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(AU) **BAYLY, Mark, Simon** [AU/AU], 26 Heacham
Road, Eltham North, Victoria 3095 (AU).

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(74) **Agent: PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK**, 367
Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU)

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(71) **Applicant (for all designated States except US): DRUG
DELIVERY SOLUTIONS PTY LTD** [AU/AU], Level 6,
161 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).

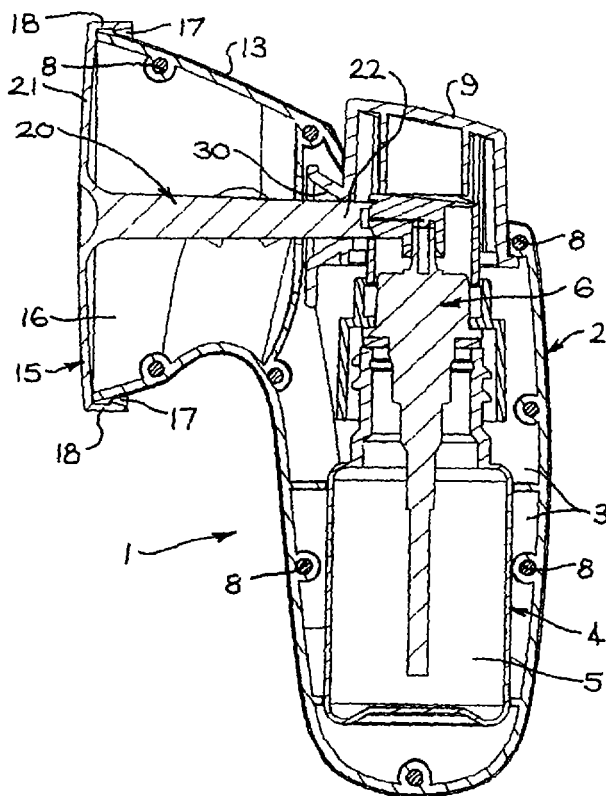
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(72) **Inventors; and**

(75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WONG, Kon, Euan**
[AU/AU], 6/2 Argyle Court, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150

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(54) Title: DISPENSING DEVICE



(57) **Abstract**: A hand-held device (1) for dispensing a metered quantity of a substance such as a pharmaceuticals, medicinal, or therapeutic substance, and applying that substance to the skin of a host animal. The device (1) includes a hollow body (2) that can be grasped by the hand of a user, and a substance capsule (4) mounted within that body. The capsule (4) includes a container (5) for the substance, and a nozzle (10) through which a quantity of the substance is dispensed, possibly in the form of a spray. The device (1) also includes actuator means (6,9) connected to the interior of the substance container (5) and operable to cause a metered quantity of the substance to be dispensed through the nozzle (1). The actuator means (6,9) may include a manually operable pump (6), or it may include a valve that is selectively operable to prevent or permit pressurized contents of the container (5) escaping in the form of an aerosol. In the former case, the pump (6) may be operated through an actuator button (9), and in the later case the valve may be opened through operation of an actuator button (9). The device (1) also includes means for preventing or minimising unintentional loss of the stored substance. In one form, that means includes a closure member (2) that is operable to close or open the nozzle outlet. In another form it includes an absorption pad (31) onto which an initial quantity of the substance is deposited, and which is thereafter removed to permit normal operation of the device (1). If a closure member (20) is used, means may be provided to apply a force to that member so as to ensure effective closure of the nozzle outlet. Substance emerging from the nozzle (10) is received within a shroud (13) for confining the dispensed substance to a designated target area, and which may

also function to position the nozzle (1) at a suitable distance from the target area

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