

Youth health crisis

THE health of our youth is declining, new research suggests.

The report, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, reveals increases in mood disorders, self-harm, assault, obesity and pregnancy among teenagers.

A senior academic says we need to rethink the assumption that Australian's health is improving.

"The official view has underestimated the impact of non-fatal chronic illness - particularly, in the case of young people and mental health issues," said Richard Eckersley, of ANU's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

The report also shows Australia has a relatively high infant mortality rate compared to many OECD countries, and a high level of indigenous health problems.

Win an Auto Eye Shadow!



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

Congratulations to **Samantha Comey of Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia** who was the first subscriber yesterday to tell us the colour of the Auto Eye Shadow packaging is **silver**.

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.

Name three other eye make up products featured in the Designer Brands range.

The first person to answer correctly will win.

HINT: Go to www.tbn.com.au each day and click on the Designer Brands logo at the top of the page.



PBS listing transparency

DRUGS under consideration for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme will now be published in advance, in an unprecedented move to increase transparency of the listing process.

The agenda of the next meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee was released yesterday - a first in the 60-year history of the PBS - and public submissions were invited.

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the new measures will allow health professionals, patient groups and carers to have input in the decision-making process.

Diabetes daredevil

IN an unusual project to raise awareness for World Diabetes Day, an Australian motorcycle enthusiast, Youcef Cummings, will compete in World Cross Country Rally events in the Middle East.

Cummings is also conducting a ride-a-thon fundraiser for the International Diabetes Federation.

IDF is today calling on groups and individuals worldwide to get involved in activities to raise awareness of diabetes in the 50 days leading up to World Diabetes Day on November 14.

The campaign will focus on children and adolescents, with IDF advocating that access to appropriate medication and care "should be a right for a child with diabetes and not a privilege".

More than 40 drugs will be reviewed for PBS listing in the Nov meeting, incl treatments for breast cancer and HIV.

Medicines Australia hailed the move, with ceo Ian Chalmers saying it stemmed from discussions held at the Joint Medicines Policy Conference in 2006.

"This initiative shows what can be achieved when government and industry work in partnership to deliver improvements to the PBS," Chalmers said.

HIV heats up

THE market for HIV drugs, worth more than \$9 billion in 2007, is expected to grow to \$15.1 billion over the next decade.

A new report by Datamonitor says the growth is driven by the increasing prevalence of HIV worldwide and the longer life expectancy of patients receiving treatment.

But the competition is getting tougher across all antiretroviral drug classes, with new data on GlaxoSmithKline's Epzicom and optimism surrounding Merck & Co's integrase inhibitor, Isentress.

PD reaches 4000

PHARMACY Daily reached a milestone this week, with our 4000th subscriber signing up.

Pharmacists and pharmacy staff wanting a free subscription should visit www.pharmacydaily.com.au.

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to **Pharmacy Daily's** 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.

Christmas holidays are coming up, and for those making plans here are a couple of bargains.

Bali is back on the travel agenda, with lots of new flights from around Australia taking off early in December.

So why not celebrate at the luxury Westin Resort Nusa Dua, which is offering a special package including a Christmas Eve Cocktail Reception, access to the Westin Kids Club (ages 4-12) and a daily program of family activities incl kite flying, stargazing, movies and more.

Rates start at US\$185 plus taxes per room per night valid

22-28 Dec - westin.com/bali.

A little closer to home is a special 50% off sale by Captain Cook Cruises for voyages on its 3, 4 or 7 night *Murray Princess* which operates from Mannum on the spectacular Murray River.

The half price deal applies for the second person travelling with a full paying adult, with the three nights Wetlands Discovery Cruise departing each Fri at 4.30pm priced from \$775 for the first person and \$388 for the second person, incl all meals, accom, activities and coach transfers from Adelaide - more details 1800 804 843.

DISPENSARY CORNER

AS far as health centres go, this one is stuck in the Stone Age!

In the first excavation at Stonehenge in over 40 years, archeologists have uncovered evidence that the iconic site may have been a pre-historic health clinic rather than an observatory or shrine to the dead, as was previously held.

The finding was based on the fact that an unusual number of skeletons recovered showed signs of disease or injury, and an analysis of their teeth showed that about half weren't local to the area.

Hundreds of 'bluestone' chips found at the site have also led scientists to believe that the rocks were thought to have healing properties.

YOU no longer have to worry about elderly relatives taking a tumble.

A Japanese company has invented a 'human airbag' (pictured below) that it says is will help prevent elderly people from injuring themselves when they fall by throwing up a pillow that protects the back of the head and the hips.

The device, which is strapped around the waist and weighs just over a kilogram, will inflate in a tenth of a second if it detects that a person is accelerating towards the ground.



AFP: Yoshikazu Tsuno

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