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Winter spotlight

PHARMACY suppliers wanting to highlight their products for the upcoming cooler season still have the opportunity to take advantage of a special *Winter Spotlight* feature in *Pharmacy Daily* next Tues 15 May - for more detail email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



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Apotex, Arrow to merge

ARROW and Apotex have announced the merger of their local businesses and operations under a new entity, which they say will "become the leading player in the Australian generic pharmaceutical market by both volume and revenue" (*PD* breaking news).

According to a statement issued to the Indian stock exchange by Arrow parent firm Strides Shasun, the businesses will continue to be run independently under the Apotex and Arrow brands, and continue to enjoy preferred partner relationships with their respective wholesalers.

They said the combined business will have about 3,200 first line pharmacy accounts, with the deal subject to due diligence as well as approval by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Arrow's Dennis Bastas will become executive chairman of the merged business while Apotex managing director Roger Millichamp will be ceo, alongside Arrow's Andrew Burgess as chief financial officer "bringing together Australia's most experienced management team with an in-depth knowledge of the Australian generics market".

The proposed structure will be arrived at through a share swap, with the details to be announced when the deal is finalised in the second half of 2018.

Bastas said once complete, the merged operation "will continue



to provide all of the Arrow and Apotex brands that our customers have come to know and trust, and further enhance our customer service and continuity of supply, to better help pharmacists grow their businesses.

"We at Arrow look forward to working alongside the experienced and talented Apotex team to make this a winning combination for all stakeholders," Bastas added.

Millichamp said both companies are currently in a strong commercial position, but will be better positioned to meet future challenges after they combine.

"The proposed merger will take the best of both companies, optimise our shared cost base, and maintain the viability of our operations through more effective delivery of medicines and services to consumers and patients," he said.

The hospital business of Apotex will not form part of the merged entity, and will be retained by Apotex, the companies added.

SHPA likes budget

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has hailed the strengthening of the Life Saving Drugs Program in the Federal Budget, with SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels noting that hospital pharmacists are responsible for about 22% of PBS expenditure.

She also welcomed ongoing support for public hospitals and equity of healthcare access in rural and regional Australia.

APP2018 'insta' winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Carlie Streeter (pictured) from Horsham Amcal Pharmacy who won a Google Home device for her *Pharmacy Daily* Instagram snap taken at APP2018.



Huge thanks to all the delegates who took photos, or had photos taken, with the insta-frame while attending the conference.

First cannabis crop

AUSTRALIA'S first crop of medicinal cannabis for commercial use was harvested last week by Perth based private phytopharmaceutical company Little Green Pharma, with the next stage extracting a resin sample to send to a laboratory for testing.

GP pharmacist funded

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the Budget announcement of a new Workforce Incentive Program to strengthen multidisciplinary primary care through supporting general practices to engage allied health professionals including non-dispensing pharmacists.

PSA national vice-president and general practice pharmacist Dr Chris Freeman said the announcement signals a sustainable career pathway for pharmacists working collaboratively within the general practice team.



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Dispensary Corner

MEN of Australia, be glad you are not a hairy-nosed wombat!

Not just because of the hairy-nose bit - although as the years roll on that can be an issue for some - but because of the aggressive mating habits of female wombats.

Two studies by Aussie researchers at the University of Queensland burrowed into the private lives of the southern hairy-nosed wombat, revealing a host of secrets that should help breed the animals in captivity.

The second study focused on mating behaviour, finding that females peed less, paced more and bit males on the bum more often during their most fertile phase of the oestrous cycle.

Be thankful for small mercies.



IT'S faster to get cocaine home-delivered than a pizza in England and Scotland, according to the 2018 Global Drug Survey.

More than a third of the roughly 1,500 British cocaine users who responded to the poll said they could get the drug delivered within 30 minutes.

That compared to about 12% of people in England who said they could get a pizza in that time.

In Australia things weren't quite as snappy, with only about 13% of cocaine users saying they could get a 30 minute delivery.

The results can be viewed at www.globaldrugsurvey.com.

'Permitted indications' update

THE TGA has provided a detailed response to its consultation on the newly implemented "list of permitted indications" (PD 08 Mar), detailing the reasoning behind the outcome which has seen more than 1,000 indications, including some using traditional Chinese or Ayurvedic terminology.

During the consultation process several groups, including Friends of Science in Medicine, scoffed at some of the proposed indications as "bizarre" and "not supported by scientific evidence" (PD 09 Feb).

The TGA has provided feedback on the process, saying its approach of using Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Ayurvedic specific indications and supporting terminology is "consistent with international developments".

In particular the agency pointed out that the World Health Organization's Traditional Medicine Strategy "recommends member states appropriately use

traditional medicine terms in their regulatory, legislative and policy initiatives around traditional and complementary medicine products and practices".

In addition, the TGA has accepted advice from the Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines to mandate the addition of a label advisory statement on indications stating: *'Please seek the advice of a traditional Chinese (or Ayurvedic) medicine practitioner if you are unsure if this medicine is right for you'*.

Such complementary medicines must also now state that the indication is based on traditional evidence, and specify the paradigm e.g. *'Traditionally used in Chinese herbal medicine'*.

The TGA noted that almost 3,000 additional indications were proposed for inclusion in the list.

Last year's consultation period saw over 100 submissions received.

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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Win with Belle Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a L'elixir Rose Radiance Mist/Spray valued at \$64.50 each.

Developed by an expert in formulation-science, L'elixir Rose Radiance Mist provides optimum protection for the skin against indoor and outdoor pollutants whilst gently hydrating and uplifting with its natural fragrance.

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

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