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	Kelley Keene	South East Sydney/Canberra	0468 920 905
	Nicky Benning	Key Accounts/North East Sydney	0410 730 416
	Tristan Beresford	North West Sydney	0488 080 777
QLD	Nathan Hand	South Brisbane/Gold Coast	0412 929 658
	Sharla O'Connor	North Brisbane	0432 657 656

	Representative	Territory	Contact
VIC	Charmaine Domingue	West Melbourne	0421 012 635
	Chris Knowles	South East Melbourne/CBD	0414 566 856
	Sarah Strong	South Melbourne	0421 988 429
	Stan Iosifidis	North West Melbourne	0426 260 758
	Theo Papageorgiou	North East/East Melbourne	0410 025 207
WA	Ailsa McGregor	South Perth	0467 978 336
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Generic's New Generation

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Amneal's new generics generation

AMNEAL Pharmaceuticals is inviting pharmacies to join the generic's new generation. See the **front page** for more details.

Vax standards

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has released the Standards for the accreditation of programs to support pharmacist administration of vaccines. The final standards came after a second round of public consultation in December last year, the Council said, and were available to APC accredited CPD Accrediting Organisations. [CLICK HERE](#) for the standards.

Baird e-health boost

CLAIMING a record investment in information technology in its first term, the Baird government has planned to commit \$300m more over the next four years if re-elected, NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner has said. This would include \$4m for rollout of another 100 telehealth sites on top of the 100 already in operation. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Med cannabis on ERRCD

CANNABIS prescriptions could be included in the national Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system to ensure cannabis was not diverted for misuse, the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) has said. In a submission to the inquiry into the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill (PD 16 Feb), NCETA said a range of Schedule Four and Schedule Eight medicines were being diverted for misuse, including opioids, through stealing or forging prescriptions, robbing pharmacies and doctor shopping. "Since cannabis is currently the most widely used illicit drug in Australia it will be important to ensure that measures are in place to minimise diversion."

Actavis transition

ACTAVIS has said there is no set date for when the transition period would end for its exit from the Australian generics business (PD 26 Mar). The company would continue to supply generics until this transition was completed, a spokesperson said.

There have been widespread calls for the implementation of a national ERRCD (PD 24 Mar), with Victorian Coroner Audrey Jamieson saying of 384 deaths attributed to drugs and alcohol in the state last year, prescription drugs were a contributing factor in 82%. NCETA also said the Bill's arrangements would require an "extensive" community education process, so that cannabis did not come to be seen as a harmless, natural product. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Gilead on Sovaldi

A SPOKESPERSON for Gilead Sciences ANZ has said the company is working closely with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and is awaiting its guidance with regard to updating the label for Sovaldi. The TGA has said it will review information from the US Food and Drug Administration with regards to the possibility of symptomatic bradycardia occurring when amiodarone is taken with Harvoni or with Sovaldi together with another direct acting antiviral hepatitis C treatment (PD 26 Mar).

Guild 5CPA inquiry called for

AUSTRALIAN Greens health spokesperson Dr Richard Di Natale has reportedly requested an audit be conducted into the way the Pharmacy Guild administered the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA). According to *news.com.au*, Di Natale wrote to the Australian National Audit Office requesting a further audit into the 5CPA and the Guild's administration, following on from the Greens' call for a public inquiry into the 5CPA and development of a new approach for the next Agreement. The report into the administration of the 5CPA found "persistent" shortcomings in record-keeping and that \$7.3m had been re-allocated without documented evidence of Ministerial approval (PD 09 Mar). A Guild spokesperson said the audit made no adverse findings against the Guild. It took accountability responsibilities "very seriously" and had met all reporting requirements under 5CPA contracts. Di Natale's call was "nothing but a fishing expedition" and a waste of taxpayer money, they said. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the article.

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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.

