

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features five pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Nova Pharmaceuticals
- Direct Chemist Outlet

## Dispense for less

**DISPENSE** Assist is inviting pharmacy owners to explore a new, more cost-effective way of dispensing prescriptions. See **page six** for details.

## A novel solution

**NOVA** Pharmaceuticals is highlighting Novella-1, its new solution for emergency contraception, with a special deal for pharmacies - see **p7**.

## Pharmacists first

**DIRECT** Chemist Outlet (DCO) puts pharmacy owners first and delivers what matters. Learn more about what DCO can offer on **page eight**.

# NSW Budget not up to scratch, PSA says

**THE** NSW Government has fallen short in its 2025-26 Budget, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has told **Pharmacy Daily**.

In its pre-budget submission, the industry body called for more funding in several areas, including pharmacist training for expanded services, opioid harm reduction initiatives, and community pharmacy consultations for non-urgent conditions.

However, these recommendations were not reflected in the NSW Budget, which details no new pharmacy-specific funding measures or policy changes.

"Our focus continues to be on measures that better utilise pharmacists to improve patient access to timely care," PSA NSW President Luke Kelly (**pictured**) told **Pharmacy Daily**.

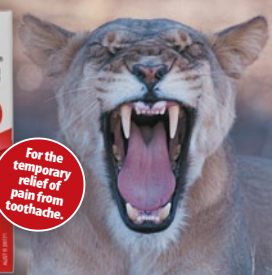
"This budget was an opportunity for the NSW Government to invest in the pharmacy profession as we continue to step up for our communities, to help fund full scope training opportunities, support our role in harm minimisation, and promote community pharmacies as health hubs for patients with non-urgent conditions.

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territories championing the role of pharmacists, NSW should be leading the country, not falling behind," he emphasised.

Kelly said the PSA will continue lobbying the NSW Government to further support pharmacists.

"Our advocacy on these issues is not over as we continue calling for meaningful reform on issues affecting pharmacists," he added.

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has also expressed disappointment in the NSW Budget, warning that without targeted funding for the hospital pharmacy workforce, key reforms to improve patient care risk stalling.

While the peak body welcomed the \$9.5 million commitment to establish an internal health locum agency to address workforce retention and coordination, AdPha President Tom Simpson FANZCAP (Lead&Mgmt) cautioned that

lasting positive change depends on addressing deeper systemic issues.

"The hospital pharmacy workforce in NSW has been chronically underfunded for too long - especially in regional areas where shortages are acute," Simpson explained.

"Resident and registrar pharmacist training must form a core part of any NSW workforce investment strategy."

He pointed out that only 5% of pharmacy residencies delivered nationally were based in NSW, despite the state being home to 16% of Australia's accredited training sites.

"This is a missed opportunity to leverage an evidence-based workforce initiative that directly supports hospital pharmacist development and retention," Simpson added.

AdPha has also urged the ACT Government to focus on strengthening the hospital pharmacy workforce, while welcoming the record \$1.19 billion health investment set out in its 2025-26 Budget, which includes a \$23 million boost towards enhancing patient flow across the hospital system. *JM*

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## Action call on rare cancers

**ADVANCED** Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is advocating for pharmacists to be better integrated into cancer care, especially for people living with rare cancers.

The call comes on Rare Cancers Awareness Day today and follows a recent submission by AdPha to Rare Cancers Australia's efforts to design a new Optimal Care Pathway.

The submission details three areas it says are in need of reform.

These include improved access to medicines and support programs, action to address pharmacy staff levels and consistent access to PBS-listed therapies for patients.

AdPha's Oncology and Haematology Leadership Committee Chairman, Shaun O'Connor, said pharmacists play a critical and overlooked role in providing care to those suffering from less common cancers.

"In hospitals, pharmacists are essential to navigating treatment safely, especially when no clinical guidelines exist," O'Connor said.

"They are also key to overcoming

supply challenges and ensuring continuity of care for patients."

The AdPha Committee comprises a network of more than 900 pharmacists with expertise in ambulatory and primary care settings plus inpatient and outpatient services.

O'Connor's request was backed up by the Leukaemia Foundation, which zeroed in on acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), calling for urgent action on awareness and research to tackle what it says is one of the under-invested cancers in Australia.

Leukaemia Foundation CEO Chris Tanti said AML can be ruthless.

"We've seen incredible progress in the treatment and survival for some blood cancers, but comparatively AML has been left behind," Tanti said.

AML currently accounts for 6% of all blood cancer diagnoses but more than 20% of related deaths.

The organisation said AML is the second-most common cancer in children aged under 15 and in the top three for children in Australia.

## Former APC chair to deliver lecture



**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has announced Associate Professor Sue Kirsas, former APC Chair, will deliver the 2025 Sansom Lecture.

The annual lecture honours Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, a founding member of the APC, whose influence on pharmacy education and policy in Australia has spanned more than four decades.

Since 2017, the series has served as a platform for respected leaders in pharmacy to share their deep expertise, insights, and experiences with members and stakeholders.

