

Today's issue of PD

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

- Pharmacy Alliance

Census change hits healthcare planning

CONDUCTING the census every 10 years would negatively affect healthcare planning, a group of health organisations has said.

The Consumers Health Forum (CHF), the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) and the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) jointly released a statement saying the Australian Bureau of Statistics' proposition would come at an "unacceptable cost" to healthcare planning.

AHHA ceo Alison Verhoeven said information from the census was used to inform health funding, as well as health and hospital location and services.

CHF ceo Adam Stankevicius said the timely statistics could help combat serious population problems such as chronic disease faster.

The organisations called on the Treasurer to consult more widely before making a decision.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Private premiums up

PRIVATE health insurance premiums will increase by 6.18% from 01 Apr, the Minister for Health Sussan Ley has said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

New pharmacy technician e-learning

THE Society for Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has launched a new e-learning workbook for pharmacy technicians.

The program is aimed at experienced technicians working toward or who have Certificate IV qualification and was developed by the SHPA NSW Medicines Information Special Interest Group.

For more information, contact SHPA by [CLICKING HERE](#).

DoH takes care on 6CPA

THE Department of Health has been careful not to give any details as to whether it would wait for the audit of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) before signing the Sixth.

In an Estimates hearing, Secretary Martin Bowles said the Department had "had conversations" with the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) to inform its thinking about how to negotiate the 6CPA.

In response to a question from Senator Richard Di Natale about whether the Department would wait to see the audit before signing the 6CPA, Bowles said when the Audit Office released its findings was its business.

"I just want to be very careful that I do not trip into something

Pfizer's conduct to remain competitive

PFIZER had made offers to pharmacies around Lipitor and its generic atorvastatin product in 2012 in order to remain competitive in the market, a judge has said.

In his judgement which dismissed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's application against Pfizer ([PD 26 Feb](#)), Justice Flick said rather than pursuing its conduct, which involved rebates on Lipitor dependent on supply of "substantial quantities" of its generic product, to deter or prevent other companies from engaging in competitive conduct or to substantially lessen competition, Pfizer had pursued this conduct to remain competitive in the atorvastatin market.

"Although Pfizer recognised that in pursuing that course, the incentives it offered to pharmacies to take its atorvastatin products – including both Lipitor and its own generic atorvastatin – made it harder for the other manufacturers to compete, it did not engage in the conduct in question for any substantial purpose of deterring or preventing the other generic manufacturers from entering the market."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

that would have a detrimental impact on us negotiating the Sixth Pharmacy Agreement.

"It is not up to me or my department to pre-empt the ANAO and what they might do with their audit."

The release of the audit's findings was delayed from spring to autumn this year ([PD 19 Jan](#)).

The expected tabling date for the audit was 05 Mar, an ANAO spokesperson said.

However the spokesperson did not respond to queries about the delay.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Division first assistant secretary Felicity McNeill said she would meet with a number of groups in the coming weeks who had expressed interest in presenting views about the 6CPA, including Diabetes Australia, the Australian Self Medication Industry, the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Council of Social Services.

Bowles was similarly careful when it came to questions about whether the Department would seek savings on the \$15.6b 5CPA in the new Agreement and whether the discussions would involve any review of the ban on supermarkets operating pharmacies.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Mayne profit down 53% for first half

MAYNE Pharma has released its first half results for 2015, posting \$4m profit, down 53% from the \$8.4m profit recorded in the first half of 2014.

Ceo Scott Richards said that as flagged in November, the company's first half was impacted by the lack of contribution from the sales of Doryx tablets to Actavis ([PD 28 Nov 14](#)).

Excluding sales of US Doryx, Richards said the rest of the business grew 6% year on year, with positive prospects flagged for the rest of the year as a result of the Doryx acquisition.

Revenue was \$59.5m, down 15% from \$70m in the first half of 2014.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Competition winner

CONGRATULATIONS to the winner of Friday's competition, **Elene Binder** from Health Focus Pharmacies.

This week, HeadsUp and *PD* are giving readers a chance to win a six pack of HeadsUp for hangover relief, starting with NSW or ACT.

See [page two](#) for more details.

Meds listing faster

MEDICINES are being listed faster on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), the Community Affairs Legislation Committee has heard.

In an Estimates hearing, Pharmaceutical Benefits Division first assistant secretary Felicity McNeill told the Chair since October 2013, 489 new or amended PBS items had been listed or would be listed "imminently" under the government's new process, which, as at 01 Feb, was averaging 29 new or amended listings per month since the government came into office.

"For the same period from 2012, the previous government listed 341 new or amended items on the PBS, not including price changes, all of which required the consideration of the cabinet.

"This represents an increase of 93 medicines over the period."

McNeill said the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee was averaging about 65% of applications per meeting being recommended, a steady increase compared with previous years.

She said the average cost per script for new medicines on patent was increasing by 30% on the last financial year.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Pharmacy arson

A FIRE was reported at Nightingales Pharmacy in Erskine, WA, at 4.30 am last Friday, the *West Australian* reported.

No one was hurt, however, the pharmacy suffered significant water damage from both the sprinkler system and from fire hosing by the 20 firefighters called to the scene.

Damage was estimated to exceed \$100,000 and police suspect arson.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Trent Ruprecht, Business Services Manager**



at PKF Sydney and Newcastle.

Are you getting the most out of your structure?

The wrong business structure can have a significant impact on your overall wealth creation and ultimately the lifestyle you choose for you and your family.

Whether you are a pharmacist considering ownership or one that has owned a pharmacy for many years, regularly considering your business structure is a must.

