

CSL profit soars

CSL Limited has reported a 44% increase in first half earnings, to \$502m, saying the global financial crisis has had little or no impact on its business at this stage.

New Vic forms

THE Pharmacy Board of Victoria has revised its application forms for approval to carry on a pharmacy business.

Pharmacists, companies or Friendly Societies which lodge applications using the old form after 28 Feb may be required to lodge a supplementary form.

Mirixa on the road

ABOUT 90 people attended the Pharmacy Guild's Mirixa road show as it moved onto the Gold Coast earlier this week.

Pictured at right are Sean Alcorn, Mapp & Hession Pharmacy Murwillimbah; Wing Tam; Guardian Pharmacy; Old Guild president Tim Logan; John Laird, Palm Beach Pharmacy; and Paul Hession, Mapp & Hession Pharmacy.



LEFT: Nancy Carter, Chempro; Lauren Carter, GlaxoSmithKline; John Kirchin, Giant Chemist Pacific Fair; Steve Probert, Chempro; and Michael Cooper, Pharmacy Guild.

'Missed opportunity' - Guild

THE Pharmacy Guild says the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission interim report (PD Mon) is a "missed opportunity to harness the capacity, skill set and accessibility of pharmacists to better address the broader health challenges of the future."

The report only mentions pharmacists seven times in its 386 pages - however the Guild interpreted this lack of commentary as an "A+ report card for the current community pharmacy system and the way it

facilitates access to life saving medicines for all Australians."

Guild President Kos Sclavos said he'd hoped the review would see an expanded scope of practice for pharmacists, and intends to make a detailed response to the report to highlight ways that pharmacy can contribute to an improved health system.

The Guild also acknowledged the report's findings about gaps in Indigenous health care and the need for expanded services in rural and remote areas, saying it "implicitly endorses expansion of scope of practice for rural and remote pharmacists."

MEANWHILE Australian Self-Medication Industry exec dr Juliet Siefert said ASMI welcomed key findings in the report - in particular its recognition of increased personal responsibility for health and wellbeing.

She backed the expansion of primary health care teams, adding that "It is clear the significant health resources are being devoted to coughs, colds and other conditions that could be effectively managed by a pharmacist, practice nurse or through responsible self care."

Bonus birth boom

PHARMACIES across Australia should have seen a jump in their sales of baby products over the last few years, after a study revealed that almost 12,000 extra births occurred in 2006 due to the Howard government's baby bonus.

The boost was revealed by Melbourne Institute research which suggested the bonus had increased the fertility rate in Australia by 3.2%.



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Re-entry course

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (NSW) will hold its first Pharmacist Re-Entry course this weekend, 21-23 Feb.

The course is aimed at overseas trained pharmacists or people who have been out of community pharmacy for some time.

There's also a second course taking place 11-13 Jul - more info and registrations on 02 9431 110.

Pharmaxis appt

AUSTRALIAN pharmaceutical research firm Pharmaxis has appointed Dr Howard Fox as its new Chief Medical Officer.

Fox relocates from the UK where he worked for Novartis, with Pharmaxis ceo Alan Robertson saying the appointment "provides the international regulatory and pharmacovigilance experience necessary for Pharmaxis to bring Bronchitol successfully and rapidly to the market."

New UK framework

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has published its first ever 'Pharmacy Practice Framework' which is intended to define the "core common roles expected of a newly qualified pharmacist."

The document, titled *Pharmacy Practice: Medicines Focussed and Patient Centred* also demonstrates pharmacy's "unique contribution to health and health care delivery," the RPSGB said.

The 50-page booklet has been developed in alignment with the UK pharmacy undergraduate curriculum as well as various national strategies for developing pharmacy services.

It can be downloaded at www.rpsgb.org.



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Calvin Klein creation

Secret Obsession weaves together forbidden fruits, exotic flowers with CK's sultry signature scent. The provocative fragrance is a mix of mouth-watering plum, cashmere woods, burnt amber, Madagascan vanilla and Australian sandalwood.

RRP: \$130
Stockist: Coty
Tel: 1800 812 663



DISPENSARY CORNER

PARAMEDICS called police to a medical emergency in northern Italy yesterday after a poodle bit off the nose of its owner.

Officers chased the crazy canine and managed to retrieve the chewed nose before the dog had swallowed it.

Doctors successfully reattached the nose, but 34-year-old Loredana Romano will now have to undergo a long course of reconstructive surgery because of serious scarring.

"My little dog often climbed into bed with me," she said.

"I don't know why she suddenly bit off my nose.

"I should have listened to my husband when he always told me he should be the only one allowed into the bed," she added.

A US airline is under fire from families with allergies after it reintroduced peanuts as snacks.

Northwest Airlines has for many years been handing out pretzels, but the switch back to peanuts has some travellers threatening to switch carriers.

The airline was recently taken over by Delta Airlines which is based in Atlanta, Georgia - a state where peanuts are one of the major agricultural crops.

IT was all about the timing for a German mother of newborn twins last week, with the late-night delivery meaning the babies have different birthdays.

The identical boys both weighed 2.58kg, with the first one, Kenny, born at 11.50pm on Mon 07 Feb in Chemnitz.

His brother Valentino arrived a little later, at 12.37am meaning his birthday will be 08 Feb.

Tiny droplets for hair repair

Dove Therapy shampoos and conditioners promise intensive hair repair. The special formulation contains tiny droplets of thick conditioning serum, which are up to 380 times smaller than the leading competitor. These droplets are said to fill the cracks in the hardest-to-reach areas of damage, restoring the hair shaft to a healthy state.

RRP: \$5.99
Stockist: Unilever
Tel: 1800 061 027



Swap soap for gels

Palmolive's latest shower gels helps skin to survive those hot summer nights and harsh winter days. The hygienic gels are pH-balanced and 100% soap-free. Our favourite in the range is Pure Cashmere Intense Nourishment Shower Cream, which contains extracts of 100% natural cashmere and moisturising milk for deep hydration.

RRP: \$6.49
Stockist: Colgate-Palmolive
Tel: 1800 802 307



No-fuss shower power

Veet In-Shower Hair Removal Cream gives smooth, hair-free skin with no nicks or cuts and no time-wasting. Designed for use when showering, the cream's water-resisting ingredients work in three minutes, then rinse away. Packaged with an applicator sponge, Veet has the added benefit of moisturisers: lotus milk for dry skin, and shea butter for normal skin.

RRP: \$17.99
Stockist: Veet
Tel: (02) 9325 4042



Colour-coded fever readings

The Vicks Fever InSight thermometer uses a 'traffic light' concept to confirm whether a child has a fever. The colour-coded temperature display turns green (normal), yellow (mild fever) or red (high temperature). The waterproof thermometer takes eight seconds for readings, has a backlit display, memory-recall and comes with a lifetime guarantee.

RRP: \$19.95
Stockist: FGB
Tel: 1800 003 431



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