

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of pharmacy news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

NSW dental woes

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data analysis revealed that New South Wales' teeth ranks among Australia's least healthy, with the fourth-highest rate of decayed, missing, and filled teeth per person, and the second-highest rates of untreated decay among residents.

Tasmania had the worst overall oral health score.

OmvoH fails to list, call for bold reform

PHARMA company Eli Lilly underscored the urgent need for reform of practices by the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Australia, impacting its inability to progress the PBS listing of OmvoH (mirikizumab) for the treatment of eligible adults with moderate-to-severe active ulcerative colitis.

Eli Lilly also confirmed that at this time, given the circumstances, it is unfeasible to make OmvoH available in Australia on private prescription for the disease.

The company was working to convert a positive PBAC recommendation from Jul 2023 into a PBS listing for its new first-in-class medicine for ulcerative colitis.

This is despite current pricing policies that require Lilly to accept the same price as the "lowest cost comparator", a decades-old biosimilar for the same illness.

However, Eli Lilly is unable to accept the eroding "lowest cost comparator" price resulting from ongoing price disclosure policies.

General Manager for Eli Lilly Australia, **Tori Brown (pictured)** commented, "this is not a



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decision we have taken lightly, as it will impact many patients and healthcare professionals".

"It is extremely disappointing that after investing in Australia as a location for OmvoH clinical trials, we cannot make the medicine available through the PBS to benefit patients," she said.

Brown thanked the many clinicians and advocates who had supported the company's PBAC submission and plans for launch.

She explained that throughout listing negotiations and launch preparations, "the goal posts continued to shift in terms of a launch price for OmvoH".

"It was clear that there was significant risk of further price erosion over time due to PBS

reference pricing," Brown said.

"Unfortunately, it is no longer viable for Lilly to make OmvoH available through the PBS, not without significant policy change to recognise the full value of innovative medicines."

As OmvoH illustrates, some aspects of HTA and pricing policy in Australia devalue innovative medicine and ultimately impede patient access, she remarked.

"Urgent policy change is needed, and Lilly hopes that with bold and meaningful HTA reform, first-in-class medicines such as OmvoH will be made accessible to Australian patients in the future."

Eli Lilly's submission to the HTA Review will highlight its experience with OmvoH to demonstrate the need for substantial policy change.

See PBS pricing policies [HERE](#). JG

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Rapid Antigen Test shortage easing in Tas

AFTER the Pharmacy Guild in Tasmania earlier this month sounded the alarm over a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) shortage in pharmacies across the state, Aussie Pharma Direct this week announced it had sent a fresh shipment of the tests and other personal protection equipment to its Hobart warehouse, reported *Mercury*.

The company spokesperson Daniel Seldon said it was keen to help ease supply chain issues in the state, and offer an increased availability of tests.

"RATs offer invaluable peace-of-mind protection for people and their loved ones and provide the information they need to know for how to proceed in their daily life," Seldon said.

"At-home self-testing for influenza and COVID-19 is the best way to ensure people don't infect their colleagues in

the workplace and vulnerable members of the community."

According to official Department of Health figures, a total of 634 COVID cases were recorded across Tasmania in the last seven days, with an average of 91 cases per day.

There have been almost 320,000 COVID cases in the state since Dec 2021, and 345 deaths.

Co-founder of Launceston-based firm Tasmanian Hand Sanitiser, Matthew Will, said the recent Tasmanian RAT shortage could be partly attributed to the glut of stock that arrived in the state in early 2022, and which expired in Dec 2023.

Will added that his company, which sells products to both commercial clients and directly to the public, had also been affected by supply issues late last year but that its supplies were now fully restored.

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Editor's Choice: tanning foam formula for a smooth bronze look

TANOLOGIST Self-Tan Mousse is a lightweight, skincare-infused foam that glides onto the skin for a tan that's fast-drying, mess-free and ultra-hydrating.

Once developed, the tan should last up to seven days.

Available in three adaptable shades, it can be customised with more developing time for a deeper tan.

The mousse contains pink grapefruit, goji berry and juniper to soften and hydrate while extra-firming root and resin extract also works to smooth and tone skin.

Tanologist's transparent formula means pharmacy customers can get their best-ever bronze with no need to worry

about streaks, stains or transfer onto clothing.

The dermatologist-approved product is also formulated to minimise the traditional self-tan smell.

It is suggested to apply the Tanologist's Self-Tan Mousse (RRP: \$22.99) with Tanologist's Mitt Duo (RRP: \$12.99) for the best results.

Velvety-soft and machine washable, use the large mitt with a thumb on the body, and the mini face mitt for blending the product around the hairline, neck and hands.



Daily gut health help



AUSTRALIAN brand TheroNomic has just released its first gut health product, Tribiotic Gut Shield, which is a daily supplement for customers experiencing gastro intestinal or digestive issues.

Combining whole-food prebiotics, a potent blend of live probiotic cultures and a mix of whole-cell heat-inactivated postbiotics, Tribiotic Gut Shield is designed specifically to help those experiencing gut issues, as well as those seeking to improve their overall health.

Tribiotic Gut Shield is TGA-registered, gluten free, nut free and shellfish free.

A bottle of 30 capsules retails for \$53.99, with a discounted subscription being offered.

