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AUSTRALIA'S largest pharmacy conference, APP2025, is only six weeks away, starting 20 Mar. Register now, and start planning your accommodation and travel - see the **cover page**.

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Funding hospital pharmacists is critical

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has welcomed yesterday's Federal Govt announcement of a \$1.7 billion boost for hospitals and health services, and is calling for states and territories to direct a portion of the funding to bolster the hospital pharmacy workforce. AdPha President Tom Simpson said that hospital pharmacists are critical to cutting waiting lists, reducing ED waiting times and managing ramping - the key aims of the funding boost - so it is essential they are included in the funding pool. As an example, Simpson referred to surgical and perioperative pharmacists playing a crucial role in ensuring safer transitions of care while improving the quality and

cost-effectiveness of medicine use. "By conducting accurate medication histories and reconciliations, they help reduce medicine wastage, limit medication errors, and prevent avoidable adverse events - ultimately making surgery safer and more efficient. "Emergency pharmacists are equally vital in improving patient flow, facilitating faster admissions to wards, and ensuring safer discharges back into the community," Simpson explained. With hospital admissions increasing every year, the role of hospital pharmacists in supporting safer patient discharges and transitions of care becomes even more vital, Simpson said. "Hospital pharmacists are the last healthcare professional a patient sees before leaving the hospital, and the hospital pharmacy is typically the final stop on their hospital journey." Additional funding will help provide critical financial support for training programs, helping to

address workforce shortages. "Hospital pharmacists are an integral part of interdisciplinary healthcare teams, and continued financial support is essential to ensuring patients receive timely, high-quality care without unnecessary delays." KB

Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of industry news including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a front cover wrap from **APP2025**.

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Heading off sunscreen myths

AUSTRALIA used to have an enviable reputation for sun safety education.

However, it now seems misinformation has turned the tide for many, particularly on social media, with rumours that sunscreen is 'toxic' or causes cancer.

This puts people off buying and using them.

Chemistry Professor Oliver Jones of RMIT has set out to debunk some common sunscreen myths.

"Too much ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun is responsible for most skin cancers in Australia," said Professor Jones.

"Wearing sunscreen is one of the ways to protect ourselves from UV rays.

"These products are rigorously tested for both safety and effectiveness and are proven to reduce the risk of skin cancer."

One of the more concerning claims and misinformation around sunscreen is that it causes cancer.

"There is no evidence to support this," said Professor Jones, adding that there is, however, plenty of evidence that UV light does.

"There are also unfounded claims that synthetic ingredients in chemical sunscreens may act as endocrine disruptors and interact with the body's hormones," Prof Jones said.

"However, this is unlikely because the amounts in sunscreen are far too low to have an effect."

As for whether chemical or mineral sunscreens are better, Prof Jones said both work in the same way: by absorbing UV light and converting it to heat, with only a small amount of UV light reflected.

"The right sunscreen for you is the one you have and prefer to use," he concluded.

Managing meds in FNQ



THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has put in place a Continued Dispensing Emergency Measure to help people in Far North Queensland affected by the floods continue to access their PBS subsidised medicines.

The temporary measure permits the supply of an eligible medicine to a person by an approved pharmacist, where there is an immediate need for the medicine, but the PBS prescriber is unable to be contacted and/or is unable to provide an electronic PBS prescription or owing prescription.

The patient must have been supplied with the medicine within the last three months and their condition must be stable.

The PBS Continued Dispensing Emergency Measure provides access to a wider range of PBS medicines than under ongoing Continued Dispensing arrangements, covering most medicines on the General Schedule of the PBS.

Taking effect from 04 Feb, the measure will be in place until 31 Mar 2025 (inclusive).

Meanwhile, the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) and the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) have jointly called for long-term solutions to mitigate health impacts of floods, drought and fires.

"We urge swift action and coordinated efforts to support these communities that are already challenged with lack of healthcare access, both in the immediate aftermath and in the years to

come," said Susi Tegen, Chief Executive of the NRHA.

The flooding in Northern Queensland has submerged agricultural land and forced residents to evacuate, causing physical damage and triggering a rise in waterborne diseases, mental health issues and respiratory conditions, resulting in a heightened risk of infections in rural communities.

"We join CAHA in advocating for funding of the National Health and Climate Strategy to mitigate climate impacts on health professionals, rural communities and their livelihoods," Tegen said.

