

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, and a full page from Willach.

Pharmacy design

PHARMACY design and dispensing specialist, Willach, can support proprietors looking to update their compounding facilities, offering tailored solutions. See page four for more.

PharmaCall court date

HEALTHCARE sales and account management provider, PharmaCall is set to face an application for a winding up order later this month.

An application for the order was filed by COVID-19 rapid antigen test provider, Hough Pharma, according to *Insolvency Notices*.

The case is set to go before the Supreme Court in Queensland on 18 Aug.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Pharmacists petition for RLAP change

ELIGIBILITY criteria for people seeking to access the Rural Locum Assistance Program (RLAP) needs to be changed to avoid the closure of rural and remote pharmacies, Western Australian pharmacist, Nathalka Sakalo, believes.

Sakalo launched an online petition this morning, following reports that a rural pharmacy in Tasmania has been forced to close, after the store's owner, Mark Fletcher (the only pharmacist in Strahan), died last year.

Fletcher's widow, Julie, has relied on locum pharmacists to keep the pharmacy open, while attempting to find someone to takeover the business.

However, she told *ABC News* that she had attempted to access the RLAP to secure cover, but had been knocked back, because she is not a registered pharmacist.

The rejection has forced Fletcher to close the pharmacy for a number of days this week.

"They cover a range of people, like doctors, but not pharmacy assistants or owners of pharmacies," she said.

"It's totally unjust, it's totally unfair.

"I can't understand why I can't get funding for four weeks a year,



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because I'm not a pharmacist."

Sakalo said it was not the first time that rural communities have lost pharmacy services due to the RLAP criteria.

"There have been multiple instances in very remote and rural locations that a non-pharmacist has needed to apply to keep the pharmacy doors open," she said.

"Their application has been rejected based solely on their lack of pharmacist registration, and the pharmacy has needed to close its doors.

"This can be disastrous for those remote locations, who rely on the pharmacy for life-saving medications and basic healthcare.

Tasmanian Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, has weighed in on the issue, sending a letter to Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, seeking support to enable the pharmacy to remain open.

"I ask that you consider Julie's circumstances for assistance by the RLAP and consider whether exceptional circumstances like those in Strahan may be considered for this valuable service," he wrote.

Rockliff noted that Fletcher had kept the store open through "determination, goodwill and the support of the Tasmanian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia".

[CLICK HERE](#) to access Sakalo's petition.



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Viatrix is rebranding. All packaging will soon feature the Viatrix logo

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TEQSA blocks pharmacy cheating site

AT LEAST one website offering to help Australian pharmacy students to cheat has been blocked by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA).

Last week the agency announced it had blocked access to 40 academic cheating websites, that collectively received an average of close to 450,000 visits a month.

A TEQSA spokesperson told *Pharmacy Daily* that at least one of the sites “was advertising academic cheating services to pharmacy services at Australian higher education institutions”.

“While TEQSA does not have information about whether pharmacy students used these illegal services, we encourage all institutions to review their academic integrity and misconduct policies regularly, and to ensure expectations around



academic integrity are regularly communicated to students,” a spokesperson said.

TEQSA has warned students who are using the sites that they could put their future careers in jeopardy.

“If you use academic cheating services you might not learn all the skills you need for your career,”

the agency said.

“You also risk losing your money, your enrolment, and even your student visa.

“In some cases, you could be blackmailed by the cheating service providers who might threaten to tell your institution or a future employer that you cheated.”

Vic Aged Care consultation

PHARMACISTS in Victoria are being invited to share their views on how the State can improve the management and administration of medications in residential aged care facilities.

The Victorian Department of Health has commissioned consultancy firm, EY, to conduct a survey on the *Improving medication management in residential aged care* consultation paper.

Patient safety a priority for Blackmores

SUPPLEMENTS giant, Blackmores, has moved to reassure pharmacists that patient safety is its top priority, following reports of historical allegations relating to its Practitioner-Only BioCeuticals ranges.

The Guardian reported that a number of BioCeuticals products were left on pharmacy shelves despite complaints about potential contamination.

In a letter to customers a spokesperson for the company

said, “we hold ourselves to the highest standard for product quality, safety, consumer satisfaction and continuous improvement.”

“Blackmores investigated all matters thoroughly and remediated where required and all products which were named in the article that are still available for sale are true to label, compliant with Therapeutic Goods Administration regulations and safe for use for their intended purpose,” the spokesperson said.

Free N95 masks

THE Victorian Government is set to distribute free N95 and KN95 masks to vulnerable members of the community in an effort to curb the transmission of COVID-19.



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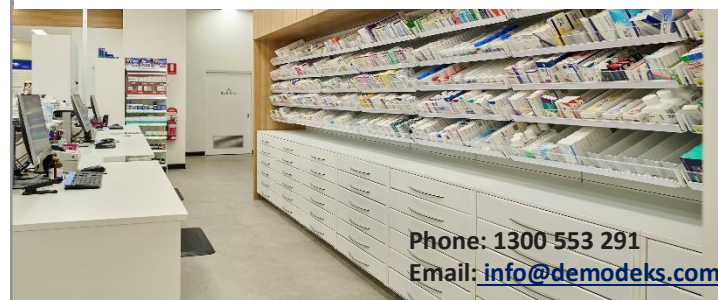
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Dispensary Corner

US-BASED cybersecurity firm, Kasada, is warning that bots are targeting pharmacy customers' online accounts to sell access to legitimate prescriptions for medications including Oxycodone.

The company has reported that the number of stolen accounts being offered for sale has increased by 500% in the last 60 days.

Kasada said the pilfered accounts were being flogged on the "regular internet" as well as the "dark web", with cybercriminals offering their customers the option to pay using cash transfers or cryptocurrencies.

With bots attacking accounts linked to some of the US's largest pharmacy groups, as well as independent stores and online retailers, people seeking to access prescription medicines can pick the pharmacy and medication of their choice.

So confident in the quality of their ill-gotten data, criminals are providing guarantees that if the account does not work, they will provide a new account to their clients at the same pharmacy free of charge.

"It's easy to see how the illegal sale of stolen pharmacy accounts can be a profitable venture," the researchers concluded.

"Not to mention very dangerous - by enabling medications to be put into the hands of people who don't have a prescription."

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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