



## Change change

THE Reserve Bank is understood to be planning an overhaul of Australian currency which will include the demise of the 5c piece.

If the move goes ahead the change will require changes to point of sale and cash register systems, with all transactions needing to be rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

A spokesman for the Australian Retailers Association said retailers may need some guidance from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission about whether prices should be rounded up or down.

## Prison for poison

A COURT in Georgia, USA has sentenced a man to 100 years in prison after he laced food for his children with prescription drugs.

William Cunningham was convicted of aggravated assault, with the children hospitalised multiple times after he forced them to eat Campbells Soup containing drugs as well as lighter fluid, in an attempt to extort money from the company.

## Industry braces for flu panic

COMMUNITY pharmacies across Australia are likely to be inundated today with more demand for antivirals, facemasks and cleansing gels after Federal Cabinet approved further measures to contain a potential swine flu outbreak.

On Friday Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jim Bishop, raised Australia's pandemic alert from the previous DELAY level to CONTAIN.

"The raising of the alert level to CONTAIN recognises that Australia has a small number of swine flu cases and at least one human-to-human transmission," said Health Minister Nicola Roxon.

"The aim of this phase is to contain the spread of the virus within Australia," she added.

Roxon reminded the community that while the official alert level had been raised "there are still only a small number of confirmed cases in Australia, and the symptoms people are experiencing are relatively mild."

Over the weekend there have been a number of further developments, including the highly publicised

quarantining of several thousand passengers aboard the *Dawn Princess* ocean liner in Sydney after she returned from a 34-day cruise visiting Pacific ports incl Hawaii.

Four passengers reported mild flu symptoms when the ship docked on Sat, with NSW Health officials detaining the other 3000 people on board while testing was conducted.

All passengers were eventually allowed to leave the ship but were advised to remain in Sydney until testing was completed - with the department yesterday advising that the tests showed no evidence of influenza A (H1N1).

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd also announced that children returning from overseas trips to Mexico, the US, Canada, Japan and Panama would be excluded from school for a week after their return.

Globally the number of swine flu cases has now passed the 10,000 mark, with a huge increase in the US which now has 5469 cases.

## Vaccine in 6 weeks?

THE World Health Organization says a swine influenza vaccine could be ready for commercial production by the end of June or early in July.

"We're hopeful that this will be the time companies will be in a position to make a vaccine," said WHO interim assistant director-general Keiji Fukuda.

However there's still some debate about whether such a vaccine would be mass produced as it may disrupt the production of seasonal flu vaccines, he said.

## Multiple birth record

A NORTHERN Ireland woman has given birth to naturally conceived sextuplets - said to be a one in 4.5 million occurrence.

Two boys and four girls were born by caesarean section within five minutes of each other.

## PND testing routine?

DEPRESSION group Beyondblue is reportedly in talks with the government about new routine testing for postnatal depression (PND) for expectant mothers.

A recent British study found a strong correlation between multiple births and a doubling of risk of PND, with Beyondblue pushing for pregnant women and new mothers to be screened for the condition.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

A NEW trend towards complementary treatments for animals was discussed at last week's Australian Veterinary Association conference in Darwin.

The ABC reported that demand for alternatives to pet antibiotics is growing, with many vets now offering acupuncture, massage and complementary medicines.

AVA president Dr Mark Lawrie said some bacteria causing pet problems were becoming resistant to antibiotics, and urged owners to follow instructions to prevent further increases in resistance.

THIS new service could come in very handy for incontinent patients.

A website at [www.runpee.com](http://www.runpee.com) has been developed to advise busting movie viewers when is the best time to dash to the dunny.

"Every movie has a few minutes you can miss and not be lost when you sit back down," says a blurb on the site.

For example, in the latest Dan Brown blockbuster *Angels & Demons* it advises to "RunPee about 70 minutes into the movie when Robert and a guard are in the Vatican archives and the power goes out. This is a perfect time to RunPee because they don't even talk much."

## WIN A COPY OF IGOR ON DVD



*Pharmacy Daily* has this week again teamed up with EseaCruising.com and Roadshow Entertainment, giving the pharmacy industry the chance to win a copy of the children's movie, *IGOR*, on DVD.

Starring John Cusack, Steve Buscemi and John Cleese, *IGOR* is the animated tale of an ambitious hunchbacked lab assistant who stands tall and dares to dream of becoming a scientist and win first prize at the annual Evil Science Fair.

To enter, simply tell us in 25 words or less what is the best remedy (or potion as Igor would refer to it as) you've heard of to treat a child's cold.

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

Send your entries to:  
[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).



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