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## Media release

### Pharmacies get a Kung Flu grip on pandemic preparations

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reported an outstanding response to its Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Program, also known as the Kung Flu Fighter campaign.

The overall objective of the program was to assist pharmacy staff to prepare for an influenza pandemic. To achieve this, the Guild developed training resources in infection control and business continuity planning. The program also provided custom business tools and personal protective equipment, as well as point-of-sale materials to inform customers and staff about correct cold and flu etiquette.

Over 1800 individual pharmacies participated in the program – exceeding the goals established for the program and achieved despite the pressures of a reduced timeframe. Over 1200 pharmacy staff members registered for infection control and business planning workshops across Australia.

Another indicator of success was the enthusiastic response to the Kung Flu Fighter “look-a-like” competition. After a close contest, Lismore Priceline Pharmacy took the top prize for their team photo, while pharmacy assistant Shelly Hmeljak of Gnowangerup Pharmacy won the individual award.

The Guild would also like to acknowledge the outstanding entries from the following pharmacies:

Livingston Pharmacy - Canning Vale; Casey Central Pharmacy - Narre Warren South; Warwick Friendly Society Pharmacy - Warrick; Mate Street Pharmacy - Albury; Chittaway Central Pharmacy - Chittaway Bay

Another pleasing outcome was the interest the campaign generated in the wider community. “Almost as soon as the campaign materials arrived in pharmacies, we began fielding calls from hospitals, schools, health centres and doctors’ surgeries keen to use the creative messages and posters in their own settings,” the National President of the Guild, Kos Sclavos said.

“I am personally very encouraged at this outstanding commitment and the proactive attitude of pharmacies toward the threat of an influenza pandemic. As health care professionals, it is vital community pharmacists are prepared to face the challenges of an influenza pandemic and carry on delivering vital services, such as the ongoing provision of medicines,” he said.

For more information visit [www.pandemicprepared.org.au](http://www.pandemicprepared.org.au)

*The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement.*

Photos of competition winners and participants are available on request.  
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