



## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of the latest news, a feature page from TerryWhite Chemmart plus full pages from:

- Chemsave
- Guild Insurance

## Big savings on

FOR a limited time only, Chemsave is offering a low monthly membership fee to pharmacy owners.

There are several discounts on OTC and script medicines, as well as with wholesalers.

See more on **page six**.

## Cover certainty

GUILD Insurance will cover various scope of practice pilots so pharmacists can expand their services with confidence knowing they are protected.

Learn more on **page seven**.

# Vape bill amendments may be dropped

FROM Monday next week, it will be unlawful to supply, manufacture, import, and sell a vape outside of a pharmacy, according to the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler (pictured).

He commented that these laws protect young Australians and the broader community from the impact of recreational vaping, while ensuring that those who require access to a therapeutic vape for help to quit smoking, can get one from their local pharmacy.

The government now hopes that the Opposition "supports these world-leading reforms and that this bill can be met with multi-partisan support," Butler added.

"Peter Dutton was dragged kicking and screaming to support Labor's world-leading cigarette plain packaging laws 12 years ago and countless Australian lives have since been saved.

"He and all Liberal Senators now have a choice: will they side with the Nationals and big tobacco



against the concerns of parents and teachers?

"Or will they join with a majority of the Parliament in protecting the health of young Australians for generations to come?"

"The best time to have done this was five years ago, the second-best time is right now," asserted Butler.

As the bill continues its passage through Parliament today, general media and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have indicated that the Coalition may not oppose the legislation, and so the proposed amendments to appease the Greens are "no longer required".

"The original bill now has the necessary political and stakeholder support to pass the Senate," said a Guild spokesperson.

TerryWhite Chemmart, Priceline, National Pharmacies, Blooms and Pharmacy 777, alongside thousands of independent pharmacies, have expressed their opposition to nicotine-containing vapes being available without a prescription, he added.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia too is against the proposed Greens' amendments.

By contrast, the original bill to restrict nicotine-containing vapes as Schedule 4 (Prescription Only) had the support of 63 patient, healthcare and school groups including the Australian Medical Association, the Cancer Council, Lung Foundation Australia, the Public Health Association of Australia, and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

"Nicotine-containing vapes are not listed as a therapeutic product, this week or after a dirty Senate deal, and if the Parliament has a genuine consultation a sensible outcome is possible," Butler added. *JG*



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## S3 vapes support

**THERAPEUTIC** vapes manufacturer From the Fields Pharmaceutical has come out in support of a S3 classification for the vaping reforms bill.

The anticipated timeline is that from 01 Jul, new legislation will ban non-therapeutic vapes, with consumer access via scripts.

It has been proposed that the S3 classification will take place from 01 Oct.

"We have actively encouraged the government to consider a S2 or S3 classification at the recent Senate inquiry," Wilhelm David, CEO and Founder, From the Fields Pharmaceutical.

"We've been consistent in our view that further reforms that consolidate a pharmacy distribution model for therapeutic vaping products in Australia can and will lead to improved health outcomes.

"This should be considered with also permitting simple fruit flavours so that adult smokers can permanently move away from deadly cigarettes," David added.

He mentioned that the "financial benefit gained via accretive revenue will strengthen our community pharmacies' viability during these challenging economic times as well".

"This proposed change to the legislation allows them to continue the great work they have been doing and be sustainable," David concluded.

## Lilly teams up to fight AMR

**US-BASED** pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly has announced it is in collaboration with OpenAI to harness generative AI for developing antimicrobials to combat drug-resistant bacteria, reported *Reuters*.

Public health authorities, including the World Health Organization, have highlighted the urgent need for new treatments to address antibiotic-resistant bacteria, also called superbugs.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve to resist drugs, poses a significant challenge, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of severe illness and death.

The estimated annual impact of AMR on the Australian economy by 2050 will be between A\$142 billion and A\$283 billion, according to the Outbreak Consortium funded by



the Department of Health.

In the US, over 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur annually.

Globally, AMR is on track to claim 10 million lives per year and put at risk a cumulative US\$100 trillion (A\$150 trillion) of economic output if no action is taken by 2050.

Lilly has also pledged US\$100 million (A\$150 million) to the AMR Action Fund.

The US\$1 billion (A\$1.5 billion) fund aims to bring two to four new antibiotics to patients by 2030, supporting manufacturers in addressing the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. *JG*

## Focused on future

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart Masterclass, now in its 10th year, is advancing pharmacy practice and delivering useful workshops and clinical education sessions to delegates. See more on **page four**.

## Tablet form works

**NEW** research shows that the tablet form of ketamine could treat severe depression, offering an alternative to current therapies.

Unlike injectable and nasal spray versions requiring clinician supervision, the slow-release tablet can be taken at home with minimal side effects, said researchers from UNSW Sydney, the Black Dog Institute (BDI), and other institutions.

The study, published in *Nature Medicine*, and led by Prof Paul Glue of the University of Otago, conducted a trial with 168 patients with treatment-resistant depression.

Patients who received the highest dose, 180mg taken orally twice a week, had the best outcomes.

