

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, our regular health & beauty feature plus a full page from Pharmacy Solutions.

Sigma blasts PPA

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals says it is very disappointed with the "unprofessional and inappropriate action" taken by union group Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), which last weekend targeted several Amcal pharmacies in a protest over cuts to penalty rates.

The action aimed to raise awareness of how cuts to rates will impact employee pharmacists, with Sigma accusing PPA of distribution of false and misleading material - as well as targeting some pharmacies that already pay above award rates.

"We are currently investigating all appropriate courses of action, including legal avenues, on behalf of Sigma and our members," said the company's corporate affairs manager, Gary Woodford.

"The campaign by the PPA was not based on facts, and was intimidating for customers and the very people they purport to represent," he said.

PPA is currently calling on the public to pledge not to shop at Amcal pharmacies "until they rule out cutting penalty rates for all pharmacy employees" - see professionalpharmacists.com.au.

Some pharmacy groups including Chemist Warehouse/My Chemist have agreed not to cut penalty rates for existing staff.

Victoria monitoring laws

THE Victorian government will implement the state's own real-time prescription monitoring system in 2018 rather than the planned national Electronic Reporting and Recording of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system, with legislation for the project introduced into Victoria's parliament yesterday.

Vic Health Minister Jill Hennessy said "specific fit-for-purpose software will be built for Victorian clinicians," due to limitations of the existing Commonwealth software.

Under the proposed Vic Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Real-time Prescription Monitoring) Bill 2017, it will be mandatory for pharmacists to check the system before dispensing a prescription for a high-risk medicine.

It will monitor all Schedule 8 medicines and other high-risk drugs, including all benzodiazepines, and will streamline existing S8 permit requirements to reduce duplication and red tape.

At this stage codeine will not be included in the system, but may be added after it becomes prescription only in Feb 2018.

Hennessy said because Victoria would be the first state to roll out a prescription monitoring system of this scale and ensure it was embedded in clinical practice, appropriate transitional arrangements would be in place before it became mandatory.

The Bill strikes the right balance between maximising the safety and wellbeing of all Victorians

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and minimising any additional impact that the system may have on prescribers and pharmacists, according to the announcement.

"Our legislation will allow Victoria to implement the most comprehensive real-time prescription monitoring system in Australia. We know it will save lives," Hennessy said.

Victorian Pharmacy Guild branch president Anthony Tassone welcomed the legislation, saying "the Guild is committed to working closely with the government to deliver a robust solution that delivers training for doctors and pharmacists, drug addiction counselling and support for patients - and a broader capture of substances identified".

Statins post-stroke

DISCONTINUING statins shortly after a stroke may increase the risk of stroke recurrence, according to a new study from Taiwanese and US researchers, published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Drawing on data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database, patients were randomised into three groups giving power to enable the confident conclusion.

Discontinuation of statin therapy between 3 and 6 months after an index ischemic stroke was associated with a higher risk of recurrent stroke within 1 year after statin discontinuation.

Rare cancer report

RARE Cancers Australia has today launched a new report developed by PwC which urges the government, industry and research community to unite to improve access and outcomes for Australian patients suffering rare cancers.

Dubbed *Rare Solutions: A Time to Act* the report tables solutions including clinical trial reform to support TGA registrations and PBS listings from the outset.

It also urges "provisional PBS listings" which would mitigate delays in access to treatment due to requirements for real-world evidence.

More info at rarecancers.org.au.

Health travel service

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel has announced the introduction of a new Health Care Professional Service Desk to cater for industry staff requiring specialised travel and booking support.

"Pharmaceutical companies are often responsible for organising travel for health care professionals," the company said, with the new offering having been developed to cater for the "unique travel requirements" of travellers who need to be informed about drugs, products and services at international conferences & forums.

The Service Desk offers a dedicated travel consultant for each company and the ability to serve health care professional travellers directly rather than via pharmaceutical company reps.



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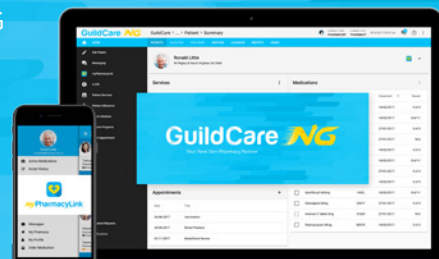
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Pharmacy House taking shape



WORK is proceeding apace on the new headquarters of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in Canberra, with the ground floor of the new Pharmacy House starting to take shape (**above**).

