

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features four pages of news, plus a full page from **Direct Chemist Outlet**.

## A different script

**THE** Direct Chemist Outlet brand offers clout, support and buying power, with 127 pharmacies and growing. Learn more on **page five**.

## In the Spotlight

**OUR** Wednesday Product Spotlight page has become so popular that we have added another opportunity to feature your products on Fridays.

Today we look at **Thermoskin Pain Relief Creams** targeting arthritis, recovery and cramps.

Suppliers wanting to promote products should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## PSA's new Tassie leader

**HOBART** pharmacist Joanne Gross (**pictured**) has been elected as President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) Tasmanian branch.

Gross previously served as the branch's Vice President, and is also a Quality Use of Medicines Pharmacist at the Department of Health Tasmania, a credentialed pharmacist who conducts home medication reviews, and a casual academic at the University of Tasmania.

She will draw on her Master of Public Health and extensive experience across mainland hospitals, medical insurance, the pharmaceutical industry, academia, government, and nine years with NPS MedicineWise to champion interdisciplinary collaboration and person-centred care for Tasmanians.

"It's an honour to be chosen by my peers to represent Tasmanian pharmacists," Gross said.

"I value the opportunity to advocate on behalf of Tasmanian pharmacists whether they are

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working in community pharmacy, in hospitals, in aged care, in general practice, in Aboriginal Health Services, or as independent consultant clinical pharmacists.

"I'm looking forward to continuing PSA's work with the Department of Health Tasmania, particularly on the implementation of the Pharmacist Scope of Practice Review, and representing Tasmanian pharmacists and the Tasmanian health system nationally."

Gross also thanked her predecessor, Mark Kirschbaum, for his service. *JM*

## Gance sells \$380m Sigma shares

**THE Australian Financial Review** has reported that Sigma director Damien Gance has sold a \$380 million stake in Sigma Healthcare, having already sold \$420 million worth of shares.

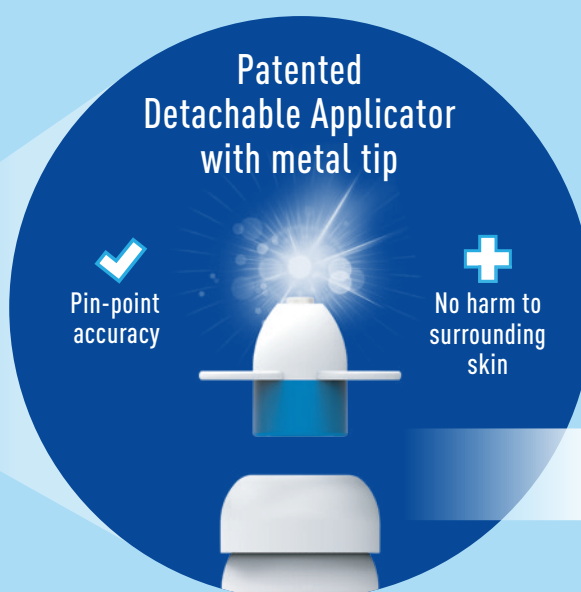
Neither Gance nor Sigma responded to the *AFR*'s request for comment.

The news comes as Sigma released its annual report to shareholders yesterday, confirming the results in its preliminary annual report released earlier this year (**PD** 20 Mar).

It noted a 45.7% jump in statutory net revenues to \$4.8 billion for the year-ending 31 Jan, along with a non-recurring after-tax loss due to its merger with Chemist Warehouse.

With the merger now complete, Sigma's financial reporting period will move to the standard 01 Jul to 30 Jun.

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### Mayne buy ticked

THE Supreme Court of New South Wales has approved the convening of a meeting of Mayne Pharma shareholders to consider and vote on the company's purchase by Cosette Pharmaceuticals (PD 21 Feb).

Shareholders will vote in a hybrid meeting on 18 Jun hosted at the InterContinental Melbourne by IHG.

The directors of the South Australia-based Mayne Pharma are unanimously in favour of the purchase, which they believe is in the best interests of shareholders, with the company's two largest shareholders previously indicating they will vote in favour of the proposal.

News of Cosette's intended purchase of Mayne initially broke earlier this year, with the US company to pay A\$7.40 per share for a total purchase price of around A\$672 million.

Mayne Pharma is a leader in dermatology and women's health, provides contract development and manufacturing services to clients worldwide, and has a 40-year track record of innovation and success in developing new oral drug delivery systems.

Cosette has a portfolio of products in women's health and dermatology, and a history in the manufacturing of complex dosage forms including creams, oral liquids/solutions and suppositories.

