

## ASMI reassurance

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry says parents shouldn't be alarmed if they've previously used cough and cold remedies to treat children under two.

The reassurance follows the NDPSC decision which rescheduled the products as prescription only for infants (PD yesterday).

"The cough and cold medicines in question have been widely used for many years and are considered safe when used as recommended," said ASMI executive director Juliet Seifert.

She said concerns about the preparations appear to stem from overseas reports where parents or carers have been confused about the correct dose.

"There have also been reports of misuse of these products to sedate children rather than to relieve the symptoms of coughs and colds," she said.

## Fibre alert

FIGURES released today reveals that only 4% of teenagers eat the recommended dietary fibre intake for their age.

The *Dietary Fibre in Children Survey* also found that just 17% of kids 12 and under consume the required amount of fibre.

"Parents need to understand that a diet high in fibre helps to smooth out the spikes and falls in blood sugar levels which occur in the hours following meals," said CSIRO human nutrition researcher Dr David Topping.

## Preventative health move

THE govt has announced the establishment of a new National Preventative Health Taskforce, as a follow-up to the revelation that the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs costs Australia \$56 billion a year (PD yesterday).

Health minister Nicola Roxon said preventative health measures would also become a key part of health funding agreements with

## Welcome to instigo

FM Integrated Pharmacy Services has rebranded under the name 'instigo,' which is Latin for "stimulate or urge on".

Founder and md Michael Flannery said the new name stems from the firm's main focus to drive pharmacy business thorough proven marketing, people and retail solutions.

"I first started this business seven years ago because I couldn't find the services I needed to sustain my pharmacy business growth when I decided to move from the country to the city."

Since then FMIPS has grown a strong client base, and a recent internal review concluded the new name was a way of communicating that the firm doesn't just maintain a business but grows it.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

A DOG in Britain is being called a lifesaver after helping its owner discover she had breast cancer.

38-year-old Anna Davis was out walking when her labrador Wispa leapt up and pawed her on the chest.

"My breast hurt - and I felt a lump," she told the *Sun* paper.

"If Wispa had not jumped up, I might not have found out in time," she said, adding that "I owe my life to her."

A spokeswoman for a group called Cancer and Biodetection in Dogs said the dog's actions could have been deliberate.

"Our studies prove dogs are able to distinguish the smell of cancer cells," she said.

A BUMBLING burglar in the US has been arrested after he left a fairly major clue before robbing a pharmacy.

When Demetrius Robinson first entered the outlet there were a number of customers present, so he asked if he could apply for a job which had been advertised.

He passed the time until the shop was less crowded by filling out the job application form, and after the last customer left threatened staff with a knife and made off with the contents of the till.

Police called to the scene said that although the thief had given a fake address on the form, his name and phone number were correct and they followed the trail in order to arrest the miscreant.

SURGEONS have restored the sight of a man who was blinded in one eye 66 years ago.

87-year-old John Gray was injured during a World War II bombing raid, and was told he'd never again see through his right eye.

He told the *BBC* that as the years went by an optometrist examined the eye and realised only the lens was damaged, with the retina still healthy.

When Gray developed macular degeneration in his healthy left eye, threatening total blindness, a surgeon removed scar tissue and inserted a new artificial lens in the right eye.

## Corum LOTS update

CORUM Health has added a number of significant figures to its LOTS dispensary software in the April update.

A key enhancement is the ability for a data extract under the Pharmacy Guild's ScriptMAP program, to help pharmacies manage the transition to the Aug PBS reforms.

The software also adds a new script management module which allows customers to request scripts at any till or dispensary and advise a preferred collection time, with pharmacist notification.

Aged dosage checking gives dispensing alerts for children aged under 12 years.

There's also changes to the point of sale which allows the management of promotions such as multi-buys and bonus buys, as well as cash security notification when pre-set till limits are reached, and an in-built diary to allow the scheduling of tasks and manage staff time better.

The update will be available in the week from 21 Apr - more info 1300 669 865.

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## HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

If you like being pampered then you will enjoy this 4 night cruise aboard the **MV Fantasea Ammari** through the Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef. Prices start from \$2460 pp, the special includes a \$100 credit for beverages and \$100 credit for Spa & Beauty treatments. Bookings before 30 June for travel through to 12 Dec 08. For more info [sales@wrd.com.au](mailto:sales@wrd.com.au).

Also on the Great Barrier Reef, Heron Island is offering a great discount rate on its Turtle Rooms, now only \$110 pp. The rate includes full buffet

breakfast daily and many island activities. For only \$65 you can upgrade to include lunch and dinner. Kids 12 and under can stay and eat free. Book and travel before 31 Aug 08. See [www.totaltravel.com.au](http://www.totaltravel.com.au).

Coral Princess Cruises is offering free int'l flights and 2 nights free accomm at Vanuatu's Le Lagon Resort in conjunction with a 14-night voyage of Melanesia. Departing 27 Oct 2008 prices start from \$10,500 pp and include all excursions and on board meals. For further information visit [www.coralprincess.com.au](http://www.coralprincess.com.au).