

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **Novella**.

Emergency med

NOVA Pharmaceuticals' emergency contraception Novella-1 is available now to order for dispensing by pharmacists to appropriately counselled customers.

See **page five** for details.

Have a say in medicine decisions

THE Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals - including pharmacists and pharmacologists - who would like to be considered for upcoming member vacancies on national health technology assessment (HTA) committees and sub-committees.

These include the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC), Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC), which provide independent expert advice to the Minister for Health, Ageing and Disability.

EOIs close 15 Dec 2025 - learn more **HERE**.

Mayne kills off Cosette sale

THE planned sale of Mayne Pharmaceuticals to US pharma company Cosette has been called off today, with Mayne providing Cosette with notice that it has terminated the scheme implementation deed due to Cosette's breaches of the scheme.

The notice brings to an end a rollercoaster ride that began in Feb this year (**PD** 21 Feb), when Cosette agreed to buy Mayne for around \$672 million based on the share price at the time.

By June, when Mayne shareholders overwhelmingly voted in favour of the acquisition, Cosette had twice attempted to abandon its takeover bid, citing "material adverse change" after weaker-than-expected earnings guidance.

Cosette also pointed to a possible US regulatory issue with one of Mayne's key products, Nextstellis contraceptive pill, with the FDA flagging misleading claims about its risks.

Mayne Pharma rejected the validity of the Cosette's termination notices and commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of New South Wales to establish that no material adverse change had occurred and the Scheme remained valid - with the Court finding in favour of Mayne.

Proceedings took another turn in Oct when the Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) raised a further obstacle to the Scheme, suggesting that Cosette's acquisition may be "contrary to the national interest".

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The FIRB cited concerns that Cosette intends to shut or divest Mayne's TGA and FDA approved manufacturing facility in Adelaide, a plant recently bolstered by an \$18 million upgrade and federal grant support.

In an ASX statement today, Mayne said it intends to enforce the costs order against Cosette arising from the Supreme Court of NSW case, and will keep shareholders informed of any further developments in relation to the termination of the Scheme. **KB**

Ayurvedics safety warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued safety advisories for several Ayurvedic medicines contaminated with extremely high concentrations of heavy metals, including mercury, lead, arsenic and cadmium.

The affected products are:

- Brahmi Vati tablets (Unjha Ayurvedic Pharmacy)
- Kumar Kalyan Rasa tablets, (Unjha Ayurvedic Pharmacy)
- Manasamitra Vadakam tablets (SKM Siddha and Ayurvedha).

None of the products have been assessed by the TGA for quality, safety or efficacy.

The TGA noted it had previously issued safety advisories for unregistered Ayurvedic products.

"Despite these warnings, we continue to intercept unregistered Ayurvedic medicines imported into Australia that contain dangerous levels of heavy metals and other controlled or prohibited ingredients," the regulator stated - more **HERE**.

Ad breach fine

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has put sponsors of low-risk listed medicines on notice after fining functional food company Perdays Australia \$19,800 for the alleged unlawful advertising of a listed medicine, in contravention of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

Sponsors are permitted to supply low risk listed medicines to consumers, without the need for pre-market assessment of efficacy, quality, and safety by the TGA.

"The TGA will continue to take action where non-compliance with the Act is identified in accordance with our regulatory compliance framework," the regulator warned.

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No health checks for older doctors

AFTER consulting on possible compulsory health checks for late career doctors, the Medical Board of Australia has opted to pursue "a more nuanced and collaborative solution" instead.

An analysis of the outcome of complaints to Ahpra showed that the issues requiring regulatory action for doctors aged over 70 most commonly include concerns about communication, clinical care, pharmacy and medication, as well as health.

The Board said it will work with the medical profession on strategies to support late career doctors to keep practising safely as they age.

"The Board values the contribution of late career doctors to their patients, the medical profession and our community," Medical Board of Australia Chair, Dr Susan O'Dwyer, said.

"There are also some clear issues in the practice of some doctors in this group that health checks alone won't address," she explained.

"We are keen to collaborate with the profession on supporting this group of doctors to keep their practice safe and their knowledge and skills up to date," she said, noting the Board is working to find "a proportionate solution to a nuanced and sensitive problem".

Priceline prescribes beauty

PRICELINE Pharmacy recently held its Beauty Prescription Live event, putting the retailer's health and beauty credentials on show for more than 250 guests at Campbell's Stores on Sydney Harbour.

The multiple-room experience featured 61 brands - of which 20 were exclusive to Priceline - that provided product knowledge, brand stories, interactive elements and product samples, with a separate atomica room featuring 11 brands.

