

## Pharmacists to rescue

**PHARMACIES** played a life-saving role dispensing ventolin on Mon evening during a 'thunderstorm asthma' emergency in Melbourne which left two people dead.

Hospitals were swamped with thousands of asthmatics who reacted badly to the heavy spread of pollen after a severe thunderstorm swept through the Victorian capital, following the hottest day of the year.

Guild National Councillor and business partner of Guild president George Tambassis at Tambassis Pharmacy Brunswick, Angelo Pricolo, praised his staff for their efforts after they assisted patients.

"People were being turned away from hospital and sent to us.

"We sold easily 200 hundred ventolins," one of the pharmacy staff members wrote to him.

"Customers were dropping in the shop, Irbaz [a staff member] was giving out ventolin while they were in line waiting to be served! It was absolute mayhem, I've never been so overwhelmed".

Asthma Australia issued a statement after the incident, saying "Melbourne weather is highly unpredictable and although events like this are rare, it is difficult to foresee the effect they will have.

"That is why it is important that asthma is kept well-controlled year round," the organisation's ceo Robin Ould said.

## Turnbull, Shorten back pharmacy

**PRIME** Minister Malcolm Turnbull (pictured) and opposition leader Bill Shorten both expressed support for the existing community pharmacy model, in speeches during the

annual Guild Parliamentary Dinner at Parliament House, Canberra.

Turnbull, who spoke shortly after his arrival from a trip to South America, said "the established community pharmacy model continues to serve Australians well.

"Local community pharmacists are tuned into the unique needs of their area and the community of which they are part, and individual patients with whom they are friends and neighbours," he said.

Turnbull formally confirmed an election promise which will see changes to the dispensing remuneration of prescriptions for medicines for chronic conditions under the Remote Area Aboriginal Health Service arrangements.

Effective from 01 Jan 2017. "the total payment for these rural scripts will be equivalent to the full dispensing fee," he said.

"This recognises the additional effort and expertise required to issue these scripts," the PM added.



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## Bumper issue today

*Pharmacy Daily* today has four pages of news, including our regular **Health, Beauty & New Products** feature and a page of photos from last night's **Guild Parliamentary Dinner**.

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STRATEGIC NATIONAL PHARMACY DIVISION

Shorten was the final speaker at the packed event, and said in a spirit of bipartisanship the Labor Party would support the new funding for the Remote Area Aboriginal Health Service scripts.

The ALP leader also reiterated his party's support for "the current system of community pharmacy, including pharmacy ownership by pharmacists.

"It is the best means to achieve a network of community pharmacies providing professional advice and support, with a view of the patient as a whole person," Shorten said.

He urged pharmacists to provide input on the future of the sector, saying he and Shadow Health Minister Catherine King were interested in ideas such as how to use Primary Health Networks to coordinate emergency patient access to PBS medicines after hours, a national real-time recording system for controlled drugs as well as over-the-counter codeine, and opportunities for women in the pharmacy industry to "advance to positions of leadership, ownership and entrepreneurship".

More on **pages two and three**.

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## MedsASSIST success

**THE** MedsASSIST OTC codeine monitoring system has been successfully working as intended, according to the latest data released by The Pharmacy Guild.

Since the program's national rollout in Mar, 68% of pharmacies have come on board with over 4 million transactions recorded in the system as of the start of this week.

Just 2% of these transactions have been for a deny/non supply, with 86% of consumers who made five or more purchases recommended to take further action in managing their pain and addiction.

"There is strong evidence that MedsASSIST is having an effect as intended and reducing inappropriate OTC codeine use for people who might be at risk of codeine dependency, while maintaining access for legitimate use," the Guild said in a statement.

## Guild confirms risk stoush

**GUILD** President George Tambassis last night confirmed that the Guild was currently in discussions with the government about

the "risk share" arrangement in the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which could see additional dispensing payments made to pharmacists to compensate them for lower than expected script volumes (**PD Fri**).

The Guild had previously been tight-lipped on the matter, but speaking at the Guild Parliamentary Dinner, Tambassis outlined the issue centred on part of the 6CPA which aims "to ensure that the Government's financial commitment to community pharmacies is delivered in full, but not exceeded.

"Like all risk shares, it cuts both ways...if the prescription volumes in the Agreement are exceeded the government is reimbursed."



"If there is a shortfall, pharmacies are reimbursed".

Reports last week suggested the 6CPA is currently on track for a \$500 million underspend

because PBS/RPBS volumes were about six million prescriptions lower than 6CPA forecasts - which could equate to a hike of as much as 26c in the dispensing fee.

Negotiations on the issue are ongoing, with **PD** observing Health Minister Sussan Ley discussing the matter prior to the dinner with Tambassis and Guild National Councillor Trent Twomey (**pictured**).

In his speech Tambassis described it as a "seminal issue that goes to the heart of why the government and pharmacies have a trust-based agreement that provides financial certainty for both parties.

"I am confident that, in the coming weeks, an agreed resolution will be reached ahead of a January 1 implementation," he concluded.

## "Duabesity" concern

**AUSTRALIA** is at risk of a resurgence of cardiovascular disease, reversing the gains made in combating Australia's number one killer over the last 50 years, according to a new report from Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute.

