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# Media Release

## Qld Government Launches Diabetes Pharmacy Action Plan

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh today announced a community pharmacy diabetes action plan that further embeds pharmacy at the centre of preventive health initiatives in the State of Queensland. The initiative was launched by the Premier, with Deputy Premier and Health Minister Paul Lucas, at the pharmacy owned by the National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Kos Sclavos.

From March 2011 diabetes risk assessments will occur at Queensland pharmacies. The program will expand on the successful “Know Your Numbers” campaign developed with the Stroke Foundation. Diabetes Queensland will join the partnership with the Guild and the Stroke Foundation.

Both campaigns will be integrated and become IT based using the Guild’s award winning technology developed by the 100% owned Guild subsidiary InnovationRx.

It is hoped all pharmacies will assist patients to complete the AusDrisk tool to assess their risk of diabetes, with referral to a GP for those identified at risk. Furthermore some 120 participating pharmacies across Queensland will undertake a pilot risk identification program which aims to check 10,000 people via a blood glucose finger prick test.

Premier Bligh said: “This initiative puts Queensland at the forefront of the battle against diabetes that is now taking place right across Australia. The free diabetes test at pharmacies will identify Queenslanders who may be at high risk of developing the disease and will act as a referral service to their GPs.

Deputy Premier and Health Minister Paul Lucas said that by 2016, poor diet, inactivity and rising obesity are predicted to fuel a 17% increase in the burden of type II diabetes.

“Diabetes is the fastest-growing chronic disease in Australia,” he said.

After many years of success the move to IT enable the recording of the “Know Your Numbers” campaign will allow better outcome recording and documentation of the intervention role of community pharmacy.

“The Guild is very pleased with the vote of confidence the Queensland Government has given community pharmacy. Furthermore their funding of the IT integration of these pharmacy interventions will lead to better documented outcomes and further expansion to professional pharmacy services,” stated Kos Sclavos National President of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

### National Secretariat

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“Moving the Australian Type II Diabetes Risk Assessment Tool (AusDrisk) to an IT platform put it at the forefront of eHealth. All these types of screening will need to move to a Patient Person Controlled Electronic Health Record and the Guild is a leading in this area of practice.”

The program begins in March 2011 and Queensland pharmacies will be notified of the detailed program early in 2011.

For further information, contact Greg Turnbull on 0412 910 261.

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