



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Meet our state winners and national finalists

Find out more +

Join us for the awards presentation at APP  
6pm 7th March



## Generics fast track

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking comments from interested parties on proposed improvements to the generic prescription medicine authorisation process.

The TGA wants to explore “ideas and opportunities to improve the supply of generic medicines in Australia”.

Proposals include ways to reduce regulatory burden, make the application process easier, support international work sharing and options to encourage applications for generic medicines of special interest.

Submissions are to reach the TGA by COB 21 Mar 2019 - [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Pregabalin misuse

**DATA** from the PBS around the dispensing of pregabalin shows that its use in Australia is on the rise, rapidly, according to an editorial in the latest edition of the *MJA*.

The numbers of self-poisonings and deaths are also increasing, mirroring the experience in Europe and North America.

Pregabalin is now the seventh most expensive drug in terms of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) expenditure - see [mja.com.au](http://mja.com.au).

## Medicare for pharmacists?

**A NEW** Medicare payment for non-dispensing pharmacists to provide medication management services to patients with complex care requirements has been proposed by the Allied Health Reference Group working on the government’s Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) Review.

The Reference Group suggests the new Medicare item would be accessible up to twice a year, to pharmacists working “outside of usual retail pharmacy operations”.

Rationale for the move provided in a consultation document cites an estimated 230,000 medication-related hospital admissions each year, at an estimated annual cost of \$1.2 billion to the health system.

“Pharmacy-led medication reconciliation interventions were found to be an effective strategy to reduce medication discrepancies,”

## Rethinking anxiety

**NPS** MedicineWise has launched a new educational program focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of anxiety disorders, including a webinar, clinical audit and other educational materials for health professionals - [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

the report says, also noting that consultations undertaken by pharmacists located within primary health care clinics had been shown to be effective in identifying and resolving medication-related problems in patients with complex care requirements.

Several submissions to the MBS Review supported funding for pharmacists to deliver medication management services as a way of improving health outcomes, including input from the NT Government, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association.

The full consultation document is online at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au).

## Microdosing queried

**NEW** research investigating the concept of taking very small amounts of psychedelic substances on a regular basis, or “microdosing”, has found less-than-encouraging results for the proponents of the practice.

The Macquarie University study looked at the effects of microdosing on psychological and cognitive functioning - see [journals.plos.org](http://journals.plos.org).

## APC collaboration

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council is set to host a Colloquium in May, this year partnering with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council on the theme of professional collaboration.

The event is scheduled for Fri 03 May 2019 at the Sofitel Melbourne, with the theme *Together we can do more - educating for social accountability across the health professions*.

The program is designed to create awareness of how pharmacists, nurses and midwives can teach, learn and practice together and to demonstrate how health profession education is aligned to social accountability, including improving indigenous health outcomes, supporting those with mental health issues and developing empathy in student practitioners.

Speakers from Australia and New Zealand will address the research behind the theme and lead interactive sessions.

The final session of the Colloquium will be a “Prophetic”, which is described as a “dynamic and entertaining technique for engaging participants deeply”.

Registrations for the event will open soon, with more info at [colloquium2019.com.au](http://colloquium2019.com.au).



**When it comes to inflamed fungal skin infections, don't leave yourself open.**

**Get the PLUS side advantage.†**

Resolve more than the itch.

Your pharmacist's advice is required. Resolve Plus 1.0 contains Miconazole Nitrate 2% w/w and Hydrocortisone 1% w/w. For inflamed or itchy fungal skin infections. Directions: Clean and dry affected area thoroughly. Gently apply to affected and surrounding skin twice daily. Once inflammation has subsided continue treatment with an antifungal cream for 14 days after symptoms disappear to avoid recurrence. Do not use Resolve Plus 1.0 on children under 12 years unless recommended by a doctor.  
Review full PI before recommending or supplying Resolve Plus 1.0 PI available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, Australia.  
Reference: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information Date of Most Recent Amendment June 13 2017.



**2018 PHARMACY MARKET REPORT AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Jobs of the Week**

- **Pharmacist** - South East of Melbourne's CBD (Job# 200031931)  
Fantastic opportunity for a Pharmacist seeking regular part time shifts - \$\$\$
- **Pharmacist** - Mid Coast QLD (Job# 200031894)  
Full-time Pharmacist to work across Community and Hospital pharmacy settings.
- **Pharmacy Manager** - Hunter Valley NSW (Job# 200031820)  
\$120k incl accom, great roster, large team. Strong reporting + leadership skills.

