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PHARMACY ALLIANCE
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Psychosis services

THE Government has announced a \$222.4m investment for the establishment of 16 new youth early psychosis services over the next five years.

Difficult cholesterol

ONE third of patients fail to reach recommended cholesterol levels, according to a new survey.

The survey looked at responses from 150 Australian GPs and found that 34% of their patients were not achieving recommended cholesterol targets.

Despite this only 57% of GPs said that they were very likely to prescribe second-line lipid lowering medications.

"In order to reach and maintain ideal targets we need to evaluate the strategies we have available which may include titrating dose, switching to another statin or using a combined therapy," said research advisor, Dr Chrys Michaelides.

"By aiming for the right therapy and response first time this will help to minimise multiple time-consuming steps on the way to achieving required LDL-C reductions," he added.

Interesting figures also revealed in the survey include the fact that 83% of GPs reported that patient compliance with dietary and lifestyle advice hindered their ability to get their high-risk patients to target.

Patient adherence was also cited as an issue for medications with 71% of GPs saying that patient adherence to lipid lowering therapies was a major problem.

The dawn of a new era

A RESHUFFLE of the Federal Government's ranks has resulted in the replacement of Nicola Roxon as the Minister for Health and Ageing, with Tanya Plibersek MP.

Formerly the Minister for Human Services and the Minister for Social Inclusion, Plibersek's appointment has been welcomed by the industry, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia saying that "Plibersek brings to this portfolio experience and commitment which will be a strong foundation for the challenges and imperatives that this role presents".

"Two of Ms Plibersek's long-standing priorities are saving Medicare and ensuring accessible health care for all Australians – areas in which pharmacists play a critical but often under-utilised role," said PSA National President, Grant Kardachi.

"I look forward to working with Ms Plibersek to help achieve these goals, as well as others which will improve the health outcomes of Australians and help to meet the Government's health reform agenda commitments," he added.

Speaking to media on her appointment, Plibersek said it was important that she focuses on securing and bedding down existing reforms ushered in during Roxon's rein as Health Minister.

"We have a good set of health policies," she said.

"I want to make sure they are delivered properly and on time," she added.

Meanwhile the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA), has

urged Plibersek to work with the generics sector to help "return significant savings to the economy without cutting into the PBS".

"Supporting the uptake of follow-on generic medicines in Australia provides a three way win for the patient, the taxpayer and the economy," said GMiA CEO, Kate Lynch.

ASMI has also congratulated Plibersek, saying that it is "greatly looking forward to working closely with her" and that it is encouraged by the passion and hard work she has shown in her previous roles.

Other notable Cabinet changes include the appointment of Mark Butler as the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, as well as Greg Combet who has been appointed as the Minister for Industry and Innovation.

As for Roxon, she has been honoured by becoming Australia's first female Attorney-General.

ACCC on whiteners

THE ACCC has negotiated recalls for a number of teeth whitening products with peroxide levels that exceed safe limits.

Recalls include: White My Bite products- White My Bite Sensitive, White My Bite Professional and White My Bite Advanced kits; as well as products from by WhiteSmile including DayWhite Teeth Whitening Gel, NiteWhite Teeth Whitening Gel, Sunshine Health Teeth Whitening Gel and Crest Teeth Whitening Strips.

Other recalls include DaVinci Elite's DaVinci Elite tooth whitening pen and its DaVinci Elite take-home teeth whitening kit.

The ACCC has also said that other recalls are likely, and has advised all known suppliers of DIY teeth whitening kits that products containing concentrations of more than 6% hydrogen peroxide or more than 18% carbamide peroxide are unsafe.

AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY COUNCIL LTD REQUEST FOR TENDER

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme the Australian Pharmacy Council accredits university courses for pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand and assesses overseas trained pharmacists seeking to practise in Australia.

The Australian Pharmacy Council requires the services of a suitably qualified consultant/s to undertake the development of standards and guidelines for the assessment of pharmacy examining and/or accrediting authorities in countries other than Australia in order to identify countries deemed to provide pharmacists with a learning and practice environment comparable to Australia.

Information about the Australian Pharmacy Council can be found at: <http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au>

Enquiries and requests for an information pack on the tender should be addressed to:

Ms Terri Warner

Email: admin@pharmacycouncil.org.au

Ph: (02) 6262 9628

Fax: (02) 6247 9611

The closing date for
lodgement is 2:00pm AEDT
on 10 January 2012



AUSTRALIAN
PHARMACY
COUNCIL

REGISTER NOW FOR 2012

GUILD CLINICAL INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM



With final exams over, now is the time to enrol! The Guild Clinical Intern Training Program is a practical, Community Pharmacy based program which prepares Interns for a career in Pharmacy. Offer an Intern placement today and recommend they enrol with Guild ITP.

Guild Interns highlight their enthusiasm for the program *"We felt valued as individuals, love the support and interaction as well as the networking with owners – thank you Guild – Class of 2011"*. Don't delay, interns should enrol NOW for 2012.



