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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

Find out more today. Call **Theo Gakelos** on **0418 993 556** for a confidential chat.
Or visit **joinchemistdiscountcentre.com.au**.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of industry news, plus a front cover wrap from **Chemist Discount Centre**, and a full page from **Duofilm by Dr. Yglo**.

Join CDC franchise

CHEMIST Discount Centre, part of the Independent Pharmacies Australia network, offers an end-to-end franchise solution and high profits.

See the **cover page** for details.

Freeze warts

DR. YGLO'S Duofilm cryotherapy has a patented detachable applicator with a metal tip that offers pinpoint accuracy, freezing only the wart without damaging surrounding skin.

See details on **page six**.

'Pop in for a chat', Guild urges men

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is using Men's Health Week 09-15 Jun to encourage men to "pop in for a chat" with their community pharmacist.

Brad Butt, community pharmacist and founder of Men's Health Downunder, specialises in men's health, specifically urological health, and understands the role community pharmacy can play in supporting men to recover and build their confidence.

"Men are less likely to visit a GP and often delay their treatment," Butt said.

"We need to make it as easy as possible for men to access care, and community pharmacy can play a key role in that," he said, pointing out that on average, people visit a community pharmacy every three weeks.

"That means we are in a privileged position where we are able to have private conversations with patients to check in on their progress and identify where

additional support may be helpful," Butt explained.

"All men should know that there is support out there for sensitive or 'embarrassing' issues - they are not alone.

"It all starts with a conversation."

Providing education and resources to other community pharmacies - particularly those in rural and remote areas - has been a key focus on Brad Butt's work.

He also co-authored the International Pharmaceutical Federation's new handbook to help pharmacists worldwide support patients managing erectile dysfunction (**PD** 30 May).

"Men should be able to access treatment and care wherever they live," he said.

Guild National President Professor Trent Twomey highlighted the role of community pharmacists as skilled health practitioners operating in the most accessible



frontline healthcare destination.

"Community pharmacy is changing - across the country, pharmacists are going back to the classroom to learn new skills and put it into practice for the benefit of patients across Australia.

"The ability to have discreet conversations at community pharmacy about medication, devices, continence support, erectile function and testosterone management can help men access the care, support and treatment they deserve," Professor Twomey concluded. **KB**

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Scan QR Code to schedule a **FREE** Consultation. Let's explore how we can help your pharmacy thrive.



From farm to pharmacy

SITTING on the family farm under the Queensland sun on a 45-degree day, Mitchell Evelyn received an email that would steer his life away from dirt roads and into pharmacy aisles.

Being accepted into a pharmacy degree meant a choice between hard yakka in the heat or an air-conditioned future in pharmacy - an easy decision as it turned out.

In the latest episode of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*, Evelyn shares his inspiring journey into the profession and how he became a passionate advocate for pharmacy education and mental health care.

Evelyn first felt the call of pharmacy as a 13-year-old, playing Uno with patients in a hospital ward where his dad was receiving chemotherapy.

He was struck by the small amounts of medication doing so much to help people.

"It's the biology, it's the chemistry behind it, but it's also the people, the healthcare," Evelyn shared.

"It's actually treating people as individuals - that's why I chose pharmacy."

He brings a unique perspective to healthcare, highlighting the diverse experiences and ethical challenges faced by locum pharmacists across different settings.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

Non-doctor prescriber warning

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has warned against the continued use of non-collaborative prescribing models, saying policy should be directed at encouraging proven models based on doctors and other health professionals working together to prioritise safety and quality.

In a submission to a consultation on proposed changes to the National Prescribing Competencies Framework, the AMA expressed serious concerns about the proliferation of prescribing models where no doctor is involved.

"Doctors value the contribution of other health professionals, and we want to work with them to improve access to care and deliver the best possible outcomes for patients," said AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen.

"But there is no substitute for care from your doctor and their team," she continued.

"Short-sighted solutions like pharmacist prescribing are taking Australia down the same path that other countries have followed, with their health systems delivering inferior health outcomes compared to Australia."

Dr McMullen said independent pharmacy prescribing also ignores concerns on separating prescribing and dispensing of medicines - regarding risk management



and potential financial conflicts of interest.

She also suggested that in the case of antibiotic prescribing, expanded non-medical prescribing could lead to an increase in anti-microbial resistance and the emergence of more superbugs.