"We also call for the establishment of a National Rural Health Strategy with rural health funding that would incorporate policies and initiatives to mitigate and address the impacts of disastrous weather patterns on the health and wellbeing of rural Australians," she added.

The organisations are urging both state and federal governments to join forces in bolstering resources for medical and health services so that rural communities are better prepared during extreme weather events, noting that they are occurring more frequently due to climate change.

"Long-term measures, including increased investment in climate change adaptation strategies, are essential to support our rural populations, who contribute significantly to Australia's economy," Tegen added. *KB*

PDL student grants open

PHARMACY Defence Limited (PDL) has announced the opening of its 2025 Student Grant Program, with applications open until 13 Apr.

The program was established to help pharmacy students broaden their education by attending a professional pharmacy conference.

There are three grants available valued at up to \$5,000 each, which can contribute to event registration, accommodation, travel and meal expenses.

This 2025 program offers five recognised conferences to choose from:

- Life Long Learning in Pharmacy Conference, 07-10 Jul, Sydney
- PSA National Conference, 01-03 Aug, Sydney
- Pharmacy Connect, 03-05 Sep, Sydney
- AdPha Medicines Management, 27-29 Nov, Melbourne
- APP26 Conference, 12-14 Mar 2026, Gold Coast.

"The PDL student grant provides an invaluable and unique opportunity for pharmacy students to connect with industry professionals and thought leaders from across the country," said Yannee Liu, one of last year's winners.

"I have been able to expand my horizons, clinical knowledge, scope of practice and networks by attending PSA24 through the PDL Student Grant," she enthused.

Selection is based on expected career progression in pharmacy and a clear articulation of expected outcomes from the conference.

To be eligible for a grant, students must be currently enrolled full time in an undergraduate or postgraduate pharmacy course at an Australian university and be a PDL member.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Editor's Choice: Natio launches limited edition Golden Hour range

AUSTRALIAN beauty brand Natio has released a new limited edition collection, Golden Hour, featuring products with light-reflecting pigments and silky textures to illuminate skin and blur imperfections.

Golden Hour includes a range of cream- and liquid-based formulations, such as the Luminous Gold Glow Drops (RRP \$19.95) developed with kakadu plum and rosehip oil, and the Summer Glow Cream Bronzer (\$24.95), featuring jojoba oil, shea butter and vitamin E.

Other additions include the Champagne Dreams Liquid Highlighter (RRP \$16.95); the Golden Hour Eyeshadow Palette



(RRP \$24.95); the Metallic Sky and Bronze Goddess Liquid Eyeliners (RRP \$19.95 each); and the Pink Sunset and Solar Kiss Glossy Lip Oils (RRP \$17.95 each).

"These ultra flattering products offer a perfect blend of luminosity and natural beauty

that look gorgeous on all skin types and skin tones - and suits all occasions," Natio Product Development Manager Kenrith Barnett said.

Natio's Golden Hour range is available in Priceline and selected pharmacies today.

Maternity milestone



ELEVIT is celebrating a significant milestone of two decades of being a partner in pregnancy planning.

Calling itself the 'World's Most Studied Prenatal Multivitamin Brand', Elevit has helped more than two million Australian babies enter the world.

Head of Consumer Health Marketing at Bayer, Jodie Lynch, said Elevit has helped pioneer modern understanding of prenatal nutritional requirements, conducting 22 clinical studies in preconception and pregnancy, and is committed to supporting scientific progress in this field and reducing neural tube defects.

"It's incredibly rewarding to see the impact Elevit has had on Australian families over the past 20 years," Lynch said.

"With such a strong heritage, we're even now seeing Elevit babies have their own Elevit babies," Lynch continued.

To mark the milestone, Bayer is inviting Australians who used Elevit at any stage of their pregnancy journey over the past 20 years to share their #ElevitBaby story via the Elevit website.

Learn more at www.elevit.com.au/elevitbaby.

Luxury sheet masks

COTIPAL is the luxury high-end skincare brand from Australia that is setting off a global skincare revolution with its algae-based sheet masks with giant kelp from Tasmania and red algae from the Baltic Sea.

Algae is known for its humectant properties, locking in hydration, diminishing dark spots and brightening dull, sensitive skin.

