



## Hunt to open PSA17

**FEDERAL** Health Minister Greg Hunt will officially open the flagship conference PSA17 hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA).



PSA National President-elect Dr Shane Jackson said he was delighted that Minister Hunt

would deliver the keynote address on Fri 28 Jul.

"PSA looks forward to an update from the Health Minister on healthcare policies impacting pharmacists and pharmacies in Australia," he said.

Jackson said with such a unique and engaging program, PSA17 was a must-attend event for all pharmacists in Australia.

## Caffeine weight loss

**CAFFEINE** could be helping obese mice lose weight by keeping their appetites at bay and upping the amount of energy they use, according to an international study.

Chinese researchers found that obese mice had unusual activity in the part of the brain that regulates energy balance, but caffeine, which interacts with that part of the brain, led the mice to eat less, lose weight, and use more energy.

The mice were given the human equivalent of around 30 cups of coffee, so caffeine probably shouldn't be the next weight loss fad, warn the scientists.

Visit [nature.com](http://nature.com) for the study.

## Morning after pill to go OTC

**EMERGENCY** contraception pill ulipristal acetate (EllaOne 30mg by MS Health) was included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) on 06 Mar 15, but is now slated for an over the counter (OTC) schedule 3 listing effective 01 Feb 18, as a one of the final decisions by the Health Department delegate in line with recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS #20).

Ulipristal inhibits or delays ovulation by stopping the surge in luteinising hormone prior to ovulation.

The amended listing supports the sponsor's submission for the drug to be scheduled "for emergency post-coital contraception" as an Appendix H New Entry meaning it can be advertised to consumers.

The ACMS determined that S3 scheduling and allowing advertising together with the drug's "low toxicity and low potential for abuse" would benefit public health "since increased community knowledge may improve access to this product, which will likely reduce the incidence of unplanned pregnancies".

Pharmacist counselling and supply was also cited as reducing the risk of misuse and ulipristal is also "not an abortifacient, therefore risk of 'abuse' is minimal".

The delayed start date will "give some lead time for pharmacists to gain experience with the relatively new Schedule 3 listing," the TGA announcement said.

Ibuprofen is also now approved

by the ACMS for marketing from 01 Oct 17 in a modified release dosage form containing 600 mg per dosage unit in packs of 32 or less dosage units when labelled with a recommended daily dose of 1200 mg or less and not for the treatment of children under 12 years of age.

The new extended release form will be schedule 3 which the committee saw as comparable with the scheduling status of naproxen 600 mg modified release, diclofenac 25 mg immediate release and paracetamol 665 mg sustained release.

Advertising of this schedule 3 product is also permitted, with an Appendix H entry on the basis that "there is a public health interest to inform consumers about pain relief options through advertising".

In addition this listing "will give consumers access to a product for pain relief that is longer-lasting than currently available products" and "the potential for abuse and toxicity are low and in line with existing ibuprofen products".

Pharmacist intervention will also help consumers manage any risks, the TGA noted.

## PSA not 'regulatory'

**RESPONDING** to criticism from university and CSIRO supported website publisher *The Conversation*, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has fought back defending its stance relating to pharmacists selling homeopathy remedies (**PD** yesterday) saying it is "not a regulatory body".

PSA ceo Lance Emerson responded to the claim that the PSA has not been "strong enough on homeopathic products" with an implication that membership could be affected because "some of its members would sell these".

"All of PSA's position statements are based on evidence and the best interests of consumers," Emerson said, pointing out that "in practical terms the *Conversation* suggestion would force PSA to publish a list of everything pharmacy owners should and shouldn't stock."

"PSA can't enforce this as we are not a regulatory body," Emerson explained.

"PSA's policy clearly states pharmacists must use their professional judgement to prevent the supply of products with no reliable evidence or evidence with no effect," he added.



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## FDA plan to eliminate orphan backlog

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has unveiled a new plan to address a significant backlog of requests for orphan designation of new medicines.

The Orphan Drug Modernisation Program follows a commitment by FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb to slash the queue within 90 days.

The program provides orphan status to drugs and biologics for the treatment of diseases that affect less than 200,000 people in the US.

Currently there are 200 requests pending review, and the FDA will now deploy a "Backlog SWAT team" of experienced reviewers who will exclusively focus on the backlogged applications.

## NPSA ticks CSO variation

**THE** National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) representing full-line pharmaceutical wholesalers, has welcomed changes to the Community Service Obligation (CSO) Deed announced yesterday (**PD** breaking news) and says it is looking forward to working closely with government over the coming months to further secure the long-term stability of the sector.