"Appropriate regulations, clinical governance guidelines, protocols, monitoring, and evaluation of frameworks will need to be implemented to ensure these models are safe and effective," Dr McMullen said.

"Only medical doctors, who have a minimum of 10 years of training, can safely diagnose and prescribe medicines without oversight.

"Our position is 100 percent clear: non-medical prescribers must work in close collaboration with medical practitioners to ensure safe, effective, and evidence-based care," she said. KB

Cell-based flu vax beats egg

NEW data presented yesterday at the Public Health Association of Australia Communicable Diseases & Immunisation Conference has shown that cell-based influenza vaccines were nearly 20% more effective at preventing test-confirmed influenza relative to traditional standard-dose egg-based vaccines, during the 2023-24 United States flu season.

The real-world evidence study analysed data from over 100,000 vaccinated and influenza-tested patients, aged from six months to 64 years old, and compared the odds of testing positive for influenza between cell-based or egg-based vaccine recipients.

Findings showed 19.8% greater protection of cell-based vaccines over standard-dose egg-based vaccines in the prevention of test-confirmed flu, building on similar results over four previous seasons.

Cell-based influenza vaccines are a key innovation in flu prevention and have been available in Australia since 2021.

Cell-based vaccine, Flucelvax Quad, is approved for people aged six months and older and has been listed on the NIP for eligible at-risk people aged five to 64 since 2024.

It will be made in Australia from next year, when the new CSL Seqirus cell-based facility comes online in Melbourne.



AUSTRALIA'S ONLY
OTC IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MELATONIN FOR THE TREATMENT OF JET LAG¹



For 18 years and over



Pharmacist only medicine (S3) no prescription required

Reference: 1. <https://compliance.health.gov.au/artg/search=melatonin> cited 09/05/2025.



PRIME Awards nominations closing

THERE are less than two weeks left to enter the Pharmaceutical Research Innovation and Marketing Excellence (PRIME) Awards, with nominations closing on 20 Jun.

The awards celebrate the work and achievements of the pharmacy and life science sector in the past 18 months.

Presented by AusDoc, the winners will be named at a gala event on 06 Nov at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth in the Sydney CBD.

Eighteen categories are now open for submissions, each to be judged by a panel of industry leaders.

Categories include Best Public Health Initiative; Best In-field Customer Solution for both Individuals and Teams and Pharma Company of the Year.

Click [HERE](#) for the entry kit.

First post-merger Discount Drug Stores

THE first Discount Drug Stores pharmacy to open under the recently merged Sigma Healthcare and Chemist Warehouse banner officially welcomed customers yesterday at Meadow Heights, Vic.

Under the strengthened leadership of Sigma Healthcare and Chemist Warehouse, this first launch is just the beginning of a broader strategy to expand Discount Drug Stores' footprint across the country, the company said.

The company said the opening marks "a significant milestone in the joint effort to transform access to affordable pharmacy services across Australia".

The Meadow Heights reopening comes with what the company outlined as "a customer-first approach", with promotions "tailored to local needs" alongside digital integration and health-focused resources.

"Leveraging the combined strengths of Sigma's wholesale



and distribution capabilities with Chemist Warehouse's retail expertise, we are committed to growing the Discount Drug Stores brand across Australia," said Tony Bassaly, General Manager Franchise Brands.

"Offering more than just low prices, Discount Drug Stores

combines an open, easy-to-shop environment in store with patient-centred care to meet the healthcare needs of local communities." **KB**

Pictured: Tony Bassaly; Vincent Crisafi, Managing Partner Discount Drug Stores Meadow Heights; and Vikesh Ramsunder, CEO Sigma Healthcare.

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Mitchell Everlyn**, accredited, practising pharmacist and qualified diabetes educator - "From Country Roots to Pharmacy's Frontline; on Locum Life, Ethics & Empathy".

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Eczema linked with dementia

RESEARCHERS have found a notable correlation between atopic dermatitis (or eczema) and dementia.

While they could not identify a causal relationship between the two conditions, the authors suggested the results could inform future exploration into the link, and consider potential variables such as racial differences and medication taken.

The meta-analysis of five studies included a total of over 12 million people aged at least 39 years of age.

There was a 37% increased risk of all-cause dementia in patients with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis.

"Several well-established modifiable risk factors, such as lower education, hearing loss, traumatic brain injury, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, alcohol consumption, smoking, exposure to air pollution, physical inactivity, social isolation, and depression, contribute to the development of dementia," wrote the authors.

