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## Risky drinking

**THE** Department of Health has put \$10m up for grabs for projects to combat risky drinking amongst young Australians.

"Around 1 in 6 people aged 14 or older put themselves at risk of alcohol-related injury from a single drinking occasion at least once a week - this is an alarming statistic", said the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon.

Grants of up to \$300,000 are now available for individual projects by incorporated community groups or local govt organisations, and up to \$500,000 for proposals from partnerships.

"It is vital that our communities find innovative ways to reduce harmful behaviours amongst young people, so I call on local government and community organisations to apply for this funding," Roxon added.

## AHPRA relocation

**THE** ACT office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency is moving to new premises from 12-15 August and will be closed during this period.

The new address is: Level 3, RSM Bird Cameron Building, 103 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra.

## ASMI registrations

**THE** Australian Self-Medication Industry has opened up registrations for its 2011 conference, which will take place in Homebush, NSW on Wed 16 Nov.

Themed "Promoting Health Care Literacy", the event is also offering sponsorship and exhibition packages, and will this year be officially opened by TGA chief Dr Rohan Hammett.

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

## TGA device reporting

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced the imminent launch of a new online reporting form for medical device adverse events.

The new user-friendly system will allow electronic documentation to be attached, and a TGA reference number upon submission.

## Australian antibiotic alert

**AUSTRALIA** is facing a growing issue of antibiotic resistance, according to health ministers from across the country.

A communique from last week's two-day Australian Health Ministers Conference in Darwin confirms that the ministers agreed that one of the major causes of the problem is the inappropriate use of antibiotics and other antimicrobials, resulting in resistance of bacteria to these

## Unhealthy rural kids

**CHILDREN** living in remote areas experience poorer outcomes across many health indicators compared to children in major cities, according to a recent report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The *Headline indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing 2011* report looked at how Aussie children aged 0-12 years are tracking across 12 of 19 health, learning and care areas.

In general Australian children are faring well in terms of their health and wellbeing, however the nation is falling behind in the health outcomes of remote living children.

"Internationally, Australia's performance was better than the OECD average based on data for infant mortality, low birthweight, dental health, injury deaths and teenage births," said AIHW spokesperson Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman.

However children living in remote areas are 30% more likely to be born with low birthweight or to be overweight or obese in childhood.

They were also twice as likely to die as infants.

Indigenous children were also found to be 2-3 times as likely to have a low birthweight, to die as infants, to die from injury, and to be developmentally vulnerable at school entry.

Alarming trends were also present in children from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas who were found to be 1.7 times as likely to be overweight or obese than children living in the highest socioeconomic status areas, and 1.3 times as likely to be born with low birthweight.

medications.

The Ministers lauded the release of the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Hospitals 2011 report, by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, saying it "is an important part of national action to combat antimicrobial resistance in Australia".

The report recommends the use of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in Australian hospitals to "reduce inappropriate antimicrobial use, improve patient outcomes and reduce adverse consequences of antimicrobial use (including antimicrobial resistance, toxicity and unnecessary costs)".

"Research shows that up to half of antimicrobial regimens prescribed in Australian hospitals are considered inappropriate," researchers said.

"Compared with northern Europe, Australian hospitals have a higher overall rate of inpatient antimicrobial use," the researchers added.

Suggested AMS programs in the report are multidisciplinary and utilise the expertise and resources of infectious diseases physicians, clinical microbiologists and pharmacists.

## RGH E-Bulletin

**THIS** week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of antidepressant augmentation, including lithium, triiodothyronine and second generation antipsychotics.

Download the bulletin free at [auspharmlist.net.au/ebulletin.php](http://auspharmlist.net.au/ebulletin.php).

## RPS adds scientists

**MEMBERS** of the UK Royal Pharmaceutical Society have voted in favour of a proposal to establish a new Pharmaceutical Scientist membership category.

## Paracetamol changes?

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced it has no plans to change the recommended paracetamol dosing regimens in Australia.

The announcement comes on the back of recent guideline changes for the use of paracetamol in the UK and US.

Last month J&J US subsidiary McNeil Consumer Healthcare reduced the maximum recommended adult dosing on its Tylenol 500mg paracetamol products from 4000mg to 3000mg per day.

Meanwhile, in June the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency announced changes to the paracetamol dosage instructions for children.

The UK changes will come into effect by the end of the year, and include a larger number of narrower age bands and definitions of single dosages per age band.

The TGA announced its decision not to change Aussie dosages after consideration of the international changes, saying "labelling and packaging requirements in Australia have proven to be effective in minimising the risk of either accidental or deliberate overdose with paracetamol".

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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Clint Dowdell**, skincare and beauty expert at **HiLife Health and Beauty**.

