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## New NZ Guild ceo

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has announced that Lee Hohaia will become its new chief executive effective 14 Jan 2013.

Hohaia is a pharmacist with significant experience in clinical pharmacy, general practice and change management.

She joins the Guild from her current role as Business Manager for Southern Cross Primary Care.

Hohaia takes the role vacated by former ceo Annabel Young, who departed from the organisation earlier this year (PD 19 Apr).

## Coke chief for Sanofi

COCA-COLA Amatil gm of Strategy and Marketing, Laurence McAllister, has been named as the new managing director for Sanofi Australia and New Zealand.

Senior vp Japan & Pacific, Jez Moulding, said McAllister would bring a "unique perspective" with his background in the FMCG area.

## Antibiotic awareness push

PHARMACIES across Australia have been urged to "lead the way in the global fight against antibiotic resistance," with the country's first Antibiotic Awareness Week officially launching yesterday.

An initiative of NPS MedicineWise, the week will see pharmacists and pharmacy staff encouraged to use a range of resources to "engage consumers in conversations about antibiotic resistance and help change attitudes and behaviours towards antibiotics".

Australia has one of the highest rates of antibiotic use in the world, with around 19 million prescriptions written each year.

NPS MedicineWise resistance fighter campaign launch kits were distributed to community pharmacists in July, with other resources available online at [nps.org.au/antibiotic-awareness](http://nps.org.au/antibiotic-awareness).

NPS chair Janette Randall said that changing community attitudes and expectations around antibiotics is a "vital step in helping to combat antibiotic resistance."

"Pharmacists are in a good position to discuss symptomatic management options, talk about why antibiotics may or may not be needed and explain what signs to look out for that should prompt a visit to the GP," she said.

Alarming statistics released by NPS found that more than 20% of people surveyed said they would expect an antibiotic for a cough or cold, with the figure more than tripling when asked about ear, nose, throat or chest infections.

"By making people medicinewise about antibiotics we can reduce their use when they're not needed and, in the long run, help preserve the miracle that is antibiotics".

MEANWHILE NPS has also launched a series of online e-learning modules which aim to encourage the safe and appropriate use of antibiotics in hospitals as part of the program.

The training is particularly aimed at hospital pharmacists, prescribers in their first two years out of medical school as well as nurse practitioners.

The modules guide users through initial clinical assessment and diagnosis, investigations, interpretation of results and antibiotic selection, and reflect the *Guide to Good Prescribing* issued by the World Health Organization.

Four topics are covered including surgical prophylaxis, catheter-associated urinary tract infection, bacteraemia and community acquired pneumonia.

Antibiotic Awareness Week is supported by the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases, the Australian Society for Antimicrobials, the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care and NPS.

AND NPS ceo Lynn Weekes has also launched a new personal blog, with her most recent post including a response to the Four Corners "Rise of the Superbugs" episode on antibiotic resistance - see [www.themedicinewiseCEO.com](http://www.themedicinewiseCEO.com).

## Tummy tracker app

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim has launched a new 'Buscopan Tummy Tracker' smartphone application, which allows users to record their stomach aches and cramps on a pain scale as they occur throughout the day.

The results are tabulated and recorded on a chart which can be exported, to help establish a pattern of digestive problems and pains as an aid to identifying triggers and causes.

The mobile app is available as a free download for Apple, Android and Windows Phone devices.

## 50+ sunscreens

THE adoption of new regulatory guidelines for sunscreens (PD 02 Nov) has been welcomed by the Australian Self Medication Industry, with the changes for the first time allowing sunscreens with an SPF rating of 50+ to be sold in Australia.

The higher ratings are the result of significant developments in sunscreen technology as well as the adoption of new standards and revised TGA guidelines.

ASMI said manufacturers can now launch new sunscreens which will provide greater protection across the sun's UV spectrum.

Existing sunscreens which were listed on the ARTG prior to 10 Nov remain legal to supply in Australia, and are safe and effective to use while they are within the labelled expiry date.

There's no mandated transition period to the new regime and old products can continue to be sold.



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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.

## Guild Update

### Fair Work Audits

**THE** Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) has notified the Guild that community pharmacies will be audited for their compliance in workplace relations, mid-2013.

It is imperative for Members who are covered by the Pharmacy Industry Award (PIA) to review their employment practices to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Award.

