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## Friday's comp winner

**FRIDAY'S** competition winner was Yulia Onsman from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Tasmania Branch. **Pharmacy Daily** and FGB Natural Products this week are offering a Braun Touchless + Forehead thermometer each day, starting today with ACT and NSW readers. See **page two** for details.

## Med review seminar

**DR GERALDINE** Moses, Dr Chris Freeman and Debbie Rigby will speak at an upcoming seminar on *Medication Review Skills in Primary Care*, which is being hosted by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia in Aug.

Attendance is recommended for pharmacists conducting HMRs, MedsChecks and RMMRs as well as early career hospital pharmacists.

Earlybird registration to 03 Jul costs \$550 for SHPA members and \$770 for non-members - see [www.shpa.org.au/News](http://www.shpa.org.au/News) for details.

## ResMed/TGA recall

**RESMED** in conjunction with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is undertaking a recall for product correction for its devices that use Adaptive Servo-Ventilation (ASV) therapy.

## Sixth Agreement closer

**THE** Pharmacy Guild says the Coalition government has committed to legislating to extend the Pharmacy Location Rules until mid-2020, meaning they will be in place through at least until the completion of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

The revelation was contained in a statement which confirmed that the Guild and the government have signed a 6CPA letter of intent, which provides for higher dispensing fees (**PD** breaking news).

Details are sketchy at this stage, but there's a new Administration, Handling & Infrastructure Fee (AHI) which is a "structural reform which will substantially delink dispensing remuneration from the price of medicines".

There's also \$1.26 billion for evidence-based, patient-focused pharmacy programs which would include \$50 million for a Pharmacy Trial Program and \$600m in a "contingency reserve" to support new and existing community pharmacy programs and services.

The Community Service Obligation payments to wholesalers will also continue under the proposed 6CPA, the Guild said.

"The Government will also

implement a range of savings across the PBS supply chain.

"Due to their place at the end of this supply chain, pharmacies will contribute significantly to this savings task, both directly and through flow-on impacts," said Guild president George Tambassis.

"The government has made clear that these savings are necessary to secure the agreement, and the Guild is supporting them," he said - with the exception of the discounting of the PBS co-payment.

Tambassis said while the letter of intent had been signed, "there is more to do and the Guild will continue working constructively with the Government to secure the ongoing delivery of high-quality patient benefits and health outcomes via the next community pharmacy agreement."

He said PBS reforms were having a major impact on pharmacy viability, and the Guild was pleased the government had recognised the "clinical importance and value of dispensing through an increase in dispensing remuneration."

## Virginia Trioli at PSA15

**TWO-TIME** Walkley Award winner Virginia Trioli, one of Australia's high profile journalists, with experience as a television anchor, radio presenter, writer and commentator, will host two major panel sessions at PSA15 in July-August.

Concepts around the future of pharmacy and collaborative care will be the focus, organisers said.

## Drug policy modelling

**FOLLOWING** a successful Drug Trends Conference last Wednesday looking at trends in drug use, drug-related harms and drug markets across Australia, the University of New South Wales (UNSW) will host the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) symposium in October.

The symposium will consider drug policy from multiple perspectives including better treatment systems and how the law is used, organisers have said.

Both international and Australian literature will inform the symposium UNSW said.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## Request for Tender

We are seeking suitably qualified companies to supply dispensary solutions (manual and automated) for our clients. Our clients operate across multiple Victorian major hospital retail pharmacies. Implementation will commence from the second half of 2015.

We are seeking solutions that will allow pharmacists more core time in face to face patient care.

We would encourage interested suppliers to seek partner opportunities that support growth, and provide our client with unique equipment acquisition solutions.

To register your interest please email to [info@markstone.com.au](mailto:info@markstone.com.au) to receive the RFT information pack.

**Registrations close 4:00pm 21 May 2015.  
Tender close 3rd June 2015. Tender awarded 5th June 2015.**



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### Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Heidi Dariz, General Manager at Ravens Recruitment.**



### Let's talk salaries

**RECENTLY**, there has been significant media attention on the viability of pharmacy as a career path, with particular regards to whether pharmacist salaries are reflective of the level of education and commitment required.

Having spent the last 12 years in pharmacy recruitment speaking on a daily basis with both employers and employees, I have a good knowledge of what salaries pharmacy employers are paying Australia wide.

