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Find out more on [page four](#).

Mel Doyle to host PSA25



THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced TV personality Melissa Doyle will return to emcee its national conference PSA25, from 01-03 Aug 2025 in Sydney.

A highly regarded journalist with more than 30 years' experience, Doyle is one of the best-known voices in Australian media.

She will take to the stage across the conference weekend, also returning to host the member-

favourite 'Carnivale' Gala Dinner on the evening of 02 August 2025.

"PSA is thrilled to welcome Mel back to our national conference for another year, harnessing her decades of experience as a journalist to give delegates the conference experience of a lifetime," said PSA National President, Associate Professor Fei Sim.

Super earlybird registrations for Professional Plus members of PSA are open now - click [HERE](#). KB

APP Black Friday 10% off flash sale

THE Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference is coming to the Gold Coast from 20-22 Mar next year.

Those who register before midnight AEST on Sunday 01 Dec using the code BLACKFRIDAY can get an additional 10% off all full and day registrations.

With an expected 7,000 attendees, the three-day program is designed to keep pharmacists on top of the latest industry trends and developments, clinical updates and business advice.

Meanwhile, the interactive pre-conference workshops on 19 Mar provide a deep dive into the most pressing business and clinical topics, offering practical knowledge that can be implemented straight away.

To register 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

IT TURNS out that voice hoarseness isn't just an annoying cold and flu symptom, or the result of a screaming match - it could indicate a serious health threat.

MeiLan Han, Professor of pulmonary care at the University of Michigan, has warned the public to take the throat problem seriously, as it is a lesser-known symptom of throat cancer.

"This is due to the cancer impinging on or invading the recurrent laryngeal nerve, which travels down into the chest cavity, under the arch of the aorta and back to the larynx [the voice box]," Han wrote in her book, *Breathing Lessons: A Doctor's Guide to Lung Health*.

The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation echoed Han's warnings about the symptom, and advised people who experience longer episodes of hoarseness to see their GP.

The experts emphasised that spotting early signs is crucial, so next time your voice sounds scratchy, don't just shrug it off.

Best long COVID treatments

COGNITIVE behavioural therapy (CBT) and a program of physical and mental rehabilitation may help improve symptoms of long covid, but the effects are modest, according to a review of the latest evidence published in the *BMJ*.

The international and Australian researchers said that other treatment options, including several medications, brain retraining, brain stimulation, hyperbaric oxygen and a mobile education app, currently lack evidence of effectiveness.

It is estimated that around 15% of people with COVID experience long-term health effects, including fatigue, muscle pain and impaired cognitive function.

For a patient group where trustworthy and up-to-date data on treatment options are lacking, the concern is that patients may receive unproven, costly, and ineffective or harmful treatments.

Researchers for the current review looked at 24 relevant trials involving around 3,700 patients.

The treatments that were investigated included drugs, physical activity or rehabilitation, behavioural interventions, dietary interventions, medical devices and technologies, and combinations



of physical exercise and mental health rehabilitation.

Compared with usual care, they found that an online program of CBT probably reduces fatigue and improves concentration.

Meanwhile, an online, supervised combined physical and mental health rehabilitation program probably results in meaningful improvement or recovery, reduces symptoms of depression, and improves quality of life for many patients with long COVID.

Among the treatments with no compelling evidence were antidepressant vortioxetine, the antibody leronlimab, a combination of probiotics and prebiotics, and the antioxidant coenzyme Q10.

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

Monash honours Anthony Tassone

VICTORIAN Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild Anthony Tassone has been honoured at the recent Monash University Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The award recognised Tassone's strong advocacy for pharmacists working towards their full scope of practice to deliver patient care.

With Tassone at the helm of the Victorian branch, Victorian pharmacists were given rights to deliver immunisations and also prescribe medicines as part of a 12-month pilot.

As chair of the Pharmacy Guild's Health Economics and Policy committee, Tassone led negotiations with the Australian Government for the five-year Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which commenced on 01 Jul this year.

Monash also noted that his pharmacies have been recognised for community engagement and customer service excellence on multiple occasions at both a state and national level.

The award was presented by the chancellor of Monash University Dr Megan Clark.

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