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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Chemist Discount Centre.

Grow in 2025

WITH their pharmacies growing their revenue by 36% over four years, Chemist Discount Centre provides an end-to-end franchise solution and an opportunity to grow. Learn more on **page four**.

F&P Healthcare feels Trump effect

NEW Zealand-based global medical device company Fisher & Paykel Healthcare has reported to the ASX that costs are forecast to increase under the new US tariff regime, which resulted in a 7.4% drop in share price.

The US announced a 25% tariff would be imposed on products imported from Mexico and Canada, and a 10% tariff on products from China.

F&P Healthcare, which makes in-home CPAP devices for managing obstructive sleep apnoea and humidifiers for chronic respiratory care, currently manufactures about 45% of its volume in Mexico, and the US accounts for 43% of the company's revenue.

However, the company said it doesn't expect a material impact on profits for the 2025 financial year.

PSA lauds NT vax program

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has applauded the Northern Territory Government for its decision to increase the scope of pharmacist-administered vaccination.

Effective immediately, pharmacists in the Territory can prescribe and administer a wider range of vaccines, including private market vaccines such as shingles and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines when not covered under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

NT pharmacists can also administer the Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccine (RSV) at no cost to patients through the NIP during pregnancy from 28 to 36 weeks' gestation (**PD** 20 Jan).

PSA SA/NT President Dr Manya Angley commended the initiative, stating, "This development is a significant advancement in public health, enhancing access to essential vaccines for Territorians."

"The current measles alert in the NT is a timely reminder of the importance of staying up-to-date with vaccination and catching up on missed doses," she continued.

"By empowering pharmacists to authorise and administer an expanded range of vaccines, including NIP vaccines like RSV, the Northern Territory Government is leveraging the expertise of pharmacists to improve healthcare delivery, particularly in remote and underserved communities", Dr Angley said.

The PSA has long championed the expansion of pharmacists' roles in immunisation, recognising the



potential to increase vaccination rates and reduce the burden on other healthcare providers.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Fei Sim, encouraged other Australian states and territories to follow the Northern Territory's leadership in this area.

"Expanding pharmacists' vaccination authority nationwide will improve vaccination accessibility and immunisation coverage across the country."

"PSA urges all jurisdictions to consider similar measures, removing barriers such as limitations on vaccine, patient age, funding and location of vaccination," A/Prof Sim concluded.

Research finds drop in vaping

PROMISING new data from South Australia suggests vape use among Australians has significantly reduced.

The latest statistics from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) found a 28% decrease in vaping rates from 2023 to 2024 among 15 to 29-year-olds.

This age group has the highest rate of vape use, with almost 11% reporting vaping in 2024, down from 15% in 2023.

Vaping rates in the 30-59 age group reduced by almost 50%, albeit off a lower base.

"These results show Australia's world-leading reforms are working to stamp out vaping and smoking," said Health Minister Mark Butler, adding that the government will continue to investigate and penalise those not complying with vaping laws.

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Esketamine nasal spray gets PBAC tick

NEW paediatric indications for adalimumab, unrestricted benefits listings for antihypertensives, and a PBS listing for nasal esketamine were among the recommendations from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) Dec 2024 intracycle meeting.

PBAC recommended new listings for adalimumab for enthesitis/spondylitis related juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and chronic plaque psoriasis for under 18s, as well as reducing restrictions on dosing protocols.

The changes apply to reference brand Humira and biosimilars.

After several knock-backs over the last few years due to concerns over costs, PBAC has now recommended adding nasal esketamine (Spravato, Janssen-Cilag) to the PBS for use in treatment-resistant depression, with a Section 100 Highly Specialised Drug Program authority required listing.

Spravato currently costs around \$800 per dose, but if PBS listing is signed off by the health minister, it will greatly reduce its cost to the patient.

However, patients are still liable for the cost of specialist care and supervision when receiving the medication, which can cost hundreds of dollars per visit.

PBAC recommended Spravato usage and its cost to government be monitored.

The PBAC recommended changing PBS restrictions for all antihypertensive dual therapy fixed dose combinations to unrestricted benefit listings.

However, it recommended that 60-day prescription items should remain Restricted Benefit, listings and there are no changes to triple therapy PBS restrictions.

Also recommended was Abilify Asimtufi (Lundbeck), a new long-acting injectable form of aripiprazole for schizophrenia.

See all PBAC outcomes [HERE](#).

AdPha calls for access equity

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has called for improved patient access to medicines and patient equity in its 2025-26 Federal Pre-Budget Submission, with scope of practice, workforce sustainability and drug shortages its key member priorities.

Recommendations include the establishment of a dedicated Medicine Shortages and Discontinuation Clinical Advice Service, and national equity for patients' access to medications through bilateral Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements (PRAs) with NSW and ACT to achieve a "long-overdue" nationally consistent approach to the PBS.

"Until these PRAs are signed, we can never truly achieve equitable health care and patients continue to miss out," said AdPha President Tom Simpson.

Highlighting the need to remove barriers to full scope of practice, AdPha is calling on the government to expand the footprint of the

proven and successful Partnered Pharmacist Medication Prescribing (PPMP) collaborative care model from hospitals into aged care and general practice settings, while also enabling pharmacists to prescribe medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) under PPMP and other collaborative care models.