CSO wholesalers will each receive a proportion of a total \$15 million

in additional funds to offset the impact of a funding agreement between the government and Medicines Australia that was

announced as part of this year's Federal Budget.

Sigma Healthcare said in its ASX announcement that it would receive \$5.2 million of the funding, calculated based on its CSO market share over the past two years.

"The amendment to the CSO Deed reflects the Federal Government's budget commitment to provide compensation to CSO wholesalers to offset the impact of the funding arrangement agreed by the government with Medicines Australia," the company said.

Sigma said from an earnings perspective it would recognise the additional monies between now and June 2020 in line with the corresponding impact from the Medicines Australia agreement.

EBOS offshoot Symbion and Australian Pharmaceutical Industries will also share in the additional revenue, but have not announced details at this stage.



## CW sponsors man-hug

**MEDIA** personality Gus Worland and superstar Hugh Jackman have teamed up to form the 'Gotcha4Life Project', with Chemist Warehouse joining the crusade as founding corporate sponsor, officially launching the charity during Men's Health Week earlier this month.

Gotcha4Life will also see the creation of a program to sponsor Lifeline counsellors, and will provide seed funding to worthy mental health oriented start-ups.

Other projects include 'Tomorrow's Man', a program which will be taken into schools to dispel unrealistic expectations of what it means to be a man in today's world, as well as commemorating with a National Man Hug Day next year, on 16 Mar 2018.

Chemist Warehouse chief operating officer Mario Tascone said he agreed that there was no better time to start the conversation around men's mental health.

The opportunity exists to win a trip for two to New York, a breakfast with Hugh Jackman and two tickets to a show - entries cost a \$10 donation and the competition closes 07 Jul.

Visit [gotcha4life.org](http://gotcha4life.org) for details.



## Win with dreambaby

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day a Multi-Stage Potty Seat, 2-Up Step Stool and Watch-Your-Step® Anti-Slip Bath Mat.

Dreambaby®'s Multi-Stage Potty Seat makes toilet training easier for both parents and children. It can be used as a free-standing potty or to fit with your existing toilet. The Dreambaby® 2-Up Step Stool, is a great help with toilet training, brushing teeth or simply looking in the mirror! The Dreambaby® Watch-Your-Step® Anti-Slip Bath Mat has a "Too Hot" Indicator and, with its textured surface, is designed to place on the floor of your bath to ensure a safe and secure bathtub environment.

For more detailed information visit [www.dreambaby.com.au](http://www.dreambaby.com.au)

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Where can you get more information about Dreambaby®'s bathroom safety products?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rebecca Larcombe from SA Health.



## myDNA diet test

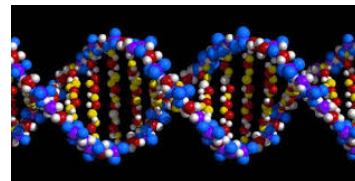
**MELBOURNE-BASED** genetics and consumer health company myDNA has launched a new diet DNA test.

Company founder and medical director Associate Professor Leslie Sheffield said that the new diet report consisted of four carefully evaluated DNA tests.

"myDNA brings its team of genetic scientists, dieticians and genetic counsellors to the international body of research on DNA," he said.

"We evaluate the evidence and only propose tests which we feel have evidence justifying their use."

Sheffield said the new myDNA Personalised Diet Report relied on four genes to uncover personalised insights into appetite, storage of fat, and how the body is programmed to regulate fat storage and breakdown.



Customers who use the test can also speak directly to an expert, a "free and market differentiating service" available from myDNA to ensure people can ask questions and understand their results.

Sheffield said the company's medication reports, available since 2016, must be delivered during a consultation with a healthcare professional, such as a pharmacist to ensure appropriate prescribing considerations were made.

Healthcare professionals can access more on 1300 436 373.

## NSW robberies

**TWO** armed pharmacy robberies in Sydney's Bankstown region are being investigated by police.

According to mainstream media reports the Yagoona Station Pharmacy was targeted on Tue afternoon, with another screwdriver attack at a Bankstown pharmacy the following afternoon.



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**Jobs of the Week**

- **PIC** - Newcastle Hunter Valley NSW (Job# 200014195)  
Be an integral part of this exciting pharmacy team.
- **Pharmacist** - Greast S/E - West of Melbourne (Job# 200011076)  
Beachside location and a flexible roster on offer to suit you and your lifestyle.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - WA Coast - 4 hrs to Perth (Job# 200014262)  
Family business - boutique pharmacy - accommodation with ocean view

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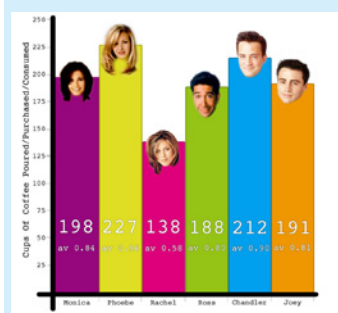


## Dispensary Corner

**SOME** people really love their TV shows - but a fan of the long-running series *Friends* has taken it to the next level.

