

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from: ([click](#))

- InnovaDerma

Tasmania Health: use phmcy better

BETTER utilisation of pharmacy expertise could strengthen the primary health care sector, the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services has said in the Exposure Draft of its White Paper.

The expertise in areas such as medication management, triage and minor ailment management of 676 pharmacists, delivering services through 148 pharmacies in the state, could be better utilised, the Department said.

This comes after an issues paper was released last year ([PD 17 Sep 14](#)) and the announcement that the three Health Organisations would be merged into one ([PD 06 Aug 14](#)).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the White Paper.

Guild: set own service price

THE Pharmacy Guild has advised each pharmacy to set its own prices for professional services, taking into account the costs of providing the service.

The Guild said last year that it was in talks with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) with regards to advice it could give members about prices for professional services, with executive director David Quilty saying it was "highly unlikely" a price list would be provided ([PD 28 Aug 14](#)).

In *forefront*, the Guild said the ACCC's guide was clear that businesses making agreements with competitors to fix prices, share markets or otherwise agree to act together instead of competing were breaking the law.

Pharmacies who already charged for professional services around Australia had taken into account factors such as the salary of the person providing the service and the space, infrastructure and

equipment required, it said.

"It is also appropriate that the service provides a return, over and above these costs, in the form of profit margin for the business."

A Guild spokesperson told **PD** it was investigating the option of creating a tool for individual pharmacies to calculate the costs spent providing services.

The Guild also encouraged pharmacies to share stories of what they had tried and what had worked, the spokesperson said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Pharmacotherapy growth slows

THE number of people receiving pharmacotherapy treatment for opioid dependence increased 2% from 2013 to 2014, down from an average 5% growth each year between 1998 and 2010, according to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report.

More than 48,000 Australians were on a course of pharmacotherapy treatment for opioid dependence on a given day last year, it said.

Sixty nine per cent of those receiving this treatment last year were aged 30 to 49, fairly consistent since 2006; however the proportion of people under 30 receiving treatment dropped from 28% to 10% in that time and those aged 50 or over grew from 8% to 21%, suggesting an ageing cohort of people in treatment, AIHW said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

NOT ALL PROBIOTIC STRAINS DO THE SAME THING

Recommend therapeutic, scientifically validated strains.

INNER HEALTH PLUS



Corum chair retires

CORUM Group has announced the retirement of its chairman Michael Shehadie, with md David Tonuri to undertake chairman duties until a replacement is found.

Md and ceo Geoffrey Broomhead left Corum on 30 Jan ([PD 02 Feb](#)).

Skin Care for Problematic Skin

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PROPAIRA Ultra- Calming Lotion 100ml	932183
PROPAIRA Ultra-Calming Cleansing Gel 100ml	932221
PROPAIRA SPF50+ Sunscreen 80ml	932256

Guaifenesin ADR

AN ADVERSE drug report (ADR) has been recorded for guaifenesin by the Trans-Tasman Early Warning System's Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring.

Two patients have reported experiencing tinnitus followed by deafness and in one case, facial numbness.

Medsafe said these are the first such reports associated with the drug.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

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Pharmacy key to adherence and QOL

BY FOCUSING on patients over the age of 65 years with four or more daily medications, community pharmacists can improve both medication adherence as well as patient quality of life (QOL), according to a six month study published in *The International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*.

The UK-based research involved 441 patients who completed the study, with pharmacists making 142 recommendations to prescribers with relation to 110 patients.

Main drugs of concern were NSAIDs, PPIs or duplication of therapy, the authors said, adding that both QOL measures and medication adherence were improved in the counselled patient group.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Travel Specials

Port Stephens Whale Watching MARTY'S at Little Beach in Port Stephens is offering a deal where guests can choose two of three gifts as part of an accommodation package with whale watching.

Available 16 May to 31 Aug from \$215 per night for two adults, gifts include a woollen beanie to keep warm while whale watching and popup binoculars.

For more information, visit www.martys.net.au.

