

Today's issue of PD

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

- Pharmacium
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Qld CHO joins APP speakers

QUEENSLAND'S new Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, is the latest speaker to be added to the list of experts who will address next month's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) on the Gold Coast.

Gerrard is set to discuss pharmacy's role in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout and provide an update on booster vaccines, on Fri 25 Mar, alongside representatives from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Moderna and Pfizer.

CLICK HERE to see the full APP program.

Pharmacist prescribing no solution

EXPANDING pharmacists' prescribing rights is "not a rural workforce solution", Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Rural Chair, Dr Michael Clements, believes.

Responding to suggestions that the Queensland Health *Unleashing the potential: an open and equitable health system* report backed pharmacist prescribing, the RACGP said the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland Branch had "actively mischaracterised the report's findings".

"The only time pharmacy prescribing was mentioned was by a stakeholder saying that they wanted it – and where the report talked about 'full scope of practice' was for allied health," Clements told the RACGP's *newsGP* publication.

"I work in remote communities, and I just haven't seen a town that's got a pharmacist sitting there waiting to do consults with no primary care services.

"The pharmacies only open where there's a steady supply of scripts

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and so they generally only open up where there is already a reasonable primary care service in place."

Clements added that there was no evidence to support assertions made by the Guild that expanded pharmacist prescribing was associated with a reduction in emergency department presentations.

"I'd like to see the evidence for that, as that's not borne out by every other report we've seen from Queensland Health or any other

state," he said.

"There just isn't a link between what they're trying to propose and any benefit – there's not even a tenuous link."

While critical of the Guild's push for pharmacist prescribing, Clements said GPs have "always absolutely loved the idea of working with pharmacists... but what the Guild is proposing is a new scope of practice, not a full scope of practice, and there's just no evidence [to support it]".

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Businesses unlikely to get BI payouts

PHARMACIES adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are increasingly unlikely to receive payouts under business interruption (BI) insurance cover, following a recent ruling by the Federal Court of Australia.

Pharmacy insurance specialist, Carollo Horton and Associates CEO, Giuseppe Carollo, told **Pharmacy Daily** that the protracted nature of the case was "playing to the favour of insurers".

The Full Court's ruling backed Federal Court Justice Jayne Jagot's conclusion in the second test case related to COVID-19-related BI claims in Oct 2021, that "the insuring clauses did not apply".

"It's been a long battle," Carollo said.

"There is still the possibility of a High Court appeal but it's increasingly unlikely that many businesses receive a payout.

"We understand it has been difficult not having the certainty around these decisions for many months now.

"There have been many issues



concerning the interpretation of BI policies that had to be decided.

"This was the reason for the second BI test case."

Carollo noted that many pharmacy owners appeared pessimistic about the prospect of getting a payout.

"A lot of pharmacies are already resigned to that, [saying] 'we've moved on, we've got some Government benefits along the way and at least we were able to trade unlike other shops,'" he said.

With both Carollo Horton and Guild Insurance's BI policy wordings

referencing the Quarantine Act, Carollo said they were "potentially more able to make a payout" based on an initial NSW Court of Appeal test case ruling in Nov 2020.

"I think whatever the result, it'll affect both of them the same way," he said.

"So it's almost like the whole industry will get it or not get it, and it sounds like at the moment they will not get anything."

Carollo added that COVID-19 was an anomaly when it came to BI insurance, with insurers paying out for other BI claims.

Apr deadline for sub-register

PHARMACISTS who returned to the profession through the 2020 pandemic sub-register have until 05 Apr to opt-in to extend their temporary registration.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia said that there was no obligation on pharmacists listed on the sub-register to practise, but "those who are already supporting the pandemic response, or who have decided they would like to, now have the option of extending their registration or transitioning to the main register".

By opting in pharmacists on the sub-register will continue to hold temporary registration until midnight on 21 Sep, or they can formally apply for registration on the main register using a transition pathway.

CLICK HERE for more information about the process.

TGA issues fines for vaping imports

A MELBOURNE-BASED

individual has been issued two infringement notices totalling \$5,328 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in relation to the alleged unlawful importation of nicotine vaping products.

The TGA reported that the unnamed person allegedly imported more than 19kg of nicotine vaping products, that were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Under current legislation, individuals are required to



hold a valid prescription from an Australian doctor, to access nicotine vaping products, and can be purchased through pharmacies or imported under the Personal Importation Scheme.

ATAGI issues advice for kid's Moderna

THE Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has released its recommendations for the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six to 11 years.

The guidance follows the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) decision to grant provisional approval for the vaccine to be administered to children on a two-dose schedule of 50µg per shot, administered eight weeks apart.

ATAGI noted that there is not paediatric-specific formulation



for the Moderna vaccine, adding "there is a risk of dosing, including over-dosing, errors with the Moderna vaccine for children".





Dispensary Corner

PHARMACY robberies are rarely anything to chuckle about, but occasionally karma comes almost instantly to the would-be bandit.

One such moment of terror-turned hilarity occurred in Dublin, Ireland, over the weekend, when a thief's getaway plans were foiled before he could flee the scene.

Operating with a "bank-style" double door entrance, the 30-year-old Dubliner thought he was in the clear with his stash of stolen goods, only to find himself trapped between the store's inner and outer entrance doors of Stacks Pharmacy, the *Sunday World* reported.

Adding to the somewhat joyful failure of the robber's efforts, his capture was caught on camera and posted to social media platform, TikTok, under the title 'Robbery in progress. Dublin Darndale pharmacy robbery'.

Pharmacy owner, Ade Stack, said the caged thief caused a lot of damage attempting to smash his way out of the store, "but he was secured and kept away from our team by being stuck between the two bank doors".

"The reason the doors are there is to protect my team and we have them in a number of our pharmacies," she said.

"They act as a deterrent... so someone would know yes, you might rob the pharmacy but you won't be able to leave because you'll be stuck between the two bank doors."

CLICK HERE to watch the heart-warming video.

Healthcare remains top cyber target

AUSTRALIA'S healthcare sector continues to experience more data breaches than any other industry, despite a decline in cases, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) reports.

The latest OAIC Notifiable Data Breach Report, covering the six months to 31 Dec 2021, revealed a decline in the number of incidents impacting the sector - 83 of 464 reported cases, compared to 85 of the 436 notifiable breaches in the Jan to Jun 2021 period.

However, health providers reported more breaches related malicious or criminal attacks than any other sector in the Jul to Dec 2021 reporting period (39), with just under a quarter of those cases relating to a "rogue employee" or "insider threat" and a further 18% linked to "theft of paperwork or [a]

data storage device".

A further four malicious attacks on health providers involved ransomware, while phishing scams and compromised or stolen credentials accounted for 16 breaches in the sector.

Health providers also reported the biggest number caused by human error in the same period (39), with personal information being sent to the wrong email recipient accounting for 15 cases, while loss of paperwork or a data storage device was a factor in seven incidents, the OAIC report noted.

The sector was tied with the financial services industry for the highest number of breaches associated with "system fault breakdown", both recording five cases in the six-month-period, with two incidents related to unintended



access, and three associated with unintended release or publication of data.

Speaking at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference last year, Fred IT Managed Services General Manager, Andrew McManus, warned pharmacy owners that "on average anywhere between three and five pharmacies every six to eight weeks tend to get a ransomware attack" (*PD* 25 May 2021).

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