Australia's largest and longest running specialist pharmacy employment agency

An all natural alternative is here!

For the temporary relief from pain & inflammation

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## Dispensary Corner

**"BUTT out"** - or a possibly profane Greek equivalent phrase has been getting an airing in Athens this week, after Greece's deputy health minister was reprimanded by a top EU health official for smoking in public.

Pavlos Polakis was shown on video footage holding a cigarette while dancing in a club, drawing a rebuke from Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Health Commissioner, who described Polakis' actions (pictured) as "shameful".

Polakis, who should perhaps know better because he's a surgeon as well as a politician, quickly responded on Facebook, addressing Andriukaitis in a post where he said there were higher priorities than his own habits.

"I'll decide when to stop smoking, on my terms," he said.



**THE** sadness of the death of an 82-year-old Canadian woman last month was tinged with humour after an obituary she wrote for herself became public.

Sybil Hicks from Baysville Ontario certainly seems to have been a character, and had the last word in the self-addressed personal tribute, saying she had left behind her loving husband "whom I often affectionately referred to as a 'Horse's Ass'".

"I also left behind my children whom I tolerated over the years," Hicks added, along with the final punchline that "I finally have the smoking hot body I always wanted...having been cremated".

## CMA calls for health check

**COMPLEMENTARY** Medicines Australia (CMA) has urged the Government to evaluate whether regulatory reforms under the TGA's Medicines and Medical Devices Review are being "appropriately implemented".

CMA's pre-Budget submission calls on authorities to check that the "policy settings are right," and meeting key objectives of the Review, including cutting red tape and improving timely and safe

access to quality therapeutic goods.

CEO Carl Gibson said new legislation introduced last year after the review "sets the regulatory framework for decades to come."

"A health check on the roll-out of the reform implementation is required to ensure that the regulations are fit for purpose and Australia remains competitive on the global stage," he said.

Gibson particularly applauded the implementation of the new approval pathway for listing complementary medicines with higher therapeutic indications and health claims.

He said this measure aimed to "encourage and reward greater investment in research and development by industry and be an incentive to further expand the clinical research base for complementary medicines".

CMA's submission also urges the government to support the growth of Australian exports, focus on preventative health, support investment in research, and restore private health insurance rebates for natural therapies.

## APP entrepreneur

**TECH** entrepreneur and 'shark' on Network Ten's previous competitive reality show, Shark Tank Australia, Steve Baxter will share his secrets at APP2019 on how pharmacies can benefit by thinking like an entrepreneur, on 07 Mar, 4.00pm.

APP Chairman Kos Sclavos said Steve Baxter is a great asset to APP2019 and will have delegates returning to their pharmacies with a renewed entrepreneurial mindset.

"This session is sure to be a 'must attend' at APP2019," Sclavos said. Visit [appconference.com](http://appconference.com) for more.

## Win with Hawaiian Tropic

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Hawaiian Tropic are giving away a Silk Hydration prize pack to the value of \$45.

Let your senses take you with the NEW Hawaiian Tropic Silk Hydration range. A sunscreen that pampers you like no ordinary sunscreen! The range offers 12 hours of moisturisation while providing broad spectrum UVA/UVB protection, leaving your skin with a non-greasy, silky skin feel and the brand's signature mango and papaya scent.

Visit [www.hawaiiantropicsun.com.au](http://www.hawaiiantropicsun.com.au) to find out more.

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

Hawaiian Tropic Silk Hydration body lotion/spray & face lotion is tested for how many hours water resistance?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Maria Pantelidis.

## WHO to tick cannabis

**THE** World Health Organization has proposed rescheduling cannabis within international law to take account of the growing evidence for medical applications of the drug, reversing the position held for the last 60 years that cannabis should not be used in legitimate medical practice.

A vote on the issue by the 53 countries that are members of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs is scheduled for Mar this year.

## 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).

**07 - 10 Mar:** APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; to register see: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

**22 - 24 Mar:** NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; register at: [www.psa.org.au/atu](http://www.psa.org.au/atu)

**22 - 24 Mar:** SHPA Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Novotel Brisbane; early bird registrations now open: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**27 Apr:** Diabetes Expo 2019; Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: [www.diabetes-expo.org.au](http://www.diabetes-expo.org.au)

**04 - 05 May:** Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach, Sydney; for details visit: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)