

PA meeting outcomes

PHARMACY Alliance (PA) has completed its second round of member meetings for the year with a theme of 'The keys to unlock real profit opportunities'.

The meetings included information about the new PAGM online reporting tool which had been developed to provide members with access to more current information, as well as a PAGM OTC program where members were able to earn up to 10% off Chemist Own usage, Pharmacy Alliance said.

The meetings also talked about offering the right business finance options to allow for savings to ease Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme pressure and freeing up time by using technology to streamline cash flow, costs and staff management, the organisation said.

Guild co-pay clarity sought

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has been grilled regarding its view on the proposed increased Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme co-payment.

Speaking at the public hearing for the Community Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into the National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2014, Senator for Victoria Richard di Natale said he could not discern from the Guild's submission what its view was regarding the co-payment and addressed Guild executive director David Quilty three times regarding whether or not the Guild opposed it.

Quilty said "to be very clear" that the organisation's position was that it was a matter for government in terms of increasing the co-payment and the safety net, but that it did have concerns about the impact it might have on the ground in community pharmacies.

Quilty said the Guild believed the impact of the proposal would need to be factored into the negotiations for the next Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Di Natale asked whether there was an appetite for better utilisation of pharmacists, as opposed to "going down the easy path of hiking up the co-payment", to which Pharmaceutical Society of Australia ceo Dr Lance Emerson said there was international evidence of the gains to be made from evidence based pharmacist services, such as pharmacists in GP surgeries (**PD** 23 Jul).

Pharmacists were not funded

to work as part of a GP team but \$13m was allocated for chiropractors in the MBS, he said.

"To be frank, there is limited scientific evidence for that, yet we have very strong scientific evidence supporting the role of pharmacists and working with the GPs."

Australia needed to look to evidence based pharmacist interventions, such as home medicines reviews, to improve patient health and reduce health costs, Emerson said.

MEANWHILE Senator for Queensland Jan McLucas said the level of "disquiet and concern" regarding out of pocket costs, whether about the proposed GP co-payment or the PBS increased co-payment, had been "extraordinary".

McLucas said the people who had mostly contacted her office following the budget about the out of pocket costs had been pensioners.

The Committee is due to report on 26 Aug.

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

HbA1c 10 min test

THE HbA1c value assesses the level of binding of haemoglobin to glucose in the blood, indicating the presence of diabetes if over 6.5% and now a new test can measure this parameter in 10 minutes.

Tanaka Precious Metals has developed a test called 'PersonalA1c' which it will sell in emerging countries with high incidence of diabetes such as China and India before branching out.

Snoreben special deal

BEN Medical has announced a special deal on Snoreben available through API now.

To access a faxable order form and further details on the deals and state brokers, see **page three**.

Guild publication

THE Pharmacy Guild has released a new publication detailing some of Australia's health challenges, what pharmacies are doing and what more they could do.

Called 'A Healthy Future - an enhanced role for community pharmacy', it can be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.

New ACPM statements

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted its 2014 meeting statements from the Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines.

The meetings were held in Feb, Apr, Jun and Aug with recommendations provided to TGA delegates for consideration as part of the TGA's regulatory decision making process.

CLICK HERE to source details.

BioRevive training

BIOREVIVE has launched a new training portal that provides pharmacists and pharmacy assistants access to product training modules.

Current brand training modules include Prospan Cough Relief, Isla Dry Cough, Cleanears Spray and others.

Go to www.biorevive.com.

DDS hits osteoporosis

DISCOUNT Drug Stores (DDS) is helping Australians to identify the early warning signs of osteoporosis by running bone density clinics in 110 of its stores.

The clinics follow the inaugural program from 2013, which tested more than 2,000 people.

Tests cost \$29.99 with customers receiving a gift bag valued at \$20 containing a resistance band, a pack of Ostelin 30 and a recipe booklet.



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Mum can prevent obesity and diabetes

PRE-CONCEPTION, pre-natal and post-natal nutrition can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and allergy in later life, according to a report released yesterday.

