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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

WITH TV shows like *The Block* all the rage in Australia at the moment, we're wondering if the concept of DIY could be stretched to preparing for our own deaths?

Founder of the Kiwi Coffin Club Katie Williams certainly thinks so, an elderly woman who started the unusual group because she loves the idea of constructing her own wooden box of death.

Williams was soon joined by other interested Kiwis, with the reasons for joining varying from seeking a sense of community, others joined to try and overcome their fear of dying, while the remainder simply wanted to save a bob or two on the funeral.

The range of novelty coffins being worked on in the morbid woodwork group included one dedicated to a woman's pet chickens, and a lady by the name of Raewyn (pictured), who simply wanted to pay homage to Elvis "The King" Presley.



THOSE wacky Filipinos have set another world record, this time for gathering a crowd of almost 7,000 people to apply lipstick simultaneously.

The stunt was coordinated by local celebrity Vice Ganda, who as well as being a pop star is the founder of Vice Cosmetics Co.

The 6,900 participants had to wear the lipstick for at least 60 seconds to qualify for the record, previously held by Mary Kay.

Researchers challenge TGA

RESEARCHERS from Monash University and Friends of Science in Medicine (FSM) have argued that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) "has failed, and will continue to fail, in its duty to protect Australians from ineffective health products".

The scientists and public health officials continued their anti-TGA rhetoric at the annual Australian Public Health Conference held in Cairns this week.

Homeopathy asthma products were cited as remedy examples promoted with no warning to consumers that in severe disease their use could result in death, said Professor Ken Harvey.

"The TGA's latest response to these concerns was to make no decision," Harvey said describing this as "regulatory paralysis".

Malcolm Vickers, from Monash University, examined the way the TGA handled referrals from the independent Complaints Resolution Panel (CRP) of unacceptable, often fraudulent, advertising.

He claimed the TGA failed to deal with around 90% of 755 complaints referred for regulatory action.

FSM president Professor John Dwyer criticised the move in Jul this year to abolish the CRP, placing the complaints management process in the hands of the TGA.

Dwyer said initial experience with the TGA complaint system confirmed his worst fears, citing the lack of a search function to assist in evaluation of products.

Conference chair Harvey added, "While this is convenient for industry and the TGA, it's appalling consumer protection.

"Regulators are meant to keep everyone on a level playing field.

"Without publicising and enforcing regulatory breaches, the door is wide open for misleading and deceptive advertising and poor-quality products.

"We are now seeing a proliferation of shonky products and a race to the bottom by manufacturers and advertisers."

See more at medreach.com.au.

Travel Specials

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