Having the right structure in place can not only save you tax in the short term, but can also allow you to reduce debt quickly and achieve your desired lifestyle in a shorter timeframe.

Historical restrictions on the types of entities that can operate a pharmacy meant that most pharmacies either operated as a sole proprietor or a partnership, often resulting in significant amounts of income being assessed to the pharmacist at top margin rate.

Are you aware that legislative changes in recent years now allow a company to operate a pharmacy?

Pharmacy incorporation is just one way of getting the most out of your business structure.

Benefits from corporate ownership include:

- A flat 30% tax rate
- Ability to retain profits and payout at a later time in a more tax effective manner
- Limited liability
- Asset protection to the pharmacist

Ask yourself, when was the last time you looked at your business structure? I encourage you to talk to your advisor.

Rare disorders NZ funding shortfall

THE NZ Organisation for Rare Disorders (NZORD) has welcomed PHARMAC's announcement that it is in negotiations with eight pharmaceutical companies for the supply of medicines for rare disorders, but said there is still a huge funding shortfall for these treatments.

NZORD executive director John Forman said that the NZ\$5m fund announced last year would "never" provide sufficient funds for almost 100 patients with rare diseases needing expensive therapies.

PHARMAC ceo Steffan Crausaz said he was pleased with the response from suppliers.

The process would produce lower prices than previously seen, leading to improved access for these medicines, he said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Trial drug quality

CITING examples of inaccurately labelled drugs used in clinical trials, an article in the *BMJ* has called for an update of clinical trial guidelines to include a requirement to assess and state the quality of the drugs and other medical products used.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

CHF: ACCC "too great deference" to MA

The Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has said the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has paid "too great deference to a model of self-regulation" when it comes to Medicines Australia's 18th Code of Conduct.

In a submission, the CHF said it was concerned proposed requirements for food and beverage reporting would inadequately capture significant industry interactions with health providers.

Medicines Australia has said the ACCC proposed requirement for food and beverage trend reporting would place a "significant administrative burden" on member companies (*PD* 27 Feb).

However, CHF reiterated that it would rather see a \$10 threshold for reporting, given that this would capture multiple low value interactions that added up over the course of a year.

The organisation said this would align with the Physician Payments Sunshine Act of the United States (*PD* 03 Oct 14).

The ACCC has said a final decision is anticipated in March or April.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access all submissions.



DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S good llama.

If you get any customers coming up with llama-related medicine puns, like Llamasil, you can blame Twitter, which went mad last week after two llamas took a stroll along the streets of Phoenix, Arizona, and managed to evade capture by police for a time, the *Telegraph* reported.

From memes about llama Bonnie and Clydes to, inexplicably, book title llama puns such as *The Llama, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (*PD's* own effort: Anna Karenillama), Twitter had a field day, refusing to alpaca it in even after the pair was captured.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the best and llamest attempts.

SNOW joke.

We get it - everyone needs a break from work; pharmacists, doctors...monks.

Really, we defy anyone not to smile while watching this video (on their lunch break) of Franciscan monks enjoying the rare occasion of snow in Jerusalem by, obviously, having a snowball fight, via the *Telegraph*.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view.

EXPLOSIVE catch.

If you're a pharmacist in Applecross, WA, be careful the next time you're by the Swan River, where a fisherman pulled up an unexploded WWI grenade, *Perth Now* reported.

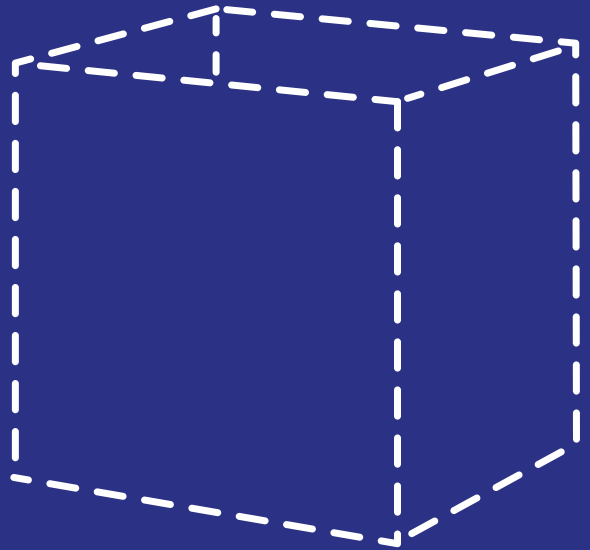
The 1915 German Wurth grenade had no fuse and was taken by Defence for disposal after the fisherman alerted the bomb squad at 2am on Tuesday, the publication reported.

Last week appeared to be one for old armaments, after an unexploded WWII-era British bomb was found near Borussia Dortmund stadium, Berlin, on Thursday, *Reuters* reported.

We're looking for people who...

don't just think
outside the box...

BUT
think the box
doesn't exist.



With almost 500 independent pharmacy members, our membership is growing faster than any other group or banner in Australia.

We are re-creating Australian pharmacy. So, we need talent that can take advantage of the changes in the industry and make a real difference to our members' businesses.

If you think the box doesn't exist and can:

- Find opportunities where others haven't—we want you to join our Business Development team.
- Find ways to solve problems that others haven't—we want you to join our Operations team.
- Find new product or service trends that others haven't—we want you to join our Merchandise team.

Be part of the winning team in pharmacy with great career opportunities and great incentives.

For a confidential discussion regarding a career with Pharmacy Alliance
please email hr@pharmacyalliance.com.au or phone Dara Banouvong 03 9860 3336.



Level 4, 111 Coventry Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205
P +613 9860 3300 | F +613 9820 5009
E enquiries@pharmacyalliance.com.au