

MS sufferers struggle

NEARLY one in five Australians with multiple sclerosis (MS) struggle to have essential home modifications and equipment, like wheelchairs, shower rails and ramps.

The figure comes from the findings in the *National MS Needs Analysis 2012*, released today by MS Research Australia to coincide with International Day of People with a Disability.

Thought to be the largest ever analysis conducted in Australia, involving nearly 2,900 people with MS, the study found that one in five people with MS are battling without essential aids and equipment - in 50% of cases due to lack of financial assistance.

As such, MS Australia is calling on the Govt to "urgently commit" to future funding of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to ensure basic needs are met for those living with disability.

Modifiable risks in Australia

AROUND 70 percent of bowel cancer cases are linked to modifiable diet and lifestyle factors, according to Bowel Cancer Australia (BCA).

The comments come on the back of the BCA's *Bowel Cancer Atlas* update release, which for the first time ever, includes lifestyle risk

factors for bowel cancer and many other common diseases.

Compiled by the Public Health Information Development Unit at the University of Adelaide, the Atlas is based on data from the 2007-8 *National Health Survey*, *ABS* (unpublished) and *ABS Estimated Resident Population June 2007 and 30 June 2008*; as well as death data supplied by ABS for the period 2003-2007.

According to the Atlas, people in non-metropolitan local government areas (LGAs) were more likely than those in capital cities to smoke, drink heavily, be physically inactive, and have a BMI in the obese range.

In addition, Type 2 diabetes, which is now increasingly recognised as an independent risk factor for bowel cancer, was also more common in most non-metropolitan areas.

Looking at the breakdown of data, the LGAs of Irwin and Narrogin in WA shared the nation's highest rates of heavy drinking, whilst in NSW, the LGA of Brewarrina had Australia's highest rates of smoking and type 2 diabetes; Urana, the highest rate of physical inactivity; and Junee, the highest rate of obesity.

Meanwhile, Sydney's Ku-ring-gai had the lowest rate of smoking in the nation; Peppermint Grove in WA had the lowest rates of physical inactivity and obesity; Auburn in Sydney's west had the lowest rate of heavy drinking and Hobart had the lowest rate of type 2 diabetes.

"By adding these risk factors into our Atlas, we're hoping that people will have a look at how their community is faring and start to think hard about making any necessary changes," said Bowel Cancer Australia Chief Executive, Julien Wiggins.

"Unfortunately, no-one can promise that if you do all the right things, you won't get bowel cancer.

"We can't change other factors such as our age or genetic make-up.

"As with most cancers, the reasons why some people get bowel cancer and others don't is very complex," he added.

To view the Atlas, view www.bowelcanceraustralia.org/atlas.

Neglected funding

GOVERNMENTS worldwide are increasingly moving away from funding product development in favour of supporting basic research, according to the *Neglected disease R&D: A five-year review*.

Conducted by independent research group Policy Cures and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the review is the most comprehensive report to date on funding of R&D for neglected diseases, and covers 31 diseases and 134 product areas.

The five-year review of global neglected disease research and development funding found that whilst Gov's are still the mainstay of neglected disease R&D funding, public funding continues to shift away from product development and towards academic basic research: with basic research increasing by 28% (\$124m) over the 5 year study, whilst public product development investment declined (down 1%).

According to the report authors, this trend is troubling because the sectors that traditionally fund product development, industry and philanthropy, have also cut or refocused their funding over the past five years.

"Big pharmaceutical companies continue to fund across a range of diseases (incl malaria, diarrhoeal illnesses, HIV, helminths, salmonella and kinetoplastids) but their biggest investments are increasingly into late-stage product development for a limited number of semi-commercial areas such as dengue fever, bacterial pneumonia & meningitis and tuberculosis," the researchers said.

"These three diseases now account for two-thirds of all industry funding, up from half in 2008," the researchers added.

Sali named CEO of 2012

RADEK Sali, Chief Executive Officer of Swisse, has been named as the Health and Pharmaceutical Executive of 2012, by *CEO Magazine*.

Ondansetron change

HEALTH professionals are advised that the 32mg once-daily intravenous dose of ondansetron is no longer recommended and should not be used.

Ondansetron is a potent, highly selective 5HT₃ receptor antagonist indicated for use in the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and post-operative nausea and vomiting.

The change in the drug's 32mg status follows the results of a study which found that ondansetron at a single intravenous dose of 32mg can cause QTc interval prolongation, which in turn could lead to irregular heartbeat.

Get the power to access every off-patent product on maximum discount.

Call 03 9860 3300 and we'll show you how.

pharmacy alliance
Your formula for independent strength

5th Community Pharmacy Agreement

Be a leader of innovation

Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions

Learn more about Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions and how they are transforming the Community Pharmacy ehealth journey.

