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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of the latest pharmacy news, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Wizard Pharmacy

## Low-cost solution

**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.

Learn more on [page three](#).

## Wizard recruiting

**PASSIONATE** and motivated pharmacy professionals can enjoy a range of benefits, including strong career advancement and future partnership opportunities with Wizard Pharmacy.

Find out more about the roles available on [page four](#).

## APP2025 bookings

**ACCOMMODATION** bookings are open now for those attending the largest pharmacy conference in the Southern Hemisphere - the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP 2025).

Further, the first 200 people to register for the full conference will receive an extra 10% off the earlybird rate.

To register, [CLICK HERE](#), and use the code FIRST200.

## Boost for rural aged care

**THE** Federal Government has announced a \$900 million investment to improve aged care services in rural and remote areas, alongside a growing petition by the sector's peak body calling for better healthcare access in these regions.

The funding includes \$600 million for the Support at Home initiative and \$300 million for various infrastructure improvements.

At the National Rural Health Alliance annual conference in Perth last week, CEO Susi Tegen (**pictured**) commented on the challenges faced by rural Australians in accessing aged care.

"Older people in rural areas face significant barriers, often having to move far from home for care, which affects their quality of life," Tegen said.

The investment aims to keep residents closer to their communities, improving service continuity and care quality.

The Alliance is also urging Australians to sign a petition calling for a 10-year National Rural Health Strategy.

The petition demands



coordinated federal and state efforts to ensure rural residents receive the same healthcare access as those in cities.

Currently, rural Australians receive less healthcare and spend less on their health, despite contributing significantly to the nation's economy.

Tegen emphasised that rural Australians, who make up 30% of the population, live shorter lives compared to their urban counterparts due to inadequate healthcare access.

The petition, open until 10 Oct, advocates for a \$1 billion National Rural Health Fund to support health workforce retention and infrastructure in rural areas.

"Rural Australians deserve the same dignity and support as those in the city," Tegen commented. *JG*

## Insurers offering coverage as S3 vapes start

**FOLLOWING** the introduction of legislation allowing therapeutic vapes to be dispensed without a prescription in pharmacies, starting from tomorrow, Guild Insurance has confirmed that it will cover members.

Any changes to premiums will take effect at the next policy renewal on 30 Apr.

Pharmacists supplying the

S3 products with a nicotine concentration of 20mg/mL or less to adults aged 18 and over are also covered under the Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) Master Policy, with no changes to cover or premiums yet.

PDL members will receive automatic coverage so long as they comply with requirements.

To see more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Cobefny approval

**FOR** the first time in decades, a new class of medication, Cobefny (formerly KarXT), has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of schizophrenia.

Monash University scientists have played a key role in the development of Cobefny over the past 30 years.

The Bristol Myers Squibb's and Karuna Therapeutics' drug, a combination of xanomeline and trospium, works to improve symptoms of schizophrenia while reducing debilitating side effects.

"Cobefny represents a whole new class of more targeted medicines," said lead researcher, Prof Arthur Christopoulos, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash University.

"This is a major advancement in the treatment of schizophrenia and other difficult neuropsychiatric diseases," Christopoulos said.



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## Dispensary Corner

**IN A** twist that may disappoint dopamine enthusiasts, a new study suggests that the brain's beloved "feel-good" molecule might not be the mastermind behind the placebo effect after all.

Researchers led by Ulrike Bingel at University Hospital Essen put dopamine on trial in a randomised experiment involving 168 volunteers and various pill concoctions.

Their goal: to see if dopamine had anything to do with placebo-induced pain relief.

Volunteers were given either a dopamine blocker, a dopamine booster, or the always-reliable sugar pill, and then tested for placebo effects.

It turned out that placebo pain relief happened regardless of what dopamine was up to.

So, while dopamine might be great for making you feel happy about winning a game or eating pizza, it seems to take the day off when it comes to placebo pain relief.

The study suggests that the brain's placebo magic is a lot more complex than just a dose of dopamine.

## Qld's free flu jab wraps up

**QUEENSLAND'S** free flu vaccination program ends today, after a year of giving more than 457,000 people influenza shots at 1,200 community pharmacies across the state.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Qld branch President Chris Owen highlighted the growing role of community pharmacies in the vaccination process, noting that 26% of people vaccinated in the state chose to do so through their local pharmacy, marking a nearly 10% increase since 2021.

"The flu is present year-round, and getting vaccinated now can still protect against illness during the holiday season, especially if travelling to a colder country for Christmas," said Owen, urging those who have not yet been vaccinated to take advantage of the final day of the program.

Owen emphasised the convenience of community pharmacies, with 97% of urban residents living within 2.5km of a pharmacy; while 83% of regional patients are within 5km of one. *JG*

## Vape black market

**A PROVIDER** of therapeutic vapes has warned more action is needed to combat the thriving black market.

Wilhelm David, CEO of From the Fields Pharmaceuticals, stressed that unregulated vapes are still widely used by Australians due to their broader flavour options.

"Our legitimate fear under the new rules is we're seeing a spiralling situation where overall cigarettes and tobacco use may rise, not fall, despite the gov't's good intentions," David said.

While therapeutic vapes are being restricted to mint, menthol, and tobacco flavours, David believes offering fruit flavours could help transition smokers and illicit vape users to regulated products.

"The decision to limit flavours in therapeutic vapes is driving many ex-smokers back to the black market," David said.

He also noted that low availability of therapeutic vapes in pharmacies further undermines efforts to curb the black market.

"To properly address the issue, these products must be more accessible in pharmacies," he added.

## Blooms swings for wishes with charity day



**BLOOMS** The Chemist held its seventh annual Charity Golf Day at Strathfield Golf Course recently, raising over \$60,000 for Make-A-Wish Australia.

Over 125 sponsors, ambassadors, and Make-A-Wish representatives

(pictured) attended the event.

CEO Emmanuel Vavoulas expressed pride in the partnership, supporting wishes for critically ill children.

The network has also surpassed \$2 million in overall donations.

## 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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