Patients in this group saw an average reduction in their MADRS depression score of 14 points from a high of 30, compared to an 8-point reduction in the placebo group.

Lower doses of ketamine also showed better outcomes than the placebo.

However, further research is needed before this treatment becomes widely available.

## One-stop-shop for all things menopause



**A NEW** website, Healthy Hormones, has been launched to help transform menopause care in Australia.

Created by three GPs, Dr Ceri Cashell, Dr Emma Harvey, and Dr Jo Bruce, the website is aimed at healthcare professionals and acts

as a resource to help improve menopause care.

Members gain access to evidence-based resources, including handouts, prescriber guides, a library of books, podcasts and articles.

The platform features a discussion forum for sharing cases and seeking advice on menopause care, and will host regular webinars and events.

The website is currently available to doctors and other AHPRA-registered practitioners, with plans to expand access to the public.

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### Early bird closing

IT'S the final week of earlybird rates for the Pharmacy Connect and Pharmacy Assistant conferences.

The discounted rates save attendees \$100 off registration fees, which qualifies as a business expense that can be included before the end of the financial year.

Conference convenor Kos Scavos said the conferences are a "great way to reward hard-working team members and to encourage them to attend industry workshops and expand their professional network as both events' programs show great value".

"With the Pharmacy Connect two-day program addressing topics such as 8CPA and industry updates, structuring your pharmacy business for financial, tax and legal success, this is a not-to-be-missed event," he added.

## CSO needs urgent restructure: RIPAA

THE Remote and Isolated Pharmacist Association Australia (RIPAA) is urging a restructure of the Community Service Obligation (CSO), to provide direct payments to pharmacies in MM4-7 areas (PD 23 Apr).

The RIPAA argues that an average of \$150,000 per year for an isolated pharmacy is necessary to enhance primary healthcare services in the 600 disadvantaged communities they serve.

"Pharmacists in these regions are losing confidence in the current CSO system and its negotiators, as they seek genuinely equitable outcomes," explained a spokesperson for the RIPAA.

While rural allowances help keep pharmacies open, the RIPAA says they fall short in enabling non-dispensing primary healthcare services in truly rural locations.

The RIPAA claims the CSO system, as it stands today, is outdated and needs revamping to ensure equitable access.



It is calling on the government to address primary healthcare inequities in small and remote communities, which are driving population loss.

Currently, CSO funds are paid exclusively to wholesalers, who allegedly favour larger pharmacies in MM1-3 locations, undermining the CSO's purpose.

The RIPAA believes that some CSO funds should be redirected to the intended beneficiary pharmacies.

They propose a primary healthcare package for remote areas, funded by a redesigned CSO, to restore the community service aspect of the system.

"The CSO was established to

ensure equitable access to PBS medicines across Australia but instead is allegedly underwriting incentives and inducements to larger pharmacies, franchises, groups, and chains to trade with them," said the spokesperson.

"This is fuelling the growth of corporate pharmacy, which was never intended to be a beneficiary of the CSO."

Smaller pharmacies face double penalties: they can't access favourable CSO-supported trading terms and suffer from an underfunded rural supply network, making freight operations uneconomical, he added.

The RIPAA argues there is no public health justification for penalising pharmacies based on geography and demographics.

It stresses the need for the government to use the 8CPA to ensure equitable access to pharmacy care, allowing for the sustainability of healthcare services in rural communities. *JG*



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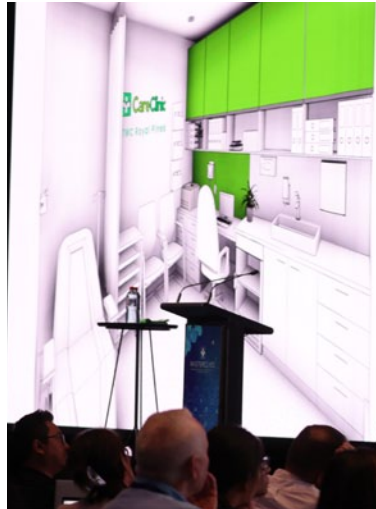
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Content produced  
in collaboration with  
TerryWhite Chemmart

# Celebrating a decade of excellence



**SCOPE** of practice took centre stage at the TerryWhite Chemmart Masterclass, now in its 10th year, delivering lived experience and workshops.

The masterclass was supported by industry-leading researchers and specialists in their field across a variety of every day and emerging clinical focus areas, including cardio metabolic and weight health, men's urological health, contraception care and differential diagnosis across a range of common conditions.

These sessions focused on advancing pharmacy practice and empowering pharmacists with the tools and insights needed to deliver exceptional patient-centred care, necessary to meet the increasing health needs of diverse communities, particularly those impacted by ageing, mental health issues, and multiple chronic conditions.

"Through the Masterclass, we aim to foster a community of forward-thinking pharmacists who are empowered to deliver

exceptional care, drive innovation, and make a meaningful impact in their communities," said Executive GM Nick Munroe.

In addition to the education program, over 600 pharmacists and healthcare professionals had the opportunity to network and celebrate colleagues at the 2024 Pharmacist Awards.

