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Australian treatment stats

THE majority of publically funded alcohol and other drug treatment services closed in 2010-11 in Australia were for clients receiving treatment for their own drug use, according to the latest report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The finding was detailed in the AIHW's latest report, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2010-11*, which also found that in most cases the client was

male (this ranged from 65% of episodes in Victoria to 75% in Tasmania).

In contrast, it was more common for the client to be female in the small number of episodes where the client was receiving assistance for someone else's drug use, and this ranged from 56% of these episodes in the Northern Territory to 87% in Tasmania.

Interestingly, for episodes where the client was receiving treatment for their own drug use, alcohol was the most common principal drug of concern in all states and territories, except Tasmania where alcohol and cannabis were equally common.

Autism differences

CHILDREN who are later diagnosed with autism have subtle but measurable differences in attention as early as 7 months of age, according to a study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

The study included 97 infants who participated in an eye-tracking test and a brain scan at 7 months of age and a clinical assessment at 25 months of age.

Researchers found that infants who went on to be diagnosed with autism are slower to shift their gaze from one object to another, compared to peers who did not receive the diagnosis.

The scientists also identified specific brain circuits that seem to cause the slower response.

The findings point to a problem with "sticky attention", a phenomenon observed in preschool and older children with autism, but not well studied before in babies at risk for autism.

Bat warnings

EXPERTS at the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases conference have issued a warning for people to stay away from bats, after releasing details of the treatment of an 8-year-old boy in Queensland, who died from Australian Bat Lyssavirus this year.

The boy is just the third reported case of ABLV and the first in a child, having contracted the condition after having been bitten by a bat whilst on holidays.

"ABLV has proved fatal in all cases reported to date," said Dr Joshua Francis, Paediatric Infection Management Service, Mater Children's Hospital.

"There is a need for increased public awareness of the risk associated with bat contact.

"In short, people should stay away from bats," Francis added.

Student essay comp

FOURTH year pharmacy students are being encouraged to enter the Guild Intern Training Program National Student Essay Competition.

"The future is in the hands of innovative students," said National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Kos Sclavos.

"It's going to be up to them to make or break the world of pharmacy," he added.

As part of the competition, students are encouraged to submit an essay of 2,000 words on one of the following topics: What will community pharmacy look like in 2033? Space suits and robots? What will change and what will stay the same? or What are the desirable attributes of a job and program-ready graduate pharmacist that employers are looking for? How are these attributes best utilised to further the objectives of the pharmacy?

The winning essay submission will receive a fully-paid scholarship to cover the student's Guild ITP course expenses, up to the value of \$2000.

The top four student essays will be available online and an excerpt from the winning essay will be published in *Pharmacy Review* 2013, the Guild's annual summary publication.

In addition to the scholarship, the winning essayist will receive complimentary registration, travel and accommodation to attend the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2013 Pharmacy Business Network.

The closing date for essay submissions is 26 July 2013.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by **Cruise Weekly**.

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The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa has unveiled a 'Pamper Package', claiming that it is the ultimate mother and daughter getaway in Byron Bay.

Designed to give mothers and daughters some quality catch up time, the break starts with a bottle of sparkling wine in room on arrival and includes long lunches (one gourmet lunch to the value of \$130) relaxing on the deck, indulgent facials (one hour 'Paperbark Spirit' energising facial) in the resort's award-winning Spa & Wellness Centre, languid swims in the 25m infinity pool, shared meditation walks through the stunning rainforest and daily complimentary yoga classes.

The Pamper Package is priced from \$1,780 for two adults for three nights.

Call 1300 554 362.

Wound medicine

A NEW journal is set to enter the healthcare landscape, *Wound Medicine - The International Wound Journal for Clinical and Health Economics Research and Applications*.

The journal will be published in print and online four times a year and will be devoted to the clinical, scientific and health economics aspects in the prevention, management and reimbursement in wound care.

The journal will publish original research papers and review articles. See www.elsevier.com.

Sigma honours achievers

THIS week Sigma dished out awards to its top Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian brand members at a Gala Awards night at Movie World on the Gold Coast.

The Gala Awards also celebrated the conclusion of Sigma's 2013 Annual Retail Conference, and were attended by celebrities including Guardian Pharmacy Ambassador Dr Cindy Pan and Amcal Ambassador Georgie Parker.

"The theme of our Retail Conference this year is Building a Collaborative Future, so we are extremely proud to recognise and celebrate the successes of our Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian brand members through our Gala Awards," said Gary Dunne, Sigma's Chief Operating Officer.

The big winners of the evening included: National Amcal Pharmacy Assistant of the Year, Scott Newsum; National Pharmacist of the Year, Callie Fleay; National Amcal Max Pharmacy Assistant of the Year, Lauren Robertson; National Guardian Pharmacy Assistant of the Year, Jill Leimbach; National Amcal Retail

Manager of the Year, Kristie Sanford; National Amcal Max Store Business Manager of the Year, Manuel Stamatellos; National Guardian Retail Manager of the Year, Cameron Miller; National Be Good to Yourself Wellness Coach of the Year, Suzanne Vourlides; National Amcal Pharmacy of the Year, Deloraine Amcal; National Amcal Max Pharmacy of the Year, Amcal Max Gympie; and National Guardian Pharmacy of the Year, Gayndah Guardian Pharmacy.

Pictured below enjoying the evening is Mark Hooper, CEO & MD of Sigma; Dr Cindy Pan, Guardian Pharmacy Brand Ambassador; Gary Dunne, Sigma COO; and award winners Sam and Graham Rowles, owners of Gayndah Guardian Pharmacy.



Dotarem approved

THE US FDA today approved Dotarem (gadoterate meglumine) for use in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain, spine and associated tissues of patients ages 2 years and older.

Valeant purchase

VALEANT Pharmaceuticals has announced that it will acquire all of the outstanding common stock of Obagi Medical Products.

Obagi is a leader in topical aesthetic and therapeutic skin-health systems.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

WOMEN with cellulite look at themselves differently.

A new study of 1,000 women has found that those with cellulite rate their appearance differently than those without cellulite.

According to the study results, out of a ten-point scale, with 1 being 'extremely unattractive' and 10 being 'extremely attractive', women with cellulite rated their own appearance on average lower than women without cellulite (6.4 vs. 6.7, respectively).

In fact, ninety-seven percent of women with cellulite shared that given the opportunity they would change a part of their body.

WIN A BOSISTO'S PRIZE PACK



PD has teamed up with FGB Natural Products this week and is giving three lucky readers the chance to win an amazing Bosisto's prize pack.

Bosisto's is embarking on an exciting project to plant 1 million trees in 2013! Customers can help Bosisto's 'Plant a Tree' by purchasing any specially-marked 200mL Eucalyptus oil, available instore from May. The project aims to support local communities, the economy and the environment.

For your chance to win, email your answer (**in 25 words or less**) to the below by COB on Friday to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

If you could change the environment for the better, what would you do?