For stockist enquiries, contact Louise Edmonds at pr@louiseedmonds.com



Naturally Cooked - a sunscreen targeting men



NATURALLY Cooked exists as an answer to the extremely lacklustre sunscreen practices of young Australian Men, say company co-founders Lachlan Baxter and Jake Brown, two young blokes who have grown up getting burnt in the harsh Queensland sun.

Seeing their friends - and

themselves - red all over and blistering after a day spent in the sun drove them to look more deeply into the issue.

"Australian men use sunscreen 40% less than women, die twice as often from skin cancer and by 65 are twice as likely to be diagnosed with one," they found.

Messaging around sunscreen places it in a cosmetic category that men do not see themselves being a part of, the pair reasoned, so they set out to fill a gap in the market with an SPF50+ sunscreen marketed to appeal to men - "100% for mates, by mates".

It is currently available at selected pharmacies in NSW and Qld.

For wholesale enquiries, see naturallycooked.com.au/pages/wholesale.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

UNQUALIFIED beauty consultants have hit the news recently, with recent cases of in-home botox injections resulting in several Sydney women being hospitalised with botulism.

Meanwhile in the UK, the *BBC* has shocked viewers with revelations of Brazilian butt lifts gone wrong, having been provided by celebrity-endorsed injector Ricky Sawyer.

The network obtained footage of the so-called beauty consultant offering to inject hundreds of millilitres of filler into clients' buttocks and illegally handing out antibiotics, despite not having a single healthcare qualification.

Women treated by Sawyer told the *BBC* of how they needed emergency hospital treatment after their procedures to tackle serious complications, including potentially fatal sepsis.

The liquid BBL procedure is notoriously risky, especially when performed by non-medics.

This is because when injected into or near a blood vessel, filler can block blood flow and lead to tissue death, while inadequately sterilising equipment can trigger dangerous infections.

A lobby group that campaigns for greater regulation of non-surgical procedures said it has received complaints about Sawyer from 39 women, all of whom were hospitalised.

Reports about Sawyer to police around the country have failed to have any effect, with each local force passing the responsibility to another, and he is apparently still practicing.

T2D drug cuts liver risk

A CLASS of medicines used to treat type 2 diabetes (T2D), sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors, has been associated with a 36% reduced risk of developing chronic liver damage (cirrhosis) among people with T2D, a new study has found.

SGLT2 inhibitors, which include dapagliflozin, empagliflozin and ertugliflozin, were also found to reduce the risk of serious liver damage complications (decompensated cirrhosis) by 26%.

The UK population-based study involving 240,000 people looked at three classes of T2D medicines and their potential to reduce the risk of liver damage among people with T2D: glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists' (GLP-1RAs, such as semaglutide), dipeptidyl peptidase 4' (DPP-4) inhibitors (such as sitagliptin, saxagliptin, linagliptin, and alogliptin) and SGLT2 inhibitors.

Unlike SGLT2 inhibitors, GLP-1RAs were not associated with a lower risk of chronic liver damage when compared with DPP-4 inhibitors.

Concurrently, none of the medicines were associated with a lower risk of liver cancer or liver-related mortality.

Lead author, Monash University's Dr Richeek Pradhan from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said these findings could pave the way for new strategies to manage liver disease for people living with T2D.

"T2D-associated liver disease and its associated complications can lead to very serious health outcomes," Dr Pradhan said.

"Taking this into account, our hope is that this study could be a stepping stone toward further research and, longer term,



enhanced therapeutic approaches when it comes to reducing the risk of liver disease among susceptible patients," he added.

Research relating to the T2D and liver disease connection is still relatively new, the researchers noted, but there is clear evidence that each condition increases the risk for the other due to organ damage caused by long-term high blood sugar levels.

Read the paper [HERE](#). KB

Owners Masterclass at APP2025

ESTABLISHED and aspiring pharmacy owners are invited to attend a pre-conference workshop at this year's APP titled 'Transforming the future of pharmacy - embracing change and innovation'.

The workshop is hosted by CommBank Health and is the fifth edition of its Pharmacy Owners Masterclass series.

With newly refreshed content and structure, the workshop will explore important and emerging aspects of pharmacy business management, such as building and retaining great pharmacy teams; utilising the 8th CPA for success; financing strategies for long-term growth; utilising technology to your advantage; and building a robust approach to financial management.

The workshop runs from 12:30pm to 5:00pm on Wed 19 Mar - learn more [HERE](#).

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