

Pharmacy DAILY

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PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Pharmacy loses friend

CHAS Collison, Pharmacists Division of APESMA's first Executive Officer, has passed away following a short illness suffered whilst in London. "Pharmacy employees across Australia have benefited from Chas' passionate and dogged advocacy for their rights at work," said PDA President, Geoff March.

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild
Year in Review

The past year has been a very eventful one for community pharmacy and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Commencing with the finalisation of the all-important Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which was signed on 3 May and took effect on 1 July, 2010 also saw an extraordinary Federal Election, the fall-out from which continues to affect the Australian political landscape.

And now, the year is ending with another enormous shake-up of the status quo, as the industry comes to grips with Pfizer's decision to exclusively distribute their own prescription medicines direct to pharmacy beginning early next year.

On top of these massive events, there have been a number of other developments that in any other year might have been the most prominent, including the commencement of the new Pharmacy Industry Award on 1 January, with a number of transitional arrangements coming online in July (with gradual changes over the five years to July 2014).

This year also saw the sad passing of one of the Guild's most valued and respected officers – Judy Liauw.

A former National Councillor, Tasmanian Branch President and Chair of the Women and Young Pharmacists' Committee, Judy was an intelligent, gracious and committed woman who made an enduring contribution to pharmacy and the broader health system.

In July, the Guild's National Council unanimously voted to award Judy life membership prior to her passing – making her only the third woman to receive this honour.

There is much to do in 2011, but in the meantime, the Guild would like to wish all pharmacists and pharmacy staff a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Pharmacists on distribution

PHARMACISTS are extremely concerned about Pfizer's direct distribution decision and the impact it will have on their business, according to Symbion's Pharmacy Services ceo, Patrick Davies.

The comments come out of discussions with pharmacists at forums held in Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Launceston, in the wake of Pfizer's announcement that it will move to an exclusive distribution model from 31 January next year.

"These forums were an opportunity for pharmacies from across Australia to share their views on the implications for them and their businesses of major pharmaceutical suppliers choosing to supply pharmacy via an exclusive direct distribution channel," said Davies.

Key issues raised in the forums include a concern that the new direct to pharmacy distribution model would be more expensive and would adversely affect patient care; and that with cutting out distributors there will be a lack of back-up in the direct supply chain meaning that there would be no secondary same-day source available.

"Pharmacists are telling us that they are extremely concerned about the impact of an exclusive distribution model on a number of areas of

their business," Davies said.

Symbion has also said that it is in the process of collating the issues raised at the forums and communicating them in letters to its 3000+ customers.

The letters will also include a call to action for industry members to voice their concerns by writing to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, local Federal MPs, the AMA, local prescribing GPs, and the Federal Minister for Health.

"If the industry wants to protect the viability of the competitive full line wholesale system, then it must act now to make its voice heard in the debate," said Davies.

The forums will wrap up this week with sessions in Qld and Vic-contact Symbion for details.

TGA on DHA-rich oil

THE TGA has updated its website to include a Therapeutic Goods Listing Notice for DHA-rich oil.

The listing means that oral preparations that contain DHA-rich oil derived from microalgae *Schizochytrium* sp. as a therapeutically active ingredient in combination with other ingredients and are presented in a therapeutic dosage form for therapeutic use are now permitted.

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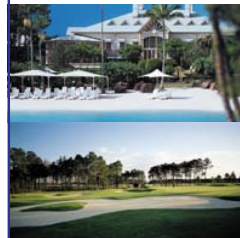
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DISPENSARY CORNER

GET the cold and flu meds ready!

The Victoria State Youth Brass Band is in the midst of a 40 hour performance of Christmas carols in Melbourne's Federation Square.

The epic festive cheer session kicked off yesterday to the backdrop of a cold and windy Melbourne morning, and continued throughout the brisk evening and freezing early morning hours, in the band's bid to enter the Guinness Book of Records for the longest continuous playing, of a brass band.

It is estimated the band, made up of children from across Victoria will have to play between 800 and 1000 carols to fill in the hours, with only short breaks of two minutes to change music, as well as five minute comfort stops.



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