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CHA: "Expand pharmacist roles"

CATHOLIC Health Australia (CHA), the nation's largest non-government, not-for-profit group of health, community and aged care providers, has called on the Federal Government to expand the roles of pharmacists, care workers, nurses, and other allied health professionals to improve the productivity and quality of healthcare.

In its submission to the Economic Reform Roundtable, taking place from 19 to 21 Aug in Canberra, CHA argues that the current health system is being "hamstrung by rigid scope of practice rules" that waste the skills of these highly qualified health workers.

"Australian nurses, care workers, pharmacists, and allied health professionals are some of the most highly trained in the world, yet too many are stuck doing paperwork

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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:

- Chemsave
- Glucojel
- Restin 30s

Glucojel profits you

ALL the money raised by Glucojel assists the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in its advocacy work for community pharmacy - learn more on **page six**.



or barred from performing tasks they're perfectly qualified to do, due to outdated professional boundaries," said Dr Katharine Bassett, Director of Health Policy.

"Governments must fix outdated legislation and restrictive funding rules so these workers can do much more to manage chronic conditions, support prevention, and ease the pressure on stretched hospitals," she said.

The submission calls for immediate reforms to expand prescribing, referral, diagnostics, and care coordination rights for qualified non-medical professionals, alongside the development of a National Skills and Capability Framework to clarify and support team-based models of care.

"These are not radical ideas - other countries have done this and Australia is falling behind," Dr Bassett said.

"Every hour a nurse or allied health professional is prevented from working at their full scope is an hour stolen from patient care," she added.

The Economic Reform Roundtable aims to build consensus on ways to improve productivity, enhance economic resilience and strengthen budget sustainability. **KB**

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Reference: 1. <https://compliance.health.gov.au/artg/search=melatonin> cited 09/05/2025.



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ADHD med benefits go beyond symptoms

DRUG treatment for people with newly diagnosed attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is associated with significantly reduced risks of suicidal behaviours, substance misuse, transport accidents, and criminality, according to a study published in the *BMJ* today.

Researchers looked at Swedish data covering almost 150,000 people, and accounted for factors including age, sex, education level, psychiatric diagnoses and medical history.

The study authors suggested that possible explanations include reduced impulsivity, which might lower criminality by curbing aggressive behaviour, and improved attention, which might decrease the risk of transport accidents by minimising distractions.

These important health-related and social outcomes should inform clinical practice, the authors said - more **HERE**.

Pharmacy partnership key to Haleon's 3-year success

HALEON ANZ has recently celebrated three years of becoming a standalone consumer healthcare company, following its demerger from GSK in Jul 2022.

The company behind brands such as Panadol, Voltaren, Centrum, Sensodyne and Polident is now entering its next chapter with the roll-out of a new global strategy, 'Win as One'.

With its stated purpose of delivering better everyday health with humanity remaining at the centre of Haleon's operations, the company aims to reach a billion more consumers by 2030.

It has outlined four strategic drivers to support its goals: helping more people meet their health needs; creating superior brands; using technology to pursue excellence; and building a consumer-first culture.

Reflecting on Haleon ANZ's three-year journey, GM Anish Patel said: "We've come from strong foundations and are proud to have taken that heritage and evolved it to improve the everyday health of Australian consumers, cementing



our place in the Australian market.

"Looking back at the Haleon ANZ story over the past three years, we're thrilled with the progress we've made and the lives we have touched through our team, our trusted brands and our investment into research and community.

"Key to our success has been our partnership with the pharmacy and retailer communities," Patel said.

"I would like to acknowledge them and recognise the value we place on our relationships with them."

Among Haleon's achievements over the last three years are product launches that were a direct response to consumer need, including Panadol Liquid Caps, Caltrate UCII, Voltanatra, and Polident Mouth Retainer and Mouthguard.

They have also committed to a five-year fellowship program with the University of Sydney to investigate the therapeutic role of supplements in managing osteoarthritis symptoms.

"As we continue to transform Haleon into a world-class consumer company, it's clear that there is so much more potential to unlock in service of Australian consumers," Patel concluded, adding he is "excited for the next three years". **KB**



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Safety and Quality Commission releases AI guidance

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released new guidance to support health professionals in the day-to-day use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools that are rapidly entering clinical care.

The Commission acknowledges that new AI tools and technologies can bring significant benefits for patient care but can also introduce new risks - especially as evidence of safety and efficacy may lag behind implementation.