Hong Kong 3rd night free deal COSMOPOLITAN Hotel, Cosmo Hotel and the Dorsett Mongkok in Hong Kong have a special offer of a 'Stay 3 Pay 2' deal for all room types from now until July.

Free use of a smartphone with unlimited calls and free shuttle buses are also included. Go to: www.cosmopolitanhotel.com.hk www.cosmohotel.com.hk www.mongkok.dorsetthotels.com

Phmcy recs '2 of 56'

MINISTER for Small Business Bruce Billson has said the Harper Review's pharmacy recommendations (**PD** 01 Apr) are two of 56.

Asked in a *Sky News* interview if he was prepared to "take on" the "powerful" pharmacy lobby, as well as "two dominant supermarkets who...like being able to maybe sell prescription drugs", Billson said there were strong, vested interests that "like certain arrangements just the way they are now."

"But in many instances they might not be serving the national interest or might be coming at the expense of what consumers and the broader economy is looking for."

He would be consulting on the recommendations over eight weeks, the Minister said.

MEANWHILE Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty has said the Review was a "profoundly disappointing" document, which was "muddled and intellectually lazy" when it came to pharmacy.

Writing in *forefront*, Quilty said the report did not demonstrate that deregulation benefits would outweigh the risks and costs.

University of Melbourne Professor of Health Economics Philip Clarke said removal of location rules would see more pharmacies (**PD** 07 Apr).

Retain TGA for CMs

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia (CMA) has said it believes the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is the correct regulator for complementary medicines (CMs) reiterating its request for a "light touch" in the regulation (**PD** 29 Sep 14).

In its submission to the Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation (**PD** 27 Oct 14), CMA said excessive regulatory burden was the main complaint of 83% of CM manufacturers, as a barrier to remaining competitive.

Boostrix available

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has confirmed uninterrupted supply of Boostrix vaccine to the National Immunisation Program and state-based immunisation programs.

CLICK HERE for more.

Nissen CPA summary

QUEENSLAND University of Technology (QUT) School of Clinical Sciences head Professor Lisa Nissen and QUT lecturer Judith Singleton have written a summary of the historical context of the Community Pharmacy Agreement in *The Conversation*.

CLICK HERE to read.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A ROSE by any other name.

We all know there is a science behind drug names, so what's in a name?

Apparently if you choose your parents well, quite a lot, as one couple found when they had their wedding funded by a famous fast food chain, *Yahoo! News* reports.

Illinois couple Joel Burger and his fiancée Ashley King accepted an offer from Burger King to pay for their wedding to be held on 17 July, the report said.

There was no information about possible advertising arrangements but a Burger King spokesman has said the company felt an overwhelming urge to help the happy couple celebrate.

SUBURB succumbs to smoke.

While pharmacies have strict controls on disposal of drugs as in the Return of Unwanted Medicines project, some Indonesian police took a somewhat different approach with a haul of cannabis.

The police, wanting to dispose of 3.3 tons of cannabis, thought it would be good to burn the illegal cache outside their office, *stuff.co.nz* reports.

They reportedly took the precaution of wearing facemasks themselves, but failed to allow for the whole neighbourhood inhaling the smoke, with reports of headaches and light headedness filling the local hospital.

ZOLOFT, stat!

With what he's seen, Jon Snow of *Game of Thrones* fame might just need a prescription for an anti-depressant.

That's certainly the take away from a sketch by US Late Night host Seth Meyers, who imagines the character at a New York dinner party in **THIS** video.

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Designer Brands** are giving readers the chance to win DB's new Blur Skin Perfector (RRP \$14.99) and NGM Blush (RRP \$14.99).



Blur products are all the rage now and DB is giving away two products from its Ace Your Base promo. DB has just launched its new and innovative 3 in 1 Blur Skin Perfector that can be used under or over make up as well as for touch ups. Also included in the giveaway is the fabulous NGM Blush, a perfect pink for a natural healthy glow suitable for all skin tones.

To win, be the first person from **WA, SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the SPF rating of DB liquid foundations?

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kaye Hazel from Angel Medicine.



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