

## PSA Excellence Award nominations open

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has opened nominations for its Awards for Excellence in three categories; the PSA Pharmacist of the Year, Young Pharmacist of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Nominations close 26 Jun.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

**MEANWHILE** PSA Western Australia held its Excellence Awards night in Perth on the weekend.

PSA WA branch president Teresa Di Franco announced Kenny Lee as WA Young Pharmacist of the Year for work with the Pharmacy Discussion Forum.

Bridgett McKay, who has been a mentor and a member of multiple committees, took out WA Pharmacist of the Year, while Curtin University of Technology School of Pharmacy Adjunct Senior Lecturer Dr Phillip Passmore won the Life Time Achievement Award for 30 years of advancement of pharmacy, pharmaceutical services and quality use of medicines, as well as his advocacy for the profession.

The PSA-MIMS Australia WA Intern of the Year was Monica Sajogo.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

## Renewed call for ERRCD

**CALLS** for a national electronic real time reporting of controlled drugs (ERRCD) system have been renewed.

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) said it called for such a system following Victorian Coroner Audrey Jamieson stating on the weekend that of 384 deaths attributed to drugs and alcohol in the state last year, in 82%, prescription drugs had been a

contributing factor.

RACGP president Dr Frank Jones said while several systems were available, an effective national system was not in place.

The Federal government has made the ERRCD system available for state and territory use with complimentary software license agreements.

A spokeswoman for NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner said the government was committed to the roll out of the system, repeating that stage one was underway (**PD** 17 Jul, 17 Nov 14).

Framework and training for pharmacists would be developed before implementation, the spokesperson said.

Queensland Department of Health Medicines Regulation and Quality manager Bill Loveday said the Commonwealth ERRCD system would require "significant modification" and investment by states and territories and was "not currently in a functional form for use" by them.

The Department was still assessing the system to see if it would meet business and regulatory needs and improve health outcomes (**PD** 18 Nov 14).

Tasmania rolled out its system in 2012 to community medical practitioners, with 90 to 95% of pharmacies able to report data on dispensing S8 substances in real time, Department of Health and Human Services chief pharmacist Jim Galloway said, with rollout continuing.

The WA Department of Health said it continued to work towards implementation later this year.

The ACT, NT and SA Departments of Health did not respond to requests for comment at time of publication.

## Pharmacist reprimand

**THE** WA State Administrative Tribunal has ordered the suspension of registered pharmacist Andrew Stewart Cronin for three months for professional misconduct.

Cronin had been found to have maintained inaccurate S4 dispensing records by dispensing S4 medications but recording S3 dispensing and supplied S4 drugs without an in-date or valid prescription.

He would need to complete specific courses and contribute to costs related to the enquiry, the Tribunal said.

**CLICK HERE** for the ruling.

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## Lemtrada funded

**EFFECTIVE** 01 Apr, Lemtrada (alemtuzumab), a new multiple sclerosis (MS) therapy from Genzyme will be reimbursed on the PBS.

The product was a monotherapy option for people with relapsing-remitting MS, who had active disease as defined by an MRI scan of the brain or spinal cord and met specific criteria, Genzyme said.

**CLICK HERE** for Lemtrada Product Information.

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## Guild Update

### Pharmacy services

Around the world, governments, hospitals, health insurers and health professionals, including GPs, are increasingly recognising that better use of community pharmacies takes pressure off the wider health system and provides faster, better and cheaper access to treatments and advice for patients.

The broader use of pharmacy services around the world was highlighted by several international speakers at this month's APP conference.

Australia lags behind comparable countries, including the UK, Canada, New Zealand and the US, in recognising and supporting the role that pharmacies can play in delivering better patient-centred care and more cost-effective outcomes.

Once the viability of pharmacies is secured through the next Community Pharmacy Agreement, there is a great opportunity for Australia to follow-suit through a less siloed, outcomes-driven, whole-of-system approach to health policy and service delivery.

### Foley 24/7 pharmacy

THE NSW Labor Party has promised to spend \$3m over three years to provide for three existing Sydney pharmacies to expand their business to a 24 hour seven day model, supporting an additional pharmacist, assistant and security guard.

The plan is to create four nurse walk-in centres, pharmacists to provide flu vaccinations and whooping cough vaccinations to pregnant women.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Labor pledge.

### Confidence in phmcy: NZ leads med access

**CONFIDENCE** in pharmacy and regulator openness to switch appear to influence consumer access to medicines, according to a study comparing Australian and New Zealand approaches.

Published in *PLOS One*, the study conducted and analysed 27 interviews and analysed records of meetings considering switches during the period 2000–2013.

The report identified products such as triptans and flu vaccines, available OTC in NZ but that require prescriptions in Australia.

Australian Self Medication Industry executive director Dr Deon Schoombie said the work echoed an earlier study placing NZ at the top of the list internationally for switch proactivity.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the new study.

### Guild administration queried

AN ARTICLE published in *news.com.au* has said the Pharmacy Guild was paid \$29.3m in administrative fees to administer \$67m of professional programs under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Referring to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report on the administration of the Agreement (*PD 06 Mar*), the article said this was part of 62 contracts entered into by the Department of Health, with the Guild unable to provide staffing figures for this administration.

A Guild spokesperson said the work undertaken was in compliance with all Commonwealth requirements for accountability and governance, and it had adhered "scrupulously" to all accountability and reporting requirements.

Much of the money referred to was distributed to third parties as intended and with full Departmental knowledge, the spokesperson said.

"The actual funding for administration allocated to the Guild amounted to around 3 per cent which is well below the accepted administrative cost ratio across government departments generally.

"Nobody would pay a 43 per cent admin fee, and nobody did."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the article and [HERE](#) for the ANAO report.



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**PLENTY** of time.

If you're thinking of going back to University to take on that pharmacy post grad, there's plenty of time, given the news that 84 year old Fatma Mihriban Aktari is about to graduate from Mimar Sinan University, 64 years after first enrolling.

Aktari enrolled in a Fine Arts course in 1951, but was forced to drop out when full-time attendance was made compulsory, given she was also working to support her mother, *BBC News* reported.

She re-enrolled in 2011 and will graduate in the Northern summer.

**THERE'S** gold in them thar faeces.

Hardly likely to become a source of extra income for pharmacy, but an eight year study by the US Geological Survey found levels of precious metals in faeces were similar to those in some commercial mines, the *Telegraph* reported.

The study was able to demonstrate that if all the toilet deposits of Britain were mined, they could produce metals worth approximately £510m per year.

Apparently small amounts of metals are found in cosmetics, shampoos, some food, drinks, clothes and more.

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