

## ABS Health Survey

**THE** Australian Bureau of Statistics earlier this month released the 2011-13 Australian Health Survey, which details data collections on a broad range of health conditions including heart and circulatory ailments, diabetes, asthma, cancer, arthritis, osteoporosis and mental health.

The report also details data on risk factors such as tobacco smoking, alcohol, physical activity, body mass, blood pressure, dietary behaviours and family stressors.

And health related actions such as lifestyles, treatment of selected conditions, absenteeism from work or school, private health insurance and breastfeeding are covered, along with use of medications.

Results are correlated with population characteristics, with the full survey available online at the ABS website [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au).

WORLD  
LEADING  
BRANDS  
PREPARE TO BE  
AMAZED



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## eRx consumer script app

**ERX** Script Exchange this morning revealed the planned launch of a smartphone application, which will allow customers to scan their own scripts and order medicines directly from their pharmacy of choice.

Set for release in Oct this year, the "eRx Express" app will work by scanning the QR code which will begin to appear on prescriptions, replacing the current eRx barcode information.

Customers can then collect their medicine at a convenient date and time, handing over the paper script at the same time to ensure that all PBS requirements are met.

Fred IT Group ceo Paul Naismith

### See us at the show!

**PHARMACY Daily** will this weekend be taking part in the NSW Pharmacy National Convention & Exhibition, which is on at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre from this afternoon.

Come and see our friendly team during the show on Stand 18.

See [nswpharmacy-nce.com.au](http://nswpharmacy-nce.com.au).

## Massive EU drug fine

**THE** European Commission has fined nine pharmaceutical companies a total of €146 million (A\$209m) for putting in place a range of agreements which delayed the entry of generic versions of Lundbeck's Celexa (citalopram) antidepressant medication.

Lundbeck was hit with a €93.8m fine, while the other penalties were against generic producers who allegedly "agreed with Lundbeck in 2002 not to enter the market in return for substantial payments and other inducements".

The EC said that Lundbeck "paid significant lump sums, purchased generics stock for the sole purpose of destroying it, and offered guaranteed profits in a distribution agreement".

Other companies fined included Merck KgaA, Mylan, Ranbaxy, Zoetis, Xellia, AL Industrier, Actavis and Resolution Chemicals.

Lundbeck said it strongly disagreed with the ruling, and that it intends to appeal the ruling.

## STOP TYPING



Dodo  
(*Raphus cucullatus*)

## START SCANNING

eRx  
script exchange

eRx>



26BPX2HGFNGRMT283

Faster Dispensing

eRx means faster dispensing and fewer errors

## Pharmore for youth

**MELBOURNE** based Pharmore Pharmacies has announced that it will donate 50c from every purchase of a Pharmore Own Name product directly to charity group Kids Under Cover, as part of the Pharmore Community Fund which was established last year.

The moneys raised will be invested in the Kids Under Cover Studio Program, which supports young people who are experiencing difficult living conditions by building studio-style accommodation on the grounds of a family or carer's home, in order to relieve conflict and overcrowding.

Leah Proud, Pharmore Merchandise Manager, said the initiative is part of the company's philosophy of "helping to build healthy, happy communities."

## Smoking linked to disadvantage

**A NATIONAL** Symposium on Smoking and Disadvantage in Canberra earlier this week has cited clear evidence that tobacco is a major contribution to the differences in mortality between the least and most advantaged people in Australia.

Convened by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, speakers included Health Minister Tanya Plibersek, who said "smoking rates among the most disadvantaged in our society remain much higher - in some cases five times higher - than the general population".

In particular, tobacco use is a key contributor to the 17% "health

gap" between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, she said.

People with a mental illness, severe drug and alcohol dependence, and prisoners, are also more likely to die of tobacco related causes than the general population, the Symposium heard.

Attendees included the newly established *Smoking and Disadvantage Network*, which is a partnership of the ANPHA and Cancer Council Australia, comprising representatives of stage and territory health departments and cancer councils, the Dept of Health and Ageing and New Zealand's Health Promotion Agency and the Quit Group.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist/PIC** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2009275)  
Career opportunity for all levels of experience - successful community
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Fraser Coast, QLD (Job# 2009180)  
Diverse opportunity involving management community and private hospital.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Geelong, VIC (Job# 2009794)  
Large modern store needs an experienced senior Manager for the team.

Looking for a different direction for your career? We can help!