Highlights included Made by Mitchell, Bouf, the breakout hack, Bronte, Urban Jungle, Daily Skincare, UKLash, Conserving Beauty and Priceline Pharmacy's own beauty accessories brand iLLI - which recently scooped two awards for its aesthetic package design including 'Best visual identity' and 'Best creative strategy'.

Joining media and content creators were 20 of Priceline Pharmacy's Sister Club Pink Diamond members, who won a trip to Sydney to attend the pink carpet event.

Priceline Pharmacy's Anything



Menopause program was another highlight of the event, with Chief Pharmacist Melissa Gannon attending to talk through the in-store services and curated product range available to consumers.

Wesfarmers Health's Chief Customer Officer Richard Pearson said, "It was fantastic to see our Anything Menopause program resonate so well with guests."

"There was so much positivity about what we're doing to promote and normalise perimenopause and menopause awareness; seeing this engagement made me extremely proud of the work we're doing in Priceline Pharmacy stores."

New My Health Record training for TAFE

THE Australian Digital Health Agency and the Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre have launched new one-hour eLearning courses aimed at improving understanding and use of My Health Record across vocational healthcare students and aged care workers.

Aimed at current Vocational Education and Training (VET) TAFE students, the Digital Health in Healthcare: Understanding

My Health Record course complements qualifications including nursing, allied health and health administration.

The course also provides benefits such as a deeper understanding of data governance and the importance of accurate, up-to-date health information, and shows how My Health Record can be integrated into future care planning.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Immutep partners with Dr Reddys on ehti

SYDNEY-BASED biotech company Immutep has announced a licensing agreement with Indian pharma company Dr Reddy's to commercialise its lead drug candidate ehti (eftilagimod alfa) in all countries outside of North America, Europe, Japan and China.

Ehti is a first-in-class novel immunotherapy that directly activates the immune system to fight cancer, and is currently undergoing phase III trials for the first-line therapy of advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer.

Its favourable safety profile enables various combinations, including with anti-PD-[L]1 immunotherapy, radiotherapy, and/or chemotherapy.

The drug is also being investigated in other indications including head and neck cancer, breast cancer, and soft tissue sarcoma.

"This agreement with Dr Reddy's marks a significant milestone for Immutep and further validates the potential of ehti," said Immutep CEO Marc Voigt.

"Dr Reddy's proven capabilities and reach in the licensed markets make them an ideal partner to maximise the impact of our innovation and serve a large number of patients across the globe," he said, adding that Immutep remains "well-positioned for future value creation".

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Editor's Choice: essano relaunches with new formulas and products

MUCH-LOVED New Zealand skincare brand essano has relaunched its Collagen Boost range with an improved formula, new additional products, as well as a redesign.

The upgraded dermatologically tested collection is formulated with biomimetic vegan collagen, which is 100% DNA-sequenced to match COL1A2, the key collagen protein in skin, and is combined with hyaluronic acid, niacinamide and plant peptides.

Together, the ingredients are designed to hydrate and boost skin's elasticity, keeping it plump, smooth and resilient.

Products include an oil cleanser (RRP \$25.99), daily moisturiser



(RRP \$22.99), serum (RRP \$30.99), eye cream (RRP \$24.99), facial oil (RRP \$24.99), night cream (RRP \$24.99) and blurring wrinkle filler (RRP \$24.99).

"We scour the world to find the most innovative and efficacious ingredients and then create

unique formulas that are clinically proven to smooth wrinkles, firm skin and boost hydration," said Marissa Kan, Head of Innovation at essano.

"We are proud to deliver professional-grade outcomes at such an accessible price point."

New peel off lip stains

AFFORDABLE beauty brand KIND Collective has released the new Sculpt and Stay Peel Off Lip Liner, delivering great colour and staying power, combined with nourishing ingredients.

The new lip liner is formulated with hyaluronic acid, shea butter, jojoba and coconut oil to hydrate the lips, and is available in four shades - Plum Goals, Spiced Up, Petal Crush and Think Pink.

Each liner can be worn on its own for a natural tint or layered with a gloss for extra shine.

For the festive season, KIND Collective is also offering a range of seasonal gifts, including the Lash Love Gift Kit (RRP \$20), featuring the Turn Up Volume Mascara and Eyelash Curler; and the Sweet Lips Gift (RRP \$15) with a jelly lip gloss, lipstick, lip pencil and lip wand.

