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## The cost of PBS price disclosure

**PHARMACISTS** need to be empowered to make decisions around therapeutic substitution in the face of persistent medicines shortages, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) CEO, Dr Shane Jackson, believes.

Jackson told *Pharmacy Daily* the ongoing shortages of a number of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines were a “direct consequence” of “the aggressive price disclosure regime, which reduces the cost of medicines and means that Australia mightn’t be as competitive on a world stage when it comes to the provision of medicines”.

He said dealing with medicines shortages would need to be discussed as part of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) negotiations.

“Our members are the ones that are dealing with medicines shortages every day,” he said.

“And if this medicines shortage issue is not addressed, pharmacists will need some flexibility in the future and one would suggest it’s a bit like continued dispensing - I think, to be able to therapeutically substitute medicines... because it’s



a significant workload issue.

“Unless the Government’s going to address that from a remuneration perspective we need to make sure that pharmacists are adequately supported to be able to do that and let’s be frank, when you have a medicines shortage in your pharmacy you’re going to ring up the doctor and say, ‘this is the medicine that’s available, that we can change to’.

“So giving pharmacists the authority to therapeutically substitute when there’s a medicines shortage is a critical thing that needs to be considered in the near future, because I don’t see the medicines shortage issue going away.”

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, warned the medicines supply issues being experienced across the country threatened the viability of PBS and the core pillar of the National Medicines Policy - equity of access for all.

“This is about patients and delivery of care,” he said.

“Pharmacists across Australia are spending a significant amount of time finding a plan B to ensure patients don’t go without – but they can’t work miracles.”

“Unless we can have confidence in an ongoing continuity of supply for these essential medicines – then we are at risk of not having a first world health system.”

### Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news, a front cover wrap from UFS Dispensaries and a full page from Sigma Healthcare.

### Pharmacist Rx

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) has now published all submissions from stakeholders to the pharmacist prescribing discussion paper.

The discussion paper, published by the Board in Mar 2019, posed a range of questions about the potential role for pharmacists in prescribing (*PD* 06 Mar).

This followed the Pharmacist Prescribing Forum in June 2018, hosted by the PBA to help participants consider and discuss the need and opportunities for expanding pharmacist involvement in prescribing.

The PBA said the discussion paper was intended to help the profession, stakeholders and the public to explore opportunities for pharmacist prescribing, through one or more of the models of non-medical prescribing outlined in the Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway 2013.

While a number of submissions supported pharmacist prescribing, there was an acknowledgement that more training would be required for pharmacists.

## WA student wins SPotY



**UNIVERSITY** of Western Australia student, Alice Hashigachi took home the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)/Mylan Student Pharmacist of the Year Award on Sat night.

Hashigachi’s win brought the number of PSA19 gongs crossing the Nullabar to three, with

PSA Western Australian Branch President, Dr Fei Sim, scooping the PSA Young Pharmacists of the Year title, and Ayomide “Mide” Ogundipe winning the Intern Pharmacist of the Year award.

**Pictured**, Alice Hashigachi with Mylan Marketing Director Pharmacy, Jordana Sunderland.

### Tipping winners

**CONGRATULATIONS** to this week’s *Pharmacy Daily* Footy Tipping winners: NRL winner - John Sarikas and AFL winner Mathew Lazarow Amaco Small Group Tour.

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## Dispensary Corner

**HIGH-BROW** discussions about the future of pharmacy may have dominated the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's annual conference, PSA19, over the weekend, but there were also plenty of light-hearted moments.

Taking an airline theme for the weekend, Captain Phil MyScript's voice was frequently heard over the sound system, advising delegates to stow their baggage under the seats they were sitting on, and helping them to identify the "emergency exits" at the back and side of the Park Hyatt Sydney's Grand Hall, where plenary sessions were held.

On Sat morning, the good captain doubled as security, after some "unidentified" luggage was discovered.

Taking the bag onto the main stage, Capt Phil MyScript identified Sydney pharmacist, John Bell, as the owner, bringing the well respected eastern suburbs native up to review the contents.

MyScript found a series of items, including sparkly pink cow-boy boots, a pink stetson and a pair of handcuffs, before saying, "I know where you're going!"

"You're going to the Eurovision gala dinner," he said.

Another moment of MyScript magic came as pharmacy mental health advocate, Dr Claire O'Reilly, was outlining the need for pharmacists to help people with mental health conditions, only for the aviation expert's voice to drown her out.

## Hazzard backs pharmacy in NSW



**PHARMACISTS** have a key role to play in protecting the health of people living in communities across NSW, the state's Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, said at the opening of the new Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW Branch office, in North Sydney yesterday.

"I think the more we can do to empower pharmacists to reach out to the communities, [the better],"

he said.

Hazzard added pharmacists play a crucial role in protecting their communities, and highlighted the success of pharmacist-delivered immunisation services including the flu vaccination, tetanus, rubella and pertussis.

**Pictured:** NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, Brad Hazzard, and PSA NSW Branch President, Peter Carroll.

## Nappy rash eased

**SOME** nappy rash products, those already listed and operating with a barrier effect only, will become exempt from requirements to be entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) and made in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

There will be no exemption for products also indicated for other skin ailments - [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Guild Update

### Quality and safety of medication use

**THE** Pharmacy Guild welcomes the Federal Government's declaration that quality use of medicines and medicines safety will be a National Health Priority Area, with steps taken to reduce preventable medication misadventure.

We acknowledge Health Minister Greg Hunt's commitment to work with the Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Healthcare, doctors groups, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and key stakeholders to support this priority.

Mr Hunt has indicated this work will include the consideration of improvement of current frameworks, new best practice models and new national standards.

## Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win a Dreambaby® care prize pack valued at over \$55.

While Dreambaby® is primarily known for its innovative child safety solutions, it also has many care items in its line up to help keep littlies in perfect health. Prize pack comprises: Rapid Response Digital Thermometer, Silicone Toothbrush, 'Herbert' The Turtle Room & Bath Thermometer, Nail Clippers with Holder and Nasal Aspirator.



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

What is Dreambaby®'s Turtle Room & Bath Thermometer affectionally called?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Magna Tsui.



# Award Winning Pharmacies Announced for NSW

The winners of the best performing Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Stores pharmacies in New South Wales have been recognised at the Sigma Pharmacy Assistant Annual Conference and Gala Awards.

The winners will now represent their region in the national awards, early 2020.

Brian Tomlin, Sigma's General Manager Retail Sales congratulated all the award winners

'The awards night provides the opportunity to recognise the hard work of our pharmacy teams. We would like to acknowledge and thank all our award nominees, finalists and winners for their contribution and commitment to serving their local communities.'

## Pharmacy of the Year

### Amcal Award Winner -

Amcal+ Kempsey

### Guardian Award Winner -

Corrimal Court Pharmacy

### Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Kings Langley Discount Drug Store

## Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year

### Amcal Award Winner -

Amcal+ Salamander Bay

## Community Engagement Pharmacy of the Year

### Guardian Award Winner -

Gorokan Guardian Pharmacy

### Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Eastlakes Discount Drug Store

## Retail Manager of the Year

### Amcal Award Winner -

Jenny Hayes - Amcal+ Emu Plains

### Guardian Award Winner -

Karina Ribeiro - Corrimal Court Pharmacy

### Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Amy Compton - Nelson Bay Discount Drug Store

## Pharmacy Assistant of the Year

### Amcal Award Winner -

Nathan Winter - Amcal+ Rouse Hill

### Guardian Award Winner -

Maxine Morris - Gorokan Guardian Pharmacy

### Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Carolyn Gregory - Swansea WholeLife