

New Listing	Turnover	Adj. Net Profit	Asking Price
Melbourne North	\$1.36m	\$136k	\$1.25m
Small Town Victoria	\$1.03m	\$280k	\$1.5m
Regional City Victoria	\$4.21m	\$432k	\$2.1m
Launceston CBD	\$2.83m	\$179k	\$1.5m

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## Life-extending diet

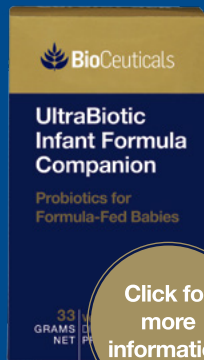
**NEW** research from the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre suggests a low protein, high carbohydrate diet may be the most effective for stimulating a hormone with life-extending and obesity-fighting benefits.

**CLICK HERE** to access the *Cell Metabolism* study.



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## Guild urges "health hubs"

**THE** government should fund community pharmacies to become 'local health hubs' where there are shortages of GPs and other health professionals, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

That's one of a number of ambitious elements of the Guild's submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation which was publicly released last Fri.

The Guild is also seeking pharmacy funding for a fee-for-service minor ailments program using a "recordable pharmacist-only medicine schedule," as well as an Opiate Dependence Treatment program and the ability for community pharmacies to renew prescriptions and order a standard range of pathology tests.

"On the future of community pharmacy, the Guild submission makes clear that the predicted growth in the number of Australians living with complex, multiple morbidities means that the clinical health role of community pharmacy in maximising medicine adherence and the quality use of medicines will be increasingly

important," the submission reads.

The Guild is urging that the Continued Dispensing arrangements for urgent PBS medicine supply should be expanded to include other medicines for chronic health conditions, and also suggested community pharmacies be funded to administer vaccines listed on the National Immunisation Program Schedule "on a level playing field with other health professionals".

The system of five-year community pharmacy agreements should be retained, the Guild said, and future CPAs "must reinvest a fair proportion of the savings from PBS reforms into ensuring that the core clinical role of dispensing remains viable," while the current \$1 discount should be abolished.

The full Guild submission is online at [guild.org.au/pharmacy-review](http://guild.org.au/pharmacy-review).

## Young eschew cigs

**THERE** has been a reduction in the number of secondary students and adults who smoked regularly with a decline of almost a quarter for both groups, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

"Our report also shows a significant fall in the number of children and non-smokers who are exposed to tobacco smoke in the home," AIHW spokesperson Tim Beard said.

The report's indicators look at a range of smoking phases including initial uptake of tobacco smoking, quitting-and measure progress and more, since the 2015 baseline, with improvements in most elements.

However, despite improvements seen across all population groups, Indigenous smoking rates are not improving at the same rate as non-Indigenous Australians, Beard said.

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## Cancer drug cost/benefit query

A **PROMINENT** Melbourne oncologist has questioned the wisdom of PBS funding for recently developed cancer medications, which provide only limited benefits for patients.

Associate Professor Ian Haines from Monash University has written an editorial published in the latest edition of NPS MedicineWise's *Australian Prescriber*, saying while some of the new drugs appear to be major advances "in practice many of the earlier targeted cancer drugs have turned out to be disappointing.

"They are often only suitable for a limited number of patients, and are very expensive".

Haines said that while selected patients have shown an enduring benefit, data reveal that "some of the new cancer drugs are only

prolonging survival by an average of two months.

"Overseas experts have published assessments showing that many drugs do not extend or improve people's lives for very long".

Haines cited the example of dabrafenib plus trametinib for incurable melanoma, which costs the PBS over \$17,000 a month.

"For the benefits these drugs deliver the costs seem excessive.

"We need to maintain equitable access to expensive new cancer drugs in Australia," he said, as well as urging greater insistence on transparency of the data concerning the medications, which should no longer remain commercial-in-confidence.

"We will need public debate about such targeted funding, about reducing unnecessary health expenditure elsewhere, and about possibly increasing taxation," Associate Professor Haines said.

For the full editorial visit [nps.org.au/australianprescriber](http://nps.org.au/australianprescriber).

## FDA teething alert

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has issued a formal warning to consumers that homeopathic teething tablets and gels may pose a risk to infants and children.

The items are distributed by a range of US pharmacies including CVS and Hyland's - but are also believed to be widely available in pharmacies in Australia.

The FDA said it's currently testing product samples and analysing adverse events in relation to the products, including seizures in infants and children who were given the teething tablets.

"Consumers should seek medical care immediately if their child experiences seizures, difficulty breathing, lethargy, excessive sleepiness, muscle weakness, skin flushing, constipation, difficulty urinating, or agitation after using homeopathic teething tablets or gels," the FDA advised.

FDA spokesperson Janet Woolcock said teething can be managed without prescription or OTC remedies.

## Terry White review input

**TERRY** White Chemists, Chemmart and Chemplus pharmacies have called on the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation to support the current funding system and recognise the role pharmacists play beyond dispensing.

The TWG group, representing some 500 Australian community pharmacies, in their combined submission, argued that the cross-subsidy inherent in the dispensing fee supports the timely and targeted delivery of a broad range of services that would cost more under the fee-for-service model.

"Dispensing medicines and providing meaningful pharmacy services is not 'ordinary commerce', and the current system needs to be enhanced - not destroyed," said Anthony White, ceo of Terry White Group.

"It underpins patient-centric care provided by pharmacists to patients across Australia.

"It is the bedrock of a system that not only delivers great outcomes for patients but also great value to government.