Guild
Pharmacy Academy

Register NOW by contacting Guild Clinical on

02 9467 7124 or email david.bryant@nsw.guild.org.au

Guild Update

This week's update from
the Pharmacy Guild

Welcome to the new Health Minister

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the appointment of Tanya Plibersek to the crucial portfolio of Health.

Minister Plibersek has been a strong performer for the Government, and now rises to the challenge of progressing important health reforms for the benefit of Australian consumers.

As the Minister for Human Services, Ms Plibersek has had considerable involvement with community pharmacy issues through Medicare.

The Guild congratulates Ms Plibersek on her appointment and looks forward to working with her on the full range of issues within the pharmacy and broader health sectors.

We also welcome the elevation to Cabinet of the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

This reflects the significance of mental health issues and of aged care.

We look forward to working with Ministers Plibersek and Butler as they implement the enormous suite of health reforms.

The Guild also acknowledges and congratulates outgoing Health Minister Nicola Roxon on her appointment as Australia's first female Attorney-General.

Ms Roxon has been an outstanding Minister for Health and Ageing, and has really left her mark on health care in Australia through a wide-ranging set of reforms.

She has shown a deep understanding and recognition of community pharmacy, and was a signatory to the current Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The Guild wishes Ms Roxon well in her challenging new portfolio.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Call to remove SOL listing

PHARMACISTS should be removed from the migration Skilled Occupations List (SOL) according to the National Council of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"We have to focus on ensuring appropriate job opportunities for our burgeoning workforce," said Guild President, Kos Sclavos.

According to the Guild, the number of pharmacy schools has more than doubled in the past decade from six to 18, and with current figures showing around 1,600 students graduate from these schools each year there is increasing strain on community pharmacies to find intern placements for all graduates.

To support Guild's call, last week it lodged a submission to Skills Australia which seeks to have pharmacists removed from the SOL for 2012.

"In terms of employment, it is acknowledged that there is unevenness in the supply of pharmacists across urban, rural and regional areas of Australia," the Guild said.

In its submission the Guild pointed to disparities between the remuneration rate differentials for

metropolitan versus regional pharmacists giving the following statistics: NSW – 8.5% (i.e. pharmacists working in regional NSW earn 8.5% more than their metropolitan counterparts); Victoria 9.4% and Queensland 6.6%.

"As a result, greater financial pressures are felt by regional pharmacies, with such pressures being cited as one of the most common barrier to providing rural or regional placements for pharmacy interns," the Guild said.

Rather than dealing with the issue by listing pharmacy on the SOL, the Guild urged that it should be addressed through rural pharmacy programs such as those contained in the SCPA, and through appropriate domestic pharmacy workforce planning.

"While it is true that there are more pharmacists per head of population in the major cities than in remote Australia, when appropriate positions with appropriate conditions are offered in rural and remote pharmacies, in my recent experience there is no difficulty in attracting suitable candidates," said Guild NT Branch President, Terry Battalis.

ESSENTIALLY INNOXA GIFT GIVING

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win 2 body packs, valued at \$44.80, courtesy of **Innoxia**.



The prize Includes:

- **Nourish pack:** including Exhilarate mini hand cream 50ml, Restore mini hand cream 50ml, Enrich hand mini hand cream 50ml & Wooden nail brush. All packaged in a complimentary cylinder.

- **Enrich & Nourish pack:** including Enrich Shower Crème 350ml, Enrich Hand Cream 150ml & Shower Cap. All packaged in a reusable mesh bag.

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the daily

question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name the 2 gift packs included in the prize

Hint! Visit www.innoxia.com.au.

Congratulations to **Janelle Quinn** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**, NSW who is yesterday's lucky winner.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NO stitches required.

An Australian surfer, Stephen King, has narrowly escaped a medical emergency after a whaler shark took a large bite out of his surfboard but only managed to cause a few cuts to King's legs.

Describing himself as the "luckiest man on two legs" King said the attack occurred as he was about to catch a wave off a beach near Yamba on the far north coast of NSW.

"Just as I was taking off, jumping up, there was this bang from the side and I was cartwheeling through the air and it was just thrashing beside me," he said.

EXTRA digits for extra cash.

An animal rescue centre in the US city of Milwaukee is capitalising on a mutation in one of its rescued cats.

The cat, affectionately known as Daniel, has polydactylism, a mutation that means instead of 18 toes, he has 26.

It was not long after he was rescued that the centre realised his unique quality, and decided to make him their mascot.

This has subsequently become handy after the centre's landlord raised the rent, with workers putting together a creative campaign asking for \$26 donations so they can relocate to a new base.

Front of food labelling

A PLAN to force manufacturers to develop front of pack labelling for food has been approved by Ministers from all states and territories and New Zealand.

The plan will see a single front of pack system with easily-understandable information which could include the amounts of fat, sugar and salt in the food developed in the next 12 months.

Welcoming the decision South Australian Health Minister John Hill said, "The more information you give people about the foods they are eating, the easier it is for them to make healthy choices."