



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## This week's update from the Guild Award Modernisation

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) has released its draft modern Retail Industry Award 2010, which is to commence on 1 January 2010.

This is part of the process to establish the Federal Government's new workplace relations system, Forward with Fairness.

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations has asked the AIRC to modernise and simplify 3000 to 4000 Awards, and in doing so dramatically reduce their number.

The Guild is very disappointed that the AIRC has not accepted our arguments that community pharmacy requires a separate Award that reflects the unique nature of our industry and the primary health care role it plays, and instead has decided to incorporate pharmacy in the Retail Award.

One of the primary objects of the Award Modernisation process is to simplify Awards, but community pharmacy's inclusion in the Retail Award increases its complexity.

Furthermore, other retailers do not want community pharmacy in their Award for these very reasons.

The draft Award also has the potential to increase wage costs to pharmacy employers in a number of jurisdictions.

This may endanger the financial viability of some pharmacies, and restrict the ability of the great majority of pharmacies to open for extended business hours – something Governments around Australia would like to see increased rather than diminished.

The AIRC decision and Exposure Draft can be seen at:

- [www.airc.gov.au/awardmod/databases/general/decisions/2008aircfb717.htm](http://www.airc.gov.au/awardmod/databases/general/decisions/2008aircfb717.htm)
- [www.airc.gov.au/awardmod/databases/retail/exposure/Retail\\_exposure\\_draft.pdf](http://www.airc.gov.au/awardmod/databases/retail/exposure/Retail_exposure_draft.pdf)

The Guild is now assessing our position and planning our forward strategy.

All relevant industries have until 10 October 2008 to challenge the content of the draft Award.

## Roxon prevention push

FEDERAL Health Minister Nicola Roxon has urged a major reshaping of funding for Australia's health system, saying prevention must be a key focus in order to improve people's lives.

Speaking at a Labor Party function in Bathurst last Sat, she also slammed the "longstanding historical anomaly" which means health service funding is organised "almost entirely around doctors, despite the fact that many services are now safely and ably provided by other health professionals."

Roxon said the next generation of health reform would urge Australians to "invest early, and effectively, in their own health."

ASMI issued a statement strongly backing Roxon's ideas, saying self-care should be "an

integral part of a comprehensive national health plan for Australia.

"It is also important that certain prescription-only medicines that have long been proven to be safe and effective are made available to consumers without a prescription," said ASMI executive director Juliet Seifert.

## Flu virus stockpile

THE European Influenza Conference last week was told of the rapid spread of an influenza virus resistant to oseltamivir (Tamiflu), saying the development could have implications for the management of any pandemic.

The CSIRO said the virus' unpredictability means govts "need to have a good balance of antiviral medications in the pandemic stockpile."

Currently Australia is one of the countries most prepared to deal with pandemic flu, with stockpiles for about 44% of the population.

## Rigby gets on board

DEBBIE Rigby has attended her first National Prescribing Service board meeting, after replacing Jenny Bergin as the NPS Pharmacy Class director.

NPS ceo Lynn Weekes said Rigby's excellent knowledge of national pharmacy organisations and current pharmacy policy "will be very valuable for NPS."

Rigby has taken up her new role shortly after suddenly resigning as a Pharmaceutical Society director.

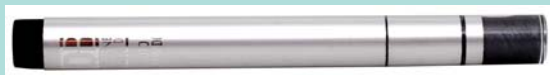
## Geelong needle exchange plan

A FREE needle exchange program may soon become available in Geelong pharmacies.

Victorian Guild director Maurice Sheehan told the *Geelong Independent* that a proposal could be formalised within four weeks after discussions with Department of Human Services.

Geelong district Guild representative Ken Gray said pharmacy exchanges would be safer than "sick packs", which most pharmacists already provide to customers.

## Win an Auto Eye Shadow!



**EACH** day this week **PD** is giving you the chance to win an Auto Eye Shadow from Designer Brands, courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Congratulations to **Cathy Trench** of **National E-Health Transition Authority** who was the first subscriber yesterday to tell us there are **six** colours in the Auto Eye Shadow range.

The cute, slim line pen fits perfectly into even the tiniest of handbags and make making up so, so easy with a flawless, professional finish.

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

**Name all of the colours in the Auto Eye Shadow range.**

The first person to answer correctly will win.

**HINT:** Go to [www.tbn.com.au](http://www.tbn.com.au) each day and click on the Designer Brands logo at the top of the page.



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## DISPENSARY CORNER

MOVE over, Rolling Stones.

An ageing German rock band has shown that you're only as old as you feel, this week launching its debut album.

The Zimmers, with an average age of 80 (the lead singer is actually 91!) held a concert in a Berlin shopping centre to sell copies of its CD, appropriately titled *Lust for Life*.

"We're old but we're not dead," said the group's manager Dave Palmer.

**ORGANISERS** of a raffle in Italy are bemused after nobody stepped forward to claim the first prize - an all expenses paid funeral.

The lucky holder of ticket 11 in the town of San Marco will receive a free lined coffin, a tombstone, copper candlesticks and a grave site.

Authorities urged the winner to come forward, saying the funeral is transferable and "there's no deadline for claiming the prize."

## Shadow minister

**NEW** federal opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull has named Queenslander Peter Dutton as the new Liberal spokesperson on health, replacing Joe Hockey.

37-year-old Dutton, who until last night was opposition spokesman for finance, competition policy and deregulation, is a former policeman elected to parliament in 2001, who served as Minister for Workforce Participation, Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer in the Howard govt.



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