The *Change of Heart - Time to End Cardiovascular Complacency* urges that a "deadly duet" of so-called 'diabesity' - obesity and type 2 diabetes - combined with growing rates of atrial fibrillation is fuelling a new era of heart disease.

The report calls for the creation of a national cardiovascular disease strategy, regulation to prevent overconsumption of sugar and salt, and introduction of preventative lifestyle strategies at an early stage.

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

*True or false: All SOUTHERNATURE products are owned and made in Australia?*

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Deborah Scholz from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.





## Guild Parliamentary Dinner

**LAST** night's Pharmacy Guild of Australia 2016 Parliamentary Dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra, attracted a host of politicians of all persuasions, who gathered with pharmacists and other stakeholders to celebrate all things pharmacy.

The event included speeches from Greens leader Richard Di Natale as well as Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and opposition leader Bill Shorten (see p1) and guests also made the most of the opportunity to network with their peers later in the evening.

**Pharmacy Daily** took these photos during the event - lots more online at [facebook.com/pharmacydaily](https://facebook.com/pharmacydaily).



**PM** Malcolm Turnbull poses with some of the Guild Queensland contingent.



**ANTHONY** Tassone and Suzanne Schultz.



**ELIZABETH** Frost and Pharmacy Board of Australia chair Bill Kelly.



**PHARMACY** of the Year proprietor Sam Afsar from Pharmacy 777 Nollamara, WA, with Simon Blacker and Paul Jaffar from the Pharmacy Guild and Chempro's Steven Probert.



**GUILDLINK** ceo Ross Gallagher with Adam Phillips, Pharmacy Improvement Centre.



**ERICA** Vowles and Khin Win May from the Guild with Palliative Care Australia's Patsy Yates.



**GREG** Turnbull, Rick Samimi and Tim Logan.



**LEANNE** Neilson, Pharmacy Guild with NAPSA's Angelica Lagoda and Amanda Galbraith, the Guild.





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## Dispensary Corner

**NEW** Zealand residents are being urged to check their letter boxes for random shipments of methamphetamine.

It comes after local police put out a warning that illicit drugs were being posted to the mail boxes of empty holiday houses in the country's Central Otago district.

Police say the owners of the homes are innocent victims whose properties are being used for the drug deliveries which are then being picked up by a local on the ground.



**HOMEOPATHY** treatments must be labelled to say they do not work, according to new US Government orders.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said if producers of homeopathic remedies wanted to claim their products were effective, they needed to make the scientific evidence available.

If there's no reliable evidence, they must state that.

"To believe homeopathy works is to believe in magic," health policy expert Timothy Caulfield said.

The FTC also wants such products to be labelled with a warning saying they are "based only on theories of homeopathy from the 1700s that are not accepted by most modern medical experts".

## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### G&M Goats Milk and Emu Oil MKII

G&M Australian Creams are 100% Australian made, are lightweight and have a quick absorption rate into the skin. **G&M Australian Goats Milk and Manuka Honey Cream MKII** is rich in many beneficial nutrients including essential proteins, vitamins A, B12, B6, E, amino acids, minerals & lactic acid which help soften and rejuvenate the skin, and stimulate healthy skin renewal. **G&M Australian Emu Oil Cream MKII** is a rich moisturiser formulated with Emu Oil and Vitamin-E, to help hydrate and soothe dry and overworked skin and make skin feel fresher and smoother.



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**Stockist:** 02 9540 3395

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### DU'IT Tough Hands for HER from Orbis

Orbis Australasia has launched Tough Hands for HER to Australian community pharmacy. Scientifically tested, **Tough Hands for HER** is an intensive hand moisturiser that promises to help customers repair dry, rough, calloused and dehydrated hands. Easily absorbed and enriched with vitamin E and sweet almond milk, Tough Hands for HER guards against premature skin ageing and helps with skin regeneration for softer, younger looking hands. It includes urea 10%, vitamin E, AHAs for exfoliation, dimethicone and sodium PCA moisturiser.



**Stockist:** 02 9965 9600

**RRP:** \$9.95

**Website:** [www.orbis.net.au](http://www.orbis.net.au)

### ulta3 Christmas Gift collection

**'The Wanderer' Travel Set:** Explore, dream and discover the world with The Wanderer set from ulta3, featuring Elyse Knowles' favourite travel essentials. This set includes the new Strobing Kit and Liquid Shine Lip Colour, ideal for on-the-go touch-ups,



together with a sleep mask and luggage tag that are sure to stand out from the crowd. The gift pack contains: one Sleep Mask, one Luggage Tag, a Strobing Highlighter Kit and ulta3 Liquid Shine Lip Colour in "Shiny".

**Stockist:** 1800 181 040

**RRP:** \$24.95

**Website:** [www.ulta3.com.au](http://www.ulta3.com.au)

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**Postal address:** PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

**Street address:** Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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**Publisher/Editor in chief:** Bruce Piper

**Managing Editor:** Jon Murrie

**Reporter:** Mal Smith

**Contributors:** Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper [accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Editorial:** [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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