Free workshops about to begin in WA, NSW & QLD

Register at www.5cpa.com.au



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

The Electronic Transfer of Prescription Education Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement between the Commonwealth and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Sue Raven, General Manager, Raven's Pharmacy Sales.**



Due Diligence

Why do buyers undertake due diligence and why do they require a great deal of information?

Sellers don't be put off by the buyers' accountants due diligence requests.

All accountants are different and will require specific due diligence information that is best suited for their client.

Some may request minimal information while others will request detailed documentation, more often being the later.

Even though your accountant has verified figures for you, this is not relevant to the buyer completing their own due diligence on your business.

The buyer's accountants are verifying the business's operations, financial performance, legal and tax compliance, customer contracts, intellectual property, etc.

Accountants recognise that all requested due diligence information is highly sensitive and extremely confidential and is only gathered for their clients needs.

Raven's suggest that you prepare yourself and provide the information requested as soon as possible.

When an offer has been accepted the buyer will request information to complete their due diligence requirements.

The period for due diligence is usually 21 days from receiving all requested information or in some cases the seller will ONLY provide information when the contract has been signed.

The sooner the information is provided, the sooner the due diligence will be completed.

For further information please email Info@ravens.com.au or phone 1800 670 440.

STI's on the rise in Australia

AUSTRALIA is facing increasing numbers of sexually transmissible infections, including an 8% increase in new HIV infections.

The figure comes from the *2012 Annual Surveillance Report of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia* by the Kirby Institute, which also estimated that 15-30% of people with HIV remain undiagnosed.

Other data included in the report showed that between a 3-5% of Australia's youth are infected with chlamydia, whilst up to half a million of them remain undiagnosed.

Rates of gonorrhoea have also increased.

The report's findings are particularly interesting given Australia's recent commitment to reduce rates of HIV infections by 50% in the next three years.

In the wake of the report, the Australasian HIV Society for Medicine (ASHM) is encouraging health care professionals to discuss STI testing with their patients.

"We cannot rely on patients alone to initiate testing," said ASHM CEO Levinia Crooks.

"Diagnosing HIV early is a priority as this is when the infection is most contagious.

"Catching the infection during this stage, known as seroconversion, means people will know their HIV status and can prevent onward transmission by taking appropriate precautions.

"But without testing they won't know their status," she added.

To support healthcare professionals initiate testing conversations, ASHM has developed a range of resources, including a Testing Portal- with information about testing, informed consent and delivering results to patients; as well as publications such as *Decision-making in HIV* and the *GPs and HIV* booklet, and the HIV online learning module and unique Time of HIV Diagnosis Program.

For details see <http://testingportal.ashm.org.au/>.

DISPENSARY CORNER

TIS' the season.

It seems the silly season is in full swing for one German man, who was so drunk that he tried to use a breathalyser to make a phone call.

The man was pulled over by a police RBT unit in the wee hours whilst driving through Coburg.

On realising his inebriated state may cause him some dramas, the man took hold of the breathalyser directed toward him and insisted that he call his lawyer before the test to seek advice.

The man then spent quite some time trying to get the dastardly "iPhone" to work, despite officers informing him that it was not a phone but an instrument designed to measure alcohol levels, not make calls.

Unable to reach his lawyer, the man, who could barely stand, refused the RBT and was instead taken to hospital for a blood test, which according to police "will confirm he was well over the limit".

PROOF finally!

Officials in North Korea have confirmed the existence of unicorns.

The news comes after a dig by archaeologists of the History Institute of the DPRK Academy of Social Sciences unearthed the "lair of the unicorn rode by King Tongmyong".

According to the Korean Central News Agency the lair was discovered 200 meters from the Yongmyong Temple in Moran Hill in Pyongyang City.

"A rectangular rock carved with words 'Unicorn Lair' stands in front of the lair," the Agency said.

"The carved words are believed to date back to the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392)," the Agency added.

In its report, the Agency was however careful that the dig only "reconfirmed" the existence of unicorns, not that they were a new discovery.



WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS BB CRÈME

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving four lucky readers the chance to win **Designer Brands NEW Tinted Moisturising Miracle BB Crème**.

For a flawless finish without the heaviness of foundation, Designer Brands NEW Tinted Moisturising Miracle BB Crème provides an all-in-one solution that's as easy to use as a moisturiser, combining the best of make-up with the benefits of skincare.

Loaded with skin nourishing ingredients Q10, Antioxidants and Peptides to help promote the appearance of younger, fresher looking skin; Vitamins C & E, Aloe Vera and Green Tea Extract to help skin look fresh while Allantoin helps soothe.

To win simply be one of the first four readers to send the correct answer to the daily question below.



How many shades is Designer Brands Tinted Moisturising Miracle BB Crème available in?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au