

Pharmacy DAILY

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PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

PSA greets ministers

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has welcomed the creation of the new Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery portfolio, saying the ministry recognises the unique challenges faced by indigenous health consumers and those living in non-urban areas.

PSA president Warwick Plunkett said the PSA has long advocated policies and programs to help address the indigenous and non-urban health challenges.

Plunkett also congratulated MP Warren Snowdon, who has been handed control of the portfolio.

MEANWHILE the PSA has also welcomed the appointment of Mark Butler as the new Parliamentary Secretary for Health (**PD** yesterday), saying he brings a wealth of experience to the job.

Plunkett said the PSA would work closely with Mr Butler, adding that the challenges facing the Australian health-care system "require a cohesive and intelligent response by everyone involved."

No prescription for Tamiflu

VICTORIAN pharmacists can now provide the swine flu drug Tamiflu without a prescription.

The announcement was made in a public health emergency order issued by the Victorian government last Fri, which states that drug is to be made available off prescription until 27 July.

The move comes in response to a widely-publicised swine flu outbreak in metropolitan Melbourne, however it does not confer general prescribing or diagnosis rights on pharmacists.

Instead, pharmacists can only supply Tamiflu (oseltamivir) without prescription for the "prophylactic treatment of individuals who have been nominated in writing by a registered medical practitioner to be a household contact of a clinically diagnosed case of human influenza."

The decision to improve access to the drug follows extensive negotiations between the Victorian Government and the Pharmacy Guild, and if the pandemic moves to the next level across the country similar moves

are expected to be extended nationwide.

As of noon today there were 1242 cases confirmed across the country, with 1011 in Vic and 101 in NSW.

The World Health Organization says the declaration of a global pandemic looks to be inevitable, particularly following the sharp rise in cases of the illness reported across Australia.

Naturopath register

A STEERING committee has been established to create the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH), which aims to make the complementary medical professions safer.

ARONAH will independently register practitioners and will set uniform industry standards.

Unlike some other forms of complementary medicine, there are currently no uniform standards for training or ethical practice for naturopaths, despite the fact that they form Australia's largest complementary therapy profession.

According to steering committee member Jon Wardle, the lack of registration poses a "severe public health risk."

Submissions to the committee can be made at www.aronah.org.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin examines total parenteral nutrition - a pharmaceutical formulation prescribed when patients are unable to consume adequate fluids and calories.

The publication examines the formulation, incompatibilities and expiration and complications of TPN orders.

For a free RGH subscription email chris.alderman@health.sa.gov.au.

PSS gets backing

THE Pharmacists' Support Service has received a boost from the Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacy Association, which has committed to provide three years' financial support to the service.

PSS provides telephone counselling to distressed pharmacists in Victoria, but Mark Feldschuh, president of the Vic branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, said it needs financial support to effectively assist pharmacists elsewhere.

Web our first stop

RESEARCH conducted on behalf of Telstra, which operates online health website BigPond Health, has found that 60% of Australians research health information online before going to a doctor, with 40% saying they did so to avoid embarrassment.

See www.bigpondhealth.com.



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This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with AROMABABY to give readers the chance to win an AROMABABY travel pack, valued at \$20.

Launched more than twelve years ago as the first natural & organic baby brand of its kind, AROMABABY has been used in select hospitals and received by celebrity parents around the world including Kate Moss, Princess Mary and local mums Tracey Spicer, Natarsha Belling and Simone Warne.

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For your chance to win, simply send your answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

TODAY'S QUESTION:

Name 3 organic ingredients we use?

This great prize will go to the first correct response, so check out www.aromababy.com and get those entries in quickly! Yesterdays winner was Chiara del Gigante of Innovex.

*Image is indicative. Items may change at the discretion of AROMABABY.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S true - sleeping on a problem can really help you solve it.

That's the finding of scientists at the University of Carolina, who found that people were able to think more quickly and laterally after taking a nap.

"We found that - for creative problems that you've already been working on - the passage of time is enough to find solutions."

"However for new problems, only REM sleep enhances creativity," said lead researcher Professor Sara Mednick.

So the next time you're distressed by a dilemma, having a quick snooze may help you find the elusive answer.

HOME computers can be very bad for your health - and not just with square eyes from staring at the monitor for too long.

US hospitals reported treating more than 78000 people for computer-related injuries between 1994 and 2006 - with 93% of them occurring in the home.

The most common ailments were due to people tripping over cables or hurting their backs relocating equipment, with a significant proportion related to children under 5 who were hurt when monitors fell on their heads.

One 1998 case involved a six year old boy who was burnt by a fire caused when he spilt his drink onto a laptop.

TREATMENT with Botox has helped a man paralysed for 23 years to walk again.

Russell McPhee suffered a stroke in 1986 and has been unemployed and confined to a wheelchair since then.

But after a month-long course of botulinum toxin injections at the Nepean Rehabilitation Hospital in Frankston, Vic he's able to stand up and even walk short distances.

Doctors said these types of dramatic recoveries are extremely rare, while McPhee says he now has ambitious plans to go dancing with his girlfriend and play basketball with his son.

Colour your world

De Lorenzo Novafusion is a new solution for people wanting to enhance their look temporarily without damaging their hair with harsh chemicals. Designed for both coloured and natural hair to revive and add highlights and tones, it contains UV inhibitors and botanical extracts for the ultimate shine and is great for maintaining hair between salon visits. Available in Auburn, Cool Naturals and Natural Tones.

RRP: \$22.90

Stockist: Wholesalers

Web: www.delorenzo.com.au



Anti-ageing for men

Natio has released a for Men Age Renewal Moisturiser, for men 35 years plus concerned with visible lines and wrinkles. The product contains Q-10, rosehip and vitamin C, which combine as an effective defence against wrinkles and helps repair depleted skin cells. Works to strengthen skin for a fresher, healthier appearance. Suitable for all skin types.

RRP: \$15.95

Stockist: Natio Pty Ltd

Web: www.natio.com.au



Sanitise against Swine Flu

PureProtect 24 is an antibacterial product safe for humans and animals but deadly against bacteria. Instead of using toxic chemicals to poison or kill, PureProtect 24 safely coats surfaces with a molecular-sized "bed of nails" that doesn't chemically treat bacteria but spikes and mechanically kills them, with germs 'pulled towards the nails to be destroyed'.

RRP: \$9.95 for 50ml

Stockist: PureProtect

Web: www.pureprotect.com.au



Weight loss alternative

Metermine has been approved as a "short-term adjunct in a medically monitored comprehensive regimen of weight reduction in managing obesity," offering a cheaper alternative for patients who are prescribed phentermine. It is Australia's first alternative brand containing the active phentermine for weight loss, and is available on private prescription.

Stockist: iNova Pharmaceuticals

Web: www.inovapharma.com



Elizabeth's bare minerals

Elizabeth Arden's Pure Finish Mineral Powder Foundation SPF 20 achieves a natural, glowing look by using microspheres of pigment suspended in mica and silica. Product has a built-in grinder and the perfect amount of powder for your face is released by twisting the container. Contains ocean minerals, aloe and vitamins A, C and E and is talc and fragrance free.

RRP: \$65

Stockist: Elizabeth Arden

Web: www.elizabetharden.com.au

