

## PPA campaign starts

**PROFESSIONAL** Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has launched a campaign for non-owners to share concerns about worrying practices in community pharmacy.

Called 'Clean Up Pharmacy', PPA president Dr Geoff March said the group had been "flooded" with concerns from pharmacists since the Pharmacy Guild of Australia had cited allegations of questionable behaviour around HMR/RMMR provision (**PD** 06 Mar).

March said much of the concern related to the difficulty that bad practices made for owners doing the right thing, and the operations of larger pharmacy chains forcing an unsustainable level of competition.

Information collected would be passed on to the relevant authorities, March said.

For the campaign, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Guild refutes 'cartel' label

**ON** the cusp of negotiations around the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA), media have called it a "Cartel Pharmacy Agreement" and described the Pharmacy Guild as "bolshie unionists."

Janet Albrechtsen, writing for *The Australian*, and interviewed on *ABC Radio Perth 702* yesterday, said the CPA was contrary to the free market positions of most political parties these days.

Albrechtsen said that former attempts to reform the protectionist structure had met with "tinkering here and there" but a general failure of successive governments to "regulate the more than 5,000 pharmacies to make them more competitive, more efficient and, most important, to provide better services for consumers."

She cited the location rules as a "protection gig" and the ownership rules as "competition stifling" saying other professions did not get the same protection.

The Guild returned fire from both barrels, with director of communications Greg Turnbull writing an op ed in the *Australian* today and speaking on *720 ABC Perth's Drive Time* yesterday.

The op ed piece, titled 'Communities know the value of their pharmacies', talked about the value of pharmacists to the community, serving as "healthcare hubs" and representing an effective partnership between public and private sectors, a model that worked well and was "very strongly supported" by the public.

Turnbull also talked about the effects of price disclosure on pharmacies and the recent Guild employment survey predicting up to 9,000 jobs will be lost in the next 12 months (**PD** 03 Apr).

Turnbull said pharmacy regulations, such as location and ownership rules, were not "anti-freedom" but acted in the public interest to ensure safe, professional dispensing of medicines.

During his radio interview, Turnbull said this "good regulation" was because medicines under the

PBS scheme were not ordinary items of commerce.

Turnbull said if a free market were in place, such as Albrechtsen would support, pharmacies could cluster and "big box" pharmacies could potentially run smaller, independent pharmacies out of business.

"I think there's a real public interest benefit in ensuring that medicines are available where people live and where people need them."

## New advert approvals

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted on its website new advertising approval application forms.

In both PDF and word formats, the advertising approval application forms are together with updated definitions of submission types, namely new applications, re-approvals, minor changes, variations and "Specified Media".

## MosKa alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is warning consumers that MosKa - energy for adults contains the prescription only substance vardenafil, used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction.

Supply of this product is illegal and the TGA said people in Australia might have bought the product online, which should be disposed of at pharmacies.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## FDA seeks IT input

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has released a report outlining its proposed framework for health IT.

It is holding a three day workshop and seeking comments.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

## WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS



This week **PD** is giving 4 readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** prize pack.

Each prize pack contains 4 Quick Colour Nail Polishes and 1 Twist 'n' Go nail polish remover.

DB's Quick Colour Nail Polish dries in 30 seconds! With a high-gloss finish, the precision brush allows for a streak free application. Available in 20 shades and five treatments. The award winning Twist 'n' Go allows you to remove nail polish in one second!

To win, be first to send in the correct answer to the question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**How long does Quick Colour nail polish take to dry?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Belinda McLachlan** from NSW Government.

## National Convention & Exhibition '14

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## FDA ticks Tanzeum

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Tanzeum (albiglutide) subcutaneous injection to improve glycemic control, along with diet and exercise, in adults with type 2 diabetes.

As well as imposing a Boxed Warning on the product, the FDA is requiring three post-marketing surveillance studies to assess paediatric dosing, efficacy and safety, the risk of medullary thyroid carcinoma in all patients over a 15 year period and cardiovascular outcomes for patients with a high baseline risk of cardiovascular disease.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

**IF** you like whale watching, check out Port Stephens winter whale watching package, including a whale watching cruise, two nights' accommodation, a complimentary beanie and binoculars.

Every winter, Port Stephens's waters see thousands of migrating humpback whales and you'll have the opportunity to see them with the winter package offered by boutique resort, Marty's at Little Beach.

