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## PD Busby winners

PHARMACY Daily would like to congratulate the three winners of yesterday's Busby Pure Tissue Oil competition: Jolyon Hawley from Aspen Pharmacare; Lyn Geale from Glossodia Pharmacy; and Vanessa Perkins of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

### WIN A BUSBY PURE TISSUE OIL



Every day this week PD is giving three lucky readers the chance to win a **Busby Pure Tissue Oil** prize pack.

Busby Pure Tissue Oil is a clinically proven face and body oil specifically formulated to improve the appearance of scars, stretch marks, wrinkles, ageing and dehydrated skin. It contains no harmful ingredients just a unique blend of naturally derived avocado, grape seed and rose hip oils and 5 times more vitamin E than leading tissue oil brands.

To win, simply be one of the first three people to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Does Busby contain any harmful ingredients?**

Hint! Visit [www.fgb.com.au](http://www.fgb.com.au)

## Qld pharmacists underpaid

AROUND \$194,905 in backpayments is on its way to more than 1,300 Queensland pharmacy workers following the results of an audit by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The audit, which kicked off in May last year, focused on 575 Queensland pharmacy employers' compliance with Pharmacy Industry Award 2010 regulations, paying particular attention to pay rates, minimum working hours, meal break entitlements, pay slips and record keeping.

According to the report's findings 320 out of the 575 employers were fully compliant with the regulations, however 255 pharmacy employers were in breach.

Of those that were non-compliant, the Ombudsman identified a total of 298 separate contraventions, 66% of which pertained to underpayments; 25% to pay slip, time and wage issues; and 7% to meal break entitlements.

The amounts of pay owing, which have now been paid to employees, equated to an average of \$146 per employee or \$339 per audit.

MEANWHILE, APESMA has responded to the audit's findings saying "Australia's hardworking professional pharmacists do not deserve to be ripped off by pharmacy owners".

APESMA also said that it was going to meet with the Fair Work Ombudsman to discuss investigating pharmacies in every state and territory, adding that the Ombudsman was concerned

that pharmacy owners were often not aware of their workplace obligations and did not seek further advice or assistance.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has also responded to the scandal saying pharmacy employers must comply with the award, and that any non-compliance must be addressed quickly when and if identified.

To assist this process, the Pharmacy Guild, with support from Fair Work Ombudsman, has made available online at

<http://www.guild.org.au/pia> all the information necessary to comply with the PIA free to all community pharmacies (including non-members) and their employees.

"Like many small businesses, it was expected that community pharmacies might find transitioning to a new award complicated and potentially confusing, and that it would take some time for this process to be managed," the Guild said.

"Adding to the difficulty for Queensland pharmacies during this audit period were the flooding and cyclone natural disasters that struck many parts of the State in the period leading up to the new pay rates.

"In light of these issues and the fact that the contraventions identified appeared to be unintentional or technical errors that were resolved quickly and voluntarily, the Guild is confident that such issues can be eliminated with ongoing education," the Guild added.

## Goodbye Senator Carr

MEDICINES Australia has praised the outgoing Minister for Manufacturing, Senator Kim Carr, for his "legacy of achievement and contribution to industry and innovation policy".

Amongst his achievements, Senator Carr led the clinical trials reform agenda (which seeks to ensure Australia remains competitive in attracting investment in clinical trials), stewarded the R&D tax credit through Parliament, advocated the importance of patent protection, and championed the *Raising the Bar Bill* (currently before Parliament).

## Significant investment

AMCAL/Guardian is planning significant investment in its brands, according to Sigma's CEO, Gary Dunne.

Speaking at the annual Amcal/Guardian Retail Conference this week Dunne said "we plan to make investments in people, infrastructure and marketing".

"Sigma has consistently said it will continue to improve the way it does business so we can work with customers and suppliers to ensure everyone benefits," he said.

"We're now backing that commitment and are excited about what it will mean for the way we operate," he added.

The announcement comes in the wake of recent investment from Sigma, which included building a new senior management team and the installment of a new General Manager of Retail, Michael Robertson.

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### Guild Update

#### This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

This week, the Pharmacy Guild is hosting the major conference event on the Australian pharmacy calendar – the Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) conference on the Gold Coast.