## Elevating pharmacists

**ADVANCED** Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has announced a new benefits program, ANZCAP Elevate, for practitioners currently recognised by the Australian and New Zealand College of Advanced Pharmacy (ANZCAP).

It supports professional connection and personal development for pharmacists at all levels of the landmark initiative, and promotes the importance of annually renewed and active recognition.

ANZCAP Elevate provides exclusive access to five benefits, which amplify with active membership of AdPha or the New Zealand Hospital Pharmacy Association (NZHPA): scholarships, online learning communities, collective action, an exclusive annual oration, and personalised support toward next ANZCAP recognition.

Dr Kate O'Hara, ANZCAP Advisory Board Chair, said the benefits program provides additional opportunity and connection for pharmacists committed to advancing their practice through the structure and guidance of the Australia-first college.

"The thousands of pharmacists recognised through ANZCAP represent a community of progress, and ANZCAP Elevate nurtures this commitment and leadership while providing unique and exclusive opportunities to share and highlight your professional journey," Dr



O'Hara said.

"The badges of the five benefits - lift, connect, inspire, learn and guide - represent how ANZCAP is more than a landmark initiative recognising individual career progression and specialty skills; it fosters a vibrant community dedicated to advancing pharmacy practice across Australia and New Zealand," she explained.

Dr O'Hara reminded pharmacists and technicians from across practice settings and learning levels that it is important to keep their ANZCAP recognition current.

"Practice is changing so rapidly, and it is crucial the recognition for our experience and expertise remains up to date.

"The Elevate annual benefits program provides another reason to keep your professional practice portfolio current and continue enjoying the benefits of ANZCAP," she concluded.

Learn more [HERE](#). KB

### Sigma releases sustainability report

IN addition to its Annual Report (see [page one](#)), Sigma has also released its 2024/25 Sustainability and Corporate Governance reports.

All reports are [HERE](#).



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Protects against persistent, recurring flakes<sup>1</sup>

Always read the label and follow the directions for use. 1. Peter RU, Richarz-Barthauer U. Br J Dermatol. 1995; 132(3):441-5. 2. Okokon EO, et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2015(5):CD008138





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## Concern over compo reforms

**THE** NSW Government has proposed changes to workers compensation claims for psychological injury, with a parliamentary inquiry into the new laws starting today.

State Treasurer Daniel Mookhey warned that without reforms, the state's workers compensation system is unsustainable - the number of claims has doubled in six years, with employers facing rapidly increasing insurance premiums.

He has set out plans to make greater use of workplace health and safety laws to prevent psychological injuries, instead of relying solely on the state's workers compensation system as the main response.

While not yet finalised, the changes will make it significantly harder for workers to claim long-term compensation for psychological injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Business NSW supports the reforms, but unions have launched an advertising blitz opposing them, and have flagged it could lead to industrial action.

"Whether it's a hospital worker or prison officers with PTSD, a child protection worker who has had to remove a child from an abusive home, or a shop assistant abused at a checkout, these workers deserve support when workplace trauma catches up with them," said Unions NSW Secretary Mark Morey.

The union has released a five-point plan that will achieve



financial sustainability "without abandoning frontline workers when they reach their breaking point".

The plan focuses on prevention, improving return-to-work rates, reducing waste, and creating sustainable funding models without cutting benefits to injured workers.

President of the Law Society of NSW Jennifer Ball acknowledged that the workers compensation system is under pressure and needs reform, but said some proposed changes risk stripping the rights of some of the community's most vulnerable people, while imposing extra costs on business.

"There's no doubt the sustainability of the current scheme needs addressing, but that should not be at the cost of those people who have sustained serious and debilitating psychological injuries on the job," Ball said.

Australians for Mental Health has warned that the changes may push injured employees straight into a public mental health system that is already at breaking point, overwhelming services and leaving many people without care. *KB*

## Step into the future with CWH at PCS25

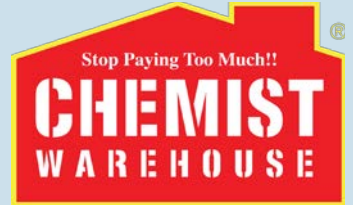
**LEADERS** from the major banner groups in Australia are set to deliver a fast-paced presentation at Pharmacy Career Summit 2025 on the career opportunities that exist within their brand, including internships, pharmacist roles and pharmacy ownership.

Among the brands is Chemist Warehouse, with attendees invited to "step into the future of pharmacy with Australia's leading community pharmacy group".

"We are excited to connect with talented pharmacy professionals at PCS25 and offer a glimpse into what it means to be part of a professional, dynamic, supportive, and forward-thinking organisation that is transforming healthcare every day," a spokesperson said.

