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## Health spending up

THE latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report detailing Australia's public health spend between 2007-08 has found that expenditure covering prevention, protection or health promotion grew by almost 21%.

Overall expenditure between 2007-08 was shown to be \$2,159m, averaging out at \$102 per person, an increase of \$444m on the previous year's expenditure figures.

## ADEC recommendations

THE Australian Drug Evaluation Committee has approved nine new medications, including Servier Laboratories' Coveram (perindopril arginin/amlopidine as besylate) combination therapy for the treatment of hypertension and/or stable coronary heart disease.

The decisions were made at ADEC's last meeting early in Oct and made public last night on the

TGA website.

Other approvals include:

- changes to the dosage and administration recommendations for Novartis' Certican (everolimus) for prophylaxis of organ rejection
- UCB Australia's Cimzia (certolizumab pegol) solution for injection for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis
- Circadin (melatonin) from Commercial Eyes Pty Ltd for the treatment of primary insomnia in patients aged 55 or over
- Janssen Cilag's Invega (paliperidone) for the treatment of schizoaffective disorder
- Pergoveris (follitropin alfa rch/ lutropin alfa rch) from Merck Serono for the stimulation of follicular development in women
- Janssen Cilag's Risperdal Consta (risperidone) for maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder
- Simponi and Simponi Smartject Injector (golimumab) from Schering-Plough for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis
- Pfizer's Zeldox (ziprasidone as mesilate) for the treatment of agitated and disturbed behaviours in patients with schizophrenia.

## Win a month's supply of Rioliife Açai



**CONGRATULATIONS to Kaye Hazel of Angel Medicine** who was the first reader yesterday to tell us Rioliife Açai berries can be used in breakfast lunch and in smoothies etc.

Rioliife has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week, giving readers the chance to win a month's supply of **Rioliife Açai** every day this week, valued at \$50.

**Açai** (pronounced Ah- Sigh- Ee) is a small purple coloured berry,

high in antioxidants and vitamins, including vitamin e, iron, calcium and magnesium which has now been introduced to the Australian diet by Sydney based exotic energy food specialists **Rioliife**.

One serve of **Rioliife Açai** is equal in antioxidants to approximately 120 blueberries (a regular breakfast food for many Australians) with the bonus of almost no sugar at all.

**Rioliife Certified Organic Freeze Dried Açai** is available from all good health food stores, pharmacies and whole-food stores nationwide.

For your chance to win a month's supply of Rioliife Açai , simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

How much money is Rioliife donating back to the Amazon through the Amazon Friendly program for every packet of Rioliife Açai sold?

Check out the Rioliife website for hints at [www.riolife.com.au](http://www.riolife.com.au).

## Don't miss ASMI

THE Australian Self Management Industry is reminding the industry that registrations for its upcoming conference will close next Tue, with the event kicking off at 11am on Thu 12 Nov in Redfern, Sydney.

Speakers include Health Minister Nicola Roxon at 12.00, Deregulation minister Craig Emerson at 2.30 and Parliamentary Secretary for Health Mark Butler at 7pm.

## Touchy training

**PHARMACY** customer touch screen provider Healthpoint is now offering staff training via an interactive touch screen format, covering 60 topics in addition to its new customer service module.

According to Healthpoint, the new model takes just 10 seconds to access and allows training to occur within normal business hours.

The training involves ten interactive questions with answers and performance summary provided immediately after the end of the session.

There is no cost for the program, excepting the ownership, or purchase of the Healthpoint touch screen, and modules can be revisited at any time for revision - see [www.healthpointtech.com](http://www.healthpointtech.com).

## iNova doubles caps

THE Federal Member for Calwell and Standing Committee Chair on Industry, Science and Innovation, Maria Vamvakinou, has today officially opened iNova's \$2.2m equipment and site upgrade at its Sydney headquarters.

The new site will allow iNova to more than double its capacity to package tablets, capsules and lozenges to around 20 million blister packs per annum, generating almost 75% of the company's entire yearly revenue.

"The new investment will enable us to better meet changing customer needs in Australia and across the Asia-Pacific and Southern African regions, while continuing to provide high quality products and services to many countries, which benefits our local economy, exports and Australian based jobs," said Andrew Howden , ceo at iNova.

# Helping tightwads become tighter.

If you're not buying your pharmacy supplies through [pharmamarket.com.au](http://pharmamarket.com.au) you could be losing money every single day. Slash your cost of supply, visit [pharmamarket.com.au](http://pharmamarket.com.au) today.

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## CPD Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events, conferences and opportunities for pharmacists to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**5-8 Nov:** National Medicines Management Conference in Perth - [www.shpamm2009.com](http://www.shpamm2009.com).

**8 Nov:** Quitskills Workshop for Pharmacists, Mercure Hotel, Launceston - [lorraine.norris@psa.org.au](mailto:lorraine.norris@psa.org.au).

**9-10 Nov:** 'Mental Health First Aid', PSA Boardroom, Parkville, Victoria - [terry.wong@psavic.com.au](mailto:terry.wong@psavic.com.au).

