

## Training Circuit April 2016

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### Bundaberg fire

**THE** iconic "Church Pharmacy" in Queensland's Bundaberg has been badly damaged by fire after a blaze broke out early yesterday morning.

Owner Brent Byrne told media nothing remains of the business which operated from a converted former Church of Christ.

### Credit where credit's due

**DESPITE** enormous contributions by the pharmacy sector to deliver a sustainable PBS, the industry has not always received the recognition it deserves for these reforms, according to Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty.

In the regular *Forefront* Guild update issued yesterday, Quilty says it is "now indisputable that the PBS is fiscally sustainable," meaning the future of the scheme is assured.

"A decade ago, multiple Intergenerational Reports identified the PBS as the Government's biggest fiscal risk...now it has become the stand-out fiscal success of the health care reform," he said, with consumers now having increased access via their community pharmacies to a broader range of medicines at reduced prices - with no negative impact on patient care levels.

"Clearly we need to do more to educate the broader health sector and political and economic commentators about this stand-out PBS reform," Quilty added.

He said pharmacies have shown they can embrace reform, and "stand ready to play a central role in an integrated primary care system with a strong focus on transitional care".

Quilty said there were some positive signs such as Pharmacy Trial Program, Health Minister Sussan Ley's recognition of the role of pharmacists in the Health Care Home announcement, and the COAG Health Reform process.

"Eventually community pharmacies will knock down the door as they have done in countries like Canada," Quilty promised, warning that it "will not be an easy road" in a health system that remains shy of reform.

### Stem cell guide

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has released a quick guide to which pharmacists can direct consumers who want to know more about stem cell treatments and regulation.

See the frequently asked questions at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).



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### EMA extrapolates drugs for children

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has begun to define how it will accept data from adult drugs to be extrapolated into paediatric formats, as part of the European Union Paediatric Regulation.

The organisation has released a reflection paper on the matter, after extensive work and consultation with statisticians, experts in modelling and simulation, experts in pharmacology and clinicians, aimed at creating a framework for further workshops and discussions taking views from all stakeholders.

### FDA approves second biosimilar

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has granted approval to Inflectra (infleximab-dyyb) for a range of indications.

Inflectra is a biosimilar to Janssen Biotech's Remicade (infleximab) which was first licensed in 1988.

Under the new FDA approval Inflectra can be prescribed for the treatment of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and chronic severe plaque psoriasis.

### HOW ARE YOUR CREDITS CLOCKING UP?



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## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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### Southern Ocean Remarkable Retreat

**SOUTHERN** Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island is offering its outstanding Stay 4–Pay 3 Remarkable Retreat package for those wanting to escape the mainland and see the wild beauty of Kangaroo Island first-hand.

The deal is on offer from 01 May to 30 Sep from \$3,300 per person twinshare, incl all dining, an open bar with premium beverages, an in-suite bar, signature guided experiences and airport transfers.

Accompanying special offers are also available.

Contact Baillie Lodges by phone 02 9918 4355 or see [southernoceanlodge.com.au](http://southernoceanlodge.com.au).

### 30% off River Cruising

**G ADVENTURES** is offering 30% off its new River Cruising products on the Mekong, Ganges and Burgundy, with a small group focus claiming to offer Asia's, India's and France's finest river experiences aboard small, intimate riverboats and barges, and disembarking to explore the riverside towns and remote villages on foot or by bike.

Book by 31 Jul to access the deal - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## Pfizer, Allergan deal is off

**DRUG** manufacturing giants Pfizer and Allergan have mutually agreed to terminate their proposed merger, following changes in US tax regulations which sunk the \$160 billion deal.

New rules issued by the US Treasury aim to curb "inversion deals", whereby US-based companies switch bases to a country with better tax benefits.

Earlier in the week, US President Barack Obama called global tax avoidance a "huge problem", urging congress to introduce tougher laws to stop US companies from tax evasion.

If the deal was realised, Pfizer would have effectively slashed its tax bill by taking legal residence in Ireland where Allergan is registered.

That would have meant it could

more tax-effectively access profits garnered in other jurisdictions around the world where it had already paid local tax on the money.

The deal-breaker will see Pfizer pay Allergan a break-fee of up to \$400 million as per the merger agreement.

Both Pfizer and Allergan are yet to issue official statements.

### New NPS PPR for CPD

**THE** latest Pharmacy Practice Review developed by NPS MedicineWise is available for the first time in an express version, making it a convenient option for time-poor pharmacists to earn CPD credits, NPS MedicineWise says.

The module *Depression: Supporting quality use of antidepressants* highlights opportunities for pharmacists to support patients starting or continuing antidepressant treatment, and addresses common barriers to best practice.

Aine Heaney, NPS MedicineWise spokesperson and pharmacist says, "Pharmacists have an important role in supporting patient understanding of antidepressants, by asking questions, providing advice and supporting the information needs of patients."

### 7 million \$1 off scripts

**MORE** than seven million prescriptions were dispensed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme with the \$1 co-payment discount in Jan and Feb this year following the introduction of the controversial measure, according to Department of Health figures cited by *Pharma Dispatch* today.

## WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Plunketts are giving away a John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser and Facial Cleanser everyday.

New John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser is a concentrated serum with Eventone Complex™ – a blend of multiple actives to visibly lighten pigmentation and boost your skin's health and radiance, plus it's easy to incorporate into your daily skincare routine with guaranteed results. RRP \$39.95.

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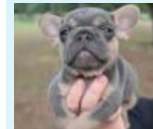
To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Besides lightening pigmentation, what else does Eventone Complex™ do?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lorraine Brouard from Symbion.



## DISPENSARY CORNER



**IS MAN'S** best friend getting smaller?

Researchers at the University of

Sydney have found Aussies are favouring smaller breeds such as Pugs and Bulldogs over Labradors and German Shepherds.

Professor Paul McGreevy from the University's Faculty of Veterinary Science correlated the preference for smaller dogs with a trend towards more high density living spaces.

"Changes in the types of dwellings Australians are buying may indicate the space available for dogs has shrunk," he said.

"Moreover, the purpose of dog ownership has continued to shift from the early days of domestication, away from duties such as hunting and guarding properties, for which dogs are more likely to be larger, to pure companionship which can be fulfilled by a dog of any size."

**IMAGINE** coming out of a maternity ward feeling pampered and relaxed.

UK's Portland Hospital claims to offer just that, with an indulgent birthing experience akin to a day at the spa.

Amenities available include round-the-clock fine dining and fridges stocked with lobster and French champagne - perfect to satisfy those pregnancy cravings.

The only catch? A bill of about A\$75,000 on departure.

The hospital has hosted famous names such as Kate Winslet, Spice Girl Geri Halliwell and the Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson.

BBC is set to take viewers behind the scenes of this luxury hospital getaway, debuting its brand new documentary *Five Star Babies: Inside the Portland Hospital* in the UK next week.