

## iCollege and Pharmacy Guild of Australia partner to design infection control training

- iCollege and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (The Guild RTO 0542) have signed a partnership agreement to design and promote the Government launched infection control training.
- Infection control skill set to be promoted to 5,800 community pharmacies across Australia.
- Federal and state governments have joined together to provide funding for the training through the \$80m Infection Control Training Fund – iCollege has funding contracts in five Australian States and Territories and can therefore immediately facilitate the courses online or in person.
- iCollege to be paid between ~\$290 and ~\$620 for each pharmacy worker that undergoes training.
- iCollege and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia are collaborating to ensure that this training can be delivered to pharmacy workers who are on the primary health care workers in the battle against COVID-19.
- Other industry sectors being pursued – healthcare, transport and logistics, retail, hospitality and professional sporting codes all of which will attract government funding.
- iCollege has the largest geographical reach of any private Registered Training Organisation to deliver this training with the exception of TAFE.

iCollege Limited (ASX: ICT) ('ICT' or 'the company') is excited to announce the signing of a partnership agreement with **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (The Guild)**. This agreement has been executed today and will remain in place for 12 months.

The agreement is to jointly develop a customised Infection Control Skill Set and collaboratively market and deliver this important training to Australia's community pharmacies.

On 16 May 2020, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash - Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business said in a media release that ***"The Morrison Government and all State and Territory governments have agreed to jointly invest in a new \$80 million infection control training fund. The fund will support customer-facing businesses to train workers in how to minimise the risk of spread of COVID-19 and support them to re-open safely. The fund will enable the rollout of new infection control short courses, the first national training product developed by the new Australian Industry Skills Emergency Response Sub-Committee in response to COVID-19. Around 80,000 workers across industries including retail, food handling, and transport and logistics will pay no fee or a small fee for training previously only widely available in the health sector."***

Since the Ministers announcement, iCollege has been diligently working on the contextualisation (customisation) of these skill sets (short courses) and will also make them available to the healthcare, transport and logistics, retail, food, hospitality and sporting industries.

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This important partnership with The Guild means that the retail skill set will now be further contextualised, utilising the expertise of The Guild's own subject matter experts, to ensure safe practices are in place for pharmacy staff who are on the front line of the fight against COVID-19. Under the terms of the agreement The Guild will receive licensing payments for the addition of their training materials and further development of the skill set.

This short course can be delivered both online and in a face to face format if required. This training is nationally accredited and all who complete the short course will be provided with a Statement of Attainment and more importantly, the knowledge to safely perform their duties in the workplace.

Through subsidiary businesses, Sero Institute, Celtic Training and Capital Training Institute, iCollege has funding contracts in place with the relevant state bodies in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory. This gives iCollege the largest geographical reach of any RTO to deliver this training with the exception of TAFE. iCollege is currently working on being able to deliver the training in Tasmania, Victoria and The Northern Territory.

The table below outlines the government-funded cost per candidate who successfully completes the training in each state where iCollege currently holds a training contract. iCollege will be paid the respective fee (below) for each successful course completion:

STATE	FUNDING (Metro prices)
Queensland	\$400
Western Australia	\$291
South Australia	\$494
Australian Capital Territory	\$350
New South Wales	\$620

Students will learn a range of skills, including:

- hand hygiene practices
- effective surface cleaning
- interacting safely with the general public
- use of personal protective equipment
- disposal of contaminated waste
- hazard identification, control and reporting
- appropriate protocols and responses in the event of an incident
- knowledge regarding the basis of infection and transmission
- pharmacy specific operating procedures and specific infection control measures required when dealing with the dispensation of medications and assisting members of the general public who may pose a risk.

#### Comment

**The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director Suzanne Greenwood said:** *"As the peak body for community pharmacies across Australia, we are excited to be working with iCollege to make available customised Infection Control Training to our members. Our members and their staff work tirelessly in the battle against COVID-19 and it is our priority to ensure they all have the knowledge and tools they require to do their job safely. The customisation of this training in conjunction with iCollege provides our members with access to that knowledge. Community pharmacists are highly trained, trusted and easily accessible health professionals – this training supports community pharmacy to be there for the community in these challenges days. We will be providing our members with all of the information they require in order to access this important Government initiative."*

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**iCollege Executive General Manager Stuart Manifold added:** *"iCollege is pleased to partner with The Pharmacy Guild of Australia on this important training initiative. iCollege has delivered similar services for the last 5 years through our subsidiary companies as a part of full qualifications. With the assistance of The Guild's Subject Matter Experts, we will be able to provide a very relevant short course of the highest standard to community pharmacy. The iCollege team have worked diligently to ensure the course is easy to access through our learning management system. Additionally, a dedicated and dual branded site will be made available to Pharmacy Guild members which will guide them through the enrolment process. Collectively we take great pride in the fact that we are contributing in a small way to ensuring the safety of those fighting the pandemic and their customers."*

*"With our established government contracts and accreditation, and our national presence, we can immediately mobilise quickly to deliver this very necessary and valuable training. Our partnership in the pharmacy sector is the first step, and with the government funding in place, we are looking to roll out the training much more widely in the healthcare, transport and logistics, retail, hospitality and professional sporting sectors. As an accredited RTO nationally, we are best placed to do this."*

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board.

## **iCollege Limited (ASX:ICT)**

iCollege is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:ICT) and is a holding company for a number of Registered Training Organisations (RTO's). iCollege is currently expanding business offerings both in terms of scope of delivery and geographical locations. iCollege currently operates campuses in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney and Canberra. These facilities offer the scope of training provided by all iCollege Registered Training Organisations.

The Infection Control Skill set is currently "on scope" for Sero Institute, Capital Training Institute and Celtic Training.

iCollege currently holds state Government training contracts to deliver this skill set in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

## **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is the national peak organisation for community pharmacy owners, with over 90 years of experience in representing and promoting the value of community pharmacy in the Australian health care system. It seeks to support community pharmacy in its role delivering quality health outcomes for all Australians.

The Guild is committed to supporting and maintaining the community pharmacy model as the most appropriate and efficient system of delivering medicines, medication management and related services to the Australian public.

Over 5800 community pharmacies across Australia dispense over 300 million prescriptions annually.

**Ends-**

## **For further Information:**

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