A highlight of this event will be the attendance of the new Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek, who has kindly agreed to address the conference and present the QCPP Pharmacy of the Year awards on Thursday 08 March.

These awards are the highest recognition of excellence in the community pharmacy industry.

The awards recognise excellence in community pharmacy across three categories:

1. Business Management
2. Innovation in Professional Services
3. Community Engagement.

Each category will be awarded to a different community pharmacy, with the overall QCPP Pharmacy of the Year for 2012 being selected from these three category winners, and announced on the day by Ms Plibersek.

The overall winner will be the pharmacy that stands out among the finalists and can demonstrate achievements across each of the three categories.

The Guild is delighted that Ms Plibersek has agreed to address the conference so early in her tenure as Health Minister – a sign of her interest and high regard for the role of Australia's community pharmacy network.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## Unapproved pharma signs

PHARMACIES not approved to dispense pharmaceutical benefits will now have their unapproved status displayed for customers, according to the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The move, which is being funded by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division of the Department of Health and Ageing, will force unapproved pharmacies to display

### New breast friends

THE University of Sydney has partnered with Agilent Technologies to develop new methods of detecting breast cancer.

The partnership will see Sydney Uni researchers utilise Agilent's imaging tools such as elemental bio imaging and microwave imaging, to study breast tissue samples in an entirely different way.

The study will be the first of its kind to look at measuring physical properties of breast tissue which could be related to breast cancer risk.

As part of the study, researchers will determine whether measuring the structure and composition of breast tissue, using x-ray fluorescence signals, could be used to accurately measure breast density and predict risk of developing the condition.

The experimental approach will combine a measurement of the electron density, trace element content, liquid content and fat cell content, into a model which can be correlated with mammographic breast density measurements.

signage which marks out their status.

In addition unapproved pharmacies will have to make Medicare Australia funded information leaflets available to their patients.

The leaflets will explain how patients may be affected by not having access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme by frequenting unapproved pharmacies.

"Any supply arrangements which infringe on patient rights or put the patient at risk and which may result in a poor health outcome (for instance by not providing an opportunity for adequate communication of essential information between patient and pharmacist), may be grounds for investigation and action by the Board under the National Law," the Board said.

MEANWHILE, the Board has also announced that it will consult on an amendment to the *Code of conduct for registered health practitioners* which will be published shortly for comment.

"The Board will seek feedback on whether the code of conduct should include an amendment (the addition of a paragraph) which addresses the relevance of codes of ethics to pharmacists in practice," the Board said.

"The Board will not consult on the current content of the *Code of conduct for registered health practitioners* during this consultation period as it will be reviewing this document by June 2013," the Board added.



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**STRONGEST** children in the world?

Two Romanian children, Giuliano and Claudiu Stroe, are making world headlines after videos of them surfaced showing their incredible feats of strength.

The pair, aged five and seven respectively, have been strength trained by their father Lulian (a former boxer) since the age of two, and can now perform stunts such as a 90-degree vertical push up halfway up a pole.

To view the strong youngsters in action **CLICK HERE**.

**ROBOTS** meet 007.

Engineers at Penn's School of Engineering have shown off their skills, and love of Ian Fleming's James Bond novels, by creating tiny robots that perform the James Bond theme tune.

The itty-bitty bots are programmed to hit musical instruments at particular intervals to create an accurate rendition of Bond's theme song.

To view the engineering homage to 007 **CLICK HERE**.

**THE** love of liberty.

In an ironic twist to its history a 27-year old British woman has taken American patriotism to whole new levels, claiming to be "in love" with the US Statue of Liberty.

Given to the US people as a gift from France in the wake of the American Declaration of Independence from Britain, the Statue of Liberty has so bewitched the Leeds woman, Amanda Whittaker, that she has travelled across the Atlantic to be with her love four times.

Not satisfied with the distance from "Libby", Amanda told reporters that she has a shrine for her love at home, replete with a 6ft replica, hundreds of smaller models, and US flags.

Amanda also said she had considered marrying Libby, but that she felt it would be unfair to the millions who also loved her.

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