How much pharmacists get paid depends on numerous factors – their area of speciality, the level of their position and experience, and the location or area where they work.

In general, pharmacists in rural areas can expect higher wages than their counterparts in the cities, and if the position is quite remote, often relocation and an accommodation allowance are also included.

Wages in the capital cities have stagnated over the last few years, and have even gone backwards for many newly registered pharmacists. With that said, the majority of employers are still paying above award rates, and demand for proficient managers with strong business and leadership skills is high, pushing up wages for pharmacists with these qualities. If you are an employee looking for some real information on what rates are being paid, or an employer hoping to attract the best talent whilst still remaining competitive, contact Heidi on [heidi@ravensrecruitment.com.au](mailto:heidi@ravensrecruitment.com.au).

## Codeine monitoring call

**REAL** time monitoring is key to stemming codeine abuse, as opposed to a prescription-only approach, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said in a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Advisory Committee on Medicine Scheduling (ACMS).

Guild national president George Tambassis described a real-time monitoring system in community pharmacy as a "more effective and economical way to assist in identifying consumers at risk of codeine abuse and dependency" without compromising access for the majority of consumers who are using these products safely.

"A real-time monitoring system would help pharmacists identify consumers who are [or] may be misusing or abusing codeine-based products be referred to appropriate treatment and support programs."

The Victorian government has committed \$300,000 toward the implementation of a real-time prescription monitoring system in its state budget (*PD* 07 May).

The Guild cited a 2014 Macquarie University report which estimated if current Pharmacist Only analgesics were moved to Prescription Only, the costs to Medicare alone in additional doctors' visits would equate to \$170 million a year, with

consumers potentially \$70m a year out of pocket.

"Moving these products to Prescription Only is unlikely to address the issues of dependency and abuse and would result in significant extra costs to both consumers and the health system," Tambassis said.

A Guild consumer survey in April showed that 95% of respondents would be happy to have their personal details recorded when purchasing OTC codeine products.

**MEANWHILE**, the Australian Self-Medication Industry supported the Guild stance, with executive director Deon Schoombie saying "we believe that up-scheduling will not address the issue of addiction".

"As a Pharmacist Only (S3) medicine, pharmacists are already required to determine whether it is appropriate to supply OTC analgesics containing codeine...they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide consumers with education and counselling about appropriate use."

He said ASMI's submission to the committee also supports mandatory front of pack warning labels about the risks of codeine addiction, and urged that OTC cold and flu medicines be excluded from rescheduling as there's no evidence that they are being misused.

### DISPENSARY CORNER



**A TATTOO** - or looking cool with an Apple Watch - it's your choice.

If you face the dilemma of a teenager wanting to get a tattoo, you could use the ploy of an alternative, and not just a bribe.

According to a report in *Dermatology Times*, some Apple Watch wearers say their wrist tattoos prevent the device's heart rate sensor from functioning - which has the potential to disable the watch from being able to place calls, receive notifications or use certain apps.

That's because the heart rate monitor determines whether or not the watch is being worn.

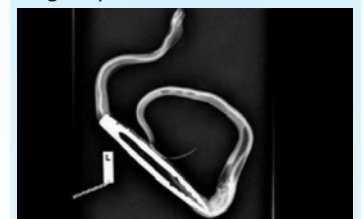
The watch uses coloured light to detect the heart rate, and while dark skin and scars are translucent, tattoo ink is opaque, preventing light from penetrating the skin, the report said.

**HEALTH** professionals in Adelaide recently responded to a very different type of emergency, when a prized pet python accidentally swallowed a set of barbecue tongs.

The reptile, named Winston, was being fed a rat by his owner using the tongs, when the snake latched on and refused to relinquish his hold on the culinary implement.

Leaving the pet to play with the item, Winston's owner said he was "dumbfounded" when he returned to find them gone.

An X-ray (below) showed exactly where they were, with Adelaide University veterinary expert Dr Oliver Funnell called in to surgically remove the item.



## WIN A BRAUN THERMOMETER

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** and **FGB Natural Products** are giving away a Braun Touchless + Forehead thermometer each day.

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To win, be the first from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What are the two modes the new Braun thermometer can switch between?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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