



## TGA six-month report

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released its Half Yearly Performance Snapshot for the period ending 31 Dec 2018.

Highlights identified were in 11 main areas: regulatory reform including collaborative worksharing with Canada, Singapore and Switzerland, medicines approvals and monitoring, medical devices approvals, clinical trials, licensing, adverse event reports, compliance, advertising monitoring and management, recalls, lab testing and risk management plans.

In terms of medicines, improved process with relation to orphan drugs saw nine orphan drug designations and a number of other approvals within the legislative target of 120 days.

During the period, 139 new over-the-counter medicine applications were ticked, up from 87 and 126 in the prior two six-month periods.

The TGA analysis contains supportive tables and graphics. Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for access.

## Blackmore slams MBA

**PROPOSED** changes to the regulation of complementary and integrative medicines (CAM) are “nothing more than an attack” on alternative medicines, according to Marcus Blackmore.

In an open letter responding to the Medical Board of Australia’s (MBA’s) call to strengthen current guidance for doctors who provide complementary, unconventional medicine and emerging treatment, Blackmore rejected the call.

The MBA’s proposals to tighten regulations around complementary medicines could also have a negative impact on pharmacies’ bottom-lines, with market data showing the category accounts for 25% of pharmacy sales.

“The Board’s public consultation paper on *Clearer regulation of medical practitioners who provide complementary and unconventional medicine and emerging treatments* is born of prejudice and ignorance and must be seriously challenged,” he said.

Blackmore said the current MBA code of conduct offered sufficient guidance to doctors who have embraced CAM as a preventative or supplementary treatment option.

“The proposed new draconian regulation is simply unnecessary,” he said.

“Furthermore it is wrong for MBA to group CAM with unconventional medicine and emerging treatments. CAM is safe and has nothing in common with these treatments.”

Pharmacists can make submissions about the proposed regulations **HERE** before 12 Apr.

## Pharmabroker smiles

**PHARMACY** sales specialists, Pharmabroker Sales, has been appointed as the national sales team for Aussie-owned dental brand, Erskine Oral Care.

Erskine has been a dominant player in the interdental brush category, with its Piksters range of oral care products.

## Immunisation update

**IN 2018**, a record 11 million Australians received the influenza vaccine, nearly a third more than the previous year, much of which has been attributed to greater uptake due to easy access of in-pharmacy vaccination.



Guild Learning and Development has developed a new online course titled *2019 Immunisation Update*.

This course provides evidence-based information about the influenza vaccines available for 2019 in Australia and recent legislative changes relating to pharmacist-administered vaccinations.

It also contains a review of some of the important aspects of the vaccine administration process such as informed consent, injection technique, and the role of digital health in vaccines.

To keep up to date and enrol in this CPD accredited course visit [guided.guild.org.au](http://guided.guild.org.au).

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Congratulations to the lucky winner  
of our APP competition:  
Hany Barsoum of Port Kembla  
Discount Chemist

Hany has won a luxury retreat for  
two in Bali, valued at \$5000.  
Thanks for visiting us at APP 2019!



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## HCF to fund research

A **SIZABLE** portion of the \$1 million research fund being distributed by health insurer HCF's Research Foundation is being used to tackle adverse drug reactions in elderly patients.



University of Tasmania Head of Pharmacy, Professor Luke Bereznicki, has secured the largest grant being offered by the foundation (\$274,000) by the foundation, for his study which aims to improve medication use.

"Increases in life expectancy, the prevalence of chronic disease in older age groups and the number of medicines used to treat them raises the risk that older people will experience an adverse reaction," Bereznicki said.

"With the support of the HCF Research Foundation, we will examine the effectiveness of

risk assessments focussed on reducing adverse drug reactions during hospitalisation and in the 12 months after discharge."

Preventable adverse drug reactions frequently result from polypharmacy in the elderly hospitalised patient, he reiterated.