Tribiotic Gut Shield also aims to provide several other benefits for improving gut, immune, and mental health.

A single daily dose of Tribiotic Gut Shield also makes compliance easier for pharmacy customers to maintain their overall health, stated its manufacturer.

Open to talking it out

LIP balm brand ChapStick was sold for over US\$500m (A\$776m).

British owner Haleon said it has agreed to sell ChapStick to Suave Brands Company, owned by private equity firm Yellow Wood Partners, for around US\$430m (A\$654m) in cash and a stake valued at around US\$80m (A\$121m) in the buyer, reported *Beauty Directory*.

With the deal to close later this year, Haleon Chief Executive Officer Brian McNamara said, "selling the brand allows us to simplify our business and pay down debt more quickly".



Best friend to a blow-dry to lift fine, flat hair

KLORANE is adding to its iconic range of dry shampoo products with the launch of a plant-based volumising dry shampoo, enriched with 100% organic flax.

The latest addition to the Klorane brand aims to lift fine, flat hair from the root and to add long-lasting volume for up to eight hours, stated its manufacturer.

Designed with a combination of flax fibre and highly absorbent texturising powders, this dry shampoo aims to cleanse hair without water in just two minutes.

Dull and lifeless hair is left much easier to style, for improved next-day hair and volume, according to the brand.

Delivering an invisible finish with no white residue, this volumiser claims to contain no nasties

such as SLS, silicones and parabens, and is contained in an eco-designed 100% recyclable can.

The manufacturer said pharmacy customers can save as much as 500 litres of water per year by replacing just one hair wash a week with one application of Klorane Dry Shampoo (RRP: \$15.99).



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Dispensary Corner

PEOPLE have called 999 in Wales for an ambulance for reasons that include misplacing their false teeth, a painful stomach from eating too much kebab, while yet another had their hand stuck in a letter box, reported *Sky News*.

A lost voice and a ring stuck on a finger prompted other inappropriate calls to the Welsh Ambulance Service.

The false teeth caller's published transcript read: "I have a bottom part denture, and I went to clean my teeth and I said, 'where's my false teeth?'

"This sounds crazy...but I don't know what else to do.

"Could I have swallowed my false teeth?"

This left the service operator totally perplexed.

The service stated it received 414,149 calls last year and of those, 68,416 were not a life-or-death emergency.

With an average of 188 calls a day it has prompted the service to remind people to only dial 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured.

PDL student grants open

THE Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) announced that its 2024 Student Grant Program has opened for new applications.

Established to help Australian pharmacy students broaden their education by attending a professional pharmacy conference, the grants program funds event registrations, travel and accommodation expenses up to the value of \$5,000 per person.

Following student feedback, PDL stated the 2024 program now offers four recognised Australian conferences to choose from: PSA National Conference 2024, 02-04 Aug, Sydney; Pharmacy Connect 2024, 05-07 Sep, Sydney; SHPA Medicines Management Conference 2024, 14-16 Nov, Adelaide; and APP Conference 2025 in Mar on the Gold Coast.

The 2022 grant winner Sanam Fath Abadi recommended students apply for a grant because of the "unique experiences" it offered.

"Thanks to PDL's Student Grant Program, I was able to explore my passion for hospital pharmacy at the SHPA Medicines Management Conference in Brisbane," she said.

"I got to network with many amazing hospital pharmacists,



develop new clinical skills from all the talks they were giving, and even had the chance to present an abstract poster on some research I had conducted that year," commented Abadi.

To be eligible for a grant, students must be currently enrolled in a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate pharmacy degree at an Australian university and be a PDL member.

Applications close on 14 Apr 2024 at 11pm AEST.

Students can submit an online application for one of three grants via the PDL member portal, [HERE](#). JG

FIP handbook out

GUIDANCE for pharmacists to manage symptoms of iron deficiency anaemia (including supporting self-care) and to prevent the condition is shared in a handbook published today by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), available [HERE](#).

The handbook describes iron deficiency anaemia roles for pharmacists in community pharmacies, hospitals and research, and provides the knowledge needed to offer advice to at-risk groups.

The handbook was developed in response to the recommendations from a FIP roundtable report in 2022, which highlighted the "increasing opportunity for pharmacists to contribute to achieving the World Health Organization's target of reducing anaemia by 50% among women of reproductive age by 2025," said FIP CEO Dr Catherine Duggan.

Iron deficiency anaemia, which affects 1.2 billion people worldwide, is preventable and treatable, highlighting the importance of FIP's resource.

Link between Alzheimer's and fast food

A STUDY has found a "strong link" between Alzheimer's disease and the daily consumption of meat-based and processed foods.

Researchers at Bond University came to the conclusion after examining the diets of 438 Australians - 108 with Alzheimer's and 330 in a healthy control group.

Those diagnosed with Alzheimer's tended to regularly eat foods such as meat pies, sausages, ham, pizza and hamburgers, researchers found.

They also consumed less fruits and vegetables such as oranges, strawberries, avocado, capsicum, carrots, cabbage and spinach.

Previous studies have emphasised the positive effects of the Mediterranean diet on brain health, but this study is believed to be the first to link processed foods and Alzheimer's.

See more on the study [HERE](#).

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- Carolyn Wynen, Pharmacist and Proprietor
TerryWhite Chemmart Clyde



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