

\$5500 for flood victims

MEDICI Capital's recent Pharmacy Industry and Bankers Dinner in Brisbane raised \$5,500 for Guild members affected by the Qld and NSW flooding earlier this year.

All profits from the dinner, along with a contribution from Medici Capital, are being donated to the Guild Members' Disaster Appeal.

The dinner took place 10 Apr, with "informative and insightful industry updates" from the speakers who included Guild National President, Kos Sclavos and Medici Capital md Frank Sirianni.

Sirianni said that while there's some softening of the market, pharmacy "is and remains a good investment," providing strong returns well above alternatives.

"The need for management is perhaps now more critical than ever," he told the 66 industry guests attending the event.

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Pharmacies facing audits

THIS week the Fair Work Ombudsman will be conducting an audit of 400 pharmacies across the country, checking for compliance with their obligations as employers under the Fair Work Act.

Edward Mallet, who's managing director of workplace relations specialists Employsure, says his company is seeing a significant spike in enquiries from pharmacists concerned over compliance and other employment requirements.

The FWO audits follow last year's finding that almost 50% of pharmacies in Queensland were not compliant, which he said was a "startling" level of non-compliance, particularly given that pharmacy "is not typically associated with poor employment practices".

An education campaign has already been undertaken, and the follow-up audit intends to determine whether pharmacies have taken the results in Queensland seriously and are now remedying issues discovered there.

"It is not to be taken lightly," he said, with the Ombudsman having wide ranging powers including the ability to visit and search premises and to request disclosure of historic employment data.

"These powers give the FWO a remarkable level of access to your business (more than the police could get without a search warrant) and they can also be incredibly disruptive," Mallett said.

Pharmacies which are audited and found to breach the Fair Work Act can be fined over \$30,000 for each breach.

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PD winner from Fri

CONGRATULATIONS to Nikki Butt from Optimal Pharmacy Plus, who was the lucky winner of last Fri's **Pharmacy Daily** competition.

Nikki has won a Dreambaby Essentials grooming kit.

For an opportunity to win in this week's competition see **page two**.

EU tetrazepam ban

A senior committee of the European Medicines Agency has endorsed a recommendation from its Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee which will see the suspension of marketing authorisations of medicines containing tetrazepam right across the European Union (**PD** last week).

The suspension can be lifted if the companies that market the medicines can provide data identifying a specific group of patients for whom the benefits of tetrazepam-containing medicines outweigh the risks.

Health Care MBA

THE Macquarie Graduate School of Management has announced a new specialist elective for MBA students, focusing on leadership and management issues specific to the health care sector.

Interim dean Guy Ford said that for some time a significant proportion of participants in MGSM programs had come from the health care sector.

The unit is also open to MGSM alumni and industry professionals, with classes delivered by key leaders within the health sector.

Mallett urged pharmacy owners to ensure that they are putting the correct details on payslips, maintaining employment records for the required period of time, make certain they are paying the correct allowances and penalty rates, and provide staff with a copy of the Fair Work Information Statement.

In the event that action needs to be taken "you should act quickly to remedy your problems before the FWO visits.

"If you cannot show that you have attempted to do the right thing after the education campaign, you will be looked upon dimly," he said.

Emloysure has specialists in every state to service pharmacy clients, with an obligation free health check and advisory service - see www.emloysure.com.au

\$7m vaccine contracts

BIOSL has been selected by both the Western Australian Department of Health and NSW Health to provide storage and distribution services for government funded vaccine programs in each state.

The contracts were awarded after separate tender processes and have a combined value of \$6.8 million.

The three year deal with the WA govt will see more than a million vaccines per year distributed to 528 metropolitan and 297 regional immunisation service providers.

And in NSW the two year contract includes about 50,000 deliveries of vaccines to more than 5000 private and public immunisation providers.



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Guild Update

Fair Work Audit

FOLLOWING negotiations with the Fair Work Ombudsman, and support from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Guild has gained the following changes to the Fair Work Ombudsman Audit.

