

Canada to legalise recreational cannabis

CANADA'S government has announced it will introduce legislation within two weeks to legalise recreational marijuana for anyone over 18, with expectations of having a regulated legal marijuana market up and running by next year's Canada Day which occurs on 01 Jul 2018.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told television network *CBC* the intention to keep marijuana out of the hands of the young.

"It's easier for a teenager to buy a joint right now than a bottle of beer, and it's not right," he said.

"We know that by controlling and regulating it, we are going to make it more difficult," he claimed.

Engerix-B shortage

GSK has announced it is currently experiencing an on-going supply constraint of Engerix-B (hepatitis B vaccine) for adults in Australia due to a precautionary halt in the manufacturing process.

The paediatric dose is unaffected and the combined Twinrix for hepatitis A and B also continues to be available - address queries to 1800 033 109.

MEANWHILE the company has announced a donation of asthma rescue medicines to pharmacies in Bowen and Airlie Beach.

The donation is being managed in partnership with Asthma Australia, Asthma Foundation Qld and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The distribution will be based on individual need assessed by a pharmacist, at no cost to those directly impacted by the cyclone.

The Queensland Government has also announced it will make tetanus booster shots available free of charge to those affected by or cleaning up after Cyclone Debbie.

AIR vaccination invitation

PHARMACIES across Australia are now being formally invited to apply to become vaccination providers, with the Federal Department of Human Services advising that pharmacies must apply in advance to get access to the new national Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The AIR is a register of vaccinations given to people of all ages in Australia, with the aim of providing a whole-of-life immunisation history.

Previously operating as the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, the AIR was expanded on 30 Sep last year to cover vaccinations given to people of all ages in Australia.

Approval is required by state and territory health departments, with successful applicants to receive a unique AIR registration number which is to be used

RB class action stands

DESPITE Reckitt Benkiser's attempted interlocutory application filed in the Federal Court on 10 Mar for a 'class closure' in the class action against it around the Nurofen Specific Pain Range products, the court has ruled that it is not in the interests of justice to make any form of order limiting the number of participants in the case.

RB's interlocutory application was dismissed with costs.

As at 16 Nov 2016, 578 group members had registered with the class action solicitors but RB's exposure may involve "thousands of consumers", the judge ruled.

The trial in the action is set to commence on 01 Aug 2017.

CLICK HERE for the full ruling.



when participating pharmacies send immunisation details to the AIR.

Each state has different arrangements with relation to

restrictions for pharmacies providing immunisation services and no financial incentive applies for non-doctor providers.

The AIR rego form is available at humanservices.gov.au, with pharmacies invited to complete it and send to their state or territory health department for approval.

The register is accessible through the department's Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) portal.

For more complete information call 1800 653 809.

Schizophrenia listing

INVEGA Trinza (three month paliperidone palmitate) is now available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) under specific conditions, as the first and only schizophrenia treatment to be administered four times a year as a long-acting atypical antipsychotic.

New MIPS director

INTERNATIONALLY renowned pharmaceutical sciences researcher Professor Chris Porter (pictured) has been appointed Director of the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS).

MIPS founding director Professor Bill Charman, is stepping down from this role to focus on his continuing position as



Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

MIPS said it has world-class expertise in G Protein-coupled receptor biology, medicinal chemistry, structural biology, lead candidate optimisation and drug delivery.

Porter's research group is one of the leading drug delivery groups worldwide, specialising in oral drug absorption, lymphatic transport and nanomedicine, in which areas he has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers and his work has been cited more than 10,000 times.

He is a current Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researcher.



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Dispensary Corner

IT SEEMS like robots are replacing human contact. A Chinese engineer may have taken it one step too far by 'marrying' one.

After Zheng Jiajiadid failed to find a spouse by the age of 31, he decided to take matters into his own hands by building his own, according to a report in the *South China Morning Post*.

Whilst the marriage might seem weird and even a bit creepy, scientists claim robot-human marriages will happen in the next 35 years thanks to the advancement of artificial intelligence.



INCREASING age is generally associated with cognitive decline and sadly sometimes dementia but one man from the US is defying the odds.

Donald Tensbrunsel, 89, is being dubbed a 'SuperAger' - one that has the cognitive brain of a 25-year-old.

Scientists from Northwestern Medicine conducted an 18-month study into the brain volume of normal agers against the SuperAgers using MRI to measure the thickness of the cortex in 24 SuperAgers and 12 same-age normal people.

Results found the SuperAgers' brains shrunk much slower than their age-matched peers, having a greater resistance to 'typical' memory loss.

81m scripts under co-pay

THE Health Department has released the latest data on the collection of Under Co-payment Data, accounting for about 81 million prescriptions dispensed during 2015-16.

The PBS/RPBS statistics are collected from community pharmacies as well as public and private hospitals, and record scripts under the general co-payment of \$38.30 or the concessional co-payment of \$6.20.

The figure has been increasing

every year since data collection commenced in 2012, but 2015-16 showed a smaller increase than in previous years.

Under co-payment script numbers have risen more than 25% since 2012-13 when they amounted to 62 million, increasing to 72 million in 2013-14, then 79 million in 2014-15 and 81 million in 2015-16.

"The availability of this additional data is providing the Department of Health and other researchers with enhanced coverage of medicines that are approved and dispensed under the PBS/RPBS," the department said.

It's improving the accuracy of information available to the PBC and others to support decision making and policy formation - see pbs.gov.au for the latest data set.

Charges exemption

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has summarised its Annual charge exemption (ACE) highlighting that all new entries on the ARTG automatically qualify so that sponsors will not be invoiced for an annual charge until their product generates turnover.

Sponsors however must declare their nil turnover between 1 July and 22 July each year to qualify, the default assumption being that the product has generated \$ turnover.

Payments are required by 15 Sep each year - see tga.gov.au.

Uniden monitors

TECHNOLOGY brand Uniden has launched its range of baby monitors into Australian pharmacies, identifying the sector as a "natural fit" for the company.

The products are sold under the Baby Watch brand - for more information call 1300 366 895.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away their NEW Escape Collection Cosmetic Bag Trios.



Stay organised, and accessories in style with Designer Brands 3 Piece Cosmetic Bag Trio. Perfect for storing all your beauty needs, these 3 compact beauty purses are the ideal size to pop in your handbag for on the go necessities. Available in 2 great shades, Onyx and Crimson, these bags are also perfect for gifting! TIP: Use the handy clear purse to grab what you need quickly. **CLICK HERE** to see more.

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

How many bags in the Escape Collection are made of clear material?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Svetlana Mellon from Capital Chemist Palmwoods.

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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Regent Seven Seas Cruises 2018-19

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has announced its 2018-2019 Voyage Collection as a celebration of travel, featuring fascinating, often remote, ports of call across more than 100 itineraries.

The 136 journeys focus on iconic landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, but also allow for immersion into the local culture.

The Mediterranean, Europe, UK, US, Canada and more all beckon with prices starting at AU\$6,800 pp with 10% reduced deposit and a host of inclusions.

Talk to your travel agent or visit rsc.com for details and options.

P&O PNG special deal

CRUISE holiday specialist ecruising.travel has released exclusive rates on P&O Cruises' recently refurbished *Pacific Eden*, taking passengers to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

15-night packages departing Cairns on 24 Oct start at just \$1,859 per person twin share including flights from Sydney and Brisbane - 1300 369 848.

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