

Indigenous free vax

WITH Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children five times more likely to die from the flu than non-Indigenous children, Health Minister Sussan Ley has announced a free vaccination program for those aged between six months and five years of age.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Pease St DDS wins GuildCare PotY

PEASE Street Discount Drug Store (DDS) took home the 2014 GuildCare Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year award at APP.

Chosen from the 3,000 pharmacies using the GuildCare platform over 12 months and judged on delivery of professional services, the pharmacy had "really jumped in" to develop a strategy plan last year, Guildlink ceo Ross Gallagher said.

Pease Street DDS took home \$5,000 with managing pharmacist Aylin Ektem saying professional service was "incredibly important" to the pharmacy team.

The competition begins again next month, Gallagher said.

Part time post grad GMP degree

THE post graduate degree in Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) will be offered part time from next year due to interest received.

University of Technology Sydney (UTS) with SeerPharma are offering Australia's only post graduate degrees in GMP this year (**PD** 03 Feb).

UTS Graduate School of Health head Professor Charlie Benrimoj told **PD** at APP that he had been surprised by the amount of interest, due to the decline in manufacturing in Australia.

Benrimoj said he hoped to see additional funding for pharmacy diabetes services as well as the removal of the Diabetes MedsCheck cap, to allow pharmacists to develop this further.

CLICK HERE to view a video of Benrimoj speaking about this.

ACCC to appeal Pfizer case

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has filed a notice of appeal against the Federal Court's decision to dismiss its anti-competitive conduct case against Pfizer (**PD** Breaking News yesterday).

The ACCC's allegations referred to offers made to pharmacies in early 2012 for the supply of Lipitor and Pfizer's generic atorvastatin product.

The ACCC alleged that Pfizer had a substantial degree of market power and was proscribed from using that power to prevent competitive conduct in the atorvastatin market, referring to sections 46 and 47 of the Competition and Consumer Act (**PD** 10 Oct 14).

Justice Flick dismissed the case in February (**PD** 26 Feb), finding that while the company had taken advantage of its market power with

New Guild CPD course

DELIVERY of an effective travel health service in pharmacy is the focus of the latest Guild online CPD course.

In partnership with Immuron Ltd, marketers of Travelan, the Guild course discusses diseases and issues around medication.

CLICK HERE to access the course.

Call for NZ pharmacy to quit homeopathy

THE Society for Science Based Healthcare has called for New Zealand pharmacists to "honour their code of ethics" and remove homeopathy products from their shelves, following the National Health and Medical Research Council's report which found no evidence homeopathy worked better than placebo (**PD** 12 Mar).

The NZ code of ethics stated that pharmacists must "only purchase, supply or promote any medicine, complementary therapy, herbal remedy or other healthcare product where there is no reason to doubt its quality or safety and when there is credible evidence of efficacy", the organisation said.

CLICK HERE for more.

the alleged conduct, this market power was no longer "substantial" at the time of the offers.

The Justice also found that the ACCC had not established that Pfizer had engaged in this conduct to deter or prevent competitors from engaging in competitive conduct, the ACCC said.

The organisation filed the notice of appeal yesterday, which would see the case heard by the Full Federal Court, a spokesperson said.

ACCC chairman Rod Sims said cases involving allegations of misuse of market power and anti-competitive practices were a priority for the organisation and so it was important to seek clarity from the Full Court on issues of market power and anti-competitive purpose.

Pfizer said Justice Flick's decision reflected its position that the company's behaviour was appropriate, and it would "vigorously defend" the appeal.

Australia 18th out of 20 for med access

AUSTRALIA has ranked 18th out of 20 OECD countries when it comes to accessing new medicines, a new report has said.

In an analysis by Medicines Australia of 247 new medicines registered in 20 OECD countries between 01 Jan 09 and 30 Nov 14, the report found 39% of medicines registered in Australia in the period were listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, compared with 93% for the top country, Japan, 82% for Germany, 65% for the USA and 41% for the 17th country, Canada.

Only Portugal and New Zealand were behind Australia, at 16% and 13% respectively.

Medicines Australia said on average it took 383 days for Australia to list a new medicine on the PBS following registration, which was 13th out of the 20 countries.

The report was launched at the National Press Club yesterday by chairman Dr Martin Cross, who previewed the findings at APP.

CLICK HERE to access the report.

Post market review framework improved

Minister for Health Sussan Ley congratulated the Access to Medicines Working Group (AMWG) on its completion of a "significantly improved" PBS Post-Market Review Framework.

Ley said the new framework, the result of discussions over several years, gave industry and other stakeholders more clarity and certainty around processes, timelines and opportunity for input.

Medicines Australian (MA) chairman Dr Martin Cross said the new framework was the result of collaboration between the government and MA and demonstrated the value of partnership in the delivery of a predictable pharmaceutical industry environment.

CLICK HERE for more.



