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Thursday 3rd July 2025

AdPha, Guild call for CPP

Today's issue of PD

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ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have called on the Federal Government to immediately extend the eligibility criteria for the new **Commonwealth Prac Payments** (CPP) to include pharmacy students.

The payment, which commences this week, provides \$331.65 per week to support students undertaking unpaid mandatory placements, but only those studying to become teachers, nurses, midwives or social workers are eligible.

While applauding the move to help others, pharmacy peak bodies argued that pharmacy students, who are also required to complete extensive unpaid placements, deserve equal recognition and support.

"Pharmacy students undertake full-time mandatory placements that are often far from home and entirely unpaid, placing enormous financial pressure on them and their families," said AdPha President Tom Simpson.

"There is no justifiable reason to exclude pharmacy students.

"Like their nursing and teaching peers, they are fulfilling essential workforce training requirements and should be supported accordingly," Simpson urged.

He warned that failing to include pharmacy students in the program could further undermine efforts to address critical workforce shortages.

"We commend the investment in other health and care professions, but it's not too late to do the right thing and include pharmacy students," Simpson said.



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"This is a chance to show genuine commitment to Australia's future pharmacy workforce."

The Guild has long advocated for financial relief for pharmacy students, pointing out they often sacrifice paid employment to meet placement requirements.

With the profession facing workforce shortages and increasing demands, supporting students is essential to ensuring a sustainable future, said the Guild.

"Pharmacy students deserve the same support as their peers in nursing and social work," said **Guild National President Professor** Trent Twomey.

"Excluding them from this payment is not just unfair - it's a missed opportunity to support the future of primary healthcare."

Medical students have also called for inclusion in the scheme, arguing that with the highest number of mandatory placement hours, they are particularly affected.

"The launch of the CPP scheme is an open acknowledgment that students are struggling," said Australian Medical Students Association President Melody Ahfock.

"It does not make sense that medical students are not a part of the CPP, despite over 2,000 hours of mandatory placement." KB

Sunscreens go to court over reef claims

THE ACCC has launched Federal Court proceedings against Edgewell Personal Care Australia and its US-based parent company for allegedly false or misleading claims that its popular Hawaiian Tropic and Banana Boat branded sunscreens were 'reef friendly'.

The claims feature on the product packaging and in various media placements.

Edgewell claimed that the sunscreens were 'reef friendly' because they did not contain the ingredients oxybenzone or octinoxate, but the ACCC pointed out they do contain other ingredients that cause or may cause harm to reefs.

These include octocrylene, homosalate, 4-MBC, and butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane (also known as avobenzone).

The company removed 'reef friendly' claims from its sunscreen products in the US in around 2020, but the claims continued to be made in Australia until Dec 2024.

"Many consumers consider environmental factors when purchasing products," said ACCC Deputy Chair Catriona Lowe.

"By engaging in this alleged greenwashing, we say Edgewell deprived consumers of the ability to make an informed decision and may have prevented them from purchasing a different brand of sunscreen that did not contain chemicals which risked causing harm to reefs."

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Long-standing GBMA CEO to step down

THE Board of the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) has announced its Chief Executive Officer of seven years, Marnie Peterson, will complete her tenure at the end of 2025.

The GBMA Board and members thanked Peterson for her outstanding leadership, strategic foresight and unwavering commitment to improving access to affordable medicines for all Australians.

The Independent Chair of the GBMA, Professor Jane Halton, praised Peterson for her leadership through some of the organisation's most challenging and transformative years, including managing global supply chain disruptions during the pandemic.

Peterson will remain in her role as CEO until the end of Dec, with plans for succession to be decided in due course.

EGO Pharmaceuticals is set to double the production of its therapeutic skincare products following the launch of a \$156 million investment in its manufacturing capabilities at Braeside, Melbourne.

It includes the opening of the state-of-the-art Zorzi Innovation Centre (ZInC), The Green Core sustainability project, and the installation of a new cream and tube filling line that will increase manufacture and production from 25 million units per annum to 50 million units.

Set to be completed by 2027, the project will also double capacity at the company's Global Distribution Centre in Dandenong.