Simpson says both initiatives will improve patient outcomes, save costs and optimise the skills of the primary care workforce.

"PPMP improves timeliness, safety and quality of medicines management for patients, while at the same time supporting capacity for doctors and nurses," said Simpson, leading to reduced medication errors and patient length of stay in hospital.

Funding to harness the "under-utilised skills of pharmacy technicians" is one of several recommendations to build a stronger and more sustainable pharmacy workforce.

Read the submission [HERE](#). *KB*

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Dispensary Corner

MANY of us have heard of the fascinating phenomenon that is foreign accent syndrome, but one recent case in Australia has left scientists...well, speechless.

Goulburn woman Kim, who was born in Sydney and grew up in rural Australia, has spoken with a thick Yorkshire accent for the last four years - despite never even visiting England.

Unlike typical cases of foreign accent syndrome, Kim's British inflexion didn't follow a brain injury or stroke; it emerged after multiple surgeries to remove and rebuild her lower jaw following a stage-four skin cancer diagnosis inside her mouth.

When Kim learnt to talk again, she discovered that she'd lost her normal Aussie twang.

"My sister said 'mum, she sounds posh,'" Kim said.

"I was just a normal Aussie gal that spoke Australian, now I don't."

Speech pathologist Dr Emma Charter, who is assisting Kim in her rehabilitation, said medical experts had been left baffled by Kim's case of foreign accent syndrome, and have been unable to determine a cause.

"It's never something that's been encountered before in documented or in my clinical history of working as a speech pathologist," Charter said.

The speech expert believes it's unlikely Kim will be able to recover her Aussie accent, given accents are harder to change after four years, but said she will continue to work with her.

As for Kim, she said she is just happy to be alive.

SA 24/7 pharmacy milestone



SOUTH Australia's first 24/7 pharmacy has helped more than 25,000 people and dispensed more than 12,500 prescriptions after hours since opening one year ago.

The National Pharmacies Norwood store was the first of three community pharmacies to open under a State Government initiative extending operating hours to 24 hours, seven days per week.

Salbutamol inhaler (for asthma), antibiotics and pain relief were the prescription medicines in highest demand after hours.

Pharmacists also provided women with more than 70 consultations after hours for Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs).

In addition to helping in-store customers, after-hour pharmacists took an average of around eight calls a night over the past year, with most callers seeking advice on interactions between medications and treatment for minor ailments such as gastroenteritis, bites, rashes and burns.

Health and Wellbeing Minister Chris Picton said customer feedback indicated about 20% of visitors to the state's three 24-hour pharmacies would have visited an emergency department if the 24/7

pharmacy was not available.

"It's fantastic that our first-ever 24-hour pharmacy has helped so many people in the eastern suburbs receive quick, professional health care when they need it close to home," Picton said.

"This service provides such convenience and reassurance for South Australians needing health advice or medicines in the middle of the night, while also keeping pressure off our busy hospital emergency departments."

National Pharmacies Chief Pharmacist Bec Rogers (pictured above, assisting a family) said the largest groups of after hours customers were woman and those aged 51 to 60, with families also heavily represented.

"Among those seeking help late at night, or early in the morning, were a new mum recently discharged from hospital with her baby, a parent needing antibiotics for a child's ear infection, and three flight passengers with missing luggage needing urgent prescriptions filled," Rogers said.

The success of the 24/7 pharmacy initiative has led the government to expand the service to a fourth pharmacy (PD 09 Jan). *KB*

Guild Update

Remuneration report out now

The 2024-25 *Community Pharmacy Remuneration Report* is now available for Guild members.

This comprehensive report offers a snapshot of remuneration rates across the community pharmacy sector, helping businesses benchmark wages, stay competitive, attract and retain staff, and ensure compliance with modern award wage rates.

Understanding the remuneration landscape ensures alignment with evolving pharmacy workforce pressures and legislative changes expanding pharmacists' scope of practice, providing opportunities for pharmacy owners to rethink business operations and remuneration structures.

The report examines average ordinary time earnings (OTE), workforce demographics, tenure, and pay distribution by classification and location.

It also highlights how skill substitution in the non-professional workforce may improve productivity, freeing up pharmacists for higher-level clinical services.

These shifts could drive long-term changes in remuneration as roles and responsibilities adapt.

An exclusive Guild member resource, the report supports members in making evidence-based workforce decisions.



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*Average results and growth of Chemist Discount Centre Pharmacy franchises between 2021 to 2024

What our members say:



"As a franchisee of Chemist Discount Centre, we can confidently say that partnering with them has been a game-changer for our business at Wallan and Kilmore. The support and resources provided by the franchise team have been exceptional, allowing us to thrive in a competitive market"

Bi Jing You, Kim Ling Ching, Hooi-yin Tan & Kee Tat
Proprietors, Chemist Discount Centre Wallan & Kilmore



"Working with Chemist Discount Centre has been an exceptional experience over the last 4 years. Their dedication to quality and customer satisfaction is truly commendable. Having support from my Pharmacy Business Manager has helped with strategic planning, financial management, operational efficiency, compliance expertise and staff development. I'd recommend the brand to anyone looking for a true 'discount model' solution."

Tracy Minett
Proprietor, Chemist Discount Centre Bass Hill & Chester Hill

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