Kirsas is currently the Director of Pharmacy at Monash Health, and previously served for more than a decade as Director of Pharmacy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

A highly regarded leader and advocate, she has contributed to many professional, industry and government committees, including leading roles with the

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

Kirsas's key areas of focus include oncology, the quality use of medicines, patient safety, and antimicrobial stewardship.

"As an industry advocate, Sue's dedication is shown through many appointments to professional, industry and government committees, including leading the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia," APC stated.

The Sansom Lecture will be held on 24 Nov in Canberra at the National Museum of Australia, with this year's lecture topic yet to be revealed.

The evening will also include the presentation of the Dr Erica Sainsbury Award recipients, recognising excellence in pharmacy leadership.

Applications and nominations open 01 Jul and close 29 Aug 2025 - find out more **HERE**. JM

**Pictured:** Sansom and Kirsas at an APC conference.

## TGA crackdown for Aussie Gelatin

**THE** Aussie Gelatin Company has committed to a court-enforced undertaking to comply with laws relating to advertising, manufacturing and supply of TGA listed products.

The order follows alleged unlawful activity over an 18-month period from May 2023 to Nov 2024 where The Aussie Gelatin Company was accused of advertising its Nutraviva Bone

and Joint Formula products in contravention of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The transgression relates to the products containing a prescription-only strength of vitamin D3 and not being listed Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods at the time.

The order is enforceable for three years and requires the recall of unregistered goods.



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



### API China wraps up

API China has concluded for another year, with a strong turnout in Guangzhou.

The 92nd edition of the conference wrapped up at the China Import & Export Fair Complex, with this year's show co-located with the 90th edition of PharmChina, and the China International Natural Health & Nutrition Expo.

The three shows together drew 200,000 visits and nearly 4,000 exhibitors to their 19 exhibition halls.

The shows covered the full spectrum of the pharma, health and nutrition ecosystem, with key topics including APIs, intermediates, formulations and bio pharma.

Also discussed were natural extracts; packaging; manufacturing equipment; medical devices; and nutrition and wellness products.

More than 550 scholars contributed to the shows.

### WA extends free flu vax

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch has welcomed the state government's decision to extend the current Free Influenza Vaccination Program until 31 Jul.

The state is currently suffering from the onset of the most severe influenza season in recent years, with over 8,700 influenza notifications to the WA Department of Health - twice the average of the previous five years.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, pointed out that more than 1,500 Western Australians have been hospitalised with the flu this year.

The severe season has prompted the WA Government to extend the free flu vaccination program, which began on 1 May and was due to finish on 30 Jun.

"We commend the Western Australian Government on this decision, as it will ensure that Western Australians who have not already taken advantage of a free vaccination, will have additional



time to do so," said Ngeow.

"Vaccination is by far, if not the only, practical preventative measure that there is against influenza, and therefore unvaccinated Western Australians can take advantage of the extension of this program."

More than 550 community pharmacies across the state are offering the free flu vaccinations in this year's program, and have collectively already administered over 300,000 jabs.

"I would strongly encourage all Western Australians to discuss their vaccination options with their pharmacist at local community pharmacy," he added. JM

### Raven's out now

THE latest episode of Raven Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast* is out now, featuring a heartfelt conversation with consultant pharmacist, Alex Shepherd.

In the episode, Shepherd opens up about how she reshaped her career trajectory to enter the pharmacy profession, after starting out in wildlife conservation.

Shepherd reflects on the challenges and rewards of locum work, early career learnings, the impact of COVID-19 on the pharmacy profession, and juggling motherhood and her career.

Shepherd's story highlights the critical importance of work-life balance, career flexibility, and building a professional path that aligns with personal values.

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## Editor's Choice: LuxeSticks offers easy, convenient roll-on skincare

**KIWI** brand LuxeSticks is a unique beauty brand, featuring convenient clay mask roll-on sticks, making it easy for users to care for their skin from the comfort of their own home.

The brand also features collagen eye masks and new body mask sticks, which can be reused more than 35 times each.

LuxeSticks' serum stick range features products with specific treatments, such as the vitamin C stick, the retinol stick and the hyaluronic acid stick.

All products are cruelty-free and vegan-friendly, and designed to restore, detoxify and smooth the skin, especially those with sensitive skin.



The brand was founded by New Zealand TV personality and entrepreneur Samuel Levi.

LuxeSticks is currently stocked in select Australia and New

Zealand pharmacies, including Chemist Warehouse, with further expansion planned in the future.

Prices range from RRP \$29.99 to \$35.99 each.

## Derma Angel rescues



**JUST** in time for Acne Awareness Month, Derma Angel's complete acne range is now available at Chemist Warehouse.

Winter can be a challenging season for people suffering from acne, as reduced UV exposure, dry indoor heating and friction from woollen clothing can bring on clogged pores, inflammation and skin imbalance.

Derma Angel's clinically tested product range includes effective ingredients such as salicylic acid to clear pores, soothe redness and prevent breakouts, as well as hydrocolloid tech to absorb pus and oil while shielding the skin from bacteria.

