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Xenophon, Greens pledge

RESPONDING to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia invitation to political parties to state their position with relation to the future sustainability of pharmacy business in Australia, Malcolm Turnbull was first to respond (*PD* yesterday), and yesterday independent senator Nick Xenophon and leader of the Greens, Richard Di Natale weighed in with their support.

Xenophon stated his Nick Xenophon Team (NXT) position clearly, opposing deregulation and supermarket pharmacies, opposing the optional \$1 discount imposition and proposed PBS co-payment increases.

The independent senator said he addressed some of his concerns to the Senate in March last year saying that "community pharmacists would once again be an unfair target for government savings that would be counter-productive to the health of Australians."

Xenophon also made a bid for funding support from Guild members given that he is running his NXT campaign on what he calls a "dental floss budget".

Di Natale flew the committed-to-certainty flag saying that five-year community pharmacy agreements

create an increased level of business stability for community pharmacy.

He also called for greater transparency in negotiations with the government.

A major point for the Greens was their commitment to "closing the gap in the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians" adding that they are "strong supporters of the role of community pharmacy in ensuring equitable access to medicines under the PBS through the QUMAX program which addresses cultural, transport and other barriers."

The Greens highlighted their advocacy on medicinal cannabis, claiming some credit for progress to a regulatory framework.

"We will continue to advocate for access for patients to medicinal cannabis, and for pharmacists to be involved in the development of policy, protocols and guidelines for its use and dispensing," he wrote.

"I am grateful for the strong and constructive relationship between the Australian Greens and the Pharmacy Guild, and look forward to building on this to amplify the voice of community pharmacy in broader health reform."

Cancer meds QUM

COMMUNITY pharmacists in Australia now have access to a new online education course designed to help them dispense oral antineoplastic drugs and supportive therapies to deliver maximum benefit to patients, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced.

The new course, developed by the Cancer Institute NSW eviQ Education program, has been added to the myCPD site.

Professor David Currow, Chief Cancer Officer and ceo of the Cancer Institute NSW was quoted as saying, "Increased knowledge of oral antineoplastic drugs, doses, frequencies, indications and supportive therapies will assist community pharmacies to avoid preventable adverse effects and increase the safe and effective use of these medicines."

"It is also vital that pharmacists have the information they need to counsel patients and their carers on managing side effects, treatment adherence and supportive therapies," he said.

The content of the online course was developed in consultation with key representatives from community pharmacy, oncology pharmacists and relevant professional bodies, the Guild said.



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Nanosunscreens safe

SUNSCREENS made with nanoparticles have raised concerns about penetration of the epidermis, the outer layer of the skin, but have now been shown to be both safe and effective, according to a 'Perspectives' article published in the latest *MJA*.

According to Associate Professor Paul Wright from RMIT University in Melbourne, despite the earlier fears of deeper absorption, zinc oxide nanoparticles are now considered not only safe, but beneficial in sunscreens because they are broad spectrum UV filters, UV-stable, non-irritating, hypoallergenic, and transparent. [CLICK HERE](#) for the article.

Drug-seeking behaviour

PATIENTS who consume either prescribed or illicit substances in a manner that is not consistent with legal or medical guidelines, and undertake to maintain inappropriate levels of supply are the subject of an independent review published in *Australian Prescriber*.

Drug-seeking behaviour takes many forms and both GPs and pharmacists can be part of the solution to dangerous misuse of prescription drugs, the article said.

The author lays out which drugs are commonly sought, indicators of such behaviour, and what strategies pharmacists and GPs can adopt to

minimise the risk.

Controlled prescription and dispensing strategies are recommended, with strong communication between GPs and pharmacists being key to success.

Pharmacists and GPs are encouraged to set up an arrangement that ensures only a small quantity can be dispensed at an interval agreed with the patient.

In addition, a patient should be able to have their scripts dispensed at only one pharmacy, and scripts written by only one GP, the article recommends.

To access the full independent review, [CLICK HERE](#).

Bosentan orphan

AMNEAL Pharma's Bosentan in a film coated tablet has been granted orphan status by the TGA for the treatment of idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension under specific circumstances - [CLICK HERE](#).

TGA Chinese meds conf presentation

THE TGA has posted on its website a presentation given by Lyndall Soper, assistant secretary, Complementary and Over-the-Counter Medicines Branch, Medicines Regulation Division at the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Annual Conference Perth in May this year.

The topic covered traditional Chinese Medicines and the future of complementary medicine regulation - [CLICK HERE](#) for access.

Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day an Essentials Reed Diffuser in Basil Grape worth \$34.95.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. Housed in a tinted glass vessel, this aromatic Reed Diffuser will enliven the senses and add a pop of colour to any room. For more information visit morboutique.com.

To win be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What vessel type is the MOR Essentials Reed Diffuser housed in?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Tamara Heeney from Boulevard Pharmacy Newman.