To support clinicians to meet

their professional responsibilities in using AI tools safely and responsibly, the Commission has developed short and pragmatic guides covering a range of topics.

These include how to check evidence on the efficacy of the AI tool; limitations and risks; transparency and informed consent; implications for patient information; automation bias; and ongoing evaluation and monitoring of AI tools.

Among the supporting documents are an overarching AI clinical use guide, and a

safety scenario around the use of AI Scribe tools, which are increasingly used during patient consultations yet have little regulatory oversight.

The guide explains that it is critical to review available information supporting the use of the tool, to discuss its use with the patient and obtain their informed consent, and in particular ensure privacy expectations will be met when it comes to data processing and storage.

Access the guides **HERE**.



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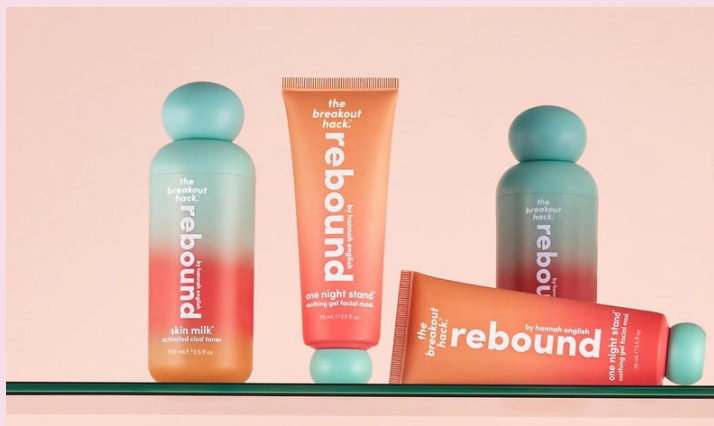
Editor's Choice: Aussie skincare brand tbh undergoes major rebrand

AUSTRALIAN skincare brand tbh has undergone a complete rebrand and is now known as The Breakout Hack, after facing major international trademark challenges while embarking on global expansion.

"Our existing tbh skincare brand trademark - the biofilm hack - wasn't going to work in the US," explained The Breakout Hack co-founder Rachael Wilde.

"We ended up receiving an objection for our trademark in this region and had to cease and desist sales to the region altogether," she continued.

"We always knew this was a challenge we would face at a later date when looking to take the



brand global."

Newly rebranded products are launching in Australia this month, followed by the UK in Sep, and

eventually, the US.

The Breakout Hack products are available in major supermarkets, online and at Priceline.

A crash-free boost



THE Collagen Co has launched Beautiful Energy (RRP \$65), a new collagen energy powder for "the modern multitasker" that offers "a crash-free boost" for the 3pm slump.

Beautiful Energy features ingredients like 110mg of natural caffeine from green coffee beans to help focus without the jitters.

Meanwhile, Siberian ginseng and taurine sharpen the mind and steady stress, and hydrolysed collagen, hyaluronic acid and vitamin C hydrate and firm the skin.

Beautiful Energy was developed as an easy swap for coffee or sugary drinks that can be seamlessly added into a daily health and wellness routine.

It is available in three flavours, including strawberry kiwi, peach ice tea and raspberry crush.

The Collagen Co is a Melbourne-based business with products currently available online and at Chemist Warehouse.

Fight against hair loss

HAIR ResQ has launched three new products to support thinning hair and hair loss.

These include the new Shine Boost Biotin Shampoo (RRP \$17.99), the 5-in-1 Miracle Leave-in Conditioner (RRP \$17.99) and Thickening and Growth Hair Oil (RRP \$17.99).



Eco Cheeks: Toilet paper rolls with a difference



ECO Cheeks is an Australian chemical-free sustainable tissue paper brand made from responsibly sourced FSC-certified bamboo.

Super soft and luxurious, Eco Cheeks products are also biodegradable and free from chlorine, bleach, formaldehyde, hydrogen peroxide, fragrance, and other irritants and toxins.

Eco Cheeks is available as facial tissues, toilet rolls and paper towels.

The Queensland-based business was launched in 2020 by entrepreneur Tanya Roberts, who is on a mission to challenge the norms of household products.

"Our brand champions sustainability without compromise on luxury quality," Roberts said.

Eco Cheeks is currently available online and in select pharmacies across Australia.

For stockist inquiries contact: happypartners@ecocheeks.com.au

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Dispensary Corner

BETTER known for its distinctive flowers and hosting riotous parrot parties, the Australian bottlebrush could be the Next Big Thing in malaria control.