After carefully analysing all 10 seasons of the show, Kit Lovelace released a series of graphs this week (**below**) detailing the coffee consumption of each character.

Phoebe drank the most at 227 cups, compared to Rachel who only consumed 138, while the total combined coffee bill for the series amounted to \$2,077.20.



**A FLORIDA** man is celebrating after being released from prison, where he was incarcerated for three months over a suspicious white powder in his car.

Karlos Cashe - who happens to be a home handyman - was pulled over by police for a routine traffic stop when the officer noticed the powder.

Despite Cashe's protestations that it was plasterboard dust, the policeman called for backup and a sniffer dog reacted to the vehicle, so he was arrested.

Lab tests were completed 90 days later confirming the powder was indeed drywall residue and had shown a negative result for any form of drug.

Cashe said he will now seek compensation for the false arrest.

## CHF slams Guild 'privilege'

**THE** Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) has published a scathing critique of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia as having a "favoured place in Australia", "shrouded in secrecy" and "delivering pharmacy owners political clout that reaches well beyond their customers".

"The pharmacies' status has helped ensure and protect substantial government payments to dispense the subsidised medicines available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme", the CHF said.

The nation's 5,500 pharmacies were protected by "local monopoly status", otherwise known as "location rules", and would receive more than \$18.9b from the taxpayer over the five years of the current community pharmacy agreement (6CPA), CHF claimed.

The article cites the performance audit conducted three years ago by the Australian National Audit Office which, with some unsatisfactory outcomes, resulted in the wider government-initiated probe, namely the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation chaired by economist Professor Stephen King (**PD** 22 Jun), but vehemently opposed by the Guild.

The CHF particularly blasted the Guild for recommending that pharmacy owners "be wary" about participating in the financial survey commissioned by the Review which said it was concerned that despite the sector receiving significant government funding there is a "general reluctance to provide... the information required to ensure accountability and transparency".

Also under fire was the Guild's opposition to location rule changes, with the CHF noting the interim report's wide-ranging recommendations on the issue

including opening up the sector to in-supermarket pharmacies.

However due to the recent Compact agreed to by the Guild and health minister Greg Hunt these options will not proceed.

"Once again, the Guild's prescription has won the day," the CHF concluded.

## GSK raises awareness

**WHILE** 93% of Australian parents believe that they know what meningococcal disease is, about 28% are not fully aware of the facts about the disease, according to marketing research conducted by Ipsos on behalf of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

In response to the research, a national awareness campaign #KnowMeningococcal is launching in partnership with Kyly Clarke, mother of Kelsey Lee and wife of Aussie Cricket legend Michael Clarke, to encourage parents to know more about the devastating



and potentially life-threatening bacterial infection. Further,

while 97% of parents believe vaccination is important, almost half (46%) did not know that routine childhood vaccination did not cover all strains of meningococcal disease.

"Most parents only know of one type and don't realise that the rest of the strains aren't covered by their routine vaccinations," said vaccination expert and Head of the Clinical Research Team at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Professor Robert Booy.

Visit [myvaccination.com.au](http://myvaccination.com.au).

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**28-30 Jul:** PSA17; Hyatt Regency, Darling Harbour, Sydney; for details see: [www.psa17.com](http://www.psa17.com)

**5-9 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2017; Mt. Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: [www.medicic.com.au](http://www.medicic.com.au)

**6-12 Aug:** Pharmeducation Pharmacotherapy Update; Cable Beach Club Resort, Broome; details here: [www.pharmeducationbroome.com](http://www.pharmeducationbroome.com)

**1-3 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register here: [www.pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://www.pharmacy-connect.com.au)

**10-14 Sep:** 77th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences 2017; Seoul, Republic of Korea; register here: [www.fip.org](http://www.fip.org)

**24-28 Sep:** 2017 Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Palazzo Versace, Gold Coast; register here: [www.pharmacyalliance.com.au](http://www.pharmacyalliance.com.au)

**17-19 Oct:** World Self Medication Industry General Assembly 2017; ICC Sydney; registrations opening soon: [www.wsmiga2017.com](http://www.wsmiga2017.com)

**26 Oct:** CMA Annual Conference and Industry Awards; Sydney; details here: [www.cmaustralia.org.au](http://www.cmaustralia.org.au)