New Garnier hair mask

GARNIER has released the new Fructis Keratin Sleek Hair Mask (RRP \$16) this month, perfect to tame hair from roots to tips, while boosting shine.

Featuring Keratin Smoothing Complex and argan oil, the product smooths hair, controls frizz and is part of a four-step hair care system designed to nourish hair including a shampoo, conditioner, hair mask, and leave-in serum.



AHC's five-step routine for hydration at home



POPULAR Korean brand AHC Skincare's Hyaluro-Deep Volume 5 Collection is a five-step routine

that aims to replicate the results of an in-clinic hydration treatment.

The range is formulated with five different weights of hyaluronic acid to provide multi-layered hydration, as well as Pro-Vitamin B5 to deliver smoother, radiant skin with moisture lasting up to 100 hours, according to the brand.

Step one of the routine includes a lightweight essence (RRP \$49.99), followed by a nourishing serum (RRP \$59.99), emulsion (RRP \$49.99), eye cream (RRP \$39.99) and lastly, a night gel (RRP \$49.99).

Developed from Korean aesthetic spas, AHC recently expanded in Australia and is known for its professional, clinical-grade formulas focused on anti-ageing, brightening and deep hydration.



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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

A MAN who claims to be the "healthiest patient" his doctor has ever seen has kindly shared his secrets to his 795,000 Instagram followers, and it doesn't include protein powder or fancy supplements.

Longevity researcher and best-selling author Dan Buettner, aged 64, credits his nonrestrictive plant-based diet as the reason behind his vitality.

He revealed he starts his day with a humble bowl of Sardinian minestrone - a vegetable soup of beans that he tops with a dash of olive oil and an avocado.

Buettner's own research across global Blue Zones, which are geographic regions with a high concentration of centenarians, has revealed that diets rich in legumes, greens and unrefined carbohydrates are strongly linked to reduced chronic disease, lower inflammation and significantly longer lifespan.

As for the rest of his day, Buettner snacks on fruit.

"I usually let myself eat as much fruit as I want, and I eat the food that appeals to me that day because then I'll keep eating it," he said in a recent video that has attracted 150,000 views.

Buettner's dinner habits may surprise you though - he goes out to eat every single night, describing how maintaining a social life is key to living long.

"I eat mostly a whole food, plant-based diet, but I also know being connected socially is part of that cluster of factors that leads to 100," he explained.

"I eat healthy, I stay connected, I feel pretty good."

Meet pharmacy's next generation

WORKING in John Hunter Hospital's patient care system are two teenage pharmacy assistant trainees, Madison Brown and Alison Silva (**pictured**), who are currently completing their Certificate III Hospital and Pharmacy Support.

The traineeship is offered through the NSW Government's '1000 NSW Public Sector Apprentices and Trainees Program', a commitment to employ an additional 1,000 learners across state government agencies and state-owned corporations over three years.

Under the program, apprentices and trainees can earn and learn while on the job, gain practical experience, be mentored by industry experts and earn nationally recognised qualifications.

Silva is attending one day per week while doing her HSC at school, while Brown has chosen the pathway as an alternative to school.

Silva and Brown are among the 20 percent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners in the program, and both hope to inspire other First Nations people by showing them what is possible.

"Being an Indigenous woman, some people think you're not going to get as far as other people and reach the same levels people can - me doing a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship and showing up changes that," Silva said.

Silva and Brown conduct tasks such as monitoring fridge temperatures to ensure medications can be safely administered; scanning and taking stock of wards; dispensing medicine and supporting out-patient discharges; and delivering medication to wards.

Both are enjoying the opportunity to get a taste of working in healthcare in general, and

pharmacy in particular, and plan to continue their studies in the field.

Supervised and mentored by Tracey Meares, Deputy Services Manager at John Hunter Hospital, the trainees have impressed those around them as they uplifted the team culture and workload while gaining hands-on skills in the supporting role and safe management of medicine.

"Having them both on board has changed the working environment," Meares said.

"They are significant contributors to our team, and not just as trainees - they do the same work as the other technicians and add to the team culture."

As for the future, the Certificate III in Hospital and Pharmacy Support can lead to a Certificate IV and a technician qualification, and that is a path Silva intends to pursue



initially as she decides on the direction she wants to follow.

Brown, on the other hand, is looking into university studies to become a pharmacist.

Meanwhile, the team at John Hunter Hospital are also keen to continue with the program.

"This has been a really positive experience and we're very happy we've chosen to do it - and these two have been exceptional," Meares told **Pharmacy Daily**, adding that they will have another trainee next year as well. *KB*

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