The new purpose-built premises

will “empower PSA to pursue its vision of improving the health of Australians through excellence in pharmacist care, with the Society thanking the PSA members and sponsors who have already contributed to the building fund.

The building will incorporate a special area that members can use while in Canberra including a lounge space, beverage making facilities, a library and other resources to make it a working area for pharmacists who need to catch up on business or relax between meetings.

NZ antihistamine consultation

NEW Zealand’s Medsafe medicines regulator has launched a consultation into proposed labelling changes for over-the-counter sedating antihistamines.

The revision would see the addition of a statement “Do not use in children under 2 years old” and also remove ‘insomnia’ as a condition treated by the class of medicines.

NZ’s Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee also recommended the reclassification of sedating antihistamines to prescription medicines when used in children under six years of age for nausea and vomiting, but this move was not implemented by the Medicines Classification Committee.

The consultation closes on 29 Sep 2017 - see medsafe.govt.nz.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away each day three of their DB Quad Mineral Eye Shadow kits.

These eye shadow quads are perfect for creating smokey, multi-faceted looks.

Each palette includes intense mineral pigments and a super-blendable formula in four complementary shades. 100% certified cruelty free and Vegan. **CLICK HERE** to find out more.

To win, be the first person from WA to send the correct answer to the question to

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Which vitamin are the Designer Brands Quad Mineral Eye Shadows enriched with?

Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, Artee Anand from Icon Cancer Care South Brisbane.

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Watch the Flo Nasal Relief ad

Aromababy China win

AUSTRALIAN luxury organic brand Aromababy Natural Skincare has won an award for “Best Brand Experience” in China’s Beauty Product Awards, as well as “Most Popular Natural Product Brand” in the China International Beauty Awards.

Aromababy founder Catherine Cervasio said the wins followed a “huge amount of effort into offering education and presenting workshops in Hong Kong, Singapore and China over the last decade”.

Domestic growth is also on the agenda, with the company in talks with several retail groups to complement an existing distribution deal with National Pharmacies.

ACP exam regos

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has announced that registrations for the upcoming Intern Written Examination and Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacists (CAOP) will open on 22 Aug 2017.

The Intern examination is scheduled for 01 Oct 2017 at venues in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

Vepesid now available

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that the medicine shortage of Vepesid etoposide capsules and Etopophos (etoposide phosphate) powder for injection vials has been resolved, with all products that had been affected now available again.

LOL at Pharmacy Connect

THE upcoming Pharmacy Connect Conference gala dinner will feature comedian James Smith as the headline act.

Smith is a former lawyer and is the only Australian comedian to perform regularly at New York City’s Comedy Cellar - and also worked with US star Chris Rock on his *Total Blackout* tour of Australia.

The dinner will also include the presentation of the winner of the National Student Business Plan Competition - for more info see pharmacyconnect.com.au.

Pregnancy update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated the Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy database, with the addition of entries for atezolizumab in pregnancy category D, and ocrelizumab in category C.

See tga.gov.au.

Bowel screen rollout

NEW Zealand Health Minister Jonathan Coleman has confirmed the commencement of a new national bowel screening program, which is being implemented across NZ over the next three years.

Once the scheme is fully rolled out more than 700,000 Kiwis aged between 60 and 74 will be invited for free screening every two years.

Coleman said the tests are expected to save lives, with over 3,000 New Zealanders currently diagnosed with bowel cancer every year, and more than 1,200 deaths.



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Dispensary Corner

A MILLION dollar clinical trial of a new \$9,000 dementia therapy robot has found it performed only slightly better than a soft toy, according to *Australian Doctor*.

The NHMRC-funded research compared Paro, a robotic seal (pictured), with a stuffed toy as a way of helping soothe agitated nursing home patients.

The Japanese "baby harp seal" can open and close its eyes and responds to touch by moving its tail and flippers.

According to the report, residents who handled Paro were more engaged, but also showed anger when other residents tried to handle their "pet".

The Griffith University scientists said the findings raised questions about the cost-effectiveness of the robotic device, saying that "where there are limited resources a soft toy animal maybe used effectively with a person with dementia".



AND while we're on the subject of pet therapy, US audio book producer Audible has launched a service encouraging animals to listen to classic literature.

Dubbed 'Audible for Dogs,' the offering is claimed to keep your canine calm and happy when you leave for work.

It's backed by famous 'dog whisperer' Cesar Millan who cited 2015 UK research that showed listening to audio books rather than music reduced stress in dogs.