In 2024, Ego's flagship QV brand was Australia's number one skincare brand in pharmacy and grocery channels, according to sales data, positioning QV as the highestselling skincare brand, with sales exceeding \$133 million.

Ego Pharmaceuticals has been

manufacturing skincare products in Victoria for more than 70 years and employs approximately 500 people in the state, supporting hundreds more through a strong local supply chain.

Ego expands production with \$156m boost

"We're incredibly proud to officially open these new facilities, which represent a major step forward not just for Ego Pharmaceuticals, but for Australian manufacturing more broadly," said Ego Pharmaceuticals MD, Alan Oppenheim (pictured).

"While the majority of global skincare companies manufacture offshore, we've chosen a different path - one that backs Australian jobs, science and ingenuity.

"This investment is more than steel and machinery - it's a longterm vote of confidence in what Australian expertise can deliver on a global stage."

With key export markets such as the UK, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Singapore, Ego generates half of its \$300 million annual turnover



from exports and is a major contributor to Victoria's economy.

Backed by \$35 million of State Government funding, the initiative will create 90 new jobs and boost exports.

"Victoria's health tech sector is thriving, and this \$35 million redevelopment project is a prime example," said Premier of Victoria, Jacinta Allan.

"We backed Ego Pharmaceuticals to grow because we know investments like this mean more local jobs, more exports, and a stronger economy." KB

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Editor's Choice: Switzerland's top pain relief brand lands in Australia

EUROPEAN pain relief brand Perskindol has landed in Australia and is now available at major chemists across the country, including TerryWhite, Chemist Warehouse, Blooms, Discount Chemist Outlet and Chempro.

The non-medicated topical pain relief was originally developed more than 40 years ago by a Swiss tennis player looking for a product to assist with warm-up, recovery and performance.

According to the brand, a Perskindol product is sold every five seconds around the world and is now used by households, athletes and health professionals. Perskindol uses a dual-action

formula with eight essential oils:

DB Cosmetics Lip Kits

INSPIRED by celebrity Hailey Bieber's viral brand Rhode, DB Cosmetics has launched the limited-edition Pep Talk Lip Kits, each featuring two lip glosses.

Available in two shades, That's Hot (a warm nude) and Too Cool (a cool pink), each set is \$24.99 and offers moisture and a glossy finish.



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a cooling phase that instantly soothes pain, reduces swelling and calms inflammation, then a warming phase to increase blood flow and relax muscles.

The range includes an Active Gel (from RRP \$21.95) and an Active Spray (RRP \$29.95).

Lunalux silk period patches bring comfort



LUNALUX'S self-warming patches offer comfort for period and muscle pain, such as cramps and back pain.

They are also ideal for women who are suffering from pain due to endometriosis, and are a portable alternative to bulky heat packs - no cords necessary.

The ultra-thin, TGA-listed patches

are also individually wrapped and shelf-stable.

As the patches are activated by air, no microwave is required, unlike traditional heat packs.

Users simply stick the adhesive surface to their clothing covering their abdomen or back and the patch will reach its maximum heat within minutes, offering comfort for up to 12 hours.

Lunalux is an Australian brand that was founded by Jenny Orenstein, who was inspired to launch the brand to offer comfort to women that promotes rest and recovery, from silk pillowcases and self warming eye masks to warming period patches.

The brand is now looking to expand into pharmacy and retail channels.

Simple skincare sets



AUSTRALIAN skincare brand Lana Banana is now offering two easy-to-use, three-piece sets targeting day and night routines.

To kick-start the day, Lana Banana's Day Set (RRP \$200) features the Gentle Cleanser to clear away impurities; the Day Serum with cell-renewing peptides, antiinflammatories and antioxidants; and the Protective Moisturiser to calm and hydrate the skin.

Meanwhile, the Night Set (RRP \$200) aims to revive and restore.

Included in the set is The Exfoliating Cleanser with vitamin B5, aloe vera and chamomile; The Night Serum packed with peptides and antioxidants that tackles oil and clogged pores; and The Light Moisturiser to replenish and hydrate the skin overnight.

Lana Banana is a new brand that launched last year from cosmetic doctor Dr Joseph Hkeik and his niece Lana Sayah, who wanted to offer simple yet effective, cruelty-free products to Australian consumers, particularly those with young and sensitive skin.

