

## POS tax incentives

**FRED** Health is reminding pharmacy owners that they have a last opportunity to access increased business tax breaks of 10% or 50% on point of sale and computer hardware purchases, under the government's economic stimulus package which is valid to 31 Dec.

The 10% tax deduction is applicable on purchases of \$10,000 or more for businesses with a turnover greater than \$2 million per annum, whilst the 50% tax deduction is applicable on assets of \$1000 or more for small pharmacies that have a yearly turnover of less than \$2 million.

## Nicorette does both

**THE** relaunched Nicorette inhaler (**PD** yesterday) is the only nicotine replacement therapy product available in Australia that tackles both the behavioural 'hand to mouth' habit of smoking and the physical addiction to nicotine.

## PSA Queensland winners

**LISA** Goldsmith and Professor Beverley Glass were both honoured at last night's Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Queensland branch) annual dinner and awards ceremony in Brisbane.

Lisa Goldsmith, a Griffith Uni Masters of Pharmacy graduate, was presented with the Pharmacy Graduate of the year award for her efforts and achievements in her studies and her extracurricular work throughout the year.

"Lisa has certainly been outstanding in her leadership at the university's pharmacy school and among pharmacy students at the State and national levels," said Branch president Dr Lisa Nissen.

In addition to her studies Lisa was president of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Assn and Treasurer of the Griffith University Assn of Pharmacy Students Committee, and now continues her commitment to the profession by heading up the Qld Branch Early Career Pharmacist Working Group.

The ceremony also saw the PSA's most prestigious award, the Bowl of Hygieia Award, presented to Professor Beverley Glass, chair of Pharmacy at the School of

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## Medicines Symposium

**THE** National Prescribing Service is calling for abstracts from health professionals, academics, researchers and policy experts for inclusion in its annual National Medicines Symposium in Melbourne 26-28 May 2010.

Themed 'Medicines in people's lives', the conference will focus on the quality use of medicines in the wider context of changes within the health sectors.

Abstracts must address the conference theme and may cover topics incl clinical practice, education, research, complementary medicines, leadership, policy, innovations or future directions - [nms2010.org.au](http://nms2010.org.au).

Pharmacy and Molecular Sciences at James Cook University, for her consistently high standard of professional practice in support of the principles of pharmacy service to the community and exceptional individual service to the profession.

"Her achievements for the BPharm program are extensive and range from forging and maintaining strong links with the pharmacy profession in north Queensland and elsewhere in Australia at both the state and federal level to pastoral care for the students undertaking the BPharm program," Nissen said.

## Ready for Guild dinner



**ABOVE:** The Pharmacy Guild was pleased to welcome senior public servants and politicians at its annual dinner at Parliament House in Canberra earlier this week.

Guild President Kos Sclavos is

pictured above with, from left: Jane Halton, Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing; Federal Health Minister, Nicola Roxon; and Guild Executive Director Wendy Phillips.

## ANU speaks on reform

**THE** Australian National University yesterday held the first in a series of new National Health Reform policy briefings, with six seminars to be held between now and mid-2010.

Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, said the discussions would "bring together some of the nation's leading experts on this country's health system and on health reform."

The first briefing was held yesterday, on the topic of 'Can we fix the health system without reforming the workforce', with speakers including former AMA president Dr Mukesh Haikerwal; Robert Wells, who's director of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute; and Kathleen McLaughlin, Director Professional Services at the Royal College of Nursing Australia.

The series aims to "contribute significantly to the health reform agenda in Australia".

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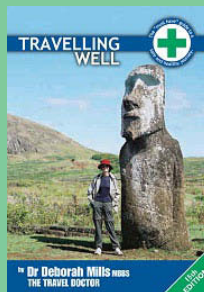
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## Win a copy of Travelling Well!



Dr Deb is back by popular demand, and **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers another chance to win a copy of Dr Deborah Mills' latest book, *Travelling Well*, valued at \$24.95. The book is a must have guide to a safe and healthy journey, with detailed advice about pre-trip preparation, how to look after yourself while away, and what to do if you get sick.

Dr Deb, known as "The Travel Doctor" is one of Australia's leading travel health care providers, and has over 20 years experience in the field.

The 15th edition of *Travelling Well* has been updated to include new vaccines, current recommendations for treatment of travellers' diarrhoea and much more - see [www.travellingwell.com.au](http://www.travellingwell.com.au).

**For your chance to win one of four copies of Travelling Well this week, simply tell us what your best travel tip is when preparing for your holiday.**

Email your answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The lucky book winners will be announced in the *Pharmacy Daily* issue next Monday.



## 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).

**21 Nov:** Pharmaceutical Society 'Mental Health First Aid Course', Bowral Golf Course - details [moyatang@psansw.org.au](mailto:moyatang@psansw.org.au).

**24 Nov:** Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales 'Vitamins A-Z', 7.30pm, Dee Why RSL - [melenyhui@psansw.org.au](mailto:melenyhui@psansw.org.au).

**24 Nov:** PSA Preceptor Training Course, Pharmacy House, St Leonards - 02 9431 1100.

**24 Nov:** Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia 'Post Myocardial Infarction Care', 7pm, Technology Park Function Rooms, Bentley - 6231 2636.

**29 Nov:** Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland 'Fall Prevention in the Elderly', 6.45pm, Coral Room, Mackay Base Hospital, Bridge Road, Mackay - [kellym@psaql.com.au](mailto:kellym@psaql.com.au).