### Switch protocol holds

A **LEGAL** challenge of the English law that allows pharmacists to switch drugs for an equivalent product in the case of shortages has failed, according to a report in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) can allow pharmacists to switch patients' medicines during a shortage in line with a Government protocol.

On 26 Mar 2019, the campaign group The Good Law Project argued in the High Court that allowing pharmacists to substitute medicines in short supply without consulting the prescriber was "insufficient and unlawful".

In England, pharmacists may respond to a drug supply shortage in one of four ways, by dispensing: a reduced quantity, a therapeutic equivalent, a generic equivalent or an alternative dosage form of the drug.

The Good Law Project said it would continue its challenge of the "hasty and dangerous changes to prescribing practice".

### Retail turnover up

**MONTHLY** turnover data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows a slight rise in Feb.

In trend terms Australian turnover rose by 2.9% in Feb compared to the same period in 2018.

The monthly trend estimate rose 0.2% in Feb, following a similar rise in Jan.

Growth drivers were evident when broken down by industries; food retailing and cafe, restaurant and takeaway food services showed the biggest turnover growth (up 0.4% and 0.2% respectively).

## Consider PI details carefully

**PHARMACISTS** are being urged to consider the key features of their insurance policies before making a decision about where they get Professional Indemnity (PI) cover.

The warning follows Professional Pharmacists' Australia's call for employee pharmacists to boycott PDL's policy on the grounds that it is underwritten by Pharmacy Guild of Australia subsidiary, Guild Insurance (PD 26 Mar), claiming pharmacists with PI cover from PDL were supporting the cuts to their own wages.

In a joint statement issued to *Pharmacy Daily*, Guild Insurance, PDL and the Guild, stressed the need for pharmacists to understand their PI policy and differences in how coverage provided by competing insurers could impact them.

"Pharmacist indemnity insurance is a complex financial product and pharmacists should consider key attributes of insurance policies and services when comparing insurance policies offered by competing providers," they said.

"PDL protects the livelihoods of Australia's pharmacists via 24/7 Australia wide incident support, evidence-based risk management and tried and tested indemnity insurance.

"For the past 56 years, PDL has worked with Guild Insurance to design and provide indemnity insurance which currently defends the interests of over 25,000 Australian pharmacists, and more employee pharmacists than any other insurer."

The group added that the PDL/

Guild Insurance policy was backed by an incident support team staffed by people who have experience in the industry that other insurers may not be able to provide, while Guild Insurance's legal team provides significant experience defending pharmacists.

PDL also provides practice alerts and insights to help members to avoid incidents from occurring in their pharmacy.

PPA's alternative PI insurance policy is underwritten by Insurance Australia Group (IAG), and is available to members.

### Deprescribe at EOL

**USING** data from more than 150,000 patients, researchers in the UK and Sweden have concluded that there is still more room for deprescribing of preventative medicines in older people with cancer.

Published in *Cancer*, the official journal of the American Cancer Society, the paper found that patients at the end of their life may find their quality of life in the last months improved by deprescribing what are normally long term preventative therapies, such as antihypertensives, statins, and oral antidiabetics.

Authors found in their nationwide cohort study of 151,201 older people in Sweden who died of cancer, 52% were taking 10 or more medicines at the time of their death, with the average 6.9 to 10.1 different medicines per patient.

**CLICK HERE** to access the study.

### Win with PURE Papaya

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and PURE Papaya are giving away a



prize pack valued at \$48.95.

100% Natural skin care range perfect for use by the whole family. PURE range includes Vapour Balm (Chest rub), Papaya Ointment (ultra-rich multi use skin food), Papaya Renew (Scars & Stretch marks), Papaya Lips (lip balm to nourish & protect). Visit [Purepapayacare.com.au](http://Purepapayacare.com.au) to find out more.

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

**Is PURE Papaya ointment safe & effective to use on a baby's sensitive skin?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Donna Delgado.