1. Records due date - National extension until Friday 10 May

If employers require a further extension, they are able to contact a Campaign Coordinator.

2. Campaign Coordinator Contact details

If an employer is unable to contact a Fair Work Inspector, contact Campaign Coordinators for any queries:

- Dean Bloom (QLD, ACT and NSW) 07 3404 4756 or dean.bloom@fwo.gov.au
- Joel Rawlings (WA, SA and NT) 08 8402 9014 or joel.rawlings@fwo.gov.au
- Stephen Mastwyk (VIC and TAS) 03 9954 2557 or stephen.mastwyk@fwo.gov.au
- Lyn Barnett, National Director of Targeting 08 8225 8272 or carolyn.barnett@fwo.gov.au

3. What happens next?

Once the records are received, they are assessed by a team of Fair Work Inspectors.

- If the records are assessed as compliant, the employer will be notified in writing
- If records contain a contravention or the inspector has queries they will contact the employer by telephone
- A site visit will only occur if there is adjudged a particular or special requirement

Call your Guild state or territory branch for further details.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

DDS aims for 200 outlets

DISCOUNT Drug Stores says it hopes to replicate its strong Queensland presence in both NSW and Victoria, after growing by 10% to 110 pharmacies over just the last six months.

GM Douglas Kuskopf-Dallas said that this year would be vital to the group's expansion plans, as it heads for a target of 200 stores nationally over the next five years.

He said the ten new members are spread over Qld, NSW, Vic and WA.

"Discount Drug Stores began in Queensland and so that is naturally where we have the strongest store numbers," Kuskopf-Dallas said.

"One of our key goals moving forward is to replicate our strong growth in Victoria and NSW...it will ensure we have a much stronger presence across Australia".

Key to the growth has been the development of systems which enable pharmacists to do what they do best, which is ensuring customers have access to the best quality healthcare advice and products, he said.

DDS provides the back end which manages the sales and retail side

of the business, with upcoming innovations including a number of new professional health services and product lines.

Last year DDS launched an innovative e-commerce platform which allows clients to shop online but still from their local Discount Drug Store.

The group has also launched a private label range of OTC medicines which Kuskopf-Dallas said had proved "particularly lucrative for franchisees".

NPS on anticoagulants

NPS Medicinewise says the PBAC approval of Pradaxa, Xarelto and Eliquis (**PD** yesterday) means health professionals should weigh the risks and benefits of switching to these oral anticoagulants.

NPS ceo Lynn Weekes said that while the subsidy of the newer products offers greater choice for GPs and their patients, evidence suggests people with non-valvular AF whose anticoagulation is well controlled using warfarin may not benefit clinically from switching.



DISPENSARY CORNER

"**SHY** bladder" syndrome is being blamed for a failure by a US hospital job applicant to complete a work-related drug test.

The Iowa Methodist Medical Centre is being cited in court documents which claim it violated the rights of Jennifer Conner when she applied for a job as a organ transplant coordinator.

She was offered the job last June, but one of the conditions was that she pass a drug test three days later.

Part of this involved providing a urine sample, and apparently she was a little too nervous to pee under pressure - and there was no running water in the cubicle to help things along.

WIN A SKINCARE PACK FROM [A'KIN]

Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with [A'kin] this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a skincare prize pack, valued at \$89.85 each.

Brave yourself for winter with intense nourishing and natural botanicals with this prize package from [A'kin]. These three items will work in synergy with your skin to bring out more of your special natural beauty.



Visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/akinbypurist)

to enter our competition and you could win a trip to The Great Barrier Reef with [A'kin].

To win this great [A'kin] prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer

to the question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What is [A'kin]'s sister brand called that creates natural haircare?

Hint! Visit www.purist.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kelly Mitchell** from **Health World Limited**.



Find out what shape you're in as a result of the April PBS changes with our Health Check calculator.

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