



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## This week's update from the Guild Guild signs

### Friendly Society pact

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Friendly Societies Pharmacies today signed an historic agreement that builds on the Guild's strength in negotiating the next community pharmacy agreement with the Federal Government.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two organisations confirms that in undertaking its negotiations with the Government, the Guild will seek to obtain the best possible outcome for all community pharmacies, including more than 120 owned by Friendly Societies.

The Guild is recognised under the National Health Act as the official negotiating body for community pharmacies in Australia.

The formal agreement with the Friendly Societies reinforces the Guild's role in the negotiations, and will be beneficial for members of both organisations.

This development follows the accord reached between the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in January this year to work cooperatively to achieve the best possible outcomes for members and for the public.

"We are pleased that the Guild's capacity to represent the overwhelming majority of community pharmacies has been enhanced by this agreement with the Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association," National President of the Guild, Kos Sclavos, said.

"This MOU can only assist us in our goal of achieving of an optimal outcome in the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement," he added

## MA call to stop PBS cuts

THE global economic crisis will wipe out hundreds of jobs in the pharmaceutical industry unless the govt steps up its support, Medicines Australia chief Ian Chalmers warned today.

Mr Chalmers said the govt needs to cease any further cuts to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in order to protect high-wage, high-skill jobs and encourage foreign investment in Australia's \$18bn pharmaceutical industry.

"The pharmaceuticals sector is Australia's second most valuable export industry, after the

### Warfarin survey

THE University of Tasmania's School of Pharmacy is looking for pharmacies involved in the provision of anticoagulation services to their patients, either currently or in the past.

The project involves simply completing a questionnaire relating to the service that is (or was) provided.

More information and registrations to Dr Luke Bereznicki or Ella Jeffrey on 03 6226 1068 or email [info@anticoagulation.com](mailto:info@anticoagulation.com).

### New APF out now

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has launched the new edition of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary, with this latest publication available "in a revised format designed to meet the growing needs of pharmacists in today's ever-changing practice environment."

PSA said APF21 builds on previous editions and incorporates the results of extensive market research aimed at reviewing content and the overall product.

There are many changes including the addition of new medicines, a new 'OTC Counselling Guides' section, new extemporaneous formulae, plus a new style and more information in clinical and complementary medicines monographs.

New products have also been added to the updated wound management section and content has been restructured to enhance flow and readability.

It's available both in book and CD-ROM form via the PSA BookZone at [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au) or by calling 02 6283 4783.

## NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN

TWICE AS FAST

\*ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN



## NZ to start Stop

NEW Zealand looks set to introduce a program based on Australia's Project Stop to crack down on the diversion of pseudoephedrine-based products for the manufacture of illicit drugs.

According to a confidential report released to NZ media, current laws have failed to stop "pill shopping" to make "P", also known as ice.

"For around \$100, a shopper can get four packets, sell them and be responsible for the manufacture of up to \$4000 worth of methamphetamine... without coming to the attention of law enforcement", the report states.

A proposal for Project Stop will go to the NZ Police Minister at the end of the month.

## NPS identifies CM info sources

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has published a report which reviews and categorises a range of sources of information on complementary medicines (CMs).

The *Review of the Quality of Complementary Medicines Information Sources* was released yesterday at [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au) and summarises the examination of 52 databases and publications.

Six were identified as being of the 'highest quality' based on criteria which included accessibility and currency, content, transparency, coverage and accuracy.

NPS said the review followed previous research which found that despite widespread use of CMs, "both health professionals and consumers struggle to find reliable and accurate information about their safety and efficacy."

automotive industry," he said.

"Local pharmaceutical companies attract upwards of \$1 billion a year in R&D investment, and export Australian produced medicines worth \$4 billion annually. Those exports offset pharmaceutical imports by more than 50 per cent," Chalmers said.

He called on the govt to provide "commercial certainty and stability" by ensuring the PBS is fully funded, saying: "It would be a false economy to gouge Budget savings from a Federal health program that delivers a net saving to the state health system.

"Any cut to the PBS would be bad news for patients, and ultimately bad news for the economy."

Chalmers also encouraged the govt to implement the plan suggested in Jan by the Pharmaceuticals Industry Strategy Group to boost global investment in the Australian industry.

