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### Summer sun warning

**OLDER** Australians and Baby Boomers have less sun damaged skin than younger generations, according to results from SunSense's SunSensibility health project.

The project took into account results from SunSense's photobus roadshow which travelled to 19 metro, coastal and regional locations across NSW, Qld and Vic checking the UV damage of volunteers.

The results were interesting particularly in relation to the intense sun-safety education efforts over the past 30 years.

"It shows we've still got a long way to go," said SunSense.

Other interesting results showed that metro dwellers are the most sun savvy Aussies, scoring the highest SunSensibility rating of 54%, followed by coastal regions at 53% and country towns at 46%.

## Youth speaks up for future

In a letter penned to *Pharmacy Daily*, Trent Twomey of the Australian College of Pharmacy has made an impassioned plea for unity within the industry, and a scrapping of calls for a Senate Inquiry.

The letter, to accompany a **page 3** flyer in today's issue, is below:

*Over the past week I have fought an ideological battle, one I think needs to be given some context and background.*

*While I have recently become a National Councillor of the Pharmacy Guild and the National President of the Australian College of Pharmacy, I write not as a representative of an organisation but as a young Pharmacist.*

*I am a Pharmacist who bought his first home right before the GFC and is now too afraid to have it revalued.*

*I may not be old enough to remember the days of the banana economy or of 21% interest rates but I spend a greater percentage of my pay packet on servicing my home loan and business loans than any generation of pharmacists before me.*

*I graduated in the middle of the proliferation of new pharmacy schools, experienced an employment market where people actually knew the award wage not the market wage.*

*My point is the barrier to entry, both in terms of skill set and financial equity has never been more out of reach for the new emerging under class, the young pharmacist. The Forgotten People.*

*I believe pharmacy has a great future, but the future belongs to us not the minorities driving the agenda, not those with no skin in the game.*

*The battle of specialisation versus generalisation has been lost, up-skilling and credentialing to create a point of difference is already here.*

*The consulting, compounding and retail pharmacists are each specialties in their own right.*

*The issue of the past week has been one of splinter groups and of stability. Splinter groups forging a revolutionary agenda that created undue instability in an already hurting market.*

*Pharmacy bankruptcies and foreclosures are at record highs and banks who once viewed pharmacy as rock solid and virtually risk free*

*are now demanding high debt to equity ratios and regular reviews.*

*The call for a Senate Inquiry last week was reckless and irresponsible and ricocheted through the industry creating unnecessary instability.*

*In a world economy such as ours instability and risk go hand in hand, and as a young pharmacist who has put his money where his mouth is, the last thing I needed was more risk.*

*The stake holders of the Pharmacist Coalition for Health Reform by now must realise this is not the correct forum for change.*

*Clearly there does need to be change in the way we work together - change however needs to be evolutionary not revolutionary in its nature, a shift to remuneration for professional services, and the post-graduate training and credentialing that goes with it.*

*This requires a collaborative approach between the traditional supply chain, the educators, and the professional bodies and stake holders.*

*The key word here is evolutionary not revolutionary, as change must come with a feasible business model and not at the expense of a world leading community pharmacy network.*

*The Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum is a wider and more inclusive body, one with a more legitimate cross section to discuss the many and varied issues facing us all.*

*We must all band together now to show those outside that we as a profession stand united in our support of the industry, to tell the government we have hurt enough, we have given enough. It is up to us now to show stability in leadership, to ensure continued investment.*

*Young Pharmacists you are not forgotten and you have a voice.*

*Thank you for your support and activism in the past seven days. Whilst ownership might not be the goal for the great many of us the common underlying thread is that our Community Pharmacy infrastructure is the envy of the world, it has the community at its core and we must not forget how privileged we are to serve the Australian public through this unrivalled and universally affordable and accessible network.*

### Stroke prevention

**SEVENTY** percent of Aussies who suffer strokes caused by an irregular heartbeat do not receive preventative medicine prior to their stroke, according to new research by the National Stroke Foundation.

The report also found that whilst intravenous thrombolysis using recombinant tissue plasminogen activator within 4.5 hours of an ischaemic stroke is an important intervention to reduce the burden of death and disability, only 7% of patients with ischaemic stroke received thrombolysis.

### Low PBS growth

**THE** growth rate of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is well below the projected growth rate and "most significantly under control", according to a statement by the Generic Medicines Industry Association.

The Mid Year Economic and Financial Outlook released by the Govt yesterday showed a lower than expected PBS growth rate of 5.2% or 1.6% in real terms.

This low growth resulted in a \$265m budget reduction in 2011/12 driving a total budget reduction of \$1.8 billion over four years.

In addition budget adjustments announced in the report signalled further savings of \$136.3 million over the forward budget projections due to price amendments on the PBS arising from more competitively priced medicines.

