

# IT ALL HAPPENS THIS FRIDAY – ARE YOU IN?

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Friday, 4th July 2025

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## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from **Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025**, and a full page from **Maxofen**.

## PCS25: last chance

**THE** virtual Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025 takes place on Friday 04 Jul.

Register now to ensure you do not miss out - see the **cover page** for details.

## Maximise your day

**NEW** Maxofen from Nova Pharmaceuticals combines paracetamol and ibuprofen for double-action relief from acute pain and fever.

Available in packs of 12 or 30 tablets - details on **page four**.

## Victoria community pilot now permanent

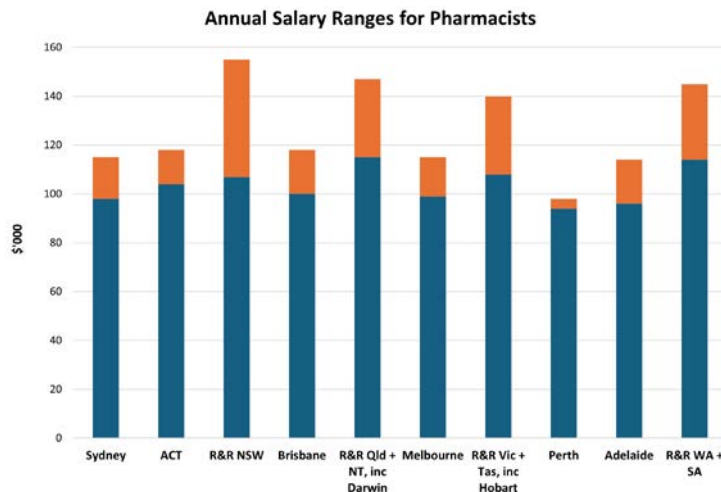
**THE** 18-month Victorian Community Statewide Pilot is now a permanent program, with community pharmacists able to treat patients for more everyday health conditions.

"Pharmacists have been successfully treating patients for conditions such as uncomplicated UTIs and resupplying the oral contraceptive pill for the last 18 months in Victoria, and we are pleased the Government has made this a permanent program," said George Tambassis, Victorian President of the Pharmacy Guild.

Other conditions that have now become permanent practice include treatment for shingles, mild plaque psoriasis and travel vaccinations.

The Victorian branch also welcomed the Government's commitment to expand the everyday conditions from five to 22, announced in the recent State Budget (**PD** 20 May).

# Pharmacy 2025 salary report to be released



## EXCLUSIVE

**RAVEN'S** Recruitment is set to release its *2025 Pharmacy Salary and Market Report*, now in its eighth edition.

The guide sheds light on salary trends within the pharmacy industry across Australia and New Zealand for both locum and permanent roles, as well as highlighting the key business impacts of the past year.

It provides comprehensive remuneration data for different pharmacist roles, broken down by state and territory, as well as metropolitan versus regional and rural locations, providing a valuable tool for salary negotiation.

Overall, permanent pharmacist salaries have seen a small increase across rural and metropolitan locations nationally, with the 2025 salary ranges for the role of 'pharmacist' shown in the chart above by state/territory.

"While encouraging, the shift is not as pronounced as many might have hoped, given the ongoing workload and evolving expectations around pharmacist roles," said Heidi Dariz, General Manager of Raven's Recruitment.

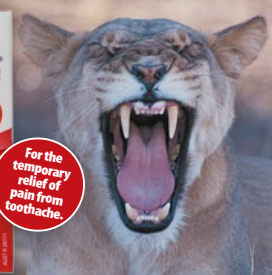
An exception is the position of Pharmacist in Charge (PIC), where salaries in all capital cities are now consistently exceeding the \$100,000 threshold.

"This represents a significant psychological and financial milestone for the profession,

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increases in award wages, and the expected impact on wages more generally.

"While many pharmacists already earn above the award wage, particularly in rural settings where demand is high, the adjustment will reset the wage floor and potentially influence future enterprise bargaining agreements and market negotiations," Dariz explained.

"Over the next two to three years, it will be interesting to observe how this increase shapes overall remuneration trends - whether it compresses wage differentials or drives further growth across all experience levels."

Dariz will be presenting key data from the report at the Pharmacy Careers Summit 2025 on 04 Jul, with a downloadable copy of the report available **HERE**. **KB**

indicating increased recognition of the PIC's responsibilities, leadership requirements and operational oversight," Dariz said.

In rural areas, salaries for pharmacist managers have remained flat over the past 12 months.

However, Dariz pointed out, wages in these roles were already comparatively high due to historical recruitment and retention challenges in remote communities.

Intern pharmacists are one of the few positions that have traditionally still received a salary package based on the Pharmacy Industry Award.

However, this year has seen a substantial increase in base salary.

"Offering more competitive base salaries may be an attempt to attract strong candidates in a tight labour market, or to retain pharmacy graduates in the profession amid increasing competition from other healthcare-based roles," Dariz suggested.

For locum roles, there has been a slight upward shift in minimum rates, reflecting a growing awareness of cost-of-living pressures and the need to remain competitive in attracting talent, particularly for short-term placements in regional and remote areas.

"While the lower end has risen, the upper end of locum rates has remained relatively unchanged, which suggests a plateau in what employers are willing to pay," Dariz told **Pharmacy Daily**.

She also talked about the recent

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## PSA to develop CPD standards

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has taken on the role of publishing education standards for CPD, following the retirement of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) accreditation standards for CPD activities at the end of this year (PD 01 Jul).

The PSA has committed to developing and maintaining industry-leading standards, providing high quality education that upholds pharmacy practice standards, guidelines and ethics, and is free from commercial bias.