### The Natural Solution

In an ever growing socially and environmentally conscious climate, we find ourselves needing to provide options for change, and not just on carbon reform.

The educated consumer is hearing about all sorts of environmental and political battles and it's no wonder that by the time they enter the store, they want something that is safe and leaves them without guilt.

For many this is quickly becoming a shift to natural products.

The move towards "clean" products has seen a surge in people not wanting to contaminate their skin with parabens and other potentially harmful preservatives that have been linked to cancer and other medical ailments.

The other concern is the economy and the need to support our local brands and distributors.

So Australian made and owned has become an increasingly important addition to the checklist of shoppers.

Brands like Nude by Nature are able to tick both boxes, providing natural and naturally derived alternatives to the typically chemical laden cosmetics and skin care of the big major brands.

The fact that it is locally produced and 100% Australian owned has help lift this brand from a minor mineral brand to major contender in the beauty industry.

The message is clear, sometimes to get out of trouble you have to go back to nature.



## Landmark for iTherapeutics

**20,000** Australian pharmacy staff have signed up to iTherapeutics in the three years since its launch.

Celebrating its third birthday this month, the company confirmed that it serves the educational needs of staffers from 4,070 stores (80% of retail pharmacy stores across Australia), with staff from over 131 pharmacy groups so far having completed 225,000 training sessions on 70 different products from 35 participating brands.

### Surgeon gets a guide

A **NEW** 3D image guidance tool, AccuTrack, has been approved by Health Canada to aid surgeons in making critical decision making.

AccuTrack is an ergonomic lightweight probe which allows surgeons to quickly and accurately localize target anatomy before; and at any time during a neurosurgical procedure.

To celebrate its birthday milestones, the company has launched a new and improved website, which features: an improved navigation and search feature for accessing over 75 product education modules, and an updated Member's Area highlighting the training status against every product education module (e.g. completed, in progress, not attempted).

Other improvements include more user-friendly identification of product modules offering rewards, and the ability to print a report of all completed modules at any point. See [www.itherapeutics.com.au](http://www.itherapeutics.com.au).

### Taking the sting out

**THE** American FDA has approved the first treatment in the U.S. especially for the sting of the Centruroides scorpion.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**WHO** doesn't love Lego?

NASA is hoping to inspire a love of science in millions of children (and the young at heart), by connecting space exploration with Lego.

As part of its plan, NASA commissioned three tiny Lego crew members to "man" the helm of its space probe Juno, which is soon to leave earth for Jupiter.

The Lego crew each stand 1.5 inches tall, and include Galileo, and the Roman God Jupiter and his wife Juno.

Measuring 20-yards wide, the probe will protect its Lego crew members from the radiation thick clouds of Jupiter via half-inch thick walls of titanium.

The probe itself is set to reach Jupiter in 2016, with a mission of discovering exactly what Jupiter and its atmosphere are made from.

**DON'T** try this at home?

A 31-year old Swedish man, Richard Handl, is facing serious prison time, after his unusual hobby was discovered by police.

Handl, an avid armchair scientist, was trying to split atoms in his kitchen when police stormed through his door to arrest him for possession of nuclear material.

According to reports Handl had been trying for months to split the atom, having set up a make-shift nuclear reactor in his home, and using stores of radium, americium and uranium.

Fellow armchair scientists followed his experiments via Handl's blog, and authorities were only alerted to what was going on when Handl realised what he might be doing was illegal and sent a question to Sweden's Radiation Authority—who got the police on the case.

If he is convicted Handl will spend up to two years in prison.

As for his dream, Handl told media "from now on, I will stick to the theory".

## WIN A GAIA BODYCARE PACK



*Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with **GAIA** this week and is giving away Bodycare packs to five lucky readers.

Each pack is valued at \$59.80 and contains two body washes and two body moisturisers.

GAIA Bodycare soap-free washes and skin-softening moisturisers contain natural and organic ingredients for naturally soft, beautifully health skin every day.

Australian made and owned, GAIA Bodycare has been specially formulated for the skincare needs of women and comes to us from the makers of GAIA Natural Baby. Contact National Pharmacy Manager Rebecca for opening order deals and special offers: m:0418 293 366 or [rebecca@rebles.com.au](mailto:rebecca@rebles.com.au)



For your chance to win this fantastic GAIA Bodycare pack, go to the website: [www.gaiaskinnaturals.com](http://www.gaiaskinnaturals.com) then:

**In 25 words or less tell us why you stock GAIA Bodycare products – or why you should!**

Email your answer to the question above by COB on Friday to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Five most creative entries will win this great prize and their names will be announced in PD on Monday 15th Aug.