



### Digital consultation

**THE** Australian Digital Health Agency has launched a “collaborative consultation” with government, the health sector, technology stakeholders and the Australian community on the development of a National Digital Health Strategy.

A discussion paper is now available for download or viewing at [conversation.digitalhealth.gov.au](http://conversation.digitalhealth.gov.au), presenting a range of themes and questions for consideration.

There's also an online survey and other options for providing feedback, with the consultation open until 5pm AEDST on 31 Jan.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, which supports the Digital Health Agency by providing clinical safety assurance for the My Health Record System and in other areas of national digital health infrastructure, is urging stakeholders to participate.

### Low Vit D autism link

**QUEENSLAND** Brain Institute researchers at the University of Queensland have found a link between Vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy and increased autism traits.

The study, led by QBI researcher Professor John McGrath and involving Dr Henning Tiemeier from the Erasmus Medical Centre in The Netherlands, found that pregnant women with low Vitamin D levels at 20 weeks' gestation were more likely to have a child with autistic traits by the age of six.

“This study provides further evidence that low vitamin D is associated with neurodevelopmental disorders,” McGrath said.

“Just as taking folate in pregnancy has reduced the incidence of spina bifida, the result of this study suggests that prenatal vitamin D supplements may reduce the incidence of autism,” he said.

Vitamin D is already known to play a role in maintenance of bone health, and now this new work and the wider body of evidence shows it is linked to brain growth, McGrath added.

**CLICK HERE** to access the study.

### WA pharmacist sanctioned

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has published details of a tribunal case in which a Western Australian pharmacist has been reprimanded and had conditions imposed on her registration, after admitting to engaging in professional misconduct.

The matter relates to Cornelia Naude, who was investigated in 2014 after the Board received information indicating she had dispensed a number of S4 items without prescriptions.

During the course of a hearing before the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia, Naude admitted to dispensing a range of medications including antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to herself and members of her

immediate family on several occasions between 2011 and 2013.

The Tribunal took into consideration Naude's participation in an AHPRA investigation.

“Prior to formal mediation she made concessions in respect of her offending conduct and potential sanctions, expressing regret for her conduct and willingness to undertake further education.

“The Tribunal accepted that her conduct was not motivated by financial gain,” the Board said.

As well as the reprimand and registration conditions, Naude was ordered to pay a contribution of \$7,000 towards the Board's cost of the proceedings.

### Payment changes

**EFFECTIVE** 01 Jan 2017 the PBS co-payment will rise to \$38.80 in line with the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Concessional patients will pay \$6.30 from the same date, with the increases reflecting a 1.3% CPI indexation rate.

Also on 01 Jan, some pensioners will lose their Pensioner Concession Cards due to changes to the asset test, and will instead become eligible for a Low Income Health Care Card and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card if old enough.

The new cards cannot be sent before 01 Jan 2017, but Centrelink has advised that patients can provide their Centrelink Customer Reference Number to ensure they receive script concession entitlements before the cards arrive.

### CW cricket connection

**CHEMIST** Warehouse will partner with the Michael Clarke Coaching Clinic next month in NSW to help support Australia's next generation of cricket stars.

A clinic priced at \$50 per person will run on Tue 24 Jan at Bankstown Memorial Oval, with Clarke and his fellow coaches providing expert training to participants aged between six and 16 - more details at [chemistwarehouse.com.au/mcclinic](http://chemistwarehouse.com.au/mcclinic).

### SHPA rural role

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has announced the appointment of Michelle Rothwell as its Rural Adviser, and Chair of the Society's Rural and Regional Advisory Group.

Rothwell is passionate about rural pharmacy and the delivery of safe, effective, equitable healthcare for all, and is based at Atherton Hospital in Far North Queensland.

### Guild software pact

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has signed a new agreement with the Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA), creating a framework for the organisations to work together for the benefit of their respective members over the next five years.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed this week by Guild national president, George Tambassis and executive director David Quilty with MSIA President Emma Hossack.

“The Guild and MSIA share a common objective, to support community pharmacists in performing their role - delivering medicines and services to patients - through the provision of software specifically developed and tailored to meet the needs of the pharmacy industry,” a statement read.

They will work together in areas of mutual interest such as digital health, data strategy, PBS/RPBS changes, promoting collaborative achievements and the next Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Under the newly signed MoU Executive officers of both organisations will meet at least annually “to discuss strategic matters of mutual interest”.