The Guild wants to help pharmacies prepare for this as it is very important that the industry be of the highest standard in this field.

Often employers are unaware of their workplace obligations. If you are unsure if your pharmacy should register for a voluntary audit to prepare for the FWO audit, ask yourself the following common contravention questions:

- Do all employees have access to a copy of the Pharmacy Industry Award and the National Employment Standards?
- Are all new employees provided with the Fair Work Information Statement?
- Do payslips contain all the required details?
- Are all employees provided with their payslips within one working day of being paid?
- Are meal breaks recorded on the roster?
- Do you keep accurate and legible records in English that can be readily accessible to an inspector?
- Do employees receive the correct casual loading/penalty rates/allowances?
- Do junior employees receive wage adjustments on their birthday?

If you answered 'no' or 'unsure' to any of these questions, you NEED to have an audit to ensure compliance.

To register for an audit go to:  
<https://pharmacyguild.wufoo.com/forms/wr-audit-request/>.



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## Final Di-Gesic hearing Feb

**ASPEN** Australia has confirmed that doctors can continue to prescribe Doloxene and Di-Gesic, with a final Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) hearing over the cancellation now set down for 27-28 February 2013.

Aspen is appealing against the deregistration of painkillers containing dextropropoxyphene (DPP), and a stay has been granted by the AAT while the appeal continues (**PD** 13 Sep).

The company's md, Greg Lan, said that Aspen understands that like many other prescription and OTC drugs, DPP has the potential to cause harm if it is not used appropriately.

"However we support DPP being available to patients who need it, and who will be left without satisfactory pain relief if DPP is removed from the market".

He said Aspen has received feedback from many doctors, pharmacists and patients "who support the steps the company has taken to ensure DPP remains available, and who recognise the

difficulty that some patients will suffer if it is no longer available".

The company said doctors who continue to subscribe DPP-containing painkillers should carefully consider the indications, warnings and contraindications in the Product Information and Consumer Medicines Information.

### Group buy infractions

**THE** Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia says that group buying coupon firms such as Groupon, Scoop and Spreets "continue to knowingly flout the law" by selling discounted deals for cosmetic medical procedures.

Anti-wrinkle injections and dermal fillers are regularly offered for sale, according to the CPSA, with some sites even contacting doctors directly to ask them to advertise.

The CPSA said the promotions encourage the public to purchase regulated treatments without regard for whether they are suitable or safe for them.

## WIN A BATH & BODY PACK

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Bath & Body Pack, courtesy of **Designer Brands**.

Each prize pack contains: Body Lotion, Body Wash, Body Scrub, Hand & Nail Cream, Body Butter Pump and Body Butter Tub. Designer Brands NEW Bath & Body range has your skincare needs covered!

Each scent in the range features a Body Butter Pump and Tub, hydrating Body Lotion, exfoliating Body Scrub, nourishing Body Wash, and moisturising

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**HOW** about this as an incentive to keep moving as you age?

Ideal for tech-savvy grannies, a new rocking chair has been launched by a Swiss company which charges your electronic gadgets while you sit in it.

The Micasa Labs iRock generates power from the rocking motion, with its creators claiming that an hour of rocking will charge an iPad to 35%.

And so you can listen to your favourite music at the same time, the iRock also comes with an iPad or iPod dock and a pair of speakers integrated in the backrest.

**HEALTH** and safety gone mad.

A BBC host in the UK has expressed amazement after he was banned from listening into a distant planet on live TV in case the aliens breached health, safety and editorial guidelines.

Professor Brian Cox runs a BBC2 show called *Stargazing Live*, and recently featured a planet discovered by two amateur astronomers called Threapleton Holmes B.

He wanted to listen to the new celestial body live on air, but was told "you can't do that because we need to go through the regulations and health and safety and everything in case we discover a signal from an alien civilisation".

Apparently the BBC bosses were concerned that any new lifeforms might swear during the broadcast.

**FOUR** creative African girls have invented a urine-powered generator which is able to produce electricity for up to six hours from one litre of wee.

The generator works by separating hydrogen from the urine in an electrolytic cell, purifying it in a water filter and then passing it through liquid borax before igniting it to operate a magneto.

It was unveiled at a science fair in Lagos, Nigeria last week.