



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild

Guild AMD care

The Pharmacy Guild is proud to support a first-ever Australian community initiative that aims to tackle Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) - the leading cause of blindness for people over 50 in Australia.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia is managing the Vision Van project in collaboration with key eye health groups, including the Optometrists Association Australia (OAA), the Macular Degeneration Foundation (MDF) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology (RANZCO).

Other supporters include Carl Zeiss, Designs for Vision and Custom Fleet.

The Vision Van project involves an Australian optometrist driving around regional Australia, providing free macula checks to people over 50 using approved screening methods that are based on protocols developed by RANZCO and OAA.

The initiative will involve the optometrist testing almost 2500 eyes for AMD in a 14,213km journey, which started in Sydney on 22 September and will continue around Australia until the end of the year.

The Vision Van project has the potential to make thousands of Australians more aware of AMD and the importance of regular macula checks.

Pharmacists and pharmacy assistants across Australia are at the forefront of primary health care and as such are in a unique position to help their customers recognise the main symptoms of AMD.

Pharmacists can also help in encouraging their customers to see an optometrist or ophthalmologist if they experience any changes in their vision.

Call for weight loss funds

THE Pharmaceutical Society has called for publicly funded weight-loss programs to be made available to all Australians.

PSA Vice-President Shane Jackson said he supported the concept put forward last week by Linda Selvey from Qld Health, who told an inquiry hearing that Medicare rebates should be made available for accredited weight control programs.

"Models involving government funding could provide consumers with better access to evidence-based weight-loss services," Dr Jackson said.

"Unfortunately, we know that the cost of participating in weight-loss programs can provide a disincentive for consumers and a Federal Government-funded program may go some way to making these programs more available to those at need."

A requirement for accreditation would also ensure that the programs being offered are evidence-based and of the highest standards, he said.

Robbers busted

A COUPLE has been arrested in connection with a number of pharmacy robberies in Brisbane.

The 31-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman broke into two pharmacies at Moorooka and Underwood on the weekend.

Police pursued an alleged stolen car driving in Marsden and arrested the two occupants.

The pair is believed to also be responsible for pharmacy break-ins at Logan Central, Springwood, Grand Plaza and Westpoint Shopping Centre at Browns Plains, Park Ridge and Algester.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A GROSSLY OVERWEIGHT couple have now lost more than 76kg between them after a flight attendant asked them to move to different seats to balance out an aircraft during a 2005 flight.

Alan Coupe and his wife Jan weighed 241kg in total, and air crew asked 127kg Mr Coupe to come to the front of the plane to even out the weight.

The embarrassment was so great they joined a slimming club and switched from eating lots of takeaway to salads, pasta and vegetable curries.

MORE evidence that smoking can damage your health.

A man has been arrested in the USA after his cigarette accidentally set off fireworks inside a moving car.

Police rushed to the vehicle of 28-year-old Francis Stranko of Rhode Island, arriving on the scene to find the car parked in the middle of the road "with large amounts of smoke and the smell of fireworks" coming from inside.

Guild gala

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia celebrated its 80-year anniversary on the weekend.

A gala dinner was held at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne, the city of its origin, on Sat night and a book detailing the Guild's history was also launched at the glamorous event.

The author, Stephen Greenwood, executive director, and Kos Sclavos, Guild national president, presented speeches.

Pharmacy E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy e-Bulletin covers the use of the new Yaz oral contraceptive for premenstrual dysphoric disorder, a severe form of premenstrual syndrome affecting 3-8% of women.

The bulletin is available free via chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

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Win a Lift Lip Gloss

EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving you the chance to win a Lift Lip Gloss from Naked Glow, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

The Marine Filling Spheres instantly smooth, plump and hydrate while the natural organic oils heal and soothe your lips.

And of course there is no petroleum or paraben added! For a chance to win, send your answer to the below question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How many colours are in the range?

The first person to answer correctly each day will win.

HINT: Go to www.tbn.com.au and click on the Naked Glow logo at the top of the page.

