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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- **Pointrs**
- **Wizard Pharmacy**

## Pointrs takes off

**REACH** your holiday goals sooner as a member of Pointrs and earn as much as 3.5 times your normal airline and credit card loyalty points when paying pharmacy wholesalers.

Take advantage of a 30-day free trial and find out about the program on **page five**.

## 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 six**.

## New Star role



**SHANNON Hewitt (pictured)** was appointed the role of Chief Pharmacist at Star Pharmacy Group yesterday.

Highly experienced with over 24 years of practice in diverse settings, Hewitt will play a critical role in delivering strong oversight of Star's pharmacy services, industry connections and evolving landscape, as well as being a key point of contact for the group's pharmacists.

## Boost to SA service scope

A **WIDER** range of primary health services will soon be available from community pharmacists in South Australia under an expanded scope of practice set to take effect.

Unveiled yesterday by South Australian Health Minister, Chris Picton, qualified pharmacists will be able to assess and treat a range of ailments and conditions to free up space at local GPs.

These include skin conditions such as shingles, psoriasis, dermatitis, school sores and acne; ear infections; wound management; nausea and vomiting; gastro-oesophageal reflux; musculoskeletal pain; rhinitis; plus various muscle and joint pain ailments.

"We are making it easier for South Australians to access the healthcare they need, when they need it at a convenient location," Minister Picton said in his announcement.

The Malinauskas Government program, which may start as early as 2026, will require pharmacists to undertake additional university training in order to provide the services, designed to ease pressure on the state health system and emergency rooms.

The Office of the Chief Pharmacist will work with local universities to develop suitable courses for specific training as well as prescribing and clinical assessment training.

Announced on World Pharmacists Day yesterday, the move was welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Guild's South Australian branch President, Nick Panayiaris, said the change brings South Australia into line with other states and territories, where pharmacists are increasingly offering more services to patients.

"It just makes sense for community pharmacists, as highly qualified health professionals, to work to their full scope of practice," Panayiaris said.

PSA South Australia and Northern Territory President, Dr Manya Angley FPS, said the program follows the successful rollout of other pharmacy programs allowing South Australian women to access



medication for conditions such as UTIs and oral contraceptives.

"Our profession is continually evolving to better meet the increasingly complex health needs of Australians, our ageing population and overstretched health system," Dr Angley said.

The Guild added the program turns South Australia's 500-plus pharmacies into primary healthcare destinations for acute conditions, while the PSA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting high quality education for pharmacists as their scope expands. *ML*

## PSA Foundation

**OFF** the back of World Pharmacists Day, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has officially launched the PSA Foundation, to provide funding to support pharmacists' practice, research, education, and professional development.

There are grant opportunities for Queensland pharmacists to undertake mental health First Aid training - see more **HERE**.

## Growth for Sigma

**DESPITE** Sigma's slump in net profit (**PD** 25 Sep) announced on the ASX yesterday, the company claims there were many positive elements to the results.

Commenting on its 2024 half-year results, it still sees positive sales growth across its 300 Amcal-branded pharmacies and 150 Discount Drug Stores, which provides a solid base to achieve the company's medium-term goals.

Group-wide revenue was up 9.4% on a statutory basis to \$1.84 billion for the half-year.

The report said high service standards were being regularly demonstrated, with both brands recognised by consumers via Canstar Blue's 2024 Most Satisfied Customer Award (Pharmacies) as the top two ranked marques.

"The focus of the business was to ensure that excellent customer service metrics were backed by a strong in-stock position for all our customers as we prepared for the new Chemist Warehouse Group supply contract.

"Pleasingly, this was achieved with no disruption to our business as evidenced by the Delivery In Full to customers and Despatch On Time metrics averaging above 99%," the report said.



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## ACP on 'power skills' needed for scope

LAST night's Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) webinar highlighted the rapid expansion of pharmacist services across Australia, with new full scope of practice pilots in Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales, and Western Australia.

Suzanna Nash, Chief Pharmacist at ACP, explained how these pilots allow pharmacists to manage oral contraceptive resupply, uncomplicated cystitis, and minor skin conditions, while emphasising the need to adhere to local clinical protocols for safe and effective care in each state.

Natalie French, a full-scope trained pharmacist and Head of Professional Services at Chempro Chemist, spoke of the importance of soft skills, which she called "power skills" in delivering these services.