**03 Dec:** PSA 'Management of Acute Sporting Injuries' in Canberra - 02 6201 5897.

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

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

**14-18 Apr 2010:** Australian College of Pharmacy 'Manage your practice and practice your management' 2010 conference-Barossa Valley- 1300 651 239.

**30 Apr-02 May 2010:** The 2010 Australian Fitness & Health Expo - [www.fitnessexpo.com.au](http://www.fitnessexpo.com.au).

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

**04-06 Jun 2010:** The 2010 Pharmacy Expo in Sydney - [www.pharmacyexpo.com.au](http://www.pharmacyexpo.com.au).

**26-28 May 2010:** The National Prescribing Service's National Medicines Symposium 2010 - see [www.nms2010.org.au](http://www.nms2010.org.au).

## FDA warns on clopidogrel

THE US Food and Drug Administration has warned patients against using anti-clotting drug Plavix (clopidogrel) with Prilosec (omeprazole) after new evidence suggested that the combination reduces Plavix's action to block platelet aggregation by about half.

Prilosec is a proton pump inhibitor used to reduce the production of stomach acid.

"Both of these drugs, when used properly, provide significant benefit to patients," said an FDA spokeswoman.

"However patients at risk for heart attacks or strokes who use Plavix...will not get the full effect of this medicine if they are also taking Prilosec," she said.

The interaction is because Plavix needs to be metabolised into its active form with the help of a liver enzyme CYP2C19.

This enzyme is blocked by Prilosec, thereby reducing the effectiveness of Plavix.

The FDA said it's unknown how other PPIs may interfere with Plavix, but also recommended that other drugs also not be used with clopidogrel, including Nexium (esomeprazole), Tagamet (cimetidine), Diflucan (fluconazole),

## New dental products

**MIRADENT** Australia has released two new dental products, Xylitol chewing gum and Mirawhite Oxygen teeth whitening system, available for sale only through pharmacies and dental practices.

Through the use of its active ingredient (xylitol), Xylitol chewing gum is 'clinically proven' to remove plaque and remineralise tooth enamel, providing long term protection against tooth decay.

Available in six flavours including spearmint, peppermint, cranberry, fresh fruit, cinnamon and green tea, Xylitol gum will retail at around \$5.99 a pack.

Miradent's Mirawhite Oxygen at-home teeth whitening system (priced at \$49.99) is peroxide free and works through the use of oxidation technology, which according to Miradent, provides users with up to four shades whiter teeth in just two weeks, without creating sensitivity or eroding tooth enamel - see [www.miradent.com.au](http://www.miradent.com.au).

Nizoral (ketoconazole), VFEND (voriconazole), Intelence (etravirine), Felbatol (felbamate), Prozac, Serafem, Symbyax (fluoxetine), Luvox (fluvoxamine) and Ticlid (ticlopidine).

Patients are who take Plavix and need to treat excess stomach acid are being advised to consult their health professionals, with Zantac (ranitidine), Pepcid (famotidine), Axid (nizatidine) and antacids not expected to interfere with the anti-clotting activity.

The manufacturer of Plavix has agreed to continue conducting studies to explore the Prilosec and other drug interactions.

## Palliative resources

**AGEING** minister Justine Elliot yesterday launched two new publications to help people working in aged care homes who provide care and support for palliative care patients.

The resources have been developed by Catholic Health Australia (CHA), with more than 20,000 Australians receiving specialist palliative care each year, affecting over 500,000 patients, carers, family members and friends.

*Provision of Palliative Care in Catholic Health and Aged Care* is aimed at health workers, while *Catholic Palliative Care Services* is a consumer publication.

CHA represents the largest group of non-governmental health community and aged care services in Australia, with more than 35,000 employees caring for one in every 10 people in hospitals or aged care across the country.

Elliot said CHA was "well placed to produced resources that will help its workforce provide the best quality in palliative care."

## UK Gaviscon recall

**RECKITT** Benckiser has announced a "precautionary medicine recall" in the UK on two batches of Gaviscon Advance Peppermint Flavour.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said low level bacterial contamination had been found, which could cause the product to spoil and alter its smell "from peppermint to antiseptic".



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SANTA** Claus has promised that swine flu won't stop him bringing Christmas presents to children around the globe next month.

Speaking to a TV station in Finland, the jolly red man said: "I swear that Christmas will not be cancelled this year".

He confirmed that neither he nor his elves expected to catch Influenza A (H1N1) thanks to the good care of Mrs Claus.

According to Finnish tradition, Santa lives in a cabin on top of the Korvatunturi mountain in Lapland.

**HOWEVER** Santa impersonators in the USA aren't so confident, with a group representing shopping mall Father Christmases demanding that they be given priority for swine flu vaccinations.

The Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas (AORBS) recently held a seminar on the virus in Philadelphia, and is now lobbying for its members to be put onto the priority list - while the rival Santa America group is also making a similar call.

AORBS president Nichola Trolli said the campaign "was not so much to protect the Santa, but to help protect the public."

The organisation also urged members to use hand sanitiser and take vitamins to boost their immunity, as well as encouraging parents to keep ill children away.

Mr Trolli said "If you contact AORBS we will do our best to get a Santa to come to your home so you won't be exposing other kids".

**CORRECTIVE** services authorities in Fiji have announced a ban on the use of kava in prisons around the country "so that wardens can be more committed to their work and improve their fitness."

Spokesman Lemeki Rokovesa said it had been noticed that officers drank the traditional intoxicant late into the night.

"When there is too much consumption...it affects performance so a kava ban in prison compounds has been introduced," he said.