

PSS into Queensland

THE Pharmacists' Support Service has improved its ability to help pharmacists in Queensland, via an expanded information base about contacts and services in that state.

PSS is now fully available in Qld, Vic, SA, Tas, NT and WA, closer to its goal of national coverage.



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UP TO 22 CPD POINTS!

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CPD standards approved

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has formally approved new accreditation standards for continuing professional development, as the culmination of a process which has been taking place since 2007.

The standards have been developed by the Australian Pharmacy Council in collaboration with a range of organisations which accredit CPD activities, with the aim of ensuring consistency in accreditation outcomes.

The new Standards have become effective from 01 July 2013, and the Australian Pharmacy Council says it will require providers to be accredited to the standards by the start of September this year.

"Pharmacists who undertake accredited CPD can be assured that the quality, relevance and currency of the activity have been independently verified," the APC

DDS bone testing

DISCOUNT Drug Stores will next month operate bone density awareness and testing clinics across most of its 112 stores nationally.

The clinics will see customers given information about the benefits of calcium, exercise and vitamin D, as well as completing a questionnaire so their specific risk factors can be determined.

A simple and quick ultrasonic bone density test is then performed followed by tailored advice on preventative measures and recommended relevant products to assist in maintaining healthy bones.

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said in a statement.

Accredited CPD will be assessed against these standards, and will carry the APC Accredited CPD logo.

The final Accreditation Standards for Continuing Professional Development Activities are available online by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Illegal meds caught

AUSTRALIAN participation in the recent global Operation Pangea VI crackdown on fake and illegal medicines purchased over the internet saw local authorities seize 35 packages at the Brisbane and Melbourne mail centres.

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service joined with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and the Therapeutic Goods Administration to take part in the sweep which brought together customs, health regulators, national police and private sector agencies from more than 100 countries.

Most of the substances detected were erectile dysfunction or domestic pet medications, with TGA national manager, Prof John Skerritt, saying that Australia's involvement was a reminder for consumers of the risks associated with purchasing medicines from unknown overseas-based websites.

"These products may contain undisclosed and potentially harmful ingredients and may not meet the same standards of quality, safety and efficacy as those approved by the TGA for supply in Australia," Professor Skerritt said.

New NAPSA Council

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association announced the election of their new council for 2013/14 at their AGM Annual NAPSA dinner held over the weekend in Brisbane.

Incoming National President Xavier Agostino from RMIT University will be leading an Executive Committee including Vice President Adam Livori of Latrobe University, Secretary Elleicia Box from the University of Queensland and Treasurer Matthew Tom of Charles Sturt University, while the six elected NAPSA Committee Chairs were also named.

Two Honorary Life Memberships were awarded on the evening, with Timothy Mizzi (Past President 2011/2012) and Adam Phillips (Past President 2002/2003) both recognised for their significant contributions to NAPSA.



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Guild Update

Chemo threat remains

THE threat to community pharmacy from the Government seeking to fund the shortfall in chemotherapy remuneration from the Community Pharmacy Agreement has not gone away.

A recent Department of Health and Ageing discussion paper for its "Review of funding arrangements for chemotherapy services" does not rule out this shortfall being funded out of the Agreement.

The Guild has clear and unequivocal legal advice that this is not part of the Agreement which is a standalone document and makes no mention of chemotherapy. This shortfall cannot be sourced from the Agreement without the Guild's approval as a signatory.

At \$60 per infusion, which is the level of interim funding the Government is providing until the end of this year from outside the Agreement, the impact would be \$11,500 per pharmacy.

We call on politicians from all sides to give a clear commitment that the shortfall in chemotherapy funding cannot and will not be sourced from the Agreement.

Both sides of politics must recognise that a relatively small proportion of the budget savings from price disclosure – savings estimated to be \$220 million for chemotherapy this year alone – needs to be reinvested to address this shortfall.



**The Pharmacy
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Symbion-EBOS a \$6b group

NEW Zealand-based EBOS says it will now seek a listing on the Australian Stock Exchange after the finalisation of its acquisition of Symbion Pharmacy last Friday.

The NZ\$1.1b takeover sees the enlarged company with a total turnover of around NZ\$6 billion, but EBOS md Mark Waller said: "looking forward the increased scale and complementary nature of both businesses can be expected to open up additional revenue opportunities and operational

efficiencies".

The deal was strongly supported by EBOS shareholders and investors and sees Symbion's former owner Zuellig now hold 40% of the combined companies.

Waller said the acquisition transforms EBOS into the "largest diversified Australian marketer, wholesaler and distributor of healthcare, medical and pharmaceutical products by revenue, and a leading Australasian animal care products marketer, wholesaler and distributor".

And Symbion ceo Patrick Davies said he was excited about the opportunities brought by the deal which has "brought together two businesses that have a strong alignment with proven capabilities in adjacent markets".

In relation to the potential ASX listing, Waller said EBOS was now expected to attract significant Australian investor interest given its new footprint here; however he confirmed that its primary sharemarket listing would be on the NZ Stock Exchange, with its head office to remain in Christchurch.

Bio-Oil best seller

BIO-OIL has this year taken the number one position for Priceline on its 'Best Selling Skincare' list, and is also the second top-selling brand in Priceline's overall beauty category.

According to Bio-Oil brand manager Felicity Darcy, less than 25% of customers purchase the product to treat scars alone, with many recognising its other skin benefits including radiance, hydration, anti-ageing and texture smoothing properties.

WIN A PAIR OF CANCER COUNCIL SUNGLASSES



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Cancer Council Australia** and today is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a pair of Cancer Council 'Stratford' sunglasses (pictured left).

Cancer Council eyewear offers the highest level of

sun protection, for your ultimate comfort and protection all Cancer Council sunglasses conform to Australian Standard AS1067:2003; carry the max eye protection factor rating of 10; eliminate 100% of horizontally reflected glare; are fitted with polarised lenses.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

All answers can be found by [clicking here](#) and downloading the catalogue.

True or False: Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Virginia Woolnough** from **Redbank Plains Pharmacy**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

UNTIL recently, earplugs were needed near a roller coaster in the USA, which has been forced to install soundproofing after it was found to be so much fun that the screams of its riders exceeded a council-imposed decibel limit.

The Gold Striker at the Great America theme park in Santa Clara was taken offline last week, after measurements by hearing experts found the riders were screaming too loudly and breaking an agreement with neighbouring properties.

The theme park operator has since covered part of the track in a "sound-dampening tunnel" so that thrilled riders can scream to their heart's content.



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

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