

Prevention focus

THE federal govt has urged ongoing commitment to the National Preventative Health Strategy, with a taskforce seeking to tackle the "looming burden of chronic diseases."

The initial focus will be on alcohol, tobacco and obesity, with a statement from health minister Nicola Roxon saying the release of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's *National Public Health Expenditure Report* showed an 8% decline in public health funding in 2005-06.

"We are determined to shift prevention from the margins to the centre of health care - a crucial part of building a health system for a modern Australia," Roxon said.

India pharmacy trip

AN EXCLUSIVE tour for pharmacists, their partners and friends of the industry will explore India's colourful desert state of Rajasthan.

Pharmacy Small Group Tours will host the Colours of India Tour, led by Mike and Yvonne Lazarow and Dipak Sanghvi, on February 21 - March 1, 2009.

The eight-night itinerary covering Mumbai, Udaipur, Jodhpur and Osian includes tours and a camel safari, a business program, and an option to extend to Agra and the Taj Mahal.

Packages start from \$9650 (twin share, ex Sydney and Melbourne) including return airfares, hotel accommodation, meals and tours.

Details 03 9530 8344.


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Sick certs to be simpler?

THE heat may be off pharmacists after the Federal Government announced it will relax Work Choices laws that allow employers to demand medical certificates from staff.

The tougher provisions, introduced by the Howard government, "have triggered a turf war between doctors and other health professionals", the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported.

A spokeswoman for Workplace

COPD R&D grant

THE Pharmacy Guild has announced the contracting of the second R&D Investigator Grant, which will evaluate the feasibility and impact of initial screening and referral of patients for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease by community pharmacists, using a portable electronic device.

The study will be undertaken by Heather Allen of the Australian Lung Foundation.

Airport noise alert

LIVING near an airport can increase your blood pressure, according to a European Commission study.

Scientists found that people living for at least five years under a busy flight path were at greater risk, with a 10 decibel increase in night-time aircraft noise leading to 14% higher blood pressure.

Owners - need a locum or permanent staff?
Pharmacists - need a job?



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Relations minister Julia Gillard said the govt would simplify the rules as part of its overhaul of industrial laws.

The issue has generated much confusion, with pharmacists divided on how to conduct patient consultations and what charging regimes should apply.

GPCR research

MONASH University has been allocated \$6.5m over the next 5 yrs to study why some drugs work and some don't and why some cause unwanted side-effects.

Pharmacology professor Patrick Sexton and his 35-strong group will look at G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) which are targeted by almost half of all therapeutic drugs.

Melbourne drug treats alcoholism

A DRUG developed by Victorian biotech Solagran Limited has been shown to be effective in treating conditions associated with chronic alcoholism.

The trial was conducted in 2006 but the results were subjected to an embargo until patents were granted in January this year.

Ropren is approved in Russia for the treatment of chronic liver disease and will now be used to treat conditions associated with drug and alcohol addiction.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DOCTORS have removed a bullet from the shoulder of an 88-year-old Spanish Civil War veteran - almost 70 years after he was shot.

Faustino Olivera complained of a painful lump which required an operation, shocking surgeons when they uncovered the ammunition from a Mauser 98.

A NEW range of cosmetics has been withdrawn from sale in Singapore after complaints from irate Catholics.

The products, branded 'Lookin' Good for Jesus,' are made by US makeup company Blue Q and were being sold by Singapore retailer Topshop.

Products include a 'Virtuous Vanilla' lip balm, hand and body cream, with slogans including "Redeem your reputation," "Get tight with Christ," and "Get His Attention."

Other Blue Q products include a "Believe in God" breath spray, a "King" size shopping bag, a "Patron Saint of Parking" car air freshener and a coin purse with the logo "Show HIM the money".

A BRITISH nature-lover has been reunited with his false teeth more than a year after losing them while on a walk in the picturesque Lake District.

David Packer removed his dentures to eat a chocolate bar in Jan 2007, and the teeth must have fallen from his pocket.

Just last month another walker found the dental plate and put an ad in the lost and found section of a walking magazine, leading to the teeth being reunited with their owner.

"I had visions of a sheep wandering around the Lakes with a set of my shiny teeth - I never thought I would see them again," Packer said.

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

With Easter almost upon us and chocolate everywhere be inspired to discover more about chocolate by visiting areas of culinary excellence in France, Italy, or Australia's own chocolate paradise:

Paris Food Walking Tour - Pastry and Chocolate from \$142 per person - price includes an English speaking guide, tasting of pastries, chocolates and bread varieties. Flights to Paris start from \$1965 (ex Syd).

Gourmet Walking Tour of Bologna, Italy - Chocolate, pasta and mortadella from \$115 per person - the tour takes you through medieval markets and

visits the local traditional chocolate maker, where solid chocolate was invented. Flights to Bologna start from \$2095.

Or closer to home, **Hobart Cadbury Chocolate Factory Tour** from \$65 per person. The largest facility in the southern hemisphere and a chocolate lovers dream with the opportunity to sample on the tour. Price includes one way coach from Hobart to Cadbury factory, and return cruise to Hobart. Also plenty of time for shopping at the factory's outlet following the tour!!

All these tours can be booked through www.zuji.com.au.

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