



Priceline opportunity

API is seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists wanting to take advantage of an opportunity to purchase currently operating company-owned Priceline stores and take them over as a franchise.

An expression of interest pack is available by calling 1300 884 411 - more information on [page three](#).

PSA prescribing push

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has urged the extension of prescribing rights to pharmacists, after last night's budget granted PBS access to "appropriately qualified and credentialled nurse practitioners and eligible midwives".

A PSA budget response statement said it "believes pharmacists are ideally placed, given their grounding in therapeutics and quality use of medicines, to prescribe in the near future".

PSA President Warwick Plunkett said the expansion of prescribing to nurses "would increase public access to quality health care and free up doctors to perform more critical medical duties".

Plunkett welcomed many of the measures in the Budget, but said the PSA was concerned that putting some medicines (Lipitor and Crestor) in a new therapeutic group was "unfairly targeting the PBS...at a time when PBS reforms...are just starting to take effect."

MEANWHILE the PSA has also welcomed the new framework for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (PD Mon), in particular strongly supporting the recommendation that continuing professional development be mandatory.

However Plunkett said the PSA was concerned by the proposal that the national board would decide if State boards will be appointed.

"The PSA believes that it is essential that a State or Territory entity remain in each State and Territory," he said.

Plunkett also said that a key area requiring clarification is the process for the development of professional standards, saying "the operation of the scheme must continue to allow the PSA to retain its role in developing, and setting and maintaining standards for the pharmacy profession - primarily through its competency standards, professional practice standards and code of professional conduct".

'Pleasant surprises' in budget

THE Pharmacy Guild says it's delighted at a number of elements in last night's Federal budget, saying that "fortunately the feared attacks on pharmacy viability have not materialised."

Guild President Kos Sclavos said that PBS forward estimates in the budget show expenditure is expected to grow by an average of just 1.9% a year up to 2012-13, adding that "this is due in no small part to the contribution community pharmacy has made to PBS reforms."

He said that the Guild's work in cooperation with the government to deliver PBS efficiencies had been reflected in the budget, which "augurs well for the coming negotiations for the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement."

Key pharmacy initiatives announced by Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan last night include:

- A boost for rural pharmacists providing PBS medicines to remote Aboriginal communities, increasing the Section 100 bulk handling fee from the \$1.14 negotiated a decade ago to \$2.69 per script, back-dated to 1 Jan 09.
- The creation of a new Therapeutic Group Premium category for Lipitor (atorvastatin calcium) and Crestor (rosuvastatin calcium) from 01 Dec, which will ensure that the price paid by the govt for these drugs is based on the price of the lowest priced medicine. The govt said this would save about \$114m over four years, and pointed out that "no patients need pay any extra if their doctor chooses to prescribe a

Bowel screening tests

ENTERIX has reassured consumers that its *Inform* and *InSure* bowel cancer screening tests are not affected by the recall of the govt-issued Dorevitch test used in the National Bowel Cancer Screening program (PD yesterday).

The company asked Channel 7 to issue a clarification on Mon night after footage of its test was used in a story about the Dorevitch recall.

The Pharmacy Guild has also reiterated that it believes none of the recalled kits have been supplied to or by pharmacies, and that in particular the HemocultIII kits distributed by Rotary Bowelcan aren't affected by the recall.

clinically equivalent, cheaper alternative."

- An extension to the PBS reference pricing policy, to remove an anomaly where some medicines aren't included in the methodology and ensure fairness for all companies with medicines in the same therapeutic group - saving \$61.2m over four years.
- The addition of sunitinib (Sutent) for renal cancer and bevacizumab (Avastin) for colorectal cancer to the PBS, at a cost of \$445m.
- A new Continece Support Payment which creates an opportunity for community pharmacy. Presently people with severe and permanent incontinence can only access subsidised products from one supplier, but from 01 Jul 2010 a payment will be made directly to consumers, allowing them to buy from a range of suppliers.
- A further boost to the previously announced tax break for capital expenditure, giving a 50% deduction for pharmacies with a turnover of up to \$2m for assets bought between 13 Dec 08 and 31 Dec 09.
- An extra \$2.6m funding over five years for the National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Program.
- PBS prescribing rights for nurse practitioners and midwives.
- \$30.4m extra over four years for the National Prescribing Service, to allow an expansion of its work including \$9.4m for a new national diagnostic requesting service "to promote high quality and appropriate requests for tests from doctors."
- Ongoing investments in programs to tackle health problems caused by tobacco, obesity and excessive alcohol consumption.
- A \$134.4m package aimed at addressing rural and remote workforce services, using updated population data.
- Increased data matching of MBS and PBS data to reduce fraud.
- Further investments in e-Health through the National E-Health Transition Authority
- \$1.2m over four years for a virtual network to communicate between GPs, pharmacists and other health professionals in north-western Tasmania.

Flu vaccination urged

THE Influenza Specialist Group is calling for mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers against flu, particularly staff involved in direct contact with the public.

A new discussion paper urges that any workers who decline vaccination should be required to sign a declaration stating their reasons, with the move following research showing in some cases influenza vaccination rates of "well below 40%" among health staff.

The paper is available online at www.influenzaspecialistgroup.org.au.