The 'Early Life Nutrition Report' was developed by researchers from Australian and New Zealand Universities including Professor John Funder of Prince Henry's Institute, Professor Peter Davies of Queensland Children's Medical Research Institute and Associate Professor Clare Wall of the University of Auckland, with Danone Nutricia providing funding.

The report gives an overview of early life nutrition research findings and evidence based recommendations.

These include reducing excess weight and maintaining recommended dietary intake of omega-3 fatty acids during pregnancy.

CLICK HERE to access the report.

Travel Specials

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

Oaks Hotels & Resorts - Spring is fast approaching and now is the time to get the jump on cool deals at select coastal properties around Australia with favourite accommodation provider Oaks Hotels & Resorts, offering free WiFi for a limited time.

Oaks Pacific Blue Resort, Port Stephens - hotel rooms from just \$89 per night, or spacious one bedroom apartments overlooking the legendary lagoon pool from \$104 per night (minimum two nights' stay).

Oaks Coast Caloundra - just \$109 per night in an Executive King room, or \$119 per night for an Executive Family room (minimum two nights' stay), sleeping up to four people.

Go to the Oaks Hotels & Resorts site: www.oakshotelsresorts.com.

Death rate inequality

BEING male, Indigenous or living in a very remote area are significant factors affecting death rates, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

It found the death rate from 2009-11 for males was 1.5 times as high as the rate for females,

Indigenous health checks up

THE number of health checks by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is rising, but many are still missing out, data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has shown.

The Indigenous health check data tool showed the total number of Indigenous health checks rose from about 71,400 to more than 122,000 from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

However more than 82%, or 576,000 Indigenous Australians, did not have the rebated health check in 2012-13, AIHW spokesperson Fadwa Al-Yaman said.

Usage rates for the health checks were highest in the NT and Queensland, and lowest in Tasmania - **CLICK HERE** for more.

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almost twice as high for Indigenous Australians compared with non-Indigenous Australians and 1.4 times as high for people living in remote areas compared with those in major cities.

Those who lived in areas of the lowest socioeconomic status had a death rate 1.3 times as high as those living in areas of the highest status, with death rates from diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease "notably higher" at 1.8 and 1.7 times as high, AIHW spokesperson Louise York said - **CLICK HERE** to read.

New orphan drugs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has added Ivacaftor (Kalydeco), Sodium phenylbutrate (Pheburane) and Siltuximab (Sylvant) as orphan drugs.

CLICK HERE for more.

Spring is sprung

FLORDIS, the manufacturers of Sinupret Forte, have developed an Ask/Assess/Advise Protocol to assist pharmacy staff to engage with their customers about their sinus health.

Go to www.flordis.com.au.

DISPENSARY CORNER

NOT so sporting.

Recently published joint research by scientists at Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil shows that carbohydrate beverages as a sport performance enhancement aid have no effect, and can be detrimental in some instances.

The findings were published in the journal *PLOS One*, a public access journal, to liberate the data for broader scrutiny said Professor Frank Marino, Head of the CSU School of Human Movement Studies in Bathurst - **CLICK HERE** to access.

NOT so great customer service.

Fortunately demonstrating an exception in dispensing 'bedside manner', a hospital dispensary in KL allegedly displayed the ultimate in perhaps things we might like to say sometimes but really shouldn't.

According to *FMT News*, a patient prescribed a urinary alkaliniser called Utix found it too bitter to swallow.

The patient returned the box to the hospital pharmacy asking for an alternative called U-lite.

According to her version of events, reported by *FMT News*, a hospital dispensary pharmacist threw the box back at her shouting that if she wanted U-lite, she should buy it outside the hospital.

Well that's good for community pharmacy business, I suppose.

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Win a Fabuluscious Nail Pack

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five readers the chance to win a Fabuluscious nail care pack.

Fabuluscious is a range of professional, salon-quality nail treatments and beauty products, designed for the girl who likes to look fabulous all the time. The extensive range covers all sorts of nail related beauty challenges caused by brittle, dry and flaky nails. All products are made in Australia, free of any nasties and not tested on animals.

To win, be first to send in the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Will "Ridge Filler" protect your nails from discolouration?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Sharyn McErlean** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.