Pharmacy Connect Gala event

THE inaugural conference for Pharmacy Connect will feature among other elements, comedian Akmal Saleh (**pictured**) entertaining the meeting's gala dinner, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced.

The Guild's New South Wales Branch will host the event in Sydney on 09-11 Sep at the newly refurbished Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Darling Harbour.

As well as some 'side-splitting' entertainment from Saleh, the dinner occasion will be used to announce the winners of the National Student Business Plan Competition, conference convenor Kos Scavos said.

"Throughout the conference, each team of pharmacy students will have five minutes to 'pitch' a

business plan.

"Entries are judged on a number of criteria including viability, research, business management, innovation, financials and marketing."

Scavos added that the key to a successful conference is to balance the concentrated educational sessions with relaxed and high quality social events, and the gala dinner in the premium waterfront venue will work towards achieving that objective.

Tickets for the gala dinner are included in full registrations and additional tickets can be purchased separately: [CLICK HERE](#).



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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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Silversea's Silver Select promotion

SILVERSEA has brought back their Silver Select program with savings available on new bookings made from now until 31 Jul on dozens of worldwide 2016 voyages.

Eligible guests can choose from three bonuses: a US\$1,500 on board spending credit card, a two category suite upgrade or 50% off a second suite.

Sailings valid for the special include a 17-day Barbados roundtrip from 21 Nov to 08 Dec, a 10-day Fort Lauderdale roundtrip from 02 Dec to 12 Dec or an 11-day Phuket roundtrip from 21 Nov to 02 Dec.

See more on the deal [HERE](#).

Save on Christmas Magic on the Rhine

SAVE \$800 per couple on Uniworld's eight-day Rhine Holiday Markets all-inclusive luxury river cruise when booked and paid in full by 30 Jun.

Enjoy a guided Taste of Christmas program & a walking tour of Basel's Christmas Market and a Cologne Cathedral visit.

The deal is priced from \$4,244pp twin share, for more information visit uniworld.com.

Leading Pharmacy Innovation

THE theme of the flagship conference for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) this year is Leading Pharmacy Innovation, the PSA has announced, saying that the aim of the event is to "take pharmacists to the next level".

PSA16, as the premier professional development event for the Society, will focus on "New Relationships and New Priorities" for pharmacists as well as expanding pharmacist roles as healthcare professionals.

PSA national president Joe Demarte said PSA16 offered something for all pharmacists and was a not-to-be-missed event this year.

"Come and learn how PSA is leading the profession and taking pharmacists to the next level through a number of exciting innovations," Demarte said.

"These new initiatives are aimed at helping pharmacists achieve career goals, providing new evidence-based practice models and exploring new roles and remuneration for pharmacists."

This year the meeting will



include practical, income-generating workshops, clinical and therapeutic updates, career pathways as well as thought provoking plenary and panel sessions, he said.

"PSA16 has been specifically designed to maximise delegate networking and engagement with industry partners."

Earlybird registrations close on Monday, Jun 13.

Visit www.psa.org.au.

Credentialing support

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has announced continuation of its full support and guidance for members undertaking the National Credentialing Program for Advanced Practice Pharmacists.

SHPA ceo, Kristin Michaels said the support given to participants in the 2015 pilot program will continue through 2016.

"SHPA will match members applying for credentialing with a champion to provide them with ongoing support and guidance," Michaels said.

As part of the support, SHPA pledges to provide an online peer support forum, a webinar on 'portfolio building', a 360° feedback tool, and templates for required documentation," she said.

Growth awards open

FROM 01 Jul, the 2016 Australian Growth Company Awards invites applications across eight categories.

Blackmores was a previous winner in the highly competitive *Health & Life Sciences* category.

Nominations close on 31 Aug and an official gala function announcing winners will be held on 27 Oct.

CLICK HERE to keep informed through Linked-In.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A GIANT, inflatable colon (pictured below) is making its way around the US in a bid to educate people about bowel cancer.

Kind of like an inverted jumping castle with strange growths, the blow-up bowel is actually proving to be a rather unique and engaging way of educating the public about their health in slightly less talked about regions of the body.

The nine-metre passage spares no details, showing life-like pictures of cancer's different stages as you walk through.

On entering the interactive intestine you'll learn all the nitty-gritty details about colonoscopies, polyps and lesions.



Robert and Gillian, an Irish couple down on their luck and unemployed, but possessing creativity and skills, have resurrected their bank balance by creating what they called 'honest cards'.

With greetings such as "I'm sorry your ex turned out to be a psycho", they have now sold more than 500 cards through their Kickstarter page, reports the *UK Telegraph*.

Other messages include: 'You have a lovely bum', 'There is no-one I'd rather raise these arsehole kids with ... Happy Father's Day', 'I can't wait for your wedding! If I see somebody else wearing white, I will totally (accidentally) spill my red wine on them!', 'Mr&Mr - You are perfect together!', 'Will you be my Bridesmaid? You may have to hold up my dress while I pee.'