**10 Nov:** CPD seminar on 'Unfair Dismissal' Laws- Fair Work Australia, Griffith University Campus - <http://www.acp.edu.au/site.php?id=377>.

**11 Nov:** 'The How's of Effective Insulin Administration'- The Doctors, Mulgrave Road, Cairns - [kellym@psaqld.org.au](mailto:kellym@psaqld.org.au).

**12 Nov:** The ASMI annual conference and agm at the Australian Technology Park in Redfern, Sydney - [asmi.com.au](http://asmi.com.au).

**16 Nov:** The Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia lecture 'Breastfeeding and the role of the Pharmacist', 7pm, FJ Clark lecture theatre, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands.

**16 Nov:** The Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia lecture 'Post Myocardial Infarction Care', 7pm, Technology Park Function Rooms, Bently - [lgregory@pcwa.com.au](mailto:lgregory@pcwa.com.au).

**16-23 Jan 2010:** Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado - [www.medic.com.au/study-tours](http://www.medic.com.au/study-tours).

**4-17 Feb 2010:** PSA Expedition Education conference in Chile and Patagonia. Limited to 50 people - 1300 139 293.

**28 Apr-7 May 2010:** The PSA will hold its 35th annual offshore conference in Beijing and Shanghai - 1300 139 293.

## SHPA honours Coulthard

**TODAY** The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has kicked off its annual National conference in Perth, with the opening session seeing SHPA president Neil Keen announce the winner of the 2009 Fred J. Boyd award as Associate Professor Kingsley Coulthard.

The award was established in 1978 and is the Society's most prestigious recognition, named in memory of its founding president.

Coulthard has had an extensive career in hospital pharmacy in Australia, with his most recent role that of Divisional Chief, Pharmacy at the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service in North Adelaide.

He's also been involved in many research areas including pharmacokinetics, cystic fibrosis, management of febrile neutropenia in children and the evaluation of therapies in childhood asthma.

## Brisbane Super Clinic

**THE** Federal Govt in partnership with the University of Queensland has signed off on a deal to fund a \$7.5million, Super Clinic in the Brisbane Southside region.

The Clinic will feature chronic disease services, a mental health service and a musculoskeletal pain and palliative care service.

In his opening address Keen told delegates that Coulthard's "outstanding and sustained contribution to hospital pharmacy practice in Australia and his achievements in the area of paediatric therapeutics have gained him Australian and international acclaim."

The SHPA conference, which runs until Sunday, is titled 'Medicines Management' and will showcase the latest in contemporary pharmacy practice to its 800 registered delegates, with 80 contributed papers and 216 posters.

## FDA sex warning

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning on a dietary supplement claimed to enhance sexual performance.

The FDA says the product, aptly named Stiff Nights, contains sulfoaldenafil, "an ingredient that can dangerously lower blood pressure and is illegal."

"Because this product is labelled as an 'all natural dietary supplement' consumers may assume it is harmless and poses no health risk," said a spokeswoman.

"In fact this product is illegally marketed and can cause serious complications," she added.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**COKE** causes membership uproar!

The decision by the American Academy of Family Physicians to allow the Coca-Cola company to provide educational materials about soft drinks for the academy's website has prompted many prominent members to cancel their membership.

According to Academy ceo, Douglas Henley, the six figure deal, wouldn't allow Coke the ability to control editorial content or use its influence to tailor the Group's public health messages.

However vocal opponents of the proposal, including Harvard University's nutrition expert Dr Walter Willnet are saying rather than partnering with Coke, the Academy should be a "loud critic."

"Coca-Cola, like other sodas, causes enormous suffering and premature death by increasing the risks of obesity, diabetes, heart attacks, gout, and cavities," Willnet said.

"By signing with Coke their voice has almost surely been muzzled," he added.

Coke has issued a statement hitting back at critics saying they are 'missing the point' and that the partnership "is designed to provide education based on sound science".

**RUMOURS** of this Brazilian man's demise were much exaggerated.

Ademir Jorge Goncalves had the unique opportunity this week to attend his own funeral.

He was positively identified as the victim of a car crash in Pamama by four of his friends and an aunt, but other family members including his mother and niece had their doubts due to the body's badly disfigured state.

Nevertheless the funeral went ahead, with Goncalves stumbling in half way through, having just finished after a hard night of boozing with his buddies.

"Before long, the walking dead appeared at the funeral," said a police spokesperson.

"It was a relief to everybody" he added.

## Pharmacy wins SA small business award



**PICTURED** above are Irfan and Sobia Hashmi, proud owners of the Risdon Pharmacy, Port Pirie, which has won the SA Great Regional Small Business Award 2009'.

Irfan and Sobia took out the award despite some stiff regional competition, for their Mid North

and Yorke Peninsula region at the lavish 'SA Great' awards ceremony and cocktail function at the Clare Country Club last night.

This is the second award for the pharmacists this year, with Irfan having also won the PSA's SA Pharmacist of the Year award in Aug.