MA blasts PBAC cost recovery

MEDICINES Australia ceo Ian Chalmers said he's disappointed at the reintroduction into parliament yesterday of legislation which will force the industry to fund the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

He said the move was "inappropriate" and would "put at risk access to new medicines for small patient-population groups."

"The procurement of pharmaceuticals for the PBS is a government function and it's unreasonable for industry to be expected to pay for the business of government," Chalmers added.

He said the cost recovery move was particularly unwelcome, with a further \$175m cut over five years in the cost of medicines due to measures announced in the Budget.

Medicines Australia also said it was "extremely disappointed" that there was no support in the budget for recommendations by the Pharmaceutical Industry Strategy Group, which aimed to improve Australia's competitiveness as a destination for R&D investment.

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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.

Flash those pearly whites!

Pearl Drops has released a new Pearl Drops Instant White Ultra, which unlike many teeth whitening products that have to be left on for a period of time, whitens teeth instantly. The product uses a brush-on applicator and conveniently dries in seconds, which allows for easy touch-ups. This product remains on teeth till they are brushed away with a toothbrush or after eating. Simply shake the bottle and apply!

RRP: \$19.99

Web: www.pearldrops.com.au

Tel: 1800 222 099



Prescription acne treatment

Galderma has announced the release of Epiduo Gel in Australia, a new prescription only, once-daily acne treatment, proved to effectively treat the causes and symptoms of acne, producing results as early as one week. Epiduo Gel is antibiotic free, removing the risk of developing bacterial resistance. It's a fixed dose combination of a retinoid (adapalene 0.1%) and an antimicrobial (benzoyl peroxide 2.5%).

Web: www.galderma.com

Mineral for your skin

This new Mineraliquid Superformula from Synergie Minerals is a foundation and sunscreen in one that acts as an active skincare product and make-up. This product includes Gatuline which acts to minimise the appearance of fine lines and vitamin B3 to address pigmentation, dryness and regulate oil production. Perfect for protecting skin in our harsh Australian climate.

RRP: \$79.00

Stockist: Synergie Minerals

Tel: 03 9882 6689 Web: www.synergieminerals.com



Chocolate that's good for you!

USANA has released a new chocolate range that utilises the good qualities of cocoa, providing macronutrition with a delicious chocolate taste. The Chocolate Fusion Nutrition Bar is a low GI snack without gluten, and the Chocolate Whey Nutrimel is a healthy meal replacement shake made without soy protein or gluten.

RRP: \$46 - \$48

Stockist: USANA distributors

Tel: 02 9842 4530

Sweet dreams

Blackmores has released a new product that offers temporary relief from Insomnia and disturbed sleep patterns. The Blackmores Tranquil Night tablets include a combination of sedative herbs and synergistic vitamins and is free of wheat & corn starch, gluten, preservatives and artificial colourings and flavours.

RRP: \$16.15

Stockist: Blackmores

Tel: 07 3853 5300 Web: www.blackmores.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

A MAN from India says he hasn't washed for more than 35 years, as part of a political protest.

The *Hindustan Times* reported that Kailash Singh replaces bathing and brushing his teeth with a so-called "fire bath" every evening, when he stands on one leg beside a bonfire.

"It's just like using water to take a bath," he said.

"A fire bath helps kill germs and infection in the body."

The 63-year-old also wears two jumpers all through the blistering Indian summer, and said his non-washing was due to a commitment to the 'national interest'.

"I'll end this vow only when all problems confronting the nation end," he said.

RESEARCHERS from Sweden have found that too much sunshine can be very bad for you.

They studied the seasonal variation of suicides in Greenland, where during the summer it's light almost 24 hours a day.

The research found that insomnia due to the constant sunshine was more likely to drive people to kill themselves - in contrast to previous studies which said increased depression due to lengthening darkness caused higher suicide rates.

"During the long periods of constant light, it is crucial to keep some circadian rhythm to get enough sleep and sustain mental health," one of the scientists said.

A VISITOR to a hospital canteen in central Italy was taken directly to the emergency department, after biting into a dead lizard inside a cheese and tomato sandwich.

"I was surprised when I tasted something a bit meaty and chewy," said Guiseppe Ferri.

"I looked down and saw a lizard tail sticking out of the side of the sandwich. I opened it up and saw the dead animal and nearly passed out," he said.

Doctors gave him the all clear but have launched a probe into the "snack horror".



be part of Australia's leading health and beauty retailer

Want to be a part of a unique, powerful and growing franchise business?

As a pharmacist, this is your opportunity to purchase currently operating company-owned Priceline stores and operate them as a franchise.

As Australia's fastest growing retail chain – with sales in excess of 1 billion dollars – occupying Australia's leading market position in mid-mass cosmetics, skincare and haircare, it's no wonder Priceline is the most popular health, beauty and wellbeing shopping destination.

Priceline is a household name. We have over 320 stores Australia-wide and our offering is truly unique, we're the one-stop-shop for health, beauty and

wellbeing. We have a loyal customer base, dedicated Clubcard customers, a multi-million member loyalty program, high profile advertising and a reputation for carrying the best brands.

No wonder we are household name.

All that's missing is you.

Priceline is now seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists on a number of Priceline stores from within the company-owned portfolio.

You may choose to buy one or more stores.

To receive the initial expression of interest pack, please contact us on 1300 88 4411.

