

Book for Spring Spotlight feature

TODAY is the last opportunity for suppliers to book space in next week's Spring Spotlight feature in *Pharmacy Daily*.

The supplement will allow participants to showcase relevant products with an image, description and call to action - to book contact Melanie on 1300 799 220 or email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Guild gives the vital facts

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has published a new information sheet, summarising "vital facts on community pharmacy" collated from a range of official sources.

The simple summary highlights that "Australia's system of community pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme are recognised as world-leading".

Key figures include the total number of community pharmacies in Australia as at 14 Aug 2018 (5,665), and the fact that on average every person visits a community pharmacy 18 times each year in metropolitan, rural and remote locations.

There are more than 440 million individual patient visits each year; 94% of pharmacies nationwide have achieved quality accreditation and 99% of dispensed PBS scripts are now claimed electronically.

Last year pharmacists in Australia recorded over 4 million clinical interventions, while the Guild estimates the government will save \$20 billion through PBS Reforms during the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Other figures included cover dose administration aids, pharmacy employment and vaccine administration - see guild.org.au.

Thunderstorm asthma workshops

NATIONAL Asthma Council Australia has announced six free educational workshops on "thunderstorm asthma" for health professionals across Melbourne.

The events are being supported by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services, with the aim of helping pharmacists to upskill and prepare their practices before the upcoming spring season.

"Given that Asian and Indian migrants were disproportionately affected by Melbourne's unprecedented 2016 epidemic thunderstorm asthma event, the workshops are being held in areas where there is a high concentration of affected groups," the Council said, with people of Indian, Sri Lankan or south-east Asian ethnicity making up 39% of hospital admissions related to the event.

The workshops will cover the phenomena of thunderstorm asthma, who is at greater risk, how to apply current evidence-based best practice of asthma and allergic rhinitis, the importance of written asthma plans, and emergency asthma management and first aid.

They will take place from 6.30pm to 9pm on the following dates:

- Thu 06 Sep - St Albans
- Tue 11 Sep - Cranbourne
- Wed 12 Sep - Mulgrave
- Thu 13 Sep - Werribee
- Tue 18 Sep - Dandenong
- Thu 20 Sep - Nunawading

Multilingual resources will also be delivered at each workshop - see nationalasthma.org.au.

SA PATY finalist announced

LAURA Mckinlay from Crossroads Pharmacy in Port August has been named as the South Australian state finalist in the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Awards.

Mckinlay was chosen from among 19 other finalists at a workshop where each participant demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge, as well as skills in customer service and leadership.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Training Manager, Deborah Scholz, said "the calibre of candidates this year is extremely high...it was a hard task to pick just one winner, but Laura really shone".

Also at the workshop, Megan Hulbert from United Chemist Marion Domain received the Glucogel Super Star Award for outstanding customer service skills in community pharmacy.

Maxigesic is a major sponsor of



the awards alongside GuildSuper and Glucogel, with the national winner to be announced at the 2018 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on the Gold Coast in late Oct.

The overall winner will take home more than \$10,000 in cash, prizes and awards - more information at pharmacyassistants.com.

Allergy funding

THE government has announced over \$500,000 in extra funding for projects to improve the lives of Australians with allergies.

The move was announced yesterday during a National Allergy Strategy Steering Committee event at Parliament House in Canberra, giving an update on progress in allergy management in Australia.

Projects include development of standardised food allergy content for inclusion in all accredited food hygiene courses, and the development of online resources for teens and young adults.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Mid north coast, NSW (Job# 200015715)
Would suit a new reg; flexible roster; large beachside town.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Melbourne inner suburbs (Job# 200030803)
\$35-\$60/hr; supported role as Pharmacist in Charge.
- **Rotational Pharmacist** - South Coast, QLD (Job# 200030796)
Diversity, location, accom assistance and good \$\$\$s

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Dispensary Corner

NOW this is what we call a really super food.

A US man has set a new world record for rockmelon, with agricultural officials in North Carolina confirming his gigantic fruit weighed in at 65.9 pounds - or just under 30kg.

The massive melon was grown by Danny Vester, who has a good track record for gigantic produce, having previously grown a pumpkin which was certified as the state's biggest ever, weighing in at about 700kg.

Vester said he was going to submit details of the giant rockmelon to Guinness World Records, which has the current record set at 64.8 pounds by an Alaskan grower in 2004.



SCIENCE has made another stunning breakthrough this week, with researchers from the University of Portsmouth in the UK formally confirming that the combination of Red Bull and vodka can cause fights.

The study, published in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, examined the effect of taurine and alcohol on the behaviour of 192 zebrafish, concluding that having both compounds in their system significantly increased the "risk of fighting, violence and participation in risky behaviours".

NZ restricts codeine for kids

NEW Zealand's Medsafe regulator and the Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee have issued an alert about new restrictions on the use of codeine in children and young adults.

The update follows a review of the safety of codeine, with officials concluding that "the risk of harm is unacceptable in children".

All medicines that contain codeine are impacted by the decision, because "codeine can cause serious breathing problems in children that could result in death".

NZ health professionals have therefore been told not to use any medicines containing codeine in children aged less than 12 years.

In addition, cough medicines containing codeine may not be used in adolescents aged less than 18 years, and any medicines containing codeine may also not be used in those aged 18 and under to control pain after surgery to remove tonsils or adenoids or in

those who have breathing issues such as asthma or sleep apnoea.

"Anyone taking codeine should get urgent medical help if they experience nausea, vomiting, extreme sleepiness, drowsiness, confusion, shallow breathing, or if they are difficult to wake," the Medsafe alert communication says.

Codeine should also not be used in women who are breastfeeding.

The regulator confirmed it was working with sponsors of codeine-containing products in New Zealand to update data sheets and package labelling to include the revised age restrictions.

Contenance forum

A FREE forum for people interested in or affected by bladder and bowel issues will be hosted by the Contenance Foundation of Australia at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart on Tue 23 Oct - to register **CLICK HERE**.

Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win the new Dreambaby® Aqua Range designed to help with toilet training valued at \$54.95.

Prize comprises The EZY-POTTY which comes with an ergonomic contoured backrest for added comfort and support, is easy-to clean, non-slip and lightweight and designed to make the first stage of potty-training a cinch. Also included in the prize is the EZY-TOILET TRAINER SEAT which cleverly fits snugly onto your regular toilet seat to make it smaller and reassuring for little ones and lastly, the DREAMBABY® 2-UP STEP STOOL which provides height challenged help with toilet training, brushing teeth or simply looking in the mirror! www.dreambaby.com.au or call 02 9386 4000.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Does the Dreambaby®Ezy-Toilet Trainer Seat make your regular toilet seat smaller or bigger?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Liza Ferrari from HealthOne.



MHR Senate probe

THE Senate Community Affairs committee has called for public submissions to a new inquiry into the My Health Record system.

The probe was referred by Labor and Greens senators, to review "all the laws, regulations and rules that underpin the My Health Record, including third party access data, and the decision to switch from opt-in to opt-out.

The committee is due to report by 08 Oct



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.

7 - 8 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register at: pharmacy-connect.com.au

19 Sep: Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) 2018 Annual Conference and Industry Awards; Dockside Darling Harbour; for details see: www.cmaustralia.org.au

16 - 19 Oct: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; register now: pamembersforum.com.au

25 - 27 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: pharmacyassistants.com

22 - 25 Nov: SHPA Medicines Management 2018; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; early bird regos close 21 Sep 2018; details on: www.mm2018shpa.com