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### NSW NCE full page

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily*

includes a full page promoting the upcoming NSW Pharmacy National Convention & Exhibition, taking place at Darling Harbour 21-23 Jun - for details see **page three**.

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## 6CPA talks “premature”

HEALTH Minister Tanya Plibersek says any discussions relating to increased dispensing fees in the next Community Pharmacy Agreement are premature, with a spokesperson saying yesterday's Medicines Australia report on the impact of PBS reforms contains “errors, inaccuracies and a selective use of statistics,” says the *AFR*.

The Pharmacy Guild has come under fire for responding to the report and last week's Budget updates with a call for “increased dispensing remuneration...to offset the significant impact of price disclosure” (*PD* yesterday).

It's not just Plibersek who has reacted to the Guild fee push, with controversial NT Pharmacist

Rollo Manning also calling for the Productivity Commission to examine retail pharmacy in the context of its status as the sole supplier of PBS dispensing.

“This is a national health scheme after all, and not a small business support mechanism,” Manning said, urging a national review to see what the government is getting for the \$1.2 billion currently being paid out in dispensing fees.

“Let's not ask for more dispensing fee until we know what is being provided now by the 5,000 pharmacies around Australia - many in areas less than 500m from the next nearest pharmacy”.

He said that the current \$6.52 across-the-board payment in all locations for all dispensing tasks should be adequate “recognising that a few keystrokes in dispensing repeats is over-remunerated compared to the dispensing of diabetic meds to a patient for the first time.

“Let policy in this area be determined by consumer needs and demand, and not the emotions of a small group of business owners already overprotected by the laws governing who can own a pharmacy,” Manning said.

### Actavis to buy Warner Chilcott for US\$8.5b

CONSOLIDATION in the generics business is continuing, with the news overnight that Actavis has agreed to acquire Ireland-based Warner Chilcott for US\$8.5 billion.

No cash is to change hands, with the deal to be settled by a stock swap by the end of the year.

The newly created company, to be called Actavis PLC, will be led by the current Actavis management, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Actavis said the acquisition would see the resulting business have about \$11 billion in combined annual revenue, and be the third largest US specialty pharmaceutical manufacturer, focusing on women's health, gastroenterology, urology and dermatology.

### ARTG cancellations

THE TGA has cancelled the registration of Inner Health Candex from Health World Limited as well as Myadec Primetime 50+ Formulation, in both cases citing insufficient evidence to support the indications for the products.

### NZ pharmacy adviser

PHARMACIST Andi Shirtcliffe has been named as Chief Advisor to the NZ Ministry of Health, with the NZ Guild saying the move shows a renewed govt commitment to ensuring that community pharmacy is recognised as central to the provision of health care in NZ.

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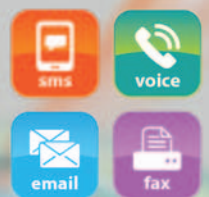
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## Guild Update

### PBS sustainability

**THERE'S** been a surge recently in evidence of the long term sustainability of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, underpinned by responsible contributions from pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sector.

Last week's Federal Budget confirmed the significant impact that PBS price reforms are having on PBS expenditure, delivering the Government an additional \$2.5 billion saving over four years.

The goods news on the PBS is outlined in the Medicines Partnership of Australia PBS Scorecard – available at [medicinespartnership.com.au](http://medicinespartnership.com.au)

Expenditure on pharmaceuticals as a percentage of GDP is now expected to decline every year between 2012-13 and 2016-17.

The pharmaceutical and pharmacy sectors certainly are doing their bit to maintain the affordability of the PBS.

This week there was further confirmation of the savings being reaped by Government with the publication by Medicines Australia of a study titled *The Impact of further PBS Reforms*.

It found the current reforms agreed between the Government and Medicines Australia will deliver up to \$18 billion in savings by 2017-18.

The report shows the reforms agreed between Government and industry, are saving taxpayers many billions of dollars on established medicines.



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## AZ boosts local production

**ASTRAZENECA** Australia has announced a third production line at its plant in North Ryde, NSW, significantly boosting capacity in response to growing Chinese demand for a key asthma drug.

