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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today includes full pages from:

- Pharmacy 4 Less
- Sigma

APP opens today

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt will open the APP conference on the Gold Coast this morning, before announcing the winners of the Pharmacy of the Year.

Pharmacy Daily is on location and will bring you the news as it happens from the event - and delegates can also win a Google Home device by visiting us in the Pamper lounge - see the **front page**.

Guild corporate concern

PHARMACY Guild executive director David Quilty has cited the huge controversy around the Banking Royal Commission in recent days to sound a warning about the "corporatisation" of the Australian pharmacy sector.

Writing in *Forefront* yesterday he said there is a clear loss of faith in the banking system, which has shown that "it only takes a few bad eggs to undermine the public trust in an entire sector or profession".

Quilty said increasing corporate involvement in community pharmacy is likely to lead to the

"commoditisation of medicines with less focus on trusted advice".

He warns about the rise of machine and online dispensing, pharmacy owners with fewer links to their local community, a lack of incentives to enable pharmacists to practise to their full professional scope, and "watering down of ownership rules in a way that puts profits before patients".

Quilty said the local pharmacy quite rightly enjoys a privileged place in communities around Australia, but as the banks are now painfully finding out that privileged place must not be taken for granted.

"As custodians of community pharmacy, we all have a responsibility to call out and stamp out unprofessional behaviour when we see it," he added.

Ramsay supply deal

RAMSAY Healthcare yesterday announced a joint venture with US private health organisation Ascension to develop a new global supply chain (**PD** breaking news).

The JV company will begin by identifying an initial group of product categories to pursue procurement savings, Ramsay said.

Complaints consult

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking input by 04 Jun from interested parties on its proposed advertising complaints handling model.

The TGA plans a priority based system where complaints about advertisements are categorised based on the likelihood of public harm, the impact of advertising on the ability of consumers to safely use the goods for their intended purpose, the frequency and likely impact of non-compliant advertising and the advertiser's awareness of their obligations.

A new TGA website advertising hub will feature education and guidance, allow applications to advertise therapeutic goods with a restricted representation, and a complaints lodgement form - for more details see tga.gov.au.

Chlamydia screening

PHARMACISTS in Australia and in Switzerland have demonstrated a high level of willingness to provide chlamydia testing and consumers are pleased with the prospect of not needing to make an appointment for it, according to new research published in *Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare*.

The greatest barrier to consumers however, was their embarrassment about asking for the test, authors wrote.

The online survey involved 198 Australian consumers, 162 Australian pharmacists, 209 Swiss consumers and 223 Swiss pharmacists.

With widespread support for the concept, the authors argued there is now evidence that policy makers in both countries need to develop pharmacy-based chlamydia testing as core business - **CLICK HERE**.

Flu jabs for Queensland MPs



YESTERDAY a group of Queensland MPs received their flu vaccination at TerryWhite Chemmart Myer Centre in Brisbane, with the aim of showing how easy it is to access immunisations via community pharmacies.

Participants included Qld Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Ros Bates, along with members of the Health, Communities Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee of the Queensland Parliament.

Bates is Member for Mudgeeraba, and was joined by committee chair Member for Thuringowa Aaron Harper and deputy chair Member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle.

Qld Guild branch president Trent Twomey was also present, and

said having the MPs have their shot from a community pharmacy helped raise awareness of how easy it is to access this key health service.

"Customers can just come to a pharmacy and organise their protection against this year's flu strain," Twomey said.

"It is so much easier and more convenient than having to go to the doctor, getting a prescription, taking it to the pharmacy to be dispensed, and then returning to the doctor to get the injection.

"Now people are able to come into a pharmacy and in a very short time get their vaccination and be protected against this disease."

Twomey, Harper, Qld Guild vice president Kos Sclavos and Bates are **pictured** above, with McArdle & pharmacist Tim Hodgson in front.

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Dispensary Corner

THE chances of having your brain switched off by a lightning strike is about as high as...well, being struck by lightning we suppose.

However that's just what happened to an unfortunate 66-year-old woman with an implantable pulse generator (IPG) in her brain, a bizarre medical case published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*.

During a violent thunderstorm, the woman's apartment was struck by lightning, unplugging her IPG in the process.

Thankfully she didn't come to any major harm, however the neck spasms the device was controlling did come back with a vengeance until she was able to have it reattached.

Needless to say, this strange tale struck us as truly shocking.



SOME people simply can't follow health and safety regulations, and to the man from Vermont who recently shot his smoke alarm to stop it beeping - we mean you!

The frustrated (and possibly deranged) man fired two rounds from his 20-gauge shotgun into a malfunctioning fire detector after fire crews refused to relocate it away from his apartment.

When the police turned up and confiscated his shotgun, the man promptly pointed a pistol at them and demanded it back.

We're not explicitly saying this guy should be in prison, but where there's smoke there's fire....

Sigma sleep testing rollout

AMCAL and Guardian pharmacies across Australia are set to significantly boost their professional services offering, with Sigma Healthcare announcing the national roll-out of "the most comprehensive sleep apnoea testing program in Australia's history" next month.

The in-pharmacy program will be provided in partnership with Australian Pharmacy Sleep Services (APSS), targeting the estimated 1.8 million undiagnosed Australians living with the condition.

The aim of the testing is to provide customers with information about their health which they can discuss with their pharmacist or share with their GP to determine a way to manage the problem.

The move was announced yesterday during Sigma Healthcare's national retail conference on the Gold Coast.

Amcal & Guardian gm retail, Brian Tomlin, said both brands believe the professional services offered by their qualified pharmacists

are an important front-line support for GPs and other health care professionals to better test Australians for key health issues.

"The sleep apnoea program will be a great example of this proactive approach," Tomlin said.

Philips-backed APSS will provide

face-to-face training along with printed collateral which has been created to ensure Amcal and Guardian pharmacists can provide high quality support to their customers.

The \$99 tests will be completed overnight by patients in the comfort of their own home, with fitting of equipment supervised by the pharmacists and results reviewed by an external GP as well as being available in-store.

The partnership with Sigma follows last year's acquisition of Australian Pharmacy Sleep Services by Philips (*PD* 29 Mar 2017) which had the stated aim of accelerating its home sleep testing offering through the pharmacy channel in Australia.



Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the Acne Control Caplets.

Utilising the power of vitamin B5, SkinB5's innovative Natural Acne Treatment System combines supplements and skincare to eliminate and treat the underlying causes of Acne from the INSIDE OUT.

See www.skinb5.com for more.

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

Do you need to take the Caplets with food and water?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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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