She discussed the need for talking thorough patient histories, setting clear agendas during consultations, with shared decision-making and informed consent to ensure



patient-centred care.

While award winning full-scope pharmacist, Therese Lambert, from TerryWhite Chemmart Sarina, Queensland, involved in the state pilot, offered practical advice on integrating these expanded full scope services.

She stressed the importance of charging for consultations to reflect pharmacists' expertise as "we often do many things for free", upgrading premises for private consultations, and training staff to support clinical checks.

Lambert recommended setting up booking systems to manage patient flow, particularly for non-urgent cases, while accommodating walk-

ins for urgent needs.

She also highlighted the value of using pharmacy staff to assist with initial consultations and administrative tasks, easing the burden on pharmacists.

Lambert suggested pharmacists take part in the full scope of practice pilots and plan their continuing professional development around areas like skin conditions, contraceptive resupply, and cystitis management.

French and Lambert also underscored the need for communicating effectively with the broader healthcare team and documenting all treatment decisions clearly for medical-legal safety, something they noted wasn't done well in the past.

The webinar concluded with a call for pharmacists to embrace these expanded roles, upskill their teams, and ensure their pharmacies are equipped to meet the growing demand for pharmacist-led clinical services. JG

## World Heart Day

EXPERTS at the Monash Victorian Heart Institute and Victorian Heart Hospital are using World Heart Day this Sun to urge all Australians, regardless of their gender, to prioritise heart health with a health check.

Dr Esther Davis, a cardiologist and researcher at the Victorian Heart Hospital, and Co-Lead of the Women's Heart Health Research Challenge at the Monash Victorian Heart Institute, highlighted the importance of raising awareness about heart disease in women, noting that cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death for women in Australia.

"Almost every hour, an Australian woman dies of heart disease," Dr Davis said.

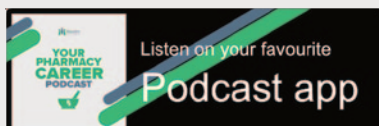
"We need to educate women about the risks and encourage them to advocate for their own heart health."



## YOUR PHARMACY CAREER PODCAST

Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Sarah Gray** on Blending Nutrition and Pharmacy for Better Health.

Sarah is a trusted expert and innovator, working to deliver products and services that truly change the healthcare landscape in Australia.



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## Editor's choice: Pea and coffee extract sets up hair to grow

**UK-BASED** Noughty Haircare has released Get Set Grow, a unique product range featuring bioactive ingredients like pea and coffee extract to visibly thicken locks and stimulate hair growth in just a few weeks.

The range features Thickening Shampoo (\$16.99), Thickening Conditioner (\$16.99) and Growth Tonic (\$16.99).

Another key ingredient is piroctone olamine, to help keep the scalp balanced and thriving.

Key benefits include boosting hair thickness and density, optimising scalp condition and hydrating the scalp with hyaluronic acid.

"We've strategically combined the botanical power of pea peptides with stimulating



caffeine to boost scalp vitality and encourage stronger, thicker hair," said Noughty's beauty botanist Jennifer Hirsch, who formulated the range.

"Our formula not only revitalises hair at the root but also nurtures the scalp, ensuring a healthier environment for long-term hair growth," Hirsch said.

The Growth Tonic is the star product of the range, a leave-in treatment with an extra dose of Noughty's pea complex.

"We firmly believe thicker hair starts with scalp maintenance, and a hydrated scalp is a happy scalp," added Hirsch.

The Noughty range is available at Priceline stores.

## Blue lotus wins gold



**ETHICAL** skincare brand Acala Stem has won gold at the 2024 Clean and Conscious Awards in the Face Oil category for its Blue Lotus Face Oil (RRP \$65.99).

"Boasting just two bioactive ingredients, this luxurious, effective, deeply moisturising oil instantly left my skin and hair feeling amazing," said judge and beauty expert, Amy Starr.

The product features blue lotus absolute oil and certified organic Australian jojoba oil, packed with natural vitamins and minerals to deeply nourish the skin and act as an "antioxidant feast" for the skin.

Other benefits of the product includes boosting skin's glow, temporarily reducing fine lines, helping control sebum production, soothing irritated skin and balancing the skin's oil content.

Acala Stem is a purpose-led skincare brand that works in partnership with a textile social enterprise in Cambodia to help empower women by offering a path to financial independence.

