



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild

Nicola Roxon speaks at NPC

At the National Press Club (NPC) on 13 August, the Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon, spoke about issues facing the health industry.

In her speech, Ms Roxon responded positively to the Guild's recent proposal for medication continuance, announced by National President, Kos Sclavos at the NPC in July.

"I have already flagged the need to re-examine the allocation of tasks between GPs and other health professionals.

In this, we have an opportunity to tackle some of our workforce challenges, at the same time as placing a greater focus on prevention.

This is the type of reform that does not depend on the states, but would have a very definite impact on the relationship between primary care and acute care.

It is an area of reform that requires careful consideration and the co-operation of all health professionals, including their representative bodies.

"One proposal recently suggested by the President of the Pharmacy Guild, Kos Sclavos, would enable pharmacists to deliver some basic health screening functions, and under certain conditions, fill repeat prescriptions of drugs such as the pill.

Such a reform would provide greater convenience for patients, allowing GPs to focus on the tasks they are uniquely qualified for, allowing GPs to treat more people who might otherwise end up in hospital.

Similarly, other groups have proposed new ways of doing things which we will carefully consider," Ms Roxon said.

Symbion sold to Zuellig

SYMBION Pharmacy can finally have some certainty in its future, after Primary Health Care this morning announced the sale of the division to Zuellig Group.

The \$505m deal follows a competitive sale process, after the firm changed hands in a long-running hostile takeover of Symbion by Primary Health Care.

The sale follows the withdrawal of grocery wholesaler Metcash after Terry White Chemists said it wouldn't work with the firm.

Primary said the Zuellig deal was expected to settle by 30 Nov.

Zuellig Pharma has extensive pharmacy distribution operations

across Asia, and its local chief Christian Stoeckling said the firm "plans to run a manufacturer service business in conjunction with pharmacy distribution," according to the *Financial Review*.

Primary also said the previously announced sale of Symbion Consumer to sanofi-aventis would settle by the end of this month.

Schools spot ADHD

PROPOSED guidelines for managing attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder will encourage over-diagnosis of the condition, education researchers have warned.

A group of 14 researchers from seven universities have written to Education Minister Julia Gillard and Health Minister Nicola Roxon, criticising moves to make teachers look out for signs of ADHD and to allocate special funding to schools for students with the disorder.

High BP for teens

TEENAGERS who sleep less than 6.5 hours a night are at greater risk of high blood pressure and heart attacks due to sleep deprivation, likely to be caused by overuse of mobile phones, computer games and iPods.

A US study of 13 to 16 year olds found the sleep-deprived were up to three times more likely to have high blood pressure.

GPs may prescribe Roaccutane

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is considering a proposal to relax restrictions on the acne drug, isotretinoin.

The move would allow general practitioners to prescribe Roaccutane, which was previously only permitted by dermatologists.

At its next meeting, the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee will also consider a proposal to limit pack sizes of OTC codeine-ibuprofen products and reschedule them to Schedule 3.

It will also look at a proposal to allow nicotine to be used in 'electronic cigarettes' to aid smoking cessation.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

PHARMACIES in the remote Qld mining town of Mount Isa should probably stock up on cosmetics and contraceptives, after mayor John Molony called for what he called "beauty disadvantaged" women to move there to redress the town's gender imbalance.

Molony said there were many lonely men in "bloke-heavy" Mount Isa, suggesting that lonely females from across the country would enjoy the town.

"Often those who are beauty-disadvantaged are unhappy with their lot. Some, in other places in Australia, need to proceed to Mount Isa where happiness awaits," Molony said.

His comments have sparked outrage, with a public meeting last night called to protest against the comments which Moloney's rivals on the local council have labelled "disgusting and degrading."

MORE than 200 of Britain's worst snorers have applied to attend a military-style 'snoring boot camp' with their partners in the hope of a cure for the affliction.

There are just six places available on the weekend, in which participants will have the volume of their snores measured as well as being examined by ear, nose and throat specialists.

Snoring attendees will be banned from smoking and drinking alcohol, and be forced to undertake a strict diet and exercise regime.

A spokesman for organisers Help Stop Snoring said "Snoring can ruin lives. For some, a boot camp is the only option."

Win a Blender Bottle!

THIS week Pharmacy Daily has joined forces with Hipp Future to bring you another fantastic competition.

Every day we will be giving away **five** of Hipp Future's fantastic new 'Blender Bottles', the best mixer since the wire whisk, allowing you to make smooth, great-tasting drinks anytime.

Made from surgical grade stainless steel, the Blender Ball wire whisk makes short work of your mixing needs. All you need to do is drop the ball in with your ingredients and shake.

For your chance to win this fantastic prize, send your answer to the daily question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Today's question is:

What is the patented item called that mixes the thickest of drinks with ease leaving NO LUMPS?

The first five subscribers to answer correctly each day will win.

Congratulations to yesterday's winners -

Lillian Kwan, APHS Botany Pharmacy; Amy Lange, Symbion Pharmacy Services; Will Collie, Weber Shandwick; Lisa Kalman, PSA (VIC) and Siobhan Murphy, MIMS.



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