 Guild attacks Forum stance  

**THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has gone on the attack against the Consumer Health Forum’s (CHF) calls for a Senate Inquiry into the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, saying the CHF is “mixed up” on its SCPA stance.** The comments are in reaction to a review of a SCPA analysis by the CHF in May last year, which welcomed the Agreement saying “for the first time in the history of Community Pharmacy Agreements, the views of consumers were specifically sought, and some of their concerns appear to have been taken into account in the final version of the Agreement”. According to the analysis the “CHF received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) to inform the Government about consumer views on the content and implementation of the Fifth CPA. “CHF’s consultation process involved initial informal consultations, two focused teleconferences, a national consultative workshop and a discussion paper on the implementation of the Fifth CPA. “On the whole, CHF is pleased with the final version of the Fifth CPA,” the CHF analysis said. In light of the analysis the Guild called the CHF’s call for a Senate inquiry into the SCPA “bewildering”. “Last week a statement issued by the forum said: ‘The secrecy surrounding this deal is a real concern,’” the Guild said.

Qld PSA award winners  

**THE Queensland Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has awarded its annual Gold Medal to Peter Mayne for his outstanding contribution and exceptional service to the Pharmacy profession and to PSA. The Gold Medal is usually awarded to a PSA member who has clocked at least two decades of continuous service to the organisation that includes service at the state and/or national levels.** During his time with the PSA Mayne has worked on the PreReg Training Committee, been a Member of the Queensland Branch Council then Committee, held the position of Treasurer for seven years and received the Bowl of Hygeia award in 2005. Mayne was also Chaired the Organising Committee for PAC 2006 in Cairns, has been the author of the Guide to Regulated Restricted Drugs in Qld since 2002 and has organised and run the Queensland Pharmacy Student of the Year final for many years. **MEANWHILE** Madeline Orange from the Queensland University of Technology has also been recognised by the Qld PSA branch, having been named as the Professor James Dare Graduate of the Year.

MA on gene patents  

**MEDICINES Australia has thrown its weight behind the Government’s Raising the Bar Bill, which supports gene patents for genetic materials. Currently before Parliament, the Bill, according to Medicines Australia, will bring Australia’s intellectual property system into line with intellectual property systems in other OECD countries. “Patents on biological materials are important because they guarantee ongoing investment in developing cutting-edge medicines and therapies,” said the Chief Executive of Medicines Australia, Dr Brendan Shaw. “There is no doubt that Australia’s patent system needs to be reformed. “The Raising the Bar Bill, is more balanced and constructive than the proposed ban on gene patents,” he added.

**Pertussis protection**  

**THE Department of Health has launched a new public health campaign centered around pertussis (whooping cough). The campaign aims to provide parents and healthcare providers of newborns with the latest advice on what they can do to protect babies from whooping cough, including how they can become better at identifying the disease, how babies can be protected, and how to help prevent whooping cough from spreading.** The campaign will include a mail-out to new parents, whilst GPs and other immunisation providers will be provided supplementary education workshops. **MEANWHILE the Govt has also announced a reform of Australia’s childhood immunisation arrangements with the aim of increasing the immunisation rates of Australian children over time.** As a result of the reforms families will now need to have their children fully immunised to receive the $726 Family Tax Benefit Part A end-of-year supplement. Other changes include the introduction of a new immunisation check for children at two and five years of age, whilst GPs and other immunisation providers will be provided supplementary education workshops. **MEANWHILE the Govt has also announced a reform of Australia’s childhood immunisation arrangements with the aim of increasing the immunisation rates of Australian children over time.** As a result of the reforms families will now need to have their children fully immunised to receive the $726 Family Tax Benefit Part A end-of-year supplement. Other changes include the introduction of a new immunisation check for children at two and five years of age, whilst GPs and other immunisation providers will be provided supplementary education workshops. **MEANWHILE the Govt has also announced a reform of Australia’s childhood immunisation arrangements with the aim of increasing the immunisation rates of Australian children over time.** As a result of the reforms families will now need to have their children fully immunised to receive the $726 Family Tax Benefit Part A end-of-year supplement. Other changes include the introduction of a new immunisation check for children at two and five years of age, whilst GPs and other immunisation providers will be provided supplementary education workshops. **MEANWHILE the Govt has also announced a reform of Australia’s childhood immunisation arrangements with the aim of increasing the immunisation rates of Australian children over time.** As a result of the reforms families will now need to have their children fully immunised to receive the $726 Family Tax Benefit Part A end-of-year supplement. Other changes include the introduction of a new immunisation check for children at two and five years of age, whilst GPs and other immunisation providers will be provided supplementary education workshops.
COMPLEMENTARY Medicines are a distinct class of medicine from over the counter and prescription medicines and as such require a separate base of knowledge and understanding, according to the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC).

Speaking in response to comments from PSA National President, Grant Kardachi, which suggested that it is the role of industry to ensure pharmacy staff hold knowledge of the complementary medicines that they are selling, the CHC said that it has established a professional development program designed for those looking to improve their complementary medicine knowledge base, in particular pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

"Industry accredited and soon to be attracting significant CPD points, it exists to bridge the gap for Pharmacists, Pharmacy assistants and anyone else looking to gain further knowledge and understanding of the Complementary Medicines Industry," said Dr Wendy Morrow, Executive Director of the CHC.

"In addition to our Professional Development Program, the CHC continues to actively work with the TGA and other stakeholders to develop better guidance documents for those in Industry, as well as offering regular education and training seminars for both Industry and Consumers," she added.

According to the CHC, complementary medicines education is particularly pertinent for pharmacy staffers as approximately 40% of all complementary medicines in Australia are purchased in pharmacies.

The CHC’s training program provides "in-depth an up to date non product, non-brand training," and is made up of individual certificates which are designed to complement existing skills, see - www.chc.org.au/Education-Programs.

WIN THE PERFECT EYE PACK

This week Pharmacy Daily is giving readers the chance to win the Perfect Eye Pack valued at $45.80, courtesy of Australis.

Create multidimensional eye looks with Australis Double Decker Eye Duos containing loose and cream eyeshadow combined.

These amazingly pigmented and intense shadows are available in five hot shades including; Cosmic Rays, Moon Rocker, Give Me Some Space, Greenhouse Effect and Supernova Casanova. Compliment the eyes with a simple line above the eye with Australis IntensiEYE Liquid Eyeliner and finish with Australis Killer Curves Mascara that has a special ‘wash-off’ formulation for dangerous curls!


To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the name of Australis’ weekly competition every Friday on Facebook?

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