Network Partner and Pharmacist, Ruthanne Jaja from TWC Macquarie Street (NSW), was named 2024 Pharmacist of the Year.

**Pictured:** Pharmacist Kate Gunthorpe demonstrating an occasion of care for the Queensland Community Pharmacy Full Scope Pilot, with pharmacists Lisa Barnes, Therese Lambert and Brenton Hart sharing their insights.

## Investing in pharmacists



**SARAH** Mens, a pharmacy assistant at TerryWhite Chemmart Morayfield in Queensland, finished her bachelor's in nursing and began to realise it wasn't quite the career she had imagined.

She works with seven pharmacists who encouraged her to consider studying pharmacy, and what started as a passing comment by pharmacy owner Amr Kehila came to fruition on Sunday afternoon when he presented Sarah with a cheque

for \$50,000 to pay for her tuition to study pharmacy at the University of Queensland.

"Sarah is such a natural - from the way she engages with patients to the enthusiasm she brings to our team.

"She is smart, compassionate and will be an incredible addition to our industry," said Kehila.

**Pictured:** Chief Pharmacist Brenton Hart, Acting Chief Pharmacist Krystal Tresillian, and Kehila presenting Mens with her tuition cheque.

## Focused on the future

**CHIEF** Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, reflected on the TerryWhite Chemmart Masterclass.

"Over three days we focused on not just what is needed to deliver on today's patient expectations but pushed our focus to imagine a future not too

far on the horizon, and what that will mean for the way in which we practice.

"For me, it has been incredible to see our pharmacists all together, focused on delivering a better patient experience, centred on care."

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## Dispensary Corner

**AVOIDING** bright lights at night might just be the easiest way to dodge diabetes, according to a Flinders University study.

The research, published in *The Lancet Regional Health - Europe*, suggests that our nightly light habits could be sneakily upping our blood glucose levels.

Type 2 diabetes, that tough condition making insulin its nemesis, is often tied to lifestyle factors like lounging around too much and loving junk food.

But who knew that a bedside lamp might also be a culprit?

"We found that exposure to brighter light at night was linked to a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes," revealed A/ Prof Andrew Phillips.

His team tracked 85,000 participants, who wore wrist devices for a week to measure their light exposure.

They were then tracked for the following nine years, when the connection was uncovered.

"Night-time light exposure disrupts our circadian rhythms, messing with insulin secretion and glucose metabolism, which can ultimately lead to the development of type 2 diabetes," explained Phillips.

The takeaway is that dimming the lights between 12:30am and 6:00am might just be your ticket to a diabetes-free future, and yet another reason to turn off those phones.

So, swap that late-night screen glow for some soothing darkness, and your pancreas might thank you.

To learn more about the study, [CLICK HERE](#).

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Pyridox – Vitamin B6 supplement

Pyridox helps to relieve premenstrual symptoms such as cramps, breast tenderness, fluid retention, irritability and mood swings.

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### Poly Gel® Lubricating Eye Gel discontinued from June 2024

Poly Gel® is no longer available via PBS subsidy (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) in Australia. Any remaining stock can continue to be sold over the counter to patients until stock runs out.



To help make the transition easier for those patients and practitioners currently using or prescribing Poly Gel®, practitioners could consider Poly Visc® Lubricating Eye Ointment, which is also listed on the PBS. It is a high-viscosity ointment, and patients may experience a different on-eye sensation between Poly Gel® and Poly Visc®.

**Supplier:** For details and orders, please contact Alcon Customer Service on 1800 224 153.

**RRP:** \$10.99

**Website:** <https://www.myalcon.com/au/>

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# Cover that grows as fast as your scope.



For over 60 years, Guild Insurance has supported Australia's pharmacy profession through everything you do. Together with the PGA and PDL, we've worked hard to ensure our policies protect and reflect pharmacists' real-life needs.

Now that the PGA-driven scope of practice changes are live, we understand that, yet again, the real-life needs of pharmacists have changed, but our support hasn't. All Guild customers who participate in an approved scope of practice pilot can do so with confidence, knowing their insurance policy will still protect them.

## What's a scope of practice pilot?

Scope of practice pilots will continue to evolve as state and federal governments and their agencies continue to work with our profession. In Queensland right now, community pharmacists who have undertaken 12 months of additional training can offer additional services to patients for a number of conditions, including school sores, shingles, mild psoriasis, wound management, swimmer's ear, weight loss management and hypertension, among others. It is these types of programs that Guild has committed to support through the addition of an additional benefit.

## An additional benefit for Guild customers.

To provide cover certainty, the policy wording we apply to all Guild Pharmacy Business policies includes an additional benefit for 'Scope of Practice Pilots'. If you're already insured with Guild, this benefit is automatically applied. If you are not with Guild, you should ask your insurer if they can say the same.

If you'd like to find out more about Guild's exclusive support of pharmacy's scope of practice pilots, visit [guildinsurance.com.au/pilot](https://guildinsurance.com.au/pilot) or if you'd like to be protected by a policy that is tailor made for Australian pharmacists, call a Guild insurance specialist on **1800 810 213**.

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