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## knowITall winner

**NSW-BASED** pharmacist, Hany Barsoum, will be enjoying some winter sun after winning the knowITall Loyalty System APP competition.

The pharmacy loyalty and marketing system named Barsoum from Port Kembla Discount Pharmacy as the winner of a trip for two to Bali worth \$5,000.

## Dispensary Corner

**KEEPING** in tune with your patients can be key to your success as a pharmacist.

Looking for a way to stand out from the crowd, independent pharmacy owner, Gary Alony, has found the right beat at his store in Manhattan, New York.

Described as a “mom and pop style” pharmacy, Alony and his wife Joie have been servicing residents of Greenwich Village and Soho since 1994, specialising in “hard to find beauty products”, the store doubles as a music venue.

Around 6.45 pm on the second, fourth and fifth Tuesday of the month Alony rearranges the layout of Thompson Alchemists, pushing the travel stockings over a little to create a small performance area in front of the high-end skin care creams, for local and international acts to entertain shoppers.

Shows feature regular performers include frontman, Sheriff Bob on the dobro, his Deputy Kat and their band, however, guests frequently give customers something to remember, with an Italian Elvis making shoppers think the King had been reincarnated in Bologna.

## Nutricia-Danone brand merge

**PARIS-BASED** food and beverage company Danone has announced it is rebranding its portfolio of science-based specialised nutrition products in Australia and New Zealand under the Nutricia commercial master brand.



The specialised nutrition portfolio covers products and services that support healthy growth and development during the first 1000 days of life (from conception to two years old) through to age-related conditions and chronic disease, such as frailty, cancer, stroke and early Alzheimer’s disease.

This includes early life nutrition brands Aptamil and Karicare, as well as a range of advanced medical nutrition products such as Fortisip, Neocate and Souvenaid.

Nutricia Oceania MD Rodrigo Lima commented, “Combining our specialised nutrition offerings under Nutricia as a single brand will enable us to work even more effectively with healthcare professionals as well as direct

research and innovation activities with greater focus.

“From a business standpoint, we will invest in further building Nutricia’s position in Australia

and New Zealand as a strong science-based, research-driven brand that endorses our large portfolio of specialised nutrition products and services,” Lima said.

“Nutricia is deeply rooted in science and underscores Danone’s mission to bring health through food to as many people as possible.”

## WA pharmacist honour

**BROOME-BASED** pharmacist and indigenous health advocate, Hannah Mann’s business skills have secured her a place among Western Australia’s top young business people.



The 37-year-old was named First Among Equals at the state’s annual 40Under40 Awards last month.

Mann founded Kimberly Pharmacy Services a decade ago in a bid to break the barriers to health access faced by indigenous communities.

Since 2009 Mann’s business has grown to the point where she now employs 23 staff across three stores in Broome, Derby and Kununurra.

“It is a real teamwork success story around three outlets that geographically are not close together at all,” she said.

“We collaborate with the community to work to find their actual needs and we acknowledge what those needs are and look after those specific requirements.”

## MotivApril challenge

**AUSTRALIANS** are being urged to lace up their walking shoes and take 250,000 steps this month as part of the MotivApril challenge.

The campaign aims to get Australians up on their feet and walking to reduce their risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes, through exercise.

Using the Heart Foundation Walking app, participants can sync their Fitbit, Apple Health, Google Fit or Garmin device to ensure their every step is counted towards their chance to win one of four \$500 Bunnings vouchers.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily’s* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

## Travel & Cruise Weekly

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## Princess Cruises Australian Summer Deals

**THE** mighty 3,560-guest *Regal Princess* is set to make its maiden voyage from Australia Dec 2020.

Here’s an opportunity to cruise Sydney to New Zealand taking in some of the region’s most beautiful ports including Bay of Islands, Auckland, Picton (Marlborough Wine Region), Christchurch (Lyttleton), Dunedin and Fiordland.

Fares for the 13-night cruise start from \$2,199 pp twin share. **CLICK HERE** for details.

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