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**21-23 June:** NSW Pharmacy-National Convention & Exhibition. For details see: [www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au](http://www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au)

**25th June:** eHealth for Pharmacists, Mezzanotte, Dee Why, contact Lydia on (02) 9432 8215

**5-8 July:** Australian College of Pharmacy's Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane - see [www.acp.edu.au](http://www.acp.edu.au).

**10-14 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business 2013, Mt Buller Vic - more info at [www.medic.com.au](http://www.medic.com.au).

**04-07 Sep:** Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; More details at: [pharmacyconference.com.au](http://pharmacyconference.com.au).

**17-19 Sep:** Pharmaceutical Law Summit, Melbourne, details [www.aventedge.com](http://www.aventedge.com).

**19-22 Sep:** Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - [www.mm2013shpa.com](http://www.mm2013shpa.com).

**20-22 Sep:** Pharmacy Business Network, Canberra; see [pharmacybusinessnetwork.com](http://pharmacybusinessnetwork.com).

**11-13 Oct:** Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac).

**14-16 Oct:** Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email [qldadmin@psa.org.au](mailto:qldadmin@psa.org.au).

**17-19 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - visit [www.pharmacyassistants.com](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com).

**14 Nov:** 2013 ASMI AGM, Conference & Awards - see [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

## Anticoagulant education

NPS MedicineWise says that pharmacists are key to promoting safe use of oral anticoagulants, with a new educational activity released this week to help guide conversations with patients.

*Oral Anticoagulants: Promoting Safe Use* is now available online, with the pharmacy practice review aiming to provide clarity around the newer oral anticoagulants, putting them into context with warfarin.

Large numbers of people still use warfarin but there's increasing public awareness about the newer medications and the review is an "interactive and useful way to keep up-to-date with the latest evidence," according to NPS clinical adviser Philippa Binns.

After completing the activity pharmacists will be able to explain the purpose of and differences between the oral anticoagulants, outline potential adverse effects of the medications, assess for adverse effects and identify patients needing referral, and discuss the need for individualised clinical monitoring with patients.

The review also gives access to a range of resources, including the new NPS MedicineWise warfarin dose tracker (*PD 31 May*).

NPS is also urging pharmacists to take part in the review as part of their CPD requirements, with up to 16 CPD credits available.

Other Pharmacy Practice Reviews available include CVD risk and type 2 diabetes.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## TRIPS protocol bill

**THE** proposed Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2013, which was introduced into Federal Parliament last month, aims to help Australian companies to respond to future health crises in less developed countries.

The bill implements the so-called TRIPS protocol, allowing third parties to seek a compulsory license from the Federal Court to manufacture patented medicines for export to developing countries facing health emergencies.

Medicines Australia says it strongly supports the Bill.

## Enterovirus alert

**THE** NSW Health Dept is urging parents to be aware of symptoms of a rare virus which has been linked to the death of a child.

Enterovirus 71 (EV71) is very rare, and the fatal strain has different symptoms to general enterovirus, including a high fever, irritability, unsteady walking and jerky limbs.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**GENETIC** research has made a major breakthrough in the UK, where a study published this week confirmed a link between the ABCC11 gene and the use of underarm deodorant.

The research reported in Mon's issue of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* has found that people with that gene are roughly five times less likely than other people to frequently use deodorant.

It's the first time that a gene has been linked to a human behaviour, and builds on previous research on the same gene which found that people who have a particular variant of the gene also don't have stinky armpits.

Most of the women with the odourless form of the gene still used deodorant regularly, probably because of "social expectations," according to one of the researchers, Ian Day.

**A NEW** York appeals court is considering whether to allow the city to ban large sugary drinks in restaurants, as part of the war on diabetes and obesity.

The New York Board of Health put in place a rule last year limiting sweetened beverages to 16 ounces (about 470mL) at eateries licensed by the city - but a state judge overruled the regulations in March because they had "too many loopholes," and arbitrarily applied to some businesses and not others, according to *USA Today*.

The rule would apply to restaurants, sports stadiums, fine dining restaurants and fast food outlets, but not grocery stores.



## WIN A MOR ESSENTIALS PACK

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **MOR Essentials** set, valued at \$59.95 each.

Each beautiful prize includes a Fragrant Candle, Hand & Body Wash and Hand & Body Lotion in 1 of 5 unique fragrances.

The MOR Essentials collection is designed to embrace everyday quality self indulgence with rich beneficial formulations presented in mesmerising packaging.

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below.

**What type of wax does the MOR Essentials Candle contain?**

Send your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Monika Galea** from **Priceline Pharmacy**.