Nitisinone, a tyrosine-targeting compound derived from the plant, was initially intended for use as a herbicide.

However, it was also found to be effective in treating tyrosinemia type I and alkaptonuria, two rare genetic disorders that impair the body's ability to metabolise tyrosine.

Earlier this year, it was discovered that when fed to mozzies in human blood, nitisinone disrupts their amino acid metabolism, causing paralysis then death.

This was the case even in doses much lower than those typically given to human patients.

More recently, new findings published in *Parasites & Vectors* suggest that when mozzies merely walk on surfaces treated with nitisinone, the substance is absorbed through their feet, with the same deadly effect.

This means it could be applied to bed nets and other surfaces as an alternative to traditional insecticides such as the controversial DDT, which is still used in areas with high malaria transmission.

"The fact that it effectively kills insecticide-resistant mosquitoes could be a game-changer in areas where resistance to current insecticides is causing public health interventions to fail," said lead author Lee Haines of the London School of Tropical Medicine.

Blood-free healthcare with heart

OPINION

***THIS** week, Mahak Jahangir from Bendigo UFS View Street Pharmacy in Victoria shares an intern's perspective of pharmacy practice.*

Got an opinion or experience to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

IF YOU asked me years ago where I'd be today, I'm not sure I would have said here.

Back then, I was a student who wasn't fond of maths and couldn't imagine working with blood.

I loved science, but I wasn't sure how to turn that into a career, so pharmacy seemed like a good middle ground - blood-free healthcare!

Now, I'm a pharmacy intern, living a new kind of "on the edge" life, balancing my family, my studies and my professional growth.

When choosing my placement, I knew I couldn't just pick anywhere - a lot depended on it.

I wanted a fast-paced environment because, as a mum, multitasking comes naturally, and I knew I could apply those skills in my professional life.

That's why I chose the UFS pharmacy in Bendigo city - it's one of Bendigo's busiest pharmacies, is open after hours, and offers great flexibility with the hours and roster, which was crucial for me.

Being an intern in one of the busiest pharmacies is both exciting and exhausting.

Every day brings something new, and while there are moments of self-doubt, there are also moments that make it all worth it.

One night, a 65-year-old patient came in asking for melatonin.

I explained that, according to new guidelines, I could offer it to her



as an OTC product, which she was happy to hear.

However, she was hesitant to use it, asking, "How is melatonin made? Since it's a natural hormone, how do manufacturers extract it? If it's from animals, I don't want it".

I did some quick research online but didn't find much, so I suggested she contact the manufacturer.

We had a good laugh afterwards, imagining if it was extracted from human brains.

It reminded me of how patients often have questions we never expect, and what keeps me going - what makes the hard times worthwhile - is helping people.

There's something truly powerful about knowing you've made a difference, whether it's reassuring a worried parent about their child's medicine or helping an elderly patient understand their new prescription, and it's those small, everyday interactions that remind me why I chose this path.

Every phase of my life has taught me something valuable - motherhood taught me patience and empathy, while pharmacy taught me precision and critical thinking, and creating a balance between it all showed me that I am capable of far more than I believed.

At the end of the day, pharmacy isn't just about science or medicine - it's about people, and that's what makes it all worthwhile.

PDL guide to risk management

PHARMACEUTICAL

Defence Limited (PDL) has developed a new resource, *PDL Risk Management Guide for Pharmacists*, which aims to support professionals in identifying and addressing risk in common areas of practice.

The tool can be useful for supporting the induction of pharmacists and other staff across the spectrum of practice, and assisting those in leadership, governance and ownership roles.

PDL Chair, Paul Naismith, acknowledged the availability and role of formally recognised standards, guidelines and resources that address professional practice and aspects of good clinical governance.

"However, PDL believes there was an opportunity to improve pharmacists' understanding of risk management, identification of risk in practice, the assessment of risk and strategies to manage risk for the benefit of the public and pharmacists," Naismith said.

In addition to using the guide to minimise risk in practice, pharmacists can also refer to it following a near-miss or incident to support reflective practice change.

There are four CPD-accredited modules:

- Understanding risk in pharmacy practice
- Applying risk principles in practice
- Managing incidents
- Managing high-risk areas

The guide is publicly available to all pharmacists [HERE](#).

EDITORIAL

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*Primary insomnia is insomnia without an underlying medical cause or any other clear cause.