### Another POTY finalist

**CANBERRA'S** Capital Chemist Wannianassa, ACT, has been named a finalist in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year award process.

Partners Honor Penprase and Elise Apolloni (pictured) hold at least two health promotions every month – and raise money for at least two community charities corresponding with the promotions.

They say they have built on their own experiences in the community and helped to reinforce the effectiveness of health promotion activities.

“There are countless community engagement activities we undertake every year, from fun-

runs, relays for life and volunteering roles to fundraisers, school visits and sponsorship for local groups and events,” Apolloni said.



Capital Chemist Wannianassa was the first recognised Gold Standard Skilled Workplace for Mental Health First Aid in the country, and in spite of challenges, has successfully managed through several stand-out activities in 2016, including a Beyond Blue bake sale held in memory of a team member.

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## Dispensary Corner

**SAY** hello to the world's hottest grandpa.

Deshun Wang (pictured below at China Fashion Week) proves it's never too late to follow your dreams, debuting as a catwalk model at age 79.

The now 80-year-old Chinese man, who still sports a ripped body, only started working out at age 50.

"My muscles have gained a lot of attention; people are surprised that an old man like me can be in such good shape," he said.

"Age is never an obstacle for me," he said.

Wang is an in-demand model and will walk the runway at Milan Fashion Week next year.

**CLICK HERE** to see a video about this mature-aged model.



**TEXAS** Zoo is throwing a baby shower for a pregnant orangutan, going as far as creating her a gift registry at Target.

Cameron Park Zoo in Waco said items on the registry included a Dolly Parton CD, the Disney movie Zootopia, Spongebob Squarepants bubble bath and a Play Piano - all products to "provide enrichment" to the baby and other zoo animals.

The party will take place this weekend with the baby due early next year.

## NSW SHPA 2016 awards

**THE** NSW Branch of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), at its recent meeting, has presented awards to three members who "strove for excellency and continued to uphold high standards within the pharmacy profession".

Critical care pharmacist Lynn Choo (pictured right) of John Hunter Hospital is the 2016



recipient of the NSW Outstanding Achievement Pharmacist Award for her consistent dedication towards the intensive care unit (ICU).

Secondly, SHPA also congratulated Early Career Pharmacist Award winner Rayan Nahas (pictured below) of Royal North Shore hospital for her significant



contributions towards hospital pharmacy. Since graduating Sydney University with first class

honours three and a half years ago, she has proven her dedication by commencing a Masters in Clinical Pharmacy in 2015 and has initiated and led two research projects.

Thirdly, Melanie Anderson of John Hunter Hospital, senior Imprest technician of her department and managing five technicians, has been recognised for her continued dedication to the pharmacy technician profession with the presentation of the NSW Pharmacy Technician Award.

### Seasonique AusPAR

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has added an Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR) for Teva Pharma's Seasonique (levonorgestrel/ethinylestradiol) combination oral contraceptive.

The tablets are film-coated immediate release in a 91-day regimen of 84 combination tablets and seven mono tablets of ethinylestradiol - [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Win with Blistex

This week Pharmacy Daily & Blistex are giving away each day a prize pack containing Blistex lip balms: Ultra Lip Balm, Five-Way Lip Protection, Lip Conditioner, Lip Conditioning Balm, Intensive Repair, Deep Renewal and Happy Lips Melon.

Blistex lip balms are dedicated to delivering superb moisturisation and protection to lips all year round. Blistex effectively moisturises dry lips, protects lips from all weather conditions, and feels amazing on the lips. The addition of SPF sunscreen protection makes Blistex a great choice for your lips over summer. Feel the difference of beautifully healthy lips with Blistex. For more information **CLICK HERE**.

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

**What are the names of the two Blistex products that come in a pot?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kristy-Lee Albrecht.



Always read the label. Use only as directed.

## 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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Tempo's packages are a balance between conventional cruising and private yachting, along with a voyage of discovery. Prices start from \$2,429 per person, for selected travel dates (Jun - Sep 2017), including all meals and more. Call 1300 362 844 for details.

### Save on Creative Cruising's 19-night special

**SAVE** up to \$513 total twin share on Creative Cruising's 19-night Northern California and Inside Passage cruise deal by booking before the end of Jan 2017. The deal, priced from \$8,079 per person, includes return airfare to San Francisco, a 7-night guided holiday, 2-night pre-cruise accommodation and 10-night cruise via the Alaskan Inside Passage with inclusions. Call 1300 362 599 for details.