

## Today's issue of PD

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

- Pharmacy Alliance

## Call for Guild inquiry

**PROFESSIONAL** Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has called for an inquiry into the Pharmacy Guild's management of taxpayer funds, following a report from the Australian National Audit Office which said the Department of Health's administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) had been "mixed", with "persistent shortcomings in departmental record-keeping".

PPA ceo Chris Walton said that it was "absolutely staggering" the Guild could receive billions of taxpayer funds and the Department not keep records, and called for a rollover of the current arrangement for another 12 months to consider the recommendations.

The Guild rejected the claims, saying they were "ill-informed and florid" and that any delay in the implementation of 6CPA would result in job losses.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

## SHPA grant available

**SOCIETY** of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) members can apply for the Young Pharmacist grant, with up to \$10,000 available for the successful applicant to spend time sharing ideas with the preceptor of their choice in Australia or overseas.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more.

## DoH 5CPA admin "mixed"

**DEPARTMENT** of Health administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) had been "mixed", the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has said.

Its 257 page report on the audit of administration of the 5CPA (**PD** Breaking News yesterday) said while the Department had negotiated a complex agreement in a timely manner, a number of government negotiating objectives were only partially realised and there had been shortcomings in key aspects of its administration at the development, negotiation and implementation phases.

There had been "persistent" shortcomings in departmental record-keeping, with no formal record of its meetings with the Guild during negotiations, and no documentation of subsequent contract negotiation discussions.

The Department had at times re-allocated funds for professional programs without prior Ministerial approval, including a \$5.8m communication strategy delivered by the Guild, the report said.

"The communication strategy is not a professional program, but was nonetheless funded mainly from professional program allocations."

Pharmacy remuneration had not been fully reviewed since 1989.

Analysis had shown net savings from 5CPA initiatives estimated before the Agreement was signed were around \$0.4b, the ANAO said, rather than the \$0.6b estimated in the 2010-11 Budget papers.

Issues included that the estimated

savings had incorrectly included \$42.7m in co-payments made for pharmaceutical benefits, of which the Department had advised the ANAO during the audit, it said.

The Department said it agreed with the recommendations of the report and acknowledged there was scope for improvement in its administration of the Agreements, with some improvements already implemented.

The Pharmacy Guild said it welcomed the fact that the audit did not make any adverse findings in relation to its role in the administration of the 5CPA.

However it said the statement regarding net budget savings did not accord with the Guild's knowledge of the matter.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report and [HERE](#) for the Guild's response.

## Testosterone risks

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an alert requiring drug companies who sell prescribed testosterone supplements to warn patients of the increased risk of cardiovascular (CV) events such as heart attacks and strokes.

The statement follows a joint FDA advisory committee finding from September last year referencing several studies suggesting CV risk with testosterone replacement therapy.

This was summarised in a recent article in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the JAMA article.

## Guild: plain English award not re-write

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said the Plain English Foundation has not been hired to provide a "complete re-write" of the Pharmacy Industry Award.

Its proposal to develop a plain English draft (**PD** 30 Jan) met with criticism including that it would delay the process (**PD** 23 Jan).

In a letter to the Fair Work Commission, Guild lawyers said it had commissioned the Foundation to make comment on the Exposure Draft and provide recommendations about whether any of the award's clauses could be more clearly expressed.

The review was not inconsistent with the review process and would not delay the completion of the review of the Award, the letter said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.



## CATCH PROFESSOR MOORE ON TOUR

An exclusive CPD-accredited educational session

Hear internationally acclaimed pain expert and Cochrane reviewer Professor Moore share the latest research and evidence behind combination pain relievers. Plus his insight on effective acute pain management.

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Dispensary Technician** - Melbourne, VIC (Job# 2011172)  
F/Time M-F; Customer service OTC; shared dispensing with an Intern.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Regional WA (Job# 2011175)  
Excellent career/\$\$\$ opportunity - with unique location - 2 year contract.
- **Retail Manager** - Northern Tablelands, NSW (Job# 2011168)  
Bring your marketing prowess and sound pharmacy knowledge.

Looking for a different direction for your career? We can help!



## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 6-8 Mar:** Annual Therapeutic Update; Terrigal; for more details visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 7 Mar:** Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Terrigal; more details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 7-8 Mar:** Oncology - Foundation Seminar; Melbourne; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 10 Mar:** Cardiovascular Update: Dyslipidemia; St Leonards; see: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)
- 12-15 Mar:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2015, Gold Coast - see [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)
- 15 Mar:** Bridging the Gap Workshop; St Leonards; more details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 21-22 Mar:** Mental Health First Aid; Parramatta; for more details visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 28-29 Mar:** Paediatric Seminar; Adelaide; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 31 Mar:** Cardiovascular Update: Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulants; St Leonards; more at: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)
- 7 Apr:** Pharmacy Live webinar; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 18-19 Apr:** Victorian Pharmacy Conference; Monash University, Parkville; visit [www.psa.org.au/conferences](http://www.psa.org.au/conferences)
- 22-23 Apr:** Safety in Action Brisbane, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, see: [www.safetyinaction.net.au](http://www.safetyinaction.net.au)

## Health spend \$255b in 2054

**AUSTRALIAN** government health expenditure is projected to rise to \$255b, or 5.5% of GDP, in 2054-55, up from 4.2% in 2014-15, the 2015 Intergenerational Report (IGR) has said.

This was based on policies proposed in the 2014-15 Budget and the Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, while under current legislation, expenditure was projected to increase to 5.7% of GDP (\$260b).

This was an increase to \$6,600 per person from \$2,800 in 2014-15.

Under policies in place prior to the Budget, expenditure was projected to rise to 7.1% by 2054-55 or \$324b, the report said.

Real pharmaceutical spending per person was projected to grow from \$420 to \$474 in 2027-28 while Medicare services were projected to be the fastest growing component of health expenditure, the report said.

Spending per person for this component was projected to grow from \$855 to \$1,071 in 2027-28, up more than 25%.

Australians would live longer, with life expectancy at birth projected to be 95.1 years for men and 96.6 for women in 2054-55, compared with 91.5 and 93.6 today.

In 2054-55, a greater proportion of the population would be aged 65 and over with the number in this group projected to more than double, while 4.9% of the population would be aged 85 and over, compared with less than 1% in 1974-75, the report said.

The report findings showed areas where pharmacists' skills could be better utilised, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said.

National president Grant Kardachi said the costs associated with the rise in ageing and the increased spend on chronic health conditions were areas where using pharmacists' skills better could make a difference.

Using pharmacists could help

contain the projected increase in health spend and maximise health outcomes, he said.

"As a nation we have to stop talking about using the skills of pharmacists better and starting acting to ensure these skills help to maintain a more sustainable health system."

Medicines Australia said the report reaffirmed that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme was sustainable.

The increase in pharmaceutical spend was a "major downward revision" from the 2010 IGR, ceo Tim James said.

The 2010 report projected a rise to \$532 per capita in 2022-23.

James said medicines would be fundamental to making sure people could remain productive in the workforce well into their twilight years.

Australian Self Medication Industry executive director Dr Deon Schoombie said the report showed the need to reorient the health system towards prevention of lifestyle diseases.

It reinforced the need for the Federal government to put policy in place that encouraged self-care, he said.

**CLICK HERE** to read the report.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**A CASE** of your finest, good person.

Well, if ever there was a name which spelled it out for you, the recently banned 'Bigger Longer More Time More Sperms' is it.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned consumers not to buy or use the product, which is promoted for, you guessed it, sexual enhancement.

The FDA said the product was found to contain sildenafil, just in case you fell for that brilliant marketing.

**PEE** brains.

We hope your pharmacy doesn't suffer from the same problem of urinating revellers as Hamburg's red light district, but if it does, you could try what community group IG St Pauli has done, which is coat the most frequented walls in the area with hydrophobic paint.

This causes water droplets to bounce off - and back onto the feet of those relieving themselves, *Orange News* reported.

The group is calling it 'Peeback Time' and you can watch a video of the campaign **HERE**.

# How are you feeling about the future of your pharmacy?



Fearful



Worried

The harsh reality of PBS reform is making every pharmacy owner contemplate the future prospects of their business.

With almost 500 independent pharmacy members, at Pharmacy Alliance we have built up the strength and influence to support each one of our members in facing the challenges of today and in the future.

Through our innovative programs and selective, long-term industry partnerships we provide our members with leading tools to tackle price cuts, competition and the growing consumer demand for value, plus also future proof their business.

If you're fearful or worried about the future of your business, call us to find out how we can help access the right information for your business' needs.



Happy

**Be confident about the prospects of your business with our 'profit increase' guarantee\*.**

\*'Profit increase' guarantee relates to your new baseline profit results post PBS SPD

**Going to APP2015? Book a confidential appointment to discuss your business with**

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