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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Pointrs
- Fend
- BioCeuticals

Save on travel

POINTRS is offering a free 30-day trial, giving pharmacists the opportunity to save big on their next holiday.

Using cash, airline and credit card loyalty points, save up to 81% on flights - see p4.

New strategy lead

ROSEMARY Huxtable has been appointed to lead the development of Australia's National Health and Medical Research Strategy, aiming to strengthen the nation's health research capabilities.

The strategy will focus on attracting researchers and investors, filling gaps in the field, and expanding workforce capacity in the country.

Huxtable, previously Secretary of the Department of Finance, brings extensive expertise in government policy, financial management, and strategic leadership, with a strong background in health and aged care policy.

Huxtable begins her role soon, and a sector-wide webinar will take place on 05 Dec.

A draft strategy is due by 30 Jun 2025, with the final version expected by year's end.

MyTWC's new feature

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) has launched the Weight Care Program, a new feature within its myTWC app, to support patients using prescribed medical weight loss treatments.

The program aims to simplify weight management by connecting patients with their local pharmacists for expert guidance, while offering a range of practical tools.

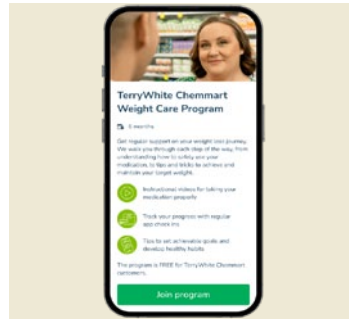
The Weight Care program includes features such as dose and script reminders, educational resources, motivational tools, milestone tracking, and tips for success.

These tools are designed to empower pharmacy patients and enhance their ability to achieve measurable progress in their weight loss journeys.

"We're excited to bring weight management support to patients in a seamless, integrated way through our myTWC app," TWC Chief Pharmacist Brenton Hart said.

"This program connects patients with expert guidance from their TWC pharmacist and provides essential tools to stay motivated, enhancing healthcare beyond the dispensary," he added.

The myTWC app has evolved



into a comprehensive health management platform, enabling patients to manage prescriptions, book health services, and access Rewards Plus points.

Its e-commerce capabilities and delivery options make it an all-in-one solution for healthcare and pharmacy needs.

Hart added that the app's digital features are improving patient adherence to health plans.

"By offering practical tools and programs like Weight Care, we're ensuring our pharmacies deliver the best in convenience and care," Hart commented.

TWC continues to expand its digital services, reinforcing its commitment to accessible and effective healthcare across its pharmacy network. JG

Fends off insects

FEND Insect Repellent range offers DEET-free protection from mosquitoes and sandflies for customers.

It is hypoallergenic and can be used on infants from two months up - see more on p5.

Ease sore muscles

BIOCEUTICALS is highlighting its new Ultra Muscleze + Pain Relief, which has been formulated to relieve mild joint pain and soreness, and support muscle function and muscle health - see the back page.

Illegal vape penalties soar

THE NSW Government has introduced harsher penalties for illegal vape supply, with fines to soar from \$1,650 to \$1.54 million and prison sentences increasing from six months to seven years.

Additional offences are possession of commercial quantities of vaping products and retailer possession of vaping products.

The legislation has been introduced in the NSW Parliament as it moves to align vaping offences with Commonwealth legislation.

The intent of the offences is to target suppliers rather than individual users of vapes.

"The prevalence of illegal vaping devices in our community, and in particular among our young people, is deeply concerning," said NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park.

"We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to the stem the tide of this public health challenge," he said.

The Minister acknowledged the progress being made in terms of removing harmful devices from the streets, announcing that the government had seized over 300,000 vapes in the past year.

NSW Health supports pharmacists, prescribers and wholesalers in complying with new vape supply and sale laws through the eCigarette Compliance Program.



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Top educators lauded

FOUR pharmacists were honoured by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) at the Emeritus Lloyd Sansom Distinguished Lecture Series in Canberra yesterday.

The recipients were celebrated for their exceptional contributions to pharmacy education and intern supervision as part of the Dr Erica Sainsbury awards.

Branko Radojkovic received the Early Career Pharmacy Educator Award, recognising his innovative approach to teaching and dedication to placing students at the centre of their learning.

He explained the importance of addressing disparities through education, stating, "if we could train our future pharmacists from disadvantaged communities... it would be a key step to achieving equitable access to healthcare".

The Pharmacist Supervisor Awards were presented to Dr Hilai Ahmadzai for her work in hospital settings; Shanae Draffen

for supporting overseas-trained pharmacists; and award-winning pharmacist Taren Gill, for her contributions to the profession.

Dr Ahmadzai shared her approach to mentoring, and said, "I try to create an environment that is open and supportive, where interns can ask questions, make mistakes, and grow as professionals and individuals".

Gill reflected on the responsibility of guiding pharmacy undergrads, and said, "I love helping students transform their knowledge into problem-solving and operational skills to help our patients".

APC Chair, Prof Sarah Roberts-Thomson, commended the awardees for their dedication to developing the next generation of pharmacists, adding that their leadership inspires the broader pharmacy community.