"PSA has a very long history of accrediting education across many decades," PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim said.

"As the national peak body for pharmacists in Australia and custodians of pharmacy practice standards, guidelines and ethics, PSA is developing education standards for CPD that give our profession - and our stakeholders - confidence in the quality of pharmacist education."

External education providers will also be able to submit their pharmacist education for assessment against the PSA education standards.

"Our members tell us that PSA's education is of high quality, a quality they can trust, and this scheme will mean that when they see third-party education that is approved as meeting the PSA education standards, they can have a similar level of trust in it," Assoc Prof Sim said.

She also acknowledged the APC's benchmark for CPD.

"We recognise the important role APC has played in setting the standard for pharmacist CPD over the last decade, as we look forward to building on APC's legacy and driving the standards of pharmacist CPD into the future," Assoc Prof Sim concluded.

## Wesfarmers pilots health-focused hub

**WESFARMERS** Health has launched a pilot for a small-format, health-focused physical pharmacy, aligned with its telehealth business InstantScripts.

Working with community pharmacists, the first InstantScripts Pharmacy Health Hub has opened in Sandgate, Brisbane, providing access to scripts and health care products as well as preventative health checks, vaccinations and assistance with chronic disease management.

Wesfarmers Health Chief Customer Officer Richard Pearson said, "Trialling new retail formats is one of the ways we are delivering simpler, more affordable and easier-to-access health, beauty and wellness experiences".

"We have identified a market opportunity for a small format,



health-focused pharmacy to complement our existing Priceline Pharmacy network," he continued.

"InstantScripts Pharmacy Health Hub recognises that pharmacists are very often a patient's first port of call when a health issue arises, and the new format supports pharmacists to practise to the top of their scope of practice in support of their patients."

Pearson pointed out that InstantScripts PHH pharmacists will have the ability to offer patients who cannot access their regular GP

the opportunity to consult with an InstantScripts telehealth doctor, where appropriate.

"Importantly, we have put considerations around patient safety and choice at the core of developing this new-format pharmacy concept, and these are embedded in how the team will be delivering in-store services," Pearson added.

The Sandgate store opened on 30 Jun, with more pilot stores expected to open in Victoria and New South Wales later this year. *KB*

## Sim "deeply honoured and humbled" as she locks in fourth term

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the re-election of Associate Professor Fei Sim as National President for a fourth and final term.

"The PSA Board unanimously endorsed Associate Professor Sim's continued leadership, recognising her unwavering commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession across Australia," a spokesperson for the PSA said.

Assoc Prof Sim is joined by Canberra academic leader and credentialed pharmacist Mark Naunton and Sydney proprietor and community pharmacist Caroline Diamantis, who both return as National Vice Presidents, while Brooke Shelly joins as Victorian Branch Committee-appointed Director.

"I am deeply honoured and

humbled to be re-elected to lead PSA and the profession I'm so proud to be part of," said Assoc Prof Sim.

"I thank the PSA Board for their confidence in me and extend my heartfelt gratitude to every PSA member for your continued support.

"It is a privilege to lead the organisation that represents our beloved profession," she added.

Assoc Prof Sim also recognised and thanked Dr Amy Page on behalf of the board for her service over the last 12 months, and welcomed Shelly for the upcoming term.

On entering her final term, Assoc Prof Sim has reaffirmed her commitment to strengthening PSA's governance and leadership capacity, with a focus on facilitating a seamless leadership



transition during the final term while continuing to serve on the board.

"Over the coming months we are continuing to build PSA Board's capability and ensuring a smooth transition to a new leader when the time comes."



### Dispensary Corner

**WE ALL** want to avoid getting sick while holidaying, but many might not realise that a common travel habit could result in a deadly skin disease.

Sleep specialist Martin Seeley is warning travellers to avoid dumping their luggage on a hotel bed - even in the most high-end accommodation.

The microscopic mites that cause scabies are often found burrowed into bed linen and mattresses, and can easily jump into bags and travel home with you, he warned.

The condition is caused by tiny mites that work their way into the skin, and can spread via person-to-person contact, causing intense itching.

Holidaymakers should keep bags up on a chair and try to avoid removing items from their bags, beyond what they need.

"When staying in hotels or holiday rentals, a quick inspection can go a long way," Seeley said.

"Check mattress seams, bed frames, and behind headboards before settling in and unpacking your belongings."

Seeley's warning comes amid a 74% increase in scabies cases in NHS hospitals across the UK between 2023 and 2024, as well as a 35% rise in infestations of bed bugs since 2022.



## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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### Voltaren Pain Relief Gel 12 Hourly: long-lasting, targeted pain relief

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With an expanded label indication, it exhibits anti-inflammatory effects targeted to the source, providing long-lasting relief of localised muscle pain or mild osteoarthritis of the knees and fingers.<sup>3-6</sup>

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Always read the label and follow the directions for use. Voltaren Pain Relief Gel 12 Hourly contains diclofenac diethylamine 23.2 mg/g.

References: 1. Derry S, et al. *Cochrane Database Sys Rev* 2015;6:CD007042. 2. Predel HG, et al. *Med Sci Sports Exer* 2012;44(9):1629-36. 3. Derry S, et al. *Cochrane Database Sys Rev* 2016;6:CD007400. 4. Predel HG, et al. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disord* 2013;14:250. 5. Derry S, et al. *Cochrane Database Sys Rev* 2017;5:CD008609. 6. Zacher J, et al. *Curr Med Res Opin* 2008;24:925-50.

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### Hartley's Gripe Water



Hartley's Gripe Water is a natural blend of herbal ingredients of dill seed oil, peppermint oil, chamomile and coriander oil. These herbs have been used safely in commercial infant preparations for many years.

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