"Recent studies suggest that atopic dermatitis, a chronic and highly pruritic inflammatory skin disease adversely affecting quality of life, may serve as a potential risk factor for heightened dementia risk, possibly attributed to immunologic dysregulation and disturbance," they said.

Renewed call for free Men B vax in NSW

MENINGITIS Centre Australia (MCA) is urging the New South Wales Government to fund a Meningococcal B vaccination program for babies and teens in its June budget, with new data showing the state has recorded among the highest number of cases already this year.

It comes after a similar call from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) earlier this year (**PD** 30 Jan).

MCA Chief Executive Karen Quick said 30 cases of the potentially fatal Meningococcal B (Men B) infection have been recorded nationally this year, of which eight were in NSW.

While babies and teens are routinely vaccinated against strains A, C, W and Y under the National Immunisation Program, vaccination against the deadly Men B infection is only available in NSW to most families via a private prescription - costing hundreds of dollars.

"This is simply not good enough - meningococcal B is a vaccine preventable disease but, in a cost of-living crisis, most parents simply cannot afford to pay for this vaccine and protect their children against

this deadly infection," Quick said.

"While babies and teens are protected from other types of meningococcal disease, we know that Men B is actually the type that is most prevalent in Australia and is responsible for around 80% of cases," she added.

One in 10 people infected will die, and one in four survivors suffer permanent complications, such as loss of limbs or brain damage.

"This infection is frequently fatal or can leave people with lifelong complications," Quick said.

"We are on the brink of peak season - we must act now before any other family is impacted."

Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia have already implemented state-based Men B vaccination programs for babies and teens, with Quick highlighting the inequitable access.

"Babies and teens are protected in some states and not others."

"The NSW Government will say it's a federal responsibility, but that has not stopped three states from stepping up and doing what's required to protect their communities," she continued.



"NSW, as one of our biggest states, needs to follow suit and the time is now - a budget is coming up and preventative health should be a priority," Quick said.

Quick noted that a state-funded Men B vaccine program in NSW would cost around \$20 million per year, while the average lifetime care for one survivor can reach \$10 million.

"The ongoing costs of caring for Men B survivors are enormous - not just for individuals, but for their families and communities," she said.

"This disease is devastating, yet we have a way to prevent it."

The state opposition, independents and Greens have supported the call. **KB**

Immunisation handbook Japanese Encephalitis chapter update

THE Department of Health and Aged Care has updated the Immunisation Handbook chapter on Japanese encephalitis (JE).

The department notes that a number of JE cases have been reported in mainland Australia since 2022, and ongoing JE virus transmission is occurring in some

states and territories.

JE has a high fatality rate of around 30% in symptomatic cases.

Changes include new and updated recommendations, including use of Japanese encephalitis vaccines in target groups in risk regions of mainland Australia; updates to Japanese

encephalitis epidemiology in mainland Australia and the Torres Strait; updates to text on intradermal administration of Imojev vaccine; and updates on vaccine information, including immunogenicity and variations from product information.

See the new chapter **HERE**.

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The latest in pharmacy robotic automation from Willach Pharmacy Solutions. No matter the size of your pharmacy, contact us for a confidential discussion to explore the options available.





Dispensary Corner

MEDICINAL cannabis is a fairly polarising topic, but it wouldn't have been helped by a small dispensary in the US town of Monroe, Michigan.

The current talk of the town is the latest sighting of the ever-elusive, half-man half-ape creature, Bigfoot, which reportedly occurred last month.

The report even prompted the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization - for such an organisation exists - to deem the report as "credible".

Enter Uniq Cannabis, which is aiming to cash in on the report by offering a heavy discount on its product in exchange for photographic evidence.

So convinced is Uniq that it even pasted the offer on a giant billboard alongside a major highway (pictured).



"Bring photo proof of Bigfoot for a free pre-roll," the sign says.

The latest sighting was made by 47-year-old Edward, who said he was fishing with his son when they heard rustling in a tree followed by a thud as a "big, heavy animal" fell from a tree.

The pair described what they saw as a creature about six feet tall with dark fur, and said it ran on two legs in a hunched position.

It's unclear whether the pair have any affiliation with Uniq.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

The power couple of facial hydration is here

Introducing Dermal Therapy's multi-benefit Very Dry Face Cleanser which nourishes, soothes and hydrates very dry skin helping to protect and repair the skin's barrier.

