

## Govt urges insurance

**HEALTH** Minister Nicola Roxon has urged private health insurers to further extend their products "by including positive preventative health treatments such as those to quit smoking, lose weight or manage stress."

Speaking during a consultation on the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission final report, Roxon said that private health insurance membership continues to rise, "and as Australians increasingly seek to improve their health and stay well, preventative health measures make attractive additions to policies".

Roxon also outlined the Commission's recommendations that all Australians should have universal access to dental care and dentures regardless of their ability to pay, with the choice of either a public or private insurer and costs met through the proposed new Denticare program.

## Guild to set the Standard

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has been officially accredited as a "standards development organisation" by the Accreditation Board for Standards Development Organisations (ABSDO).

Guild President, Kos Slavos, said the move gives the Quality Care Pharmacy Program, which covers best practice standards for pharmacy businesses, "even greater credibility...[it] continues to set the benchmark for community pharmacy".

The Guild applied to ABSDO for accreditation for the development of Australian Standards for businesses in the community pharmacy sector.

Slavos said the application

process was "comprehensive and lengthy," involving a commitment to developing best practice International Standards, and covering both the business and professional aspects of pharmacy.

"Community pharmacies may be assured that their standards are equivalent to world's best practice," Slavos said.

The Guild's standards include compliance with all legal and professional requirements, dispensing of medicines, medical devices and poisons, provision of professional services, operating effective and profitable businesses including the design and use of premises, hiring of medical devices and management of staff.

The Guild said future developments planned for QCPP include risk management, covering business continuity planning in particular to support influenza pandemic service delivery.

## CoPlavix on PBS

**FROM** 01 Dec patients suffering from acute coronary syndrome will be able to access the new treatment system, CoPlavix, via the PBS.

The fixed dose antiplatelet therapy is a combination tablet that contains 75mg of clopidogrel and 100mg of aspirin, and helps in the prevention of adthorothrombotic events, and is also used following cardiac stent insertion.

## Weight-loss battle

**ABBOTT** Pharmaceuticals has won a Federal Court injunction against generic competitor Apotex, to stop it marketing its sibutramine weight loss product, pending the outcome of Abbott's patient infringement suit against Apotex.

According to Abbott, Apotex's generic sibutramine weight loss product is the same as its own Reductil - which has a 36% market share of the weight loss sector, and as such has the potential to seriously hurt Abbott's business.

Federal Court Judge Christopher Jessup explained his decision to grant the injunction by saying that Abbot "have made good their prima facie that the product which the respondent (Apotex) proposes to commercialise is sibutramine hydrochloride monohydrate, and is the same product".

Judge Jessop also ruled that Abbott also needed to give Apotex one-month's warning if it was going to market its own generic Reductil product prior to 01 Jan 2010, or else it would forfeit the injunction.



## Pharmacy Travel Health

Introductory Deals Close Monday  
30th November - [click here](#)



## Nitwits out now

**NITWITS** has released two new chemical free products; NitWits Natural Head Lice Prevention & Detangling Spray and NitWits Natural All-in-One Head Lice Action Cream (which kills nits and eggs in one half hour process), featuring all natural ingredients.

For info see [www.nitwits.com.au](http://www.nitwits.com.au).

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## APP offers quick bites

**THE** organisers of next year's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2010) have announced that the event will include new Clinical Bite sessions - a series of half hour seminars "designed to provide the essential information pharmacists need to stay up to date in a succinct, no-nonsense format."

Earlybird discounts are available for registrations before 31 Dec, with the event once again taking place on the Gold Coast, from 11-14 Mar.

Guild members pay \$550, with non-members paying \$650 for early registrations, while students and pre-reg pharmacists pay \$385.

See [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com).

# APP2010

11-14 March

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland



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Guild of Australia

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## CPD Calendar

**WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's***  
Continuing Professional  
Development Calendar, featuring  
upcoming events and opportunities  
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).

**29 Nov:** PSA Qld 'Fall Prevention  
in the Elderly', 6.45pm, Coral  
Room, Mackay Base Hospital -  
[kellym@psaqld.com.au](mailto:kellym@psaqld.com.au).

**29 Nov:** PSA NSW Preceptor  
Training Course, Pharmacy  
House St Leonards -  
[deborahhepner@psansw.org.au](mailto:deborahhepner@psansw.org.au).

**03 Dec:** PSA 'Management of  
Acute Sporting Injuries', Canberra  
Business Event Centre - 62015897.

**03 Dec:** PSA ACT branch  
Members Christmas Party,  
Canberra Business Event Centre  
- [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).