**MEANWHILE** Medicines Australia has welcomed the release saying it is "fresh and compelling evidence that the PBS is in good shape".

"The Government's own figures show that real growth is minimal," said Medicines Australia Chief Executive Dr Brendan Shaw.

"I urge Government to stop and look at this data carefully as it frames the 2012 Federal Budget," he added.

Shaw also said that the report could actually provide a case for increasing investment in the PBS.

"If the figures get much lower, there would be grounds for concern that the Government was not investing enough in patient access to medicines," he said.

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## Compounding pharma

**GUIDELINES** by the Compounding Working Party which seek to clarify simple extemporaneous preparation and compounding by pharmacists are currently being drafted for consideration by the Pharmacy Board.

The announcement comes on the heels of the Working Party's October meeting where it discussed options for suitable definitions for complex compounding and associated nomenclature.

As a result of the meeting the Board agreed there was a need to identify and develop core competencies for complex compounding, and also agreed that an indicative curriculum would need to be developed and mapped against existing courses for compounding (locally delivered courses and courses available overseas).

The Board also advised that it intended for an accreditation process for compounding courses to be developed.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

**EVER** wanted to sail through the Mediterranean on a luxury yacht but balked at the holiday price tag?

Well **Star Clippers** has announced 35% reductions off its seven-night *Star Clipper* voyage from Malta to Athens, which takes in Sicily and the Greek Isles, departing on 28 Apr 2012.

Discounted cabins start from \$2,069pp if booked before 31 January 2012.

Call 1300 362 599 for details.

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## CPD pharmacy research

**THE** University of Tasmania is calling on pharmacists to take part in a current research project into continuing professional development.

The aim of the University's research is to inform the structure, length and content of future CPD opportunities ensuring they meet the needs of health practitioners.

As part of the research, pharmacists will be asked to participate in a short online questionnaire.

According to the University, it is specifically interested in information on evidence based complementary and alternative medicines.

The University has however said that it also aims to collect more general information of CPD preference in terms of CPD activity; content areas etc.

Pharmacists who chose to participate in the research will be

rewarded by being entered into a draw to win a \$200 Myer gift voucher.

The survey is currently open and responses must be submitted by no later than 5pm on Friday 16 December.

To participate please **CLICK HERE**.

## Invega on the PBS

**FROM** today patients now have access to Invega Sustenna (paliperidone palmitate) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Invega Sustenna is a once-monthly, long-acting injectable antipsychotic for both the acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults.

According to clinical trials the drug offers significant reductions in relapse rates (10%) compared to a placebo (34%).

The listing follows the drug's PBS deferral in February.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

### BRAIN training?

One British bus driver is looking down the barrel of a whole new education after having been busted attempting a Sudoku puzzle whilst driving children to school.

The driver was captured via mobile phone video taken by one of his young passengers balancing the Sudoku puzzle book on the steering wheel whilst filling out the answers with a pen and navigating the morning traffic.

The driver has since been dismissed from his job, and now has plenty of time to train his brain with a plethora of Sudoku and crossword puzzles.

"It wasn't ever our intention that the driver should lose his job but we wanted to draw it to the company's attention to make sure it never happened again," said one parent.

### MEDICAL intervention.

One US woman, Rossie Brovent, is seeking surgical intervention after a failed romance left her with a large tattoo of excrement on her back.

According to reports Brovent had asked her partner, Ryan Fitzgerald, a tattoo artist, to create a beautiful full back tattoo of a scene from the famous CS Lewis novel, Narnia, but was left stunned when after hours under the needle she had a steaming pile of number two.

The tattoo is reported to be the boyfriend's revenge after discovering his lady love was not as faithful as he had imagined.

Reports say that Brovent is now seeking damages of up \$100,000.



## WIN THE PERFECT EYE PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win the Perfect Eye Pack valued at \$45.80, courtesy of Australis.

Create multidimensional eye looks with Australis Double Decker Eye Duos containing loose and cream eyeshadow combined.

These amazingly pigmented and intense shadows are available in five hot shades including; Cosmic Rays, Moon Rocker, Give Me Some Space, Greenhouse Effect and Supernova Casanova. Complement the eyes with a simple line above the eye with Australis IntensifEYE Liquid Eyeliner and finish with Australis Killer Curves Mascara that has a special 'wash-off' formulation for dangerous curls!

Visit [www.australiscosmetics.com.au](http://www.australiscosmetics.com.au) for more information and Become a FAN on Facebook [www.facebook.com/loveaustralis](http://www.facebook.com/loveaustralis).

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**What is the name of the new  
Australis eyeshadow range?**

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Jolyon Hawley from Aspen Pharmacare, NSW.

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