## Calcium supplements backed

AN extra 500-1000 mg of calcium a day has been recommended for elderly people in a new position statement issued by the three professional groups.

Australia and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society, Osteoporosis Australia and the Endocrine Society of Australia have backed daily use of calcium supplements for the prevention of fractures.

Due to poor long-term adherence to high-calcium diets, particularly for vegetarians, calcium citrate is the preferred form and should be taken in the evening, the group said in this week's *Medical Journal of Australia*.

# APP 2009

2-5 April

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre Queensland



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[www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)



### Final Mirixa seminar

LAST night the Guild's national roadshow to demonstrate the features and benefits of its new Mirixa system rolled into the Sunshine Coast's Twin Waters Resort.

Over the last four weeks more than 2200 pharmacists and pharmacy assistants have attended sessions around the country, with last night's event the final function before Mirixa is officially launched at the APP conference on the Gold Coast.

Pharmacists who attended the launch activities can earn 2 CPD/CPE points, with a link for the recording of recognition on the ACPPM website [www.acppm.edu.au](http://www.acppm.edu.au).



ABOVE: On the Sunshine Coast last night, from left: Darren Farquharson, Pfizer; Tim Logan, Tim Logan's Nambour Pharmacy and Qld Guild President; Grant Smith, Palmwoods Pharmacy; Peter David, Wurtulla Pharmacy; and Amanda Styles, Landsborough Chemist.



LEFT: Also snapped at last night's event, Linda Young, Landsborough Chemist; Patricia Higgins, Little Mountain Auscare Pharmacy; Lol Tumbridge, Landsborough Chemist; Trevor Bowler, GlaxoSmithKline; and Margot Kliendienst, Little Mountain Auscare Pharmacy.

### PD's Fri winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Phoebe Marshall of Amcal who was the lucky winner of a Nailene Nail Duets pack in our competition in last Friday's issue.

Phoebe and all the other winners during the week will receive their prizes in the next few days.

### Syringe hold-up

A MAN armed with a syringe held up the 777 Pharmacy in Bayswater WA last night.

The two female staff members were not injured during the incident, at around 6pm.

It was unclear if the man escaped with cash or drugs, and police are currently investigating.

### STOCK EXCHANGE

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange column, where the industry is able to offer close to expiry or surplus items to other pharmacists who may have a use for them.

Today Norwest Amcal Pharmacy in Sydney is offering a range of short dated items including:

- 1x Aerodiol Nasal Spray 04/09
- Estraderm MX 100 Patches 04/09
- 2x Voltaren Supps 100mg 04/09
- 1x Invega 3mg Tabs 05/09
- 1x Tagamet 200mg Tabs 05/09
- 1x Levitra 10mg Tabs 4 06/09
- 1x Parnate Tabs 4 06/09
- 1x Parlodel 2.5mg Tabs 30 06/09
- 1x Minitran 5mg Patches 06/09
- 1x Pulmicort Nebs 1mg/2ml 06/09

Contact the Pharmacist in Charge on 02 9659 7005 to discuss taking the items.

If you have items you'd like to offer through *PD's* please email [stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au).

### DISPENSARY CORNER

A WOMAN in the USA has been arrested for prescribing her own solution to work problems.

The 24-year-old worked for an Arkansas veterinarian, and admitted to slipping some tranquillisers into her boss's coffee because she "felt he needed to chill out."

The veterinarian knew something was wrong shortly after sipping some of the beverage and called police to his Reynolds Road Animal Clinic, where the woman worked cleaning out the cages.

OFFICIALS in Portugal are hoping to slash the country's high death rates from strokes by introducing new laws which restrict the use of salt in bread.

Apparently one of the most common foods in Portugal is dried salted fish, and this has led to a high tolerance for salt which means bakers add generous amounts to their dough.

The Portuguese Society of High Blood Pressure estimated that reducing the salt intake by one gram per day per person would save 2650 lives per year.

A CITY mayor in Ukraine is set to be referred for psychiatric evaluation after proposing a series of eccentric initiatives - including tempting elderly people to enter nursing homes by offering them a diet of caviar and pineapple.

The Ukrainian parliament is calling for medical tests, with other recent gaffes including the approval of plans for a giant sculpture of a flying cow, as well as a public monument celebrating street lights.

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