



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news, plus a full page from Dispense Assist.

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DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others.

To learn more about the free trial, head to [page three](#).

Morris on CHEAG

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia CEO Steve Morris has been appointed to the Government's Climate & Health Expert Advisory Group (CHEAG) by Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, to look at sustainability in healthcare.

TAS, ACT, WA expand scope

TASMANIAN pharmacists can now administer RSV vaccines to pregnant women and those over 60, thanks to an update in the Tasmanian Pharmacist Immunisation Program Guidelines.

The change, which follows a similar update in the ACT, has been welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Tasmanian PSA President Mark Kirschbaum said, "RSV is a serious condition, and I urge those who are at risk to talk to their pharmacist or doctor regarding the benefits and costs of the vaccination".

PSA National President A/Prof Fei Sim called for other states to adopt similar measures, pointing out inconsistencies in vaccine administration regulations across the country.

Currently, pharmacist immunisers in Northern Territory and Western Australia can only administer RSV vaccines after a prescription has been issued.

However, this isn't the case

in South Australia even when prescribed by a doctor.

Meanwhile, in other states, pharmacists have prescribed and administered thousands of doses of vaccines, explained Sim.

"It just makes no sense, and it's placing Australians at risk," remarked Sim.

She advocated for a nationwide standard based on the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, saying, "we should be working towards using this as our standard to define all vaccinators' vaccine formularies, rather than using complex regulatory instruments in each state and territory".

In a related development, Western Australia has expanded the role of community pharmacists to treat common conditions like shingles and acne.

PSA WA President Kristian Ray said, "extending the role will better utilise WA pharmacists skills to improve healthcare access in regional and remote communities". *JG*

Industry events

WITH less than a month remaining, delegates can still register for the 2024 Pharmacy Connect and Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, which is being held at the Hyatt Regency Sydney.

The two events will bring together 70 trade stands, over 60 speakers, and around 1,300 attendees.

Pharmacy Connect offers updates on industry and clinical practices, business advice, and networking opportunities for pharmacists, owners, students, and industry representatives.

Meanwhile, the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference focuses on educational and professional development for pharmacy staff and includes the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award.

To register for both conferences, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Dispensary Corner

AUSSIE researchers have taken TikTok's impact on body image to a new level of scrutiny.

Madison Blackburn and Rachel Hogg from Charles Sturt University published their findings in *PLOS ONE*.

They surveyed 273 women, aged 18-28, to assess their TikTok habits and screen them for disordered eating and body image issues.

The participants were then split into two groups: one watched an eight-minute TikTok montage of pro-anorexia content - think extreme dieting tips, starvation trends, and juice cleanse advice - while the other group enjoyed a soothing nature video mix.

Surprisingly, both groups felt worse about their bodies post-viewing, but the pro-anorexia crew reported the most dramatic drop in body satisfaction and even shifted their beauty standards.

The researchers are calling for TikTok to crack down on this toxic content, proving that an eight-minute scroll can indeed lead to an eight-week recovery.

Star's strong bones clinic



STAR Discount Chemist has launched its first Healthy Bones Clinic in certain stores in Firlie, Rostrevor, Pooraka, Kilkenny, and Salisbury in South Australia.

With around 6.2 million Australians over 50 years affected by osteoporosis or osteopenia, the clinic provides personalised bone health assessments conducted by skilled nurse practitioners and registered nurses.

The clinic's services include evaluating personal risk factors, calculating a 10-year fracture risk, and offering tailored bone health advice and preventative care.

Patients can also receive resources, necessary referrals, and convenient prescription refills for bone health management.

Star Pharmacy Group CEO, Peter Piliouras, highlighted the company's commitment to improving

community health.

"With two out of three Australians over 50 affected by osteoporosis or osteopenia, this service will provide expert care and preventative strategies to those in need," Piliouras said.

He added said the initiative is part of Star Discount Chemist's broader 'How Can We Health?' program, which focuses on delivering exceptional health services, value, and savings to customers, especially during winter when health support is vital.

Piliouras added, "with the cost-of-living crisis, we want to support customers with our expanded pharmacy services and offer increased everyday value and savings to customers".

To see if you or someone you know qualifies to participate at the group's clinics, **CLICK HERE**. JG

RACGP urges govt

THE Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has asked the Federal Government to urgently restore funding for GPs to deliver heart health tests.

More than 2.2 million heart health tests were not delivered by GPs between 2020-2022, due to a funding cut which restricted certain ECG services to non-GP specialists and consultant physicians, raising costs for patients.

"It's been almost four years since the Federal Government cut this funding, and the risk of people with life-threatening problems being missed since then is huge," said RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins.

"This is about restoring access to care for Australians, reducing costs, and ultimately saving lives."

She said it particularly affected people in rural and remote communities, where local cardiologists are rare.

According to the Heart Foundation, preventive heart disease screening via ECGs in general practice could prevent over 67,000 heart attacks, strokes, and deaths over five years, Higgins pointed out.

Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in *Pharmacy Daily*

Do you have a beauty or wellness product? Send it **HERE** for consideration.

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by Pharmacy Daily



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