Tranexamic acid and CICA help to fade post-acne marks and repair the skin, while triple acid complex and ceramides gently exfoliate while protecting the skin barrier.

In addition to Derma Angel's range of patches are several new clinical-grade launches: DermaAngel BHA Pore Clear Pad (RRP \$14.99); DermaAngel Intensive Gel (\$12.99) and DermaAngel Post-Acne Spot Lightening Serum (RRP \$14.99).

## Colgate Total relaunch

**ORAL** healthcare giant Colgate has relaunched its bestselling product range, Colgate Total, which is focused on active prevention and addressing issues including cavities, tartar, plaque, bacteria, stains, enamel erosion and bad breath.

The new and improved range includes a toothpaste, mouthwash, floss picks and a toothbrush.



## Australian haircare brand detangles and protects



**AUSTRALIAN-MADE** vegan haircare brand Suntied's leave-in conditioner spray (RRP \$49) and brushes detangle and repair the hair, while protecting against UV rays, salt water and chlorine.

Suntied's leave-in spray also reduces frizz and flyaways, adds moisture and shine and is safe for all hair types.

Simply spray onto damp hair, use a brush to glide through and allow to air dry.

All products are paraben-sulfate-, and cruelty-free.

Several bundles are on offer, including mini-sets of the leave-in conditioner, detangling brushes and hair clips.

Suntied was launched in 2015 by a group of friends while on holidays, who loved Brazilian haircare and were inspired to bring a similar product to the Australian beauty industry.

The brand is about to sign up with a major pharma distributor and pharmacy in Australia.

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### Dispensary Corner

**A YOUNG** man in London almost wound up in the emergency department after he took his love of spicy food too far.

The daring foodie ended up in a world of regret after trying what has been dubbed the 'world's hottest curry' at The Bengal Village in East London.

A viral video captured the moment that the man, identified only as Daniel, fled the restaurant just moments after tasting the dish.

He was found slumped on the pavement outside, shirtless and overwhelmed by the effects of the curry, which was made with a mix of rare and potent spices.

The restaurant's owner, Mr Raj, is seen trying to reassure Daniel and urging him to drink a mango lassi.

"I promise you will be alright, you have 10 minutes to recover," the owner is heard saying in the video.

"After having that mango lassi you will be fine; it will cool your insides, your liver and your throat," he explained.

The dish is so hot that the restaurant states on its website that it takes "no responsibility for any after effects".

It does, however, reward those who manage to finish the entire plate within 15 minutes with a free meal for their whole table.

Somewhat, we don't think it's worth it...especially when you consider that extremely spicy food can cause abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, headaches and heavy sweating, and in some rare cases, death.

## AI impacting interaction

**CRITICAL** thinking and peer interaction are being impacted by increased use and reliance on generative AI (GenAI), according to a review of health-related studies conducted by Monash University.

The study focused on the application of GenAI technologies within formal health professions education training programs, including pharmacy.

It found GenAI was highly active and prevalent across six learning types in health studies and was being used most as learning support in practice (73%), inquiry (70%), production (67%) and acquisition (55%).

Conversely, the terms 'discussion' and 'collaboration' only appeared in 12% of learning fields, indicating students were pivoting towards using GenAI for more individualised learning and sacrificing human interaction and collaboration.

The paper's first author, Thai Duong Pham, said the review explored how GenAI is encouraging new forms of learning and reducing



teacher reliance but is also reshaping classroom dynamics and learning structures.

"Recent advancements in AI offer enhanced tools for educational applications, particularly in content generation and multi-model learning," Pham said.

"However, there remains a significant gap in understanding how to productively and responsibly incorporate GenAI into health professions education practices."

Pham said he hopes the study offers a better understanding into how healthcare students are engaging with GenAI and can help teachers harness the technology to guide students and ensure "soft skills" around human interaction are not lost entirely. *ML*

### Check on COPD

**AUSTRALIANS** with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who are using triple therapy are being urged to speak with their pharmacist to ensure it is still the right treatment for them.

The message comes off the back of a new report released by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, which shows that triple therapy prescriptions (the combination of inhaled corticosteroids with long-acting dual bronchodilators) for COPD in Australia have surged by 130% since 2015.

This is despite guidelines that triple therapy should be reserved for patients with severe COPD with frequent exacerbations and significant symptoms despite optimal dual therapy, and for those with co-existing asthma.

*The Atlas Focus Report:* COPD also found a 31% drop in spirometry testing rates between 2015-16 and 2022-23, despite the test being the gold standard for confirming a diagnosis of COPD.

The report states that without spirometry, patients are in danger of misdiagnosis and being prescribed medications that put them at unnecessary risk.

"We must refocus efforts to ensure people receive the right care, based on accurate diagnosis and best practice," said Medical Advisor for the Commission, Dr Lee Fong.

"Patients with COPD who are using triple therapy should check with their GP or pharmacist if it's still the best treatment for them."

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