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Dietary products knowledge gap

COMMUNITY pharmacists' knowledge of dietary supplements appears to be "poor", a global study has concluded.

Published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*, the researchers examined Medline, Scopus, Embase, CINAHL, Scifinder and the Cochrane Controlled Trials Register databases, drawing on data from 5,594 qualifying studies.

With an average knowledge score of 64% across all studies, community pharmacists showed gaps in their knowledge of commonly sold vitamins and minerals, such as calcium and vitamins D and E, and their potential for interactions with prescribed medicines, the paper found.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Travel Specials

'Better Than Ever' in Mauritius Beach

OUTRIGGER Mauritius Beach Resort has a 'Better Than Ever' deal in celebration of its first anniversary.

Guests will get the best available rate, including an upgrade from room and breakfast to half board.

Available for a minimum three night stay between 01 to 30 Apr, the deal also includes a 30-minute spa treatment and gifts on arrival.

CLICK HERE to enquire.

Fall in love with Air Tahiti Nui

AIR Tahiti Nui is inviting Australians to fall in love with deals that include return flights to Tahiti, accommodation and transfers, as well as a tour, starting from \$1,720 for four nights.

For more information, visit www.airtahitiniui.com.au.

Aged care services

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released a new report showing that more than 80% of people who died in 2010-11 aged 65 or older used aged care services in the eight years prior to their death.

More than half of those aged 65 and over who died during this period were current clients of aged care programs when they died, the report found.

Ninety one per cent of those who died at age 85 or older had used care before death versus 57% of those who died aged between 65 to 74 years, the report found.

All age groups increased their use of services in the last six months of life, with more than 80% using community care, generally either Home and Community Care.

Leading Age Services Australia ceo Patrick Reid has said pharmacists are more than just deliverers of medicines in aged care and need to promote themselves in areas of subacute clinical work (PD 06 Feb).

CLICK HERE to access the full report and **HERE** to read more about pharmacy in aged care.

Pharmacy responds

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild have responded to an article calling the Community Pharmacy Agreement a "cartel agreement".

Published in *The Australian* and referencing the ANAO report (PD 06 Mar), it called the Guild a "bolshie and powerful union" and said \$29m in administration fees paid to the Guild to administer professional programs worth \$67.5m was, "at 43%...a nice little earner".

The PSA said the comments made were offensive to Australian pharmacists, and that the article had not recognised the difference between it and the Guild.

Guild national president George Tambassis said the article "kicked in the guts" pharmacists who were "struggling to keep their pharmacies afloat" and that total administration costs allocated to the Guild amounted to three per cent which was "well below the accepted administrative cost ratio across government departments generally".

CLICK HERE to read the article and **HERE** for the PSA's response.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PETS on pot, perhaps.

With the widening acceptance of the value of medical marijuana for the management of pain, it had to happen sooner or later, and only seems fair.

Medical marijuana may shortly be available for managing pain in sick or dying animals in the state of Nevada if proposed legislation is passed, *Yahoo News* reports.

Veterinarians are supporting the proposal citing many examples of animals suffering unnecessarily or being euthanised prematurely, the report said.

IT'S not quite a cure for cancer.

Another one for the 'important research' box, but apparently, science has worked out that tea should be brewed for up to five minutes, with less than two minutes akin to drinking a hot milky drink, the *Telegraph* reports.

Apparently, researchers at the University College London and British Science Association say while British people drink 165m cups of tea every day, four out of five don't brew it properly, the publication reported.

Also, apparently tea bags are the devil, as pots should be used to allow "convection currents to swirl tea leaves fully through the water".

So think about that the next time you launch a sodden tea bag into the bin.

CUTE-MELEONS.

Maybe it's time to get into veterinary pharmacy, given the news that Taronga Zoo in Sydney has had more than 20 baby Veiled Chameleons hatch, the first baby chameleons in five years, *Orange News* reports.

The lizards are tiny enough to fit on a pencil or fingertip and will be on show once they reach maturity - **CLICK HERE** for a photo.

WIN A LIFETEMP RADIANT THERMOMETER



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This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Airsential Home Health Care Solutions** are giving away five LifeTemp Radiant Non-Contact Thermometers (RRP \$79.95).

The new LifeTemp Radiant Thermometer integrates simplicity of use, advanced infrared technology and ergonomic design, the company says. According to Airsential, the LifeTemp Radiant Thermometer has been clinically validated for accuracy and provides precise temperature readings instantly: it is perfect for professional use or for domestic use at home, with no need to replace probe covers, which means no ongoing costs. The company suggests that LifeTemp Radiant can also measure room temperature, and other surfaces including bath water or even the temperature of babies' milk. Learn more at Airsential.com.au.

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

How long does it take to obtain a measurement with the LifeTemp Radiant Thermometer?

Need a hint? [Click here.](#)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Amber, from Wanneroo Discount Drug Store.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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