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## September 2024 Newsletter

The Committee at Geelong Ostomy present your September Newsletter.

### **New Member Support Group**

The first meeting of the newly formed “New Member Support Group” was held on Thursday 15 August 2024. This was a very successful first meeting; the presence of a STN provided valuable information to members.

The next meeting will be held at the Geelong Ostomy premises, 6 Lewalan Street Grovedale on Thursday 26 September at 1:30 pm. Meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month moving forward. There will be no meeting in December.

The group is targeted mainly at members who have joined Geelong Ostomy in the last year or so. Other members are now welcome to attend if the wish.

New prospective members please send an email **only** to [geelongostomy6@gmail.com](mailto:geelongostomy6@gmail.com) .

### **Coloplast ® Disposal Bags**

Coloplast ® has advised that from 1 July 2024, disposal bags will no longer be included in product boxes during manufacture of new products. It will take some time for newly manufactured stock to travel through the supply chain.

### **Important Dates to Remember**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 23 October 2024 commencing at 11 am. Please save the date. A formal notice of the AGM will be sent shortly.

Please note the 23 October 2024 is a **public holiday** in the Geelong region (Geelong Cup Day), and accordingly Geelong Ostomy will be **closed** for deliveries and collection of supplies.

Geelong Ostomy will be closed for Christmas from 12 noon on 20 December 2024 until 09:30 on 3 January 2025.

January orders should be received by 13 December 2024 to enable collection from Friday **10** January 2025.

### **Two Month Orders**

The Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) allows members who have had the Stoma for more than six (6) months to order their supplies via a two month order schedule. That is every two months instead of every month.

A two month order schedule has several benefits such as:

- Only having to pick up your supplies every two months if you have to travel some distance to collect your supplies.
- Savings in postage. For example: a single two month package at \$22, instead of duplicate one month packages at \$15 each (\$30 in total).

To place a two month order: you order the **total** of each product required for the two months on your order form. For example: if you normally order 60 x 18183 each month, you would order 120 x 18183 for the two month order.

Indicate on your order form the month the order begins; such as December for a December/January order. For hand written orders, make a notation on the form that the order is a two month order. For online orders, indicate in the notes section that the order is a two month order.

### **Online Ordering**

Geelong Ostomy would like to encourage you to use the online ordering form on the [www.geelongostomy.com.au](http://www.geelongostomy.com.au) website whenever possible. An email confirmation of your order will be sent to your email address.

Getting used to placing online orders will assist with the transition to the member portal in the future.

### **Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) Schedule Review**

The Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) has been conducting a review of the SAS. The results of that review have been placed on the Department's Consultation Hub.

The consultation is open to any member who wishes to participate, and is running from 2 September 2024 until 6 October 2024.

You can access the consultation here: <https://consultations.health.gov.au/technology-assessment-access-division/2024-stoma-appliance-scheme-schedule-review>.

The aim of the SAS Schedule review is to ensure all products on the SAS Schedule are clinically effective, correctly priced, and cost-effective. The purpose of the consultation is to inform and seek views from all stakeholders about the proposed changes to the SAS and SAS Schedule. The consultation provides background to the SAS and the Review, proposed changes to the SAS and SAS Schedule, and the rationale for the proposed changes.

If you would like to participate in the public consultation, please review the consultation information and complete the online survey by 6 October 2024.

Any questions should be directed to: [stoma@health.gov.au](mailto:stoma@health.gov.au).

Rob Clark  
Secretary