

## New TGA bill

FEDERAL Parliament is now considering the Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2009 Measures No. 1) Bill 2009, with reforms including a range of measures such as more powers for TGA officers and a framework for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicines which will apply from Jul 2011.

## Morning after anger

FAMILY campaigners in the UK are furious about the debut today of online sales of 'morning-after pills' through internet pharmacies.

The move means the pills can be bought without seeing a doctor or pharmacist, with up to three available at a time meaning they can have it on hand at home for use after having unprotected sex.

Lloyds Pharmacy says it will do 'everything it can' to ensure the pills aren't sold to girls under 18, but critics said there was no way to comprehensively verify the age or identity of purchasers.

The morning after pill is already available in the UK free from GPs and family planning centres and can also be bought from pharmacies without the need for a script.

## Make a PROMISE

PHARMACISTS using FRED or Aquarius dispensing software in Tasmania, Victoria or NSW are being invited to participate in the 12-week PROMISE III project which kicks off in Jun (PD 06 Mar).

The project is part of a scheme to create a national documentation system for community pharmacist interventions - info 1800 997 202.

## New Sigma retail model

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals is set to roll out a new "compliant retail model" in the next year, which will complement its existing Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian franchise operations.

The plan was revealed during a presentation this morning, as ceo Elmo de Alwis reported a net profit after tax of \$80.1m for the 12 months to 31 Jan, up 3.9%.

De Alwis said the figure reflected "a reinvigorated approach by management across each of the group's sales channels."

He said a weak first half due to retail pharmacy customers destocking had been largely recovered, with Sigma's market share remaining steady "despite continued fierce competition."

The revamped OTC division, in which Private Label and Herron brands were consolidated during the year, was starting to pay dividends, with Herron showing "growth in pharmacy," he said.

Further details of the new retail

## Breast hotline

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon on Fri launched a national toll-free 24-hour hotline to provide support with breastfeeding info.

The service has been established at a cost of \$2.5m, with a further \$1.8m to help train counsellors.

It's staffed by Australian Breastfeeding Association volunteers, and is available on 1800 MUM 2 MUM (1800 686 2 686) toll free from landlines across Australia.

## NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN

TWICE AS FAST

\*ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN



## DISPENSARY CORNER

BANANAS are full of goodness, including potassium, vitamin B and vitamin K.

But a supermarket worker in southern Germany found some extra supplements as she unpacked a delivery of fruit from Colombia - 28kg of cocaine.

Police spokesman Ludwig Waldinger said the crates of fruit had been imported via the Belgian port of Antwerp, and were probably mixed up when being loaded onto delivery trucks.

"Some dealers must have picked up the wrong boxes," he said, adding that he'd "like to see the look on their faces when they try to get their fix."

THE US state of New Jersey has reversed a plan which would have banned bikini waxing.

The NJ Cosmetology and Hairstyling Board proposed the Brazilian ban after two women were hospitalised for infections following the procedure.

The changed decision follows lobbying by spa owners who told the government to 'Just stay out of our pants'.

A PROFESSIONAL dance troupe made up exclusively of overweight performers has been launched in China.

The Overweight Troupe - with members weighing 125kg on average - has just set out on its first national tour.

Members must weigh a minimum of 100kg to join, but there's some doubt about how long they'll stay big as they undertake a gruelling schedule of performances.

## WIN A COPY OF NIGHTS IN RODANTHE ON DVD



Pharmacy Daily has this week again teamed up with EseaCruising.com and Roadshow Entertainment, giving readers the chance to win a copy of the romantic movie, *Nights In Rodanthe*, on DVD.

Starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane, the movie is about a doctor who is travelling to visit his estranged son, and on his way stops at a North Carolina inn and sparks with an unhappily married woman.

To enter, simply tell us in 25 words or less what is one of the most eye-catching product displays you've seen in a pharmacy window and why this was so effective.

The best entry sent in each day will win a copy of the DVD and have their story published in *Pharmacy Daily*.

Send your entries to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



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