## Deep hydration

**JERGENS** Deep Conditioning Shea and Cocoa Butter Moisturiser (RRP: \$11.99), features naturally derived African shea butter and rich cocoa butter, perfect for deeply hydrating the body.

Suitable for all skin types and dermatologically tested, the Jergens formula is also packed with ingredients like vitamin E, shea butter and niacinamide to protect skin against dryness

Jergens is available at Chemist Warehouse now.



## A designer dupe at an affordable price



**WE MAY** be in a cost-of-living crisis, but beauty lovers will rejoice when they try Designer Brands Cosmetics' Luminous Foundation which has taken TikTok by storm -

and is only \$22.99.

Declared a dupe by major beauty influencers, the foundation has gained traction on social media, thanks to its lightweight gel texture that blends effortlessly and has buildable coverage.

The glowy foundation, available in 12 shades, is also infused with skin-loving ingredients like hyaluronic acid, green tea and vitamins A, C and E.

Launched in 2004 by husband-and-wife team Tony and Sharon Rechtman of Total Beauty Network, DB Cosmetics features an extensive product range described as "real designer cosmetics at real people prices" with everything under \$24.99.

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## Dispensary Corner

**WE ALL** know vaping can kill, but a planeload of passengers, many of whom probably don't even partake in the habit, came close to finding that out the hard way earlier this week.

An Easyjet flight from the Greek island of Heraklion to London Gatwick was forced to evacuate just prior to take-off after a vape pen exploded inside one passenger's bag.

While taxiing to the runway, a female passenger was seen running down the aisle toward the back of the aircraft carrying her bag, which by this point was alight and pouring with smoke.

One passenger reported hearing a "fizzing noise" before a loud bang just prior to the passenger's mad dash, with her bag also containing a portable power bank charging her vape.

The flight crew went straight into protocol and deployed the emergency slide, where ground crew were waiting to assist passengers to disembark.

While the bag was dealt with by airport fire crews, passengers were transported back to the terminal and looked after while Easyjet radioed for another aircraft and crew to complete the flight back to the UK, which took off safely later that day.

Beforehand, passengers were allowed back onto the original aircraft once the situation had been stabilised, with many observing the scorch mark where the incident occurred.

In Europe, travellers are allowed to take vapes onboard flights but aren't allowed to recharge them in an aircraft.

## NSW scope set to expand



**PHARMACISTS** across New South Wales will soon be able to offer continued access to oral contraceptives, following an expansion of services previously available only through a trial program in the state.

Starting 28 Sep, pharmacists who were not part of the initial NSW Pharmacy Trial will be able to resupply certain oral contraceptives after completing additional training.

The eligibility criteria for patients has also broadened to include women up to the age of 50.

This follows the successful trial of oral contraceptive services in select community pharmacies, which has now led to the service becoming a

permanent offering.

PSA New South Wales President Luke Kelly welcomed the decision, stating that it strengthens the role of pharmacists in supporting reproductive health.

"Pharmacists across New South Wales continue to show that we can do more to support our patients," Kelly said.

"This is an important step in making reproductive healthcare more accessible to many women across the state."

He also praised the state's Health Minister for establishing the permanent role of pharmacists in the continuous supply of oral contraceptives for women. *JG*

## Contraception is a human right

**SUSTAINABLE** Population Australia (SPA) says half of all maternal deaths worldwide can be avoided with adequate access to contraception.

The organisation is marking World Contraception Day today by highlighting the plight of 257 million women around the world trying to avoid pregnancy without access to any form of contraception.

SPA National President Peter Strachan said too many women around the world die during pregnancy or childbirth.

"Access to contraception would reduce the number of higher-risk pregnancies by increasing the spacing between births and by decreasing the likelihood of unsafe abortions," he said.

Strachan added: "Because so many contraceptives such as intrauterine devices require medical staff for administering or removal, we must ensure there are nurses with adequate training in every health clinic, both in Australia and in poorer countries on this".

## L'Oreal checks in

**PHARMACY** global brand L'Oreal Group has teamed up with Asian accommodation giant Centara Hotels and Resorts to form a strategic partnership with exclusive benefits for mutual customers.

L'Oreal and Centara will work together to curate personalised services through not only beauty products, but campaigns such as a prize of a stay at Centara Grand Hotel Osaka.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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Sunday Telegraph



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