



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild PBS Reforms

The Pharmacy Guild is mindful of the potential for some medicines to be out of stock over Jul & Aug due to issues arising from the PBS Reforms.

This came about because an important clause in the Fourth Agreement concerning price reductions (requiring pharmaceutical wholesalers & direct suppliers to reduce their prices to pharmacists on F2T products two weeks before the 1 Aug price reductions) was not implemented as needed.

Most recently, the Guild has been working closely with the Minister's office, the Dept of Health & Ageing & wholesalers to address these concerns.

A special Guild members-only website (www.guild.org.au/18july) has been established to outline which wholesalers & manufacturers will honour the Fourth Agreement and how price drops will occur. The site will be updated weekdays leading up to 1 Aug, & the Guild recommends that members monitor it daily.

The Guild has also negotiated an arrangement with the Department to bring forward payment of a proportion of the additional CSO payments due to wholesalers in the 2008/09 financial year. This will provide a significant up front payment to wholesalers when the impact of the PBS reforms is greatest. All wholesalers have indicated their acceptance of this plan.

Following on from the early CSO payment arrangements, API has announced that its PBS pricing intentions during July.

As reported in *Pharmacy Daily*, from 1 July API has reduced the prices of generic PBS lines; and from 18 July, will reduce the prices of ALL OTHER affected PBS products in the F2T and F2A categories.

This constitutes a major breakthrough.

New prevention blueprint

A KEY discussion paper will be released in Sep, with the govt seeking public comment to help develop its National Preventative Health Strategy.

The document is being developed by the National Preventative Health Taskforce recently created by health minister Nicola Roxon, with the aim of "heading off an unsustainable burden of chronic disease" in Australia.

Taskforce chairman Professor Rob Moodie said: "We need

PATY shortlist

THE finalists in the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award have been confirmed, with state judging commencing in Brisbane next week.

A record number of entries were received this year: Victorians topped the table (69 entrants), followed by NSW (67 entrants).

A larger proportion of entrants came from Northern Territory (21 entrants) than more populated states and territories such as the ACT (5), Tasmania (10) and South Australia (16).

Judging will also be held in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and, for the first time, Darwin.

The national winner will be announced at the Pharmacy Assistant Conference in October.

Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes a full page flyer about the upcoming Pharmacy Womens' Congress in Melbourne - see p2.

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advice from every quarter and are looking to engage consumers, employers, town planners, the transport sector, community organisations, the food and alcohol sectors, clinicians and allied health professionals very closely."

Natural men

US cult personal care brand Burt's Bees has launched a range of 100% natural skincare products for men.

The Burt's Bees Natural Skin Care for Men range, which includes Shave Cream, Aftershave Lotion and Body Wash will be promoted for Fathers Day sales.

It is one of the few brands to target men with a message about the benefits of natural ingredients.

Qld pharmacy thief

A WOMAN armed with a kitchen knife held up the Toolooa 7 Day Pharmacy on the weekend.

On Saturday night, at 6.15pm, the woman entered the pharmacy and threatened staff members with the knife before leaving with an unknown quantity of prescription drugs.

PSA calendar

PSA Queensland's Continuing Professional Development 2008 Calendar is now available on its website.

The CPD&PI Calendar details the topics, speakers and venues for lectures between July and November.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PARENTS of premature babies need to start planning for the future right now, after research in Finland revealed that having a low birth weight means you stay living at home longer.

Individuals in their late teens and twenties who weighed less than 1500g at birth were less likely to have left their parents' home than people of the same age who were a normal weight at birth, according to the study at the National Public Health Institute in Helsinki.

But the news isn't all bad - the same research team, led by Dr Eero Kajantie, has also found that low birthweight adults are "more conscientious, dutiful and agreeable."

Dr Kajantie claimed that becoming independent at a later age isn't necessarily bad.

"To be careful has many advantages," he said.

A NEWS story about a bumbling proctologist in New Zealand has been revealed as a hoax.

The *New Zealand Press Association* said in the original tale that a Dunedin general practitioner had referred 20 men for prostate investigations after injuring his right index finger in a cricket match.

He was forced to do rectal examinations using a different finger which had a small growth on the tip, according to the false story, causing him to diagnose the 20 cases of possible prostate cancer.

NZ's *Doctor* magazine quickly discounted the story, saying it was just a good yarn.

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