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Dispensary Corner

BRITS are struggling so much with the intense heatwave currently sweeping the nation, that some are apparently turning to potentially deadly 'hacks' to cool down.

TikTok has been inundated with videos of creative Brits showing how they are jazzing up their ordinary fans to turn them into mini AC units.

One of the hacks involves users attaching frozen bottles of water to the back of their fan.

The trend has sparked concern from Electrical Safety First, which has issued a warning reminding Brits that "water and electricity don't mix".

"Anything that is frozen will eventually melt and will potentially drench your fan in water," said Luke Osborne, Technical Director at the UK charity, which is dedicated to reducing deaths and injuries caused by electrical accidents.

"This water risks not only coming into contact with the motor but any surrounding plug sockets and will really increase the risk of an electric shock."

A similar trend sees users place a bowl of ice in front of their fans, which Osborne said "offers a far lower level of risk of electric shock as the ice is nowhere near the electrical components of the fan".

He did, however, write off the idea as basically useless, pointing out that "you'll likely remain hot, as a bowl of ice won't offer enough relief to continuously cool a room".

Guess it's time to suck it up or turn the AC on, Britain!



PACIFIC Friends of Global Health has welcomed the Australian Government's renewed five year commitment of \$386 million to international vaccination provider Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, saying it demonstrates Australia's steadfast leadership in global health.

It represents the single largest Australian investment in Gavi and ensures continued vital support for vaccination programs in lowerincome countries, particularly the Asia-Pacific region.

"Australia's sustained \$386 million commitment to Gavi represents an extraordinary return on investment for Australian taxpayers," said Professor Brendan Crabb, Chair of Pacific Friends of Global Health and CEO of the Burnet Institute.

"By investing in vaccines and immunisation systems, Australia contributes strongly to keeping our region healthier, more prosperous and more stable."

The investment is more critical than ever, with the US - under the leadership of vaccine-sceptic health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr - withdrawing its support for the program last week, leaving a US\$1.2 billion shortfall.

Kennedy claimed that Gavi had "ignored the science" in immunising children around the world and accused it of disregarding vaccine safety.

"We have seen clear evidence that immunisation programs dramatically reduce healthcare costs, lost wages and productivity," Professor Crabb said.

"For every US\$1 spent on immunisation in Gavi-supported countries, an estimated US\$21 is saved," he pointed out.

"Australia's leadership in funding global health initiatives is not only morally compelling but economically strategic."

The US decision came days after Kennedy sacked the entire CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which is responsible for reviewing the latest scientific evidence on vaccines, replacing it with a hand-picked panel enriched with vaccine skeptics.

The panel also voted last week against flu shots containing the preservative thiomersal, a long-time target of anti-vaxxers, even though there is no evidence of harm.

While it is found in only a small proportion of the flu vaccines in use in the US - and none in Australia - the greater concern is that the move will fuel distrust in vaccines and increase antivaccination sentiment. *KB*

Leadership change at Beiersdorf ANZ

SKINCARE company Beiersdorf has announced the departure of long-time ANZ Managing Director Clynton Bartholomeusz following his decision to retire at the end of the year, after three decades leading the organisation.

Beiersdorf's Sales Director ANZ, Dulcie de Koning, has been appointed to replace him.

De Koning steps into the leadership role with a vision to further grow Beiersdorf's stable of brands, including Nivea and Elastoplast.

She brings more than 20 years' experience to the role, having worked for Procter & Gamble and, more recently, as PepsiCo's Commercial Strategy Director, before joining Beiersdorf in 2023.

Amcal teams up to ease baby travel

THE Hackerlily HipSurfer baby carrier and toddler tool belt is designed to make carrying little ones easier, especially for parents with back problems.

The "bumbag with a seat" also provides plenty of storage. Initially available through baby stores, Hackerlily has now teamed up with Amcal to retail in its airport outlets in Sydney, Gold Coast and Perth.

"At Amcal, we're committed to putting our customers first by offering innovative products that solve real-world problems.

"Our partnership with Hackerlily brings parents a smart, supportive solution that truly lightens the load during every step of their journey," an Amcal spokesperson said.



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