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

African Mango by Swisse

Swisse-branded **African Mango** healthy plan is a supplement containing African mango to improve oxygen flow and lift mood. One capsule has the equivalent of 500mg of dry African mango seeds. Do not exceed recommended daily serve. Active ingredients include African mango seed extract (24.5%), calcium phosphate, hypromellose, purified water, silicon dioxide and magnesium stearate.



Stockist: 1800 794 773
RRP: \$24.99
Website: www.swisse.com

Saya Skincare Cleansing Lotion

Saya Skincare Cleansing Lotion is a certified organic cleanser infused with enzymes to effectively remove impurities and makeup from the face, leaving the skin thoroughly cleansed and refined. The formula contains Australian organic botanicals to promote skin hydration; papaya, which is rich in enzyme papain, to gently exfoliate and remove dead skin cells and improve the tone and texture of dull-looking skin; passionflower to soothe and calm skin irritation; as well as aloe vera, which is rich in polysaccharides to retain skin moisture and soothe the skin. This product is suitable for normal, dehydrated, dry and mature skin types.



Stockist: 07 5473 0257
RRP: \$33.95
Website: www.sayaskin.com

Revlon Gold Series Lash Curler

Revlon Gold Series Lash Curler is a spectacular eyelash curler with a stunning gold design to ensure perfect results every time. The curler sports its own special curved shape to concentrate the curl in the centre of lashes for a more eye-opening look. For a powerful look-at-me impact, the Gold Series Lash Curler from Revlon brings a lot to the table. It includes gentle, easy-to-use, removable pads that can be replaced. This curler is coated for style, strength and durability.



Stockist: 1800 651 146
RRP: \$9.95
Website: www.revlonanz.com

Rexona for Men Adventure Aerosol

Another Fathers' Day prompt: **Rexona for Men Adventure Aerosol** is a man-purposed anti-perspirant aerosol deodorant that provides 48-hour protection against the most challenging wetness and well-earned man-odour. The formula is designed to respond to increases in adrenaline, releasing extra bursts of fragrance under the duress of extreme sweating. Any dad will welcome the confidence **Rexona for Men Adventure Aerosol** brings. Presented in masculine colours and styling as well as being very affordable, this product has universal appeal.



Stockist: 1800 888 449
RRP: \$6.89
Website: www.rexona.com/au



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Toowoomba Pharmacy for Sale	5740
Northside Medical Centre Pharmacy for Sale	5737
North Brisbane Pharmacy for Sale	5734
North-West Brisbane Shopping Centre Pharmacy for Sale	5731
Southern Brisbane Pharmacy for Sale	5717
Darling Downs Pharmacy for Sale	5705
Western Suburbs Shopping Centre Pharmacy for Sale	5702
North QLD Rural Pharmacy for Sale	5687
Two Sunshine Coast Pharmacies for Sale	5678 & 5681
Southern Downs Pharmacy for Sale	5579

NEW SOUTH WALES

Southern NSW Coast Pharmacy for Sale	2381
Northern Sydney Pharmacy for Sale	2375
Northern NSW Pharmacy for Sale	2372
NSW Hunter Valley Region Pharmacy for Sale	2369
Blue Mountains Pharmacy for Sale	2366

VICTORIA

Melbourne Northern Suburbs Pharmacy for Sale	3662
Melbourne Bayside Pharmacy for Sale	3659
South East Melbourne Shopping Centre Pharmacy for Sale	3653
South East Melbourne Medical Centre Pharmacy for Sale	3650
Southern Melbourne Metro Pharmacy for Sale	3638
North West Melbourne Pharmacy for Sale	3635
Country Victoria Greenfield Opportunity	3632

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Rural Pharmacy for Sale	5693
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

North Adelaide Medical Centre Pharmacy for Sale	7000
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TASMANIA

East Hobart Pharmacy for Sale	6021
Northern Metro Hobart Pharmacy for Sale	6018

PERSONALISED SERVICE



Peter Marshall
0417 721 203
peterm@pharmacysolutions.com.au



John Neilson
0414 719 212
john@pharmacysolutions.com.au



Bob Rose
0438 013 729
bob@pharmacysolutions.com.au



Riki Tukukino
0499 993 177
rikkit@pharmacysolutions.com.au



Greg Gibson
0437 951 796
greg@pharmacysolutions.com.au



Reg Bright
0409 270 081
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