"With over 20,000 passionate team members, 570+ pharmacies across Australia and a growing global footprint, Chemist Warehouse is your launchpad for a meaningful and impactful pharmacy career," they continued.

Attendees at the Express



Presentation will hear firsthand what makes Chemist Warehouse a standout employer - from exclusive training programs and diverse clinical roles to genuine long-term career pathways in leadership, ownership and more, the spokesperson explained.

Students, interns and experienced pharmacists all have the opportunity to explore what is possible, and Chemist Warehouse is urging attendees to connect with them and ask questions.

"This is an exclusive opportunity to speak directly with Chemist Warehouse pharmacists and our recruitment team to learn more about how we support your growth," they concluded.

Learn more about PCS2025 [HERE](#).

## Healthcare 2040 Expo to launch in 2026

**IQPC** Australia will launch the Healthcare 2040 Expo, a new event spotlighting AI, emerging tech and the future of health care, next year as part of Australian Healthcare Week.

Described as "Australia's newest and boldest health innovation event", it will showcase the

technologies, strategies and leadership shaping healthcare.

Co-located with Australian Healthcare Week, the Expo connects national and global pioneers in digital health, AI, infrastructure, and more to spark transformation across the entire system - more details [HERE](#).

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\*Refer to APF Emergency Contraception Treatment Guidelines for further information about factors influencing choice of oral EC. **References:** 1. Glasier AF, et al. Lancet. 2010;375(9714):555-62. Erratum in Lancet. 2014;384(9953):1504. Funded by HRA Pharma. 2. EllaOne Pl. Last revised 22 Jun 23. 3. Sansom LN, ed. Australian pharmaceutical formulary and handbook. 2024. At: <https://apf.psa.org.au>



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### Dispensary Corner

**EXCITING** new research from the animal world demonstrates that medical care is not just the province of humans.

Scientists monitoring chimpanzee communities in Uganda noticed that they were helping each other with wound care and hygiene.

Techniques included direct wound licking, which removes dirt and potentially applies antimicrobial compounds in saliva; finger licking followed by wound pressing; and chewing leaves and bark and applying the mass to wounds.

Interestingly, the plants they used are known for their bioactive properties and are also used by humans in traditional medicine.

"We also documented hygiene behaviours, including the cleaning of genitals with leaves after mating and wiping the anus with leaves after defecation - practices that may help prevent infections," said researcher Dr Elodie Freymann of the University of Oxford.

Of note, chimps helped both related and unrelated community members, despite the potential risk from being exposed to pathogens.

A major source of injury is snares set by humans, and researchers also witnessed chimps helping others to remove the traps.

Scientists believe these findings could help with understanding the cognitive and social foundations of human healthcare.

## Falls leading cause of serious injury in women

**NEW** data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows that unintentional falls remain the leading cause of injury hospitalisation and death for women since 2017-18, responsible for 122,800 (57%) hospitalisations and 3,400 (58%) deaths in 2022-23.

The report, *Injury among women 2022-23*, looks at the main causes of injury resulting in hospitalisation and death, as well as identifying trends over time.

It also examines the nature and severity of sustained injuries, variations between population groups and circumstances surrounding the injury.

"Every year, thousands of women present to an emergency department or are hospitalised due to injury," said AIHW spokesperson Jacqueline Rek.

"Women contributed to 40% of all injury hospitalisations in 2022-23," she added.

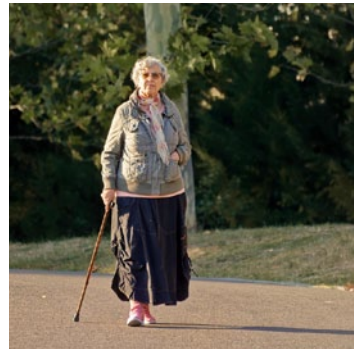
The rate of fall injury hospitalisations increased with age.

Women aged 65 and over accounted for 73% of all fall injury hospitalisations and almost all fall-related deaths (97%) among women in 2022-23.

"Over half of all injury deaths (57%) were due to falls among women aged 65 and over," Rek said, adding that the rate of death from falls in this age group was 66.5 times higher than for women aged from 40 to 64.

Fractures were the most common type of injury hospitalisation across all age groups and the leading type of injury for emergency department presentations among women.

Fractures of the hips or lower



limbs were most common, causing 27,000 hospitalisations in 2022-23.

Research indicates that medications contribute to 10-25% of these falls through various mechanisms, including polypharmacy, and regular medication reviews can help to reduce falls risk.

The report is **HERE**. KB

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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