From \$300 per couple from Sunday to Thursday or \$340 from Friday to Saturday, the package is valid from 01 Jun to 31 Aug.

To book, call 02 4984 9100 or visit [www.martys.net.au](http://www.martys.net.au).

**WILD** Bush Luxury has a special for its Bamurru Plains property.

You can stay four nights in a safari bungalow but pay for only three.

The special, at \$2,790 per adult twin share, includes chef prepared meals and beverages and is valid between 01 May and 30 Jun, and must be redeemed by 30 Apr.

To book, call 02 9571 6399 and quote 'Stay 4 PayPay 3'.

## TWC flu vax controversy

**CONFLICT** of interest queries have been raised about the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot (QPIP) with the news that Terry White Chemists (TWC) received funding for training from Sanofi Pasteur, manufacturer of influenza vaccines Intanza and Vaxigrip.

AMA president Dr Steve Hambleton told the *Sun Herald* it was a "bit of a conflict of interest."

Sanofi told *PD* that last year it provided financial support to the Terry White group of pharmacies and Revive Clinics for training about influenza immunisation, used to cover costs associated with providing continuing educational training, including advice on adverse reactions.

Sanofi said it strongly believed it was appropriate for pharmacists to receive necessary training to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to administer vaccinations.

Sanofi said it did not have an exclusivity agreement with the organisations and all products were discussed in the training, including companion products in the vitamin and OTC health range.

Sanofi said it would provide training for Terry White pharmacies this year, but that Revive Clinics had decided to use another supplier due to pricing requirements.

Some of these Terry White pharmacists were involved in the QPIP, Sanofi said.

Fifty one TWC pharmacies in total are involved in the Queensland Department of Health approved QPIP (*PD* 14 Jan), out of a total 77,

and pharmacies can use any TGA approved vaccine appropriate to patient needs.

TWC said negotiations with Sanofi about support were conducted on a commercial in confidence basis and details would not be disclosed.

TWC said with regards to the QPIP it wanted to be "absolutely clear - our pharmacies paid for their own pharmacists to be trained to administer immunisations."

It said the brand of vaccine stocked depended upon the preference of individual pharmacy owners and, in a clinical setting, patient factors such as age.

A Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) spokesperson said the PSA did not know the details of the support but that it was not unusual for drug companies to assist doctors and pharmacists in better understanding their products.

Commercial in confidence arrangements between suppliers and customers were part and parcel of normal market conditions, the spokesperson said.

The PSA said it would remind pharmacists of their responsibilities under the Code of Ethics, including ensuring responsible and accountable control and supply of therapeutic goods, contributing to public health and enhancing the quality use of medicines.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the story was a "beat up."

"There is absolutely nothing unethical about a medicine manufacturer providing training in relation to that medicine."

## Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"

Perth 5-6th May

Melbourne 3-4th June

Sydney 22-23rd July

Brisbane 19-20th August

[Click here for detailed brochure](#)

"With the impending PBS changes this workshop has empowered me to analyse my business and put strategies in place to reduce the impact. Geoff is a vibrant presenter"

Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplus



Pharmacy Accredited A1403FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion in a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NAILED** it.

If you're looking for inspiration over your Easter weekend for crafty treats, you might turn to Pinterest, the pin board-like photo sharing website.

However, if you're looking for consolation, you can try I Saw It On Pinterest So I Did It Myself...And NAILED IT! by [www.sunnyskyz.com](http://www.sunnyskyz.com).

The blog covers the various attempts by every day people trying to recreate the often professional offerings on Pinterest, with hilarious results.

These include this fairly terrifying hedgehog cake:



There's also this pig pikelet, which will haunt your dreams:



We'll just leave you with that... *PD* will return on 22 Apr; we hope you have a great Easter break!

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Capricornia Coastal Region, QLD (Job# 2010012)  
Busy community focused phcy operation - big \$\$\$ for the right experience
- **Pharmacist** - West Coast, VIC (Job# 2010497)  
Near a regional centre along Great Ocean Rd, friendly, engagement+++
- **Pharmacist** - Riverina Region, NSW (Job# 2009912)  
Full-time career opportunity - all levels of exp considered - varied workday

*Have you arranged a Locum for your next break? call us to sort it!*