For best results, pair it with Dermal Therapy's Very Dry Face Cream, an ultra-hydrating, non-greasy formula designed for sensitive areas of the skin - it's the perfect power couple.

RRP:

Dermal Therapy Very Dry Face Cleanser: \$18.99

Dermal Therapy Very Dry Face Cream: \$18.99

Stockist number: Contact 1300 555 597.

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Revive Tears - PBS listed



Revive Tears lubricant eye drops provide long lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes. Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

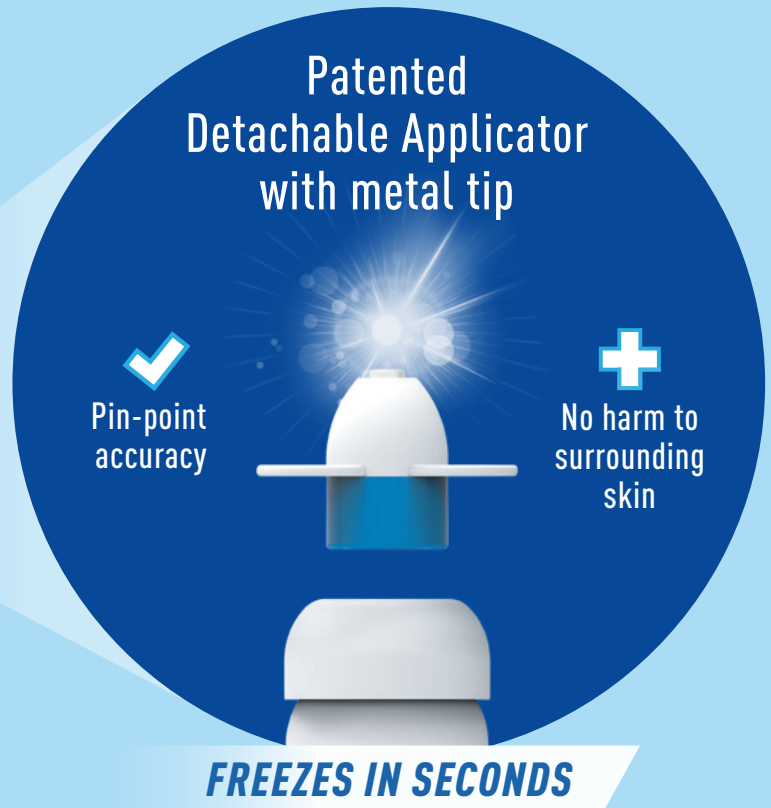
Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

Suppliers: Available from Symbion, Sigma & API.

RRP: \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs).

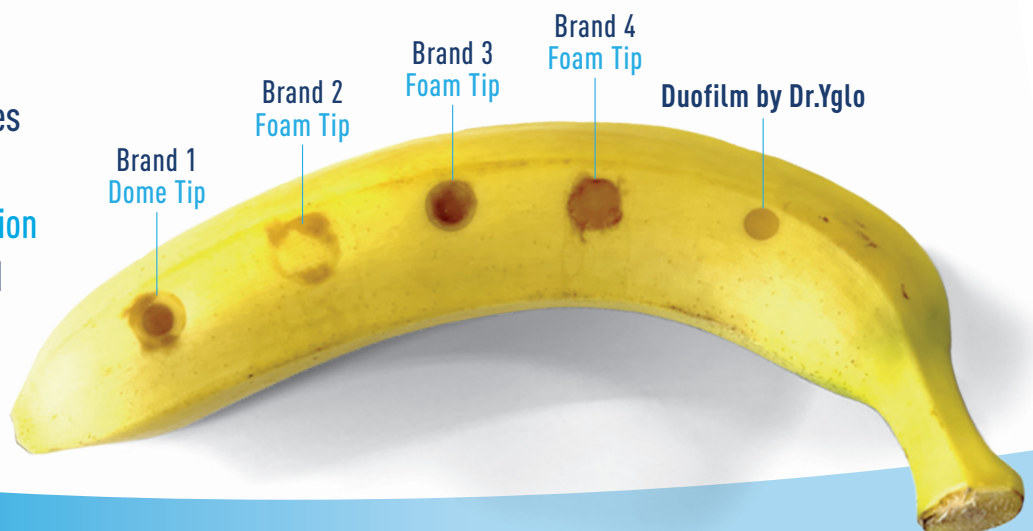
Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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Duofilm by Dr. Yglo provides pin-point accuracy. The precision metal tip application freezes only the wart and does not damage surrounding skin.



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