This year's awards introduced new categories, reflecting APC's commitment to fostering excellence across diverse areas of practice. *JG*

College launches CPD scope series

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy has introduced the Supplementary Scope Series, a new initiative offering tailored continuing professional development (CPD) for pharmacists practising with an expanded scope.

College CEO Amanda Seeto (pictured) highlighted the growing need for advanced CPD programs as pharmacists take on prescribing activities and broader roles across Australia.

"With permanent scope changes in place nationwide, this series supports pharmacists expanding their scope, not just in Queensland but across the country," Seeto said.

The first module focuses on clinical note-taking, documentation, and various medico-legal considerations.

College Chief Pharmacist Suzanna Nash emphasised its practical approach, informed by feedback from state governments



and pilot programs.

The Nov program includes an online learning course and an interactive workshop on 28 Nov at 6:30pm AEST, led by pharmacists practising to full scope and experts from the medical profession.

Participants will engage in small breakout groups for peer-to-peer learning and case discussions based on real-world scenarios.

For more information, and to register for the course, [CLICK HERE](#).

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*Peter RU and Rocjarrz-Barthauer U. Br J Dermatol 1995;132(3)441-5. Department of Dermatology, University of Munich, Germany. Janssen Research Foundation.



Dispensary Corner

AUSTRALIA'S national science agency, CSIRO, is calling on Aussies to join a very down-to-earth research project: tracking their farts.

Yes, really - the idea is to help scientists better understand gut health by studying one of its most common symptoms: excessive flatulence.

Armed with the free 'Chart Your Fart' app, citizen scientists aged 14 years and up are encouraged to record their daily gas stats for at least three days.

Participants will track all the key fart factors - stench, loudness, duration, and even linger time.

The goal is to create a 'normal' flatulence chart for different groups across Australia, because, as CSIRO Research Dietitian Megan Rebuli puts it, "healthy bodies are meant to let them go, as passing wind is natural".

"It shows our digestive systems are working well.

"Different foods, medical conditions, even how we chew can affect the outcome - and sometimes the aroma."

Leading this fragrant initiative is CSIRO Behavioural Scientist Dr Emily Brindal, who's excited to harness public participation.

"We rely on people to help shape health science, so why not have some fun with it?" remarked Brindal.



Push for work inclusivity

EMPLOYMENT services provider atWork Australia has released new data showing that Australians living with a disability are more than twice as likely to experience workplace discrimination than their peers without disability.

This follows recent research from Diversity Council Australia, which found that nearly one in five Australian workers (19%) do not feel valued, respected or able to contribute and progress at work.

That figure has almost doubled since 2019, and the growing inequality is holding businesses back, according to atWork.

With 18-22 Nov marking Inclusion at Work Week, atWork Australia said the findings reflect the pressing need for more inclusive and supportive workplaces and urges employers to take "meaningful steps to create supportive, accessible and inclusive workplaces that allow all employees to thrive".



It is not just a moral imperative, said the organisation, but also a key driver of business innovation, creativity and long-term success, with inclusive teams outperforming their counterparts, providing flow-on benefits across the workforce and the broader economy.

AtWork Australia delivers employment services on behalf of the Australian government, including Disability Employment Services connecting people and businesses for mutual benefit. **KB**



Guild Update

Rural video competition

THE official program for the 2025 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2025) has been released.

"This year's theme, 'Unlocking Your Opportunities', reflects the evolving landscape of community pharmacy," APP2025 Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos said.

"The conference will equip delegates to embrace the changes ahead and transform ideas into action."

A key highlight of APP2025 is the Rural Pharmacy Forum, co-hosted by the Guild and Rural Pharmacists Australia.

Building on this year's discussions, the 2025 program will feature interactive sessions focused on actionable strategies, including advancing full scope of practice and leading teams through change.

In celebration of Rural Health Month this Nov, the Guild has also launched the 'I Love Rural Pharmacy' video competition.

Open to all pharmacy staff working in MMM2-7 locations, this year's competition challenges participants to creatively share their experiences with attracting, recruiting and retaining staff.

Submissions should highlight the rewarding and sometimes humorous aspects of rural pharmacy, while showcasing innovative solutions tailored to local community needs.

AMA urges skin cancer checks

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has backed the Cancer Council's National Skin Cancer Action Week with a reminder for Australians to visit their doctor for a skin check.

With the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, Australians cannot afford to be complacent, warned AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen.

Around two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer at some point, and early detection is paramount, she said.

"We know that with early detection through the form of a skin check, most of these

cancers can be treated with somewhere in the order of a 98% success rate for treating them, if detected early," Dr McMullen added.

"I encourage all Australians to talk to their GP about how they can get a skin check."

Prevention also has an important role to play in keeping Australians safe in the sun.

"Of course, I also encourage Australians to be vigilant and follow the Cancer Council's ongoing advice to slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen, slap on a hat, seek shade and slide on sunglasses when enjoying the outdoors," Dr McMullen said.

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