- 28-29 Mar:** Paediatric Seminar; Adelaide; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 31 Mar:** Cardiovascular Update: Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulants; St Leonards; more at: www.guild.org.au
- 14 Apr:** Pharmacy Live webinar; details at: www.psa.org.au
- 14 Apr:** Cardiovascular Update: The Role of Pharmacy; St Leonards; see: www.guild.org.au
- 15 Apr:** Short Course – Chronic Disease Management -Respiratory; St Leonards; more info at: www.psa.org.au
- 18-19 Apr:** Victorian Pharmacy Conference; Monash University, Parkville; visit www.psa.org.au/conferences
- 21 Apr:** Instigo and PKF Lawler Retail & Business Improvement Master Class; Newcastle; click here for tickets and further details: www.proticket.com.au
- 22 Apr:** Short Course – Chronic Disease Management -Arthritis; St Leonards; details at: www.psa.org.au
- 22-23 Apr:** Safety in Action Brisbane, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, see: www.safetyinaction.net.au
- 2 May:** Bridging the Gap; Bathurst; more info at: www.psa.org.au
- 2 May:** Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Bathurst; visit: www.psa.org.au
- 9 May:** HIV Workshop introduction; Melbourne; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

HF prevention focus

REFERENCING the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report on cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease (**PD** 25 Mar), the Heart Foundation (HF) has said it welcomed the Minister for Health and the Minister for Sport Sussan Ley's determination to help people be more physically active and has called upon the Federal government to commit more of the health budget to prevention.

Choosing Wisely King

ASSOCIATE Professor Richard King has been appointed as the inaugural chair of the Choosing Wisely Australia Advisory Group, an initiative of medical colleges and societies and facilitated by NPS MedicineWise, designed to help evaluate tests, treatments and procedures (**PD** 02 Feb).

Sigma SmarterPharm supply partnership

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals has announced a five year wholesale supply and services agreement with 80 strong national independent pharmacy group SmarterPharm. The arrangement was worth \$40m per year in revenue and is effective immediately, Sigma said.

PBA Notifications

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) Notification Committee has provided case studies to avoid repeats of the errors highlighted. One pharmacist had dispensed lamotrigine to a patient off a topiramate script and hydromorphone HCl modified release when the non-modified release product was prescribed, saying that the prescribed products were unavailable and the prescriber was unable to be contacted. PBA reminded pharmacists that they must always contact the prescriber to change medicines prior to supply. In a second example, a pharmacist incorrectly repeat dispensed methylphenidate HCl 30mg (Ritalin) instead of the 40mg on the script, following the original dispensing error. In both cases the pharmacists were cautioned and in one case an education course was imposed. **CLICK HERE** for more.

APC looks for four directors

THE Australian Pharmacy Council is calling for applications for four directors. The appointments are for three year terms. **CLICK HERE** to read more.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

SUNBURN alerting wristband. Look out for a new front shop item for the sunscreen category.

Queen's University Belfast has announced the development of a strip of plastic, worn as a wrist band, that responds to exposure to ultraviolet light.

The band changes colour just prior to too much exposure to the sun for the wearers' skin type, alerting the sunbaker to retreat to the shade.

The sunburn indicator is one of a number of products incorporating the technology, which is called photocatalysis, and has received a national award, the University has said.

The technology has multiple applications in healthcare, household cleaning products food packaging and clothes manufacture, the University says.

PAINLESS pharmacy vaccinations. Administering vaccines in pharmacy may soon become even easier based on new work out of New Zealand.

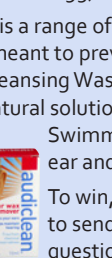
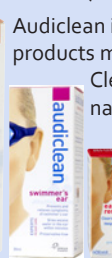
With what is being described by University of Auckland researchers as potential breakthrough peptide technology, a new way to deliver medicines intradermally has been developed.

Auckland University School of Pharmacy head Professor Julia Kennedy said obtaining a biological response from applying substances through the skin was very difficult to achieve and approaches could be extremely expensive.

Financial support for the research came from the government as well as Auckland-based cosmetic company Snowberry with a view to administering anti-ageing products intradermally.

Win with audiclean

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Audiclean* are giving readers the chance to win an Ear Cleansing Wash (RRP \$17.95), Ear Wax Remover (RRP \$10.95) and Ear Swimmer's Ear (RRP \$12.95).



Audiclean is a range of effective and easy to use ear care products meant to prevent and treat ear discomfort. Ear Cleansing Wash and Ear Wax Remover are 100% natural solutions to prevent and treat wax build-up. The Swimmer's ear formula dries excess water in the ear and inhibits bacteria growth.

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

What is "swimmer's ear"?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lindsay Power from Power ABA.