



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## This week's update from the Guild Supermarket cigarette sales

The issue of supermarket pharmacies was revisited last week, with the Guild's National President, Kos Sclavos, addressing it as part of his National Press Club speech in Canberra on 23 July.

"US experience demonstrates that a supermarket model of pharmacy treats a medicine as a mere commodity. There is no focus on the patient, no focus on the medication compliance, no focus on efficient use of health resources," Mr Sclavos said.

"The supermarkets in Australia have one focus – to generate profits for their shareholders at any cost," he said.

Consider that the biggest selling products in supermarkets, according to the 2007 AC Nielsen Report, are:

1. Winfield cigarettes (nearly \$1 billion in sales)
2. Coca-Cola softdrinks
3. Longbeach cigarettes
4. Peter Jackson cigarettes
5. Horizon cigarettes
6. Benson and Hedges cigarettes
7. Holiday cigarettes

"Slogans like the 'Fresh Food People' should be replaced with something more appropriate," Mr Sclavos said.

"In fact, the Treasury Department should send the supermarkets a bill for \$3 billion dollars each year, because that is the associated cost of these products on the health system and the economy."

As damning as these details are, they don't even take into consideration alcohol sales by the same businesses.

"Sure, supermarkets are good at selling cigarettes and alcohol, but health should be left to health professionals," Mr Sclavos said.

## Tas pharmacists triage

A SHORTAGE of doctors in Tasmania is increasingly seeing pharmacists advising and diagnosing patients, according to Tas Guild President John Dowling.

He said pharmacists had long acted in a "bit of a triage" role, filling the gap left by GPs.

"There's probably a bit more of it because of a lack of GPs," he told the Burnie *Advocate* today.

AMA state president Haydn Walters said Tasmanians often had to seek treatment at hospital emergency departments and from allied health professionals because of the lack of GPs.

### New OH&S manual

THE NSW branch of the Pharmacy Guild has issued a new Occupational Health & Safety Manual for Guild members.

The document aims to enable pharmacies to comply with both legislative requirements and safety goals, providing guidelines for risk management, training and compliance.

There's also an associated training booklet - more info at [www.guild.org.au/nsw](http://www.guild.org.au/nsw).

### Nanotech news

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has added a list of questions and answers about nanotechnology and therapeutic products to its website.

The TGA says that to date its existing regulatory framework has proved "more than adequate" to identify, assess and manage the risks associated with therapeutic products which incorporate nanotechnologies, but is continuing to closely monitor developments in the field.



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He claimed the problem was worse in Tasmania than other parts of Australia.

### Uni pharmacy dept evacuated

STUDENTS at Sydney University were evacuated yesterday after it was feared a bottle of perchloric acid may explode in the pharmacy building.

The flammable acid had been "fuming" since Fri but chemical experts were not available to check on it until Monday.

NSW Fire Brigades hazardous materials specialists assessed the risk and, as a precaution, about 200 pharmacy staff and students, in lectures and laboratories, had to be evacuated from the building on the first day of semester.

Sydney University spokesman Andrew Potter told the *Sydney Morning Herald* the bottle was showing signs of deterioration.

A fire brigade spokesman said the acid, used by chemists as a catalyst, had been forming crystals and fire crews removed the bottle from the building before students and staff were allowed back.

### Green book on CD

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is selling its popular 'Green Pathology Book' on CD.

"Use of Laboratory Data: Process Guide and Reference for Pharmacists" by Jeff Hughes, Peter Tenni, Natalie Soulsby and Andrew James covers a range of case studies in clinical practice, and is available for \$40 for PSA members and \$52 for non-members; see [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).

### DISPENSARY CORNER

POLICE in the US state of Rhode Island have arrested a man with the incredibly high blood alcohol level of 0.491 per cent.

34-year-old Stanley Kobierowski was picked up after driving into a highway noticeboard on Interstate 95 in the state's capital Providence.

The legal limit is 0.08, while a level of 0.30 is classified as a "stupor" and 0.4 is "comatose".

Officers said it was the highest ever blood alcohol level recorded in the state for someone who wasn't dead.

THIS family must be a great pharmacy customer.

A 44-year-old woman in the Canadian province of British Columbia this week gave birth to her 18th child.

Her husband said the new baby weighed in at a hefty 3.57kg (7 pounds 14 oz).

The family now has 10 girls and 8 boys, with siblings ranging from 23 years to 20 months.

But "we would have liked a boy to be even," said the dad.

### Win anti-wrinkle Lift!



CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa Michalanney of SASMAR Australia who was the first reader yesterday to tell us that The Lift is infused with Bio Peptides and Scandinavian extracts.

Today *Pharmacy Daily* is giving subscribers another chance to win The Lift product, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

To win, send your answer to the below question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**How does The Lift work?**

The first person to answer correctly will win.

HINT: Go to [www.tbn.com.au](http://www.tbn.com.au) and click on the Naked Glow logo at the top of the page for more info.



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