

# Is the chemistry just not right? Find out how you can build a stronger relationship, with Sigma.

Over the last 107 years, Sigma has evolved into Australia's largest retail pharmacy offering. We're a powerhouse of six standalone retail pharmacy brands with a solution for any pharmacy owner, including those who wish to remain independent. By joining the Sigma family you'll have immediate access to an integrated suite of proven tools and solutions to help you build a better business, as well as a world-class wholesale service from our upgraded national DC network. We've continued to reshape and invest in our business to support forward-looking pharmacists, who are ready to embrace a modern pharmacy retail landscape and run a better business. If you're a progressive pharmacist, who shares our excitement for the future, we'd love to hear from you today.

To be part of something better visit [sigmahealthcare.com.au/change](https://sigmahealthcare.com.au/change) or call your Sigma State Manager:

**Sarah Xiberras**, NSW on 0412 801 894

**Phil Urquhart**, VIC on 0413 331 332

**Ernie Papadopoulos**, SA, NT and TAS on 0417 563 987

**Andrew Brebner**, QLD on 0407 779 122

**Scott Hunter**, WA on 0417 926 589





**Today's issue of PD**  
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a front cover wrap from Sigma Healthcare.

**Join the Sigma family**  
SIGMA Healthcare is today highlighting its "powerhouse of six standalone retail pharmacy brands" meaning it can offer a range of options for any pharmacy owner, including those who wish to remain independent.  
Sigma is inviting "progressive pharmacists" who share its vision for the future to make contact - more details on the [cover page](#).

**OTCs adding to AMR**  
UK RESEARCHERS have found that some over the counter (OTC) products may be fuelling the development of anti-microbial resistance (AMR).  
Locally delivered antibiotics gramicidin, neomycin, bacitracin and tyrothricin were named in the discussion - [CLICK HERE](#).

## PSA prescribing proposal

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has released its response to the Pharmacy Board of Australia's current discussion paper on pharmacist prescribing, saying "collaborative prescribing by pharmacists [would] improve Australians' access to safe and effective healthcare".  
PSA President, Chris Freeman, said the Society had advocated for collaborative pharmacist prescribing, "within a framework that allows them to practise to the full extent of their expertise".  
Freeman noted that pharmacists have more clinical training in medicines than any other health professional.  
"They already perform clinical assessment and diagnosis within their scope of practice, and prescribe other scheduled medicines...these activities are within the national competency framework for pharmacists."  
"Prescribing Schedule 4 medicines is a logical next step and continuation of pharmacists' role in

medicines management," he said.  
The PSA formulated its response to the Board's paper with the help of a survey of pharmacists, interns and pharmacy students.  
A large majority (94%) of respondents agreed that pharmacists were already well placed to prescribe under a structured prescribing arrangement or under supervision.  
More than half (56%) said they would prescribe under a structured prescribing arrangement as soon as it was implemented.  
Core principles that would underpin such a framework included the pharmacist prescriber working as a member of a collaborative care team with shared responsibility, the PSA said, as well as separation of prescribing and dispensing functions.  
"PSA looks forward to working with the Pharmacy Board and the wider profession to support pharmacist prescribers by establishing training and recognition requirements, enabling legislative and regulatory change, and developing a framework for collaborative prescribing across practice settings," Freeman said.

**Round 4 AFL winner**  
**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jackie Carter from Sigma Healthcare on taking out the top spot in Round 4 of the **PD** AFL Footy Tipping comp.  
Jackie shows us all how it's done - don't miss your chance to win the ultimate prize of a \$1,000 gift card thanks to Guild Digital - [CLICK HERE](#).

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**Overactive bladder**  
GUILD Learning and Development partnered with Astellas to develop an online course titled *Betmiga (mirabegron) for the treatment of overactive bladder: the role of the pharmacist in medication management*.  
Access this accredited module at [myCPD.org.au](http://myCPD.org.au).

**JOBS OF THE WEEK**

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Pharmacy Daily



## Dispensary Corner

**SEVERAL** enterprising Chinese entrepreneurs have come up with a radical new weight loss concept - getting paid to eat delicious food on behalf of dieters.

According to the *Beijing Evening News*, the idea is to (kind of) satisfy cravings by tasting dishes and then describing the experience, creating a "second-hand dining experience without the calories".