The company currently exports \$254 million worth of product annually, and this figure is set to rise to \$340 million by 2015.

Special machinery, which can produce 65 million units a year, will

be custom built in Melbourne at a cost of over \$20m, with the firm's md Mark Fladrich saying that in the current difficult environment for Australian manufacturing, "AstraZeneca is carrying the torch for high-end production."

"We've been saying for some time that the country has a tremendous opportunity to get behind the Australian medicines industry as a sector," he said.

"Our industry is delivering \$4 billion a year in exports...but we need policy stability in our commercial environment if we're to sustain this growth," Fladrich said.

"That's something we're looking for from the next government".

He said that as much plant equipment as possible is sourced locally, with production involving a niche suppliers including plastic manufacturers and delivery firms.

"We are producing an Australian product on Australian built specialist machinery which will benefit the wider Australian economy," Fladrich said.

### New India drug policy

**AUTHORITIES** in India have approved a new policy which will regulate the prices of more than 650 generic medicines.

The new National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy will become effective in Jul, with drugs classified into 27 therapeutic areas and prices expected to be cut by 20-25% on average.

The arrangements will see the maximum price of each medication set as the weighted average price of all variants which have a "volume-based market share" of over 1%.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**AUTHORITIES** in Venezuela are hoping to wipe out a chronic shortage of toilet paper by the urgent importation of fifty million rolls to boost supplies.

The country is in somewhat of a crisis following the recent death of long-time president Hugo Chavez, with his successor claiming the loo paper shortage is "part of a media conspiracy generated to disrupt the country" - but with no joy yet in flushing out the culprit.

However economists cite controls on foreign exchange and price caps by the socialist government, which make basic items so cheap that prices charged often don't cover the cost of production.

**DON'T** drink the water - the pool water, that is.

That's the advice of scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who conducted a study of public swimming pools in Atlanta over the summer.

More than half of the pools showed signs of "faecal matter" - basically DNA from E.coli bacteria normally found in the human gut.

The CDC has issued a number of key recommendations for swimmers, including showering before entering the water, taking children to the bathroom every 60 minutes, avoiding changing nappies next to the pool and "staying out of swimming water when you have diarrhoea".

**IT'S** not your shoe, it's your mum.

A study published in the UK this week has shown that the risk of developing bunions is linked to your family, not your footwear.

The Framingham Foot Study examined the medical history of more than 1300 sufferers of the condition, and found a strong correlation to other family members who also have bunions.

However because bunions are basically related to the shape of the foot, it can be exacerbated by the incorrect shoes.

## WIN A MOOGOO PRIZE PACK



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a MooGoo prize pack (pictured left), valued at \$40.40 each.

MooGoo Cover-Up Butter Cup is a gentle, non-whitening moisturiser made up of natural, edible ingredients and is designed for everyday use. It does not contain any chemical UV filters. The natural physical UV barriers Zinc and Raspberry Seed Oil have been added to help protect the skin from UV ageing and it is suitable for use on both babies and adults.

The SPF 15 Lip Balm is a soothing edible lip balm designed to moisturise and condition the lips. Zinc Oxide has been combined with natural moisturising oils to help keep the lips soft and protected from UV ageing.

To win this great prize, simply be the first person to email the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**The SPF 15 Lip Balm is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ and natural moisturising oils to help soften the lips and offer protection from UV ageing.**

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kathy Thomas** from **Townsville Health Centre**.

# NSW Pharmacy - National Convention & Exhibition 2013

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Centre, Darling Harbour

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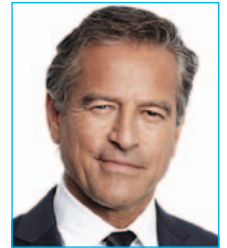


The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

Friday 21 June - Plenary Session  
Learn to Survive & THRIVE

## Keynote Speaker

Mark Bouris  
Executive Chairman  
Yellow Brick Road



Mr Mark Bouris appears by arrangement with Saxton Speakers Bureau

## Additional Speakers:



the Hon. Bruce Billson MP  
Federal Member for Dunkley  
Shadow Minister for Small Business  
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