"The role Australia's network of accredited community pharmacies plays in providing health care services should be recognised and the roadblocks to broadening their health care role should be removed," White said.

The submission includes 20 key

recommendations supported by case studies provided by pharmacists from across the group demonstrating how their level of patient care goes well beyond the dispensary every day.

Among the recommendations is that current services are maintained and that new fees are introduced for evidence-based professional services that will deliver greater choice and value.

Patients will benefit by current regulatory and legislative roadblocks to these additional services being removed, the submission argued.

Immunisation services were identified as an example, as well as the provision of some medications without a script, as long as appropriate pharmacy protocols were developed.

The TWG submission also called for the Pharmacy Board of Australia to be empowered to more actively monitor compliance with its Guidelines for Proprietary Pharmacists to help address concerns around pharmacies taking advantage of the cross-subsidy.

"With the weight of 500 Terry White Chemists, Chemmart and Chemplus pharmacies behind this submission, the Review will hear a compelling message from a united group," White said.

**CLICK HERE** to access the TWG submission.

## Win with Dermal Therapy

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy are giving away a prize pack worth \$50 RRP.

Dermal Therapy Fungistop is an affordable, brush-on, fast drying formula that effectively treats fungal infections such as, Onychomycosis, Tinea and Athlete's Foot. It provides relief from symptoms associated with minor fungal infections such as itching, cracking, burning and discomfort.

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

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## 01 Oct PBS update

**THE** Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was formally updated last Sat 01 Oct, with a full list of prices, formulary allocations, drugs subject to price disclosure and price reductions at [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).



## Guild Update

### Making better use of pharmacists' skills

**WITH** community pharmacists now able to administer adult flu vaccinations in every State and Territory, it makes sense to level the playing field by providing pharmacies with access to the National Immunisation Program and relevant MBS items.

Consideration should also be given to allowing pharmacies to order basic pathology tests and, where appropriate, undertake basic point-of-care tests, enhancing access and saving patients (and the Government) money.

As medicines are the primary driver of e-health and it is also critical that the supply of PBS and other medicines and the provision of pharmacy services are fully integrated into the MyHealth Record.

The motivation behind calling for these reforms is not about extending pharmacists' scope of practice or seeking additional funding from the Federal Government.

Rather, it about removing illogical roadblocks so that the accessibility of community pharmacy and the medicines expertise of pharmacists can be fully utilised to enhance patient outcomes and the cost-effectiveness of the health system.

## MPharm vax qualification

**THE** University of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy has announced that its Master of Pharmacy graduates will be the first intern pharmacists in Australia qualified to administer influenza vaccinations, as a result of an agreement between the University and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The Guild's Pharmacist Administration of Influenza Vaccination course in online and hands-on workshop formats will be included at the start of their provisional registration.

Dean of Pharmacy, Professor Iqbal Ramzan (**pictured**) said the Faculty was pleased to work with the Guild to provide students with the opportunity.

"Our graduates have a range of professional skills ensuring they are work ready for a variety of practice environments.

"The ability to administer the influenza vaccination is an exciting addition to their repertoire."

Legislation passed in NSW in 2015 permits registered pharmacists who have completed an approved course to provide influenza vaccinations to patients aged 18 and over.

In addition, intern pharmacists



who complete the vaccination training and are under the supervision of a registered pharmacist approved to vaccinate are also permitted to provide influenza vaccinations.

Pharmacy Guild acting president Mark Douglass said, "Pharmacists are already skilled at recording patient health and medication history, and counselling patients.

"The addition of influenza vaccination training increases their scope of practice.

"Pharmacist-administered influenza vaccinations offer patient convenience leading to improved vaccination rates and overall public health benefits."

Douglass said 266 pharmacists across NSW and the ACT had already completed the course.

## R&D tax incentives

**MEDICINES** Australia (MA) has said it welcomes the release of the report commissioned by the Australian Government into the R&D Tax Incentive Program.

The report has identified some "interesting and worthwhile ideas" to encourage more investment in Australian R&D, MA said

For more details **CLICK HERE**.

## Dispensary Corner

**AUTHORITIES** in New Zealand are bemused by a bizarre incident which saw several hundred precisely halved lemons wash ashore (**pictured** below).

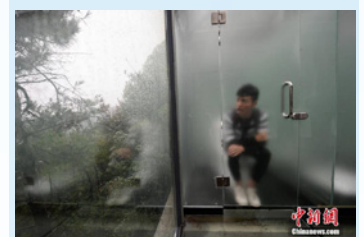
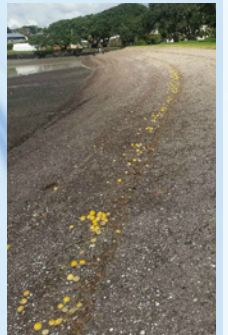
The aquatic citrus were discovered by a family during a picnic on Auckland's shoreline at Mangere Bridge Beach.

One of the witnesses said the fruit had been "professionally, perfectly knife-cut" before being dumped in the ocean, with the offensive debris really souring her day amid concern children might pick them up and try to eat them.

In the unlikely event that you haven't yet figured out what the connection to pharmacy is - well it's obviously a clear case of vitamin sea.

**EXHIBITIONISTS** visiting China will welcome the new public toilets at a tourist attraction which will definitely be classified as "a loo with a view".

The glass 'au naturel' facility launched at the Shiyuan Lake Resort, with rows of urinals and semi-transparent toilet stalls (**below**) all providing stunning views of the surrounding landscapes for those who feel the urge to really commune with nature while doing their business.



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