**08 Dec:** PSA Tasmania 'A Patch  
for Pain Management', Hotel  
Grand Chancellor -  
[lorraine.norris@psa.org.au](mailto:lorraine.norris@psa.org.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.

**20 Feb 2010:** PSA Victoria,  
Pharmacy Management,  
Saturday Series, Victorian  
College of Pharmacy board  
room - 03 9389 4007.

**20 Feb 2010:** PSA Victoria,  
Diploma of Management,  
Victorian College of Pharmacy  
board room - 03 9389 4007.

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

**28 Apr-7 May 2010:** The  
Pharmaceutical Society of  
Australia will hold its 35th  
annual offshore conference in  
Beijing and Shanghai - details  
on 1300 139 293.

**26-28 May 2010:** The National  
Prescribing Service's National  
Medicines Symposium 2010,  
Melbourne Conference and  
Exhibition Centre-  
[www.nms2010.org.au](http://www.nms2010.org.au).

## HIP "stable and focussed"

THE parent firm of the Health  
Information Pharmacy group,  
publicly listed Health Corporation,  
has confirmed that it was severely  
affected by the financial crisis, with  
losses this year mainly due to final  
provisioning outlays for its financing  
arm after credit dried up.

Speaking at the company's  
annual general meeting yesterday,  
chairman Graham Dunkley said  
that restructuring and employment  
issues had now been resolved  
satisfactorily, "creating a stable and  
focussed environment from which  
to continue and promote  
development of the company into  
the recovery phase of the market  
ahead of us."

Dunkley said Health Corporation  
continued to believe its web-based  
Chemconsult patient counselling  
and compliance program has a  
"profitable and expanding role to  
play in community health, lifestyle  
and public health savings".

He said negotiations were  
ongoing with the Federal Govt,

health funds and the Pharmacy  
Guild to promote Chemconsult as a  
front-line tool in community health.

"The board is confident that it  
has the potential to become an  
international industry standard in  
prescription dispensing," he said.

The company is also continuing  
to pursue pharmacy franchise  
expansion and further development  
"using a robust management  
model for large pharmacies."

He said the HIP system provides  
a secure and profitable exit strategy  
for retiring pharmacists and "is also  
a profit centre for the company."

### Veterans gout module

THE Department of Veterans'  
Affairs has released the latest  
module in its MATES program,  
including a brochure and  
therapeutic brief relating to gout.

*Revisiting gout management in  
your veteran patients* considers co-  
morbidities, current medication and  
renal function, and is available at  
[www.veteransmates.net.au](http://www.veteransmates.net.au).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**DOES** your partner smell funny?

That may not be a bad thing, in  
the light of a recently published  
study of mandrills - the world's  
biggest monkey.

The research found that the  
primates pick mates that smell  
genetically different to themselves  
in order to ensure the production  
of strong and healthy offspring.

**PATIENTS** who want to lose  
weight should try eating more  
slowly, according to a report in the  
*Journal of Clinical Endocrinology  
and Metabolism*.

The study found that chewing  
food slowly will make you feel  
fuller than eating the same  
amount more quickly.

The researchers attributed the  
full feeling to the release of  
stomach hormones which make  
the subject feel satisfied earlier.

**A SUSPECTED** gas leak has  
turned up a 120kg porcine culprit.

Fifteen fire-fighters were called  
out to a Bendigo property after  
the owner reported a strong smell  
of gas.

However upon arrival the  
emergency workers discovered the  
source of the gas was in fact a  
flatulent 120kg sow.

"When we got there, as we  
drove up the driveway, there was  
this huge sow, about a 120-odd  
kilo sow, and it was very obvious  
where the gas was coming from,"  
fire captain Peter Harkins said.

"We could not only smell it, but  
we heard it and it was quite  
funny," he added.

And as for the owner, well "He  
was a little bit embarrassed to  
say the least.

"It took us a little while to  
compose ourselves, to speak to  
him," Harkins added.



That'll do pig, that'll do.

## Win an A'kin Radiance Serum



Every day this week, A'kin is giving  
**Pharmacy Daily** readers the chance  
to win an **[A'kin] Pure Alchemy  
Cellular Radiance Serum**, valued at  
\$39.95 each.

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skin with **[A'kin] Pure Alchemy  
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**For your chance to win this great prize, 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 many drops of [A'kin] Pure Alchemy Cellular  
Radiance Serum are needed per application?**

**Congratulations to yesterday's winner Niroshni Gunewardhane  
from MIMS who correctly answered that there are 2 mists in the  
A'kin range.**

Check out the Purist website for hints at  
[www.purist.com](http://www.purist.com).

**[A'kin]**