The sellers film themselves consuming the unhealthy items and send a video to their clients, charging the cost of the food plus a small "service fee".

One social media listing promises to "help you eat whatever you want!. Don't worry about getting fat, diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure - I will take all the risks for you!"

Another seller highlighted McDonald's, KFC, desserts and barbecued meat as examples of things he would eat for a fee.

**AND** while we're on the subject of consuming fast food, American burger chain Arby's has launched a promotion offering 10 lucky clients a 24-hour vacation in Hawai'i for just US\$6.

The winners of the Hawai'ian Getaway campaign will receive a first class flight to Honolulu, and upon arrival be taken to a local Arby's restaurant to taste the new King Hawaiian sandwich range.

They'll then head back to the airport for the flight home, with the trip only including about six hours in Hawai'i and promising "No volcanoes, no pineapple farms...just you, sweet buns, tender meats and a Hawai'ian paradise to eat them in".

## Blackmores updates interactions guide

**BLACKMORES** Institute has released a new edition of its comprehensive online Complementary Medicine Interactions Guide, which has been updated with the latest peer-reviewed data and new herbal and nutritional ingredients.

The latest version covers 75 complementary medicine (CM) ingredients, including additions such as Valerian and Bromelain.

Details of 173 new interactions are featured, alongside 430 new supporting articles.

Blackmores Institute Director, Lesley Braun, said education was fundamental in helping pharmacists and other healthcare professionals to safely integrate natural medicine into patient care.

"According to Australian statistics seven out of 10 pharmacy customers take complementary medicine products," she said, with consumers expecting pharmacists to be able to provide information about safety and efficacy.

See [blackmoresinstitute.org](http://blackmoresinstitute.org).

## Epic battle continues

**PROFESSIONAL** Pharmacists Australia is urging its members to provide "support and solidarity" to members working for Epic Pharmacy in Queensland, who are currently taking protected industrial action in support of a wage claim.

The long-running dispute is seeing the pharmacists and pharmacy techs at Epic indefinitely "zero out" the cost of medication in Fred Dispense software, as well as refuse to take payments for customers at the pharmacy.

More than 12 months ago the staff joined the union group and ran a "majority support petition" to force their employer to negotiate over their wages and conditions.

"Since then Epic has stubbornly opposed a fair agreement proposed by PPA members and put forward their own offer that would send pharmacy workers backwards," according to a PPA update last Fri.

The union claims Epic has refused to accept any process to safely manage workloads, and has "threatened to lock out workers from their workplace without pay".

## Guild Update

### Supporting rural and remote pharmacy

**WITH** the Federal election campaign now underway, one of the issues the Guild is focusing on is the needs and challenges facing community pharmacies in rural and remote Australia.

The Community Pharmacies for Rural and Indigenous Australia Advisory Group (CPRIA) has produced what might be termed an election manifesto to draw the attention of all sides of politics to the role of rural pharmacies and the compelling need to support them and their staff.

Rural community pharmacies are struggling with workforce shortages and workforce distribution inequities on top of problems with accessing appropriately funded training and services, and of course the medicine shortages that are now so prevalent. These issues compound the challenges these community pharmacies have in providing services to a population with high rates of chronic disease, lower health literacy and socioeconomic status - all of which require more time to be spent with patients to ensure quality health outcomes.

The document can be viewed on the Guild website at:

[https://www.guild.org.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0023/73904/Issues-for-Rural-and-Remote-Pharmacies-April-2019.pdf](https://www.guild.org.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0023/73904/Issues-for-Rural-and-Remote-Pharmacies-April-2019.pdf).

## Win with skinb5

This week **Pharmacy Daily & skinB5** are giving away each day their NEW premium products Acne Control Australian Botanicals Cleansing Mousse and Acne Control Australian Botanicals Hydration

Essence valued at \$85.90.

The advanced hydration essence uses 8 anti-acne Australian botanical extracts to effectively nourish, heal & restore a healthy skin barrier. Using cutting-edge cellular extraction, the ingredients' natural powers are harnessed to deliver maximum benefits to your skin.

For more info see [www.skinB5.com](http://www.skinB5.com).

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Elizabeth Kim .

What Tasmanian ingredient does Acne Control Australian Botanicals Hydration Essence contain?