excellent opportunity for participants to join the sector.

"We are delighted that we're able to give people a chance to participate in this program and begin a new career path in community pharmacy," he said.

"There has been a lot of interest in previous cohorts of the program.

"I have heard many stories

from participants who have endured the lockdowns and become unemployed because of the coronavirus pandemic – this program offers a unique opportunity to retrain and upskill to become a pharmacy assistant."

Owen noted that more than 150 people across the State had participated in the course over the last 12 months, with many graduates "now employed in Queensland's network of almost 1,200 community pharmacies".

Among the latest group of students to complete the seven-week face-to-face program was, Johnathon Trumper (**pictured**), who had previously worked in the hospitality sector.

Since completing his training, Trumper has secured a full-time role with TerryWhite Chemmart,



working across two locations, and plans to train to become a dispensary technician.

Candidates for the upcoming course must register by Fri 08 Oct, with the program commencing on Mon 11 Oct, and running until Fri 26 Nov.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Dermal Therapy Sanitising Hand Cream

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