

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Crampeze
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

Ease cramps

CRAMPEZE is an effective multi-combination product versus magnesium alone for relief of cramps and spasms.

With two different formulations for day and night use, it is ideal for chronic cramp sufferers and long-term use - see details on **page four**.

Get better sleep

RESTIN 2mg melatonin modified release tablets help offer a better quality sleep.

Nova Pharmaceuticals is currently offering pharmacists a special deal.

See **page five** for more.

Tas govt funds training for expanded scope

THE Tasmanian Government has announced a \$5 million investment to fund post-graduate training for pharmacists, to deliver expansion to pharmacist scope of practice.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Pharmacy Guild of Australia have welcomed the move as a significant step in realising the full potential of pharmacists to support timely access to essential health care.

"Tasmanians know our health system is under immense pressure and recognise that all health professionals need to practice to their full ability in order for care to be available when it's most needed," said PSA Tasmania President Joanne Gross.

Building on the success of the UTI treatment program, pharmacists will soon be able to provide care to Tasmanians when and where they need it, Gross said, including timely assessment, prompt treatment and referrals to others in the health system for management of the

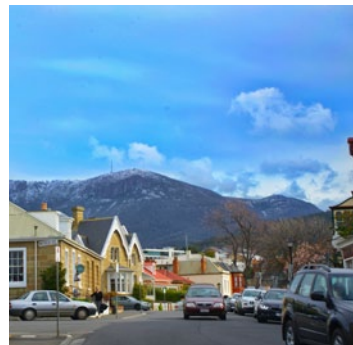
acute presentation or ongoing care.

The decision follows Queensland and the Northern Territory, where patients can access treatment for more than 20 everyday and long-term health conditions at their local community pharmacy.

The government will subsidise training for qualified pharmacists to treat conditions such as ear infections, reflux, skin conditions such as shingles and eczema, rhinitis and wound care.

"These conditions represent the highest volume of preventable hospital presentations and highest volume of PBS prescribing," Tasmanian Branch President, Joe O'Malley explained.

The funding was announced as a part of the upcoming 2025-26 Budget, and will also cover an Australian-first aged care pharmacist collaborative prescribing pilot program, enabling pharmacists to prescribe medication to Tasmanian aged care residents in collaboration with their



general practitioner.

"Community pharmacists play a key role in holistic patient care, working in partnership with other health professionals," O'Malley said.

"This includes at local aged care facilities where community pharmacists offer invaluable support, and we are looking forward to working with the government to expand this work," he concluded.

The expanded services are expected to become available next year as community pharmacists complete the required training. **KB**



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Priceline setting up interns for success

LEADERS from the major banner groups in Australia are set to deliver a fast-paced presentation at the Pharmacy Career Summit 2025 (PCS25) on the career opportunities that exist within their brand, including internships, pharmacist roles and pharmacy ownership.

Among them is Priceline Pharmacy, which will be highlighting its intern program in the Career Express Presentations session.

"We will share how our best-in-class intern program supports future pharmacists every step of the way, as they complete their final year of study," said a spokesperson for the brand.

"Our Priceline Pharmacy Intern Program is designed to set our interns up for written and oral exam success, with an estimated learning investment of over \$14,000 per intern - or free for all Priceline interns."

As part of the revamped program, interns will gain hands-on experience in patient care, pharmacy operations and retail,



all while making a meaningful difference in the community.

With flexible learning, personalised exam support including mock assessments, and access to innovative digital health services, interns will be well-supported from day one.

"At Priceline Pharmacy, we believe good health is at the heart of a great quality of life, and since we first opened our doors in 1982, we've been keeping customers feeling great every day," the brand's spokesperson enthused.

"Join us at our booth to hear from the team, ask questions, and get a glimpse of what life as a Priceline Pharmacy intern looks like," they concluded.

PCS25 takes place online on 04 Jul - learn more about the free event [HERE](#).

Do better on LGBTQIA+ health

HEALTH professionals have marked International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination (IDAHOBIT) last Sat with a call to better serve the health care needs of LGBTQIA+ people.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) acknowledged that LGBTQIA+ people have poorer physical and mental health outcomes than the general population, with research finding that more than half of the community have experienced discrimination due to their sexual orientation, and almost 80% of people who are trans or gender diverse had experienced discrimination due to their gender identity.

The PSA's 2024 consumer insights project found that LGBTQIA+ patients often do not feel seen, recognised or safe when accessing health care, and PSA National President Associate Professor Fei Sim called for pharmacists to "do better".

"To do better is to take deliberate action to address the barriers that lead to inequality in care so that no one feels unsafe accessing care," A/Prof Sim said.

"As pharmacists, we pride ourselves on being the most accessible health care professionals, but true accessibility goes beyond location or background - it must also mean creating and maintaining safe environments for both our patients and our colleagues."

A/Prof Sim noted IDAHOBIT - which marks the anniversary of the World Health Organization



removing homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases on 17 May 1990 - was a reminder that there is more that can be done as individuals, teams, and as a profession to create spaces where LGBTQIA+ patients and colleagues are seen, safe, and respected.

"Healthcare is a fundamental right for all," she said.

PSA's vision for the profession, 'Pharmacists in 2030', identifies a series of key systems changes needed to support pharmacists help address systemic health disparities in vulnerable and priority population groups.

This includes incentivising in-depth consultations with people from priority populations to drive individualised service and empowering pharmacists with the knowledge to provide culturally appropriate care to priority groups.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) also spoke out on the need to boost health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people, and reminded governments of the importance of putting the National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people (PD 16 Dec 2024) into action. *KB*

Travellers to PNG warned about polio

PAPUA New Guinea has detected cases of polio, having had been declared polio-free for 25 years.

However, vaccination rates have fallen below 50%, well short of the 95% threshold needed for herd immunity.

While the risk of polio spreading to Australia is considered low due to high

vaccination rates and robust public health infrastructure, it is recommended that travellers to PNG ensure their polio vaccinations are up to date.

Pharmacists can administer the vaccine to children five and older in most states and territories; two years and older in Qld; 10 years and older in Tas; with no age restrictions in SA.

Australians spent \$1.3 billion more at pharmacies last year

What's driving the trend?

Read CommBank Health Insights

*CommBank iQ Market Monitor iQ. Health industry spending between April 2024 and March 2025.





Dispensary Corner

THERE is good news for those who struggle to find the time or motivation to walk the golden number of 10,000 steps a day - apparently you can shave 3,000 off that goal and still enjoy the health benefits.

New research from the University of Oxford has found that 7,000 steps a day is all you need to lower your chances of developing up to 13 different types of cancer.

The risk of developing cancer drops by 11% at this many steps, but if you can achieve 9,000 in a day, that risk shrinks again to 16% - beyond that though, experts saw no increased benefit.

Many will also be pleased to learn that those 7,000 steps don't need to be completed all at once, and can be achieved throughout the day by swapping the lift for the stairs, taking a walk during lunch break, and parking further from your destination.

The study involved over 85,000 people in the UK, with participants wearing activity trackers for a week that measured both the amount and intensity of their daily movement; researchers then followed up six years later, looking at cancers which have previously associated with low physical activity.



Symbion marks 180 years of healthcare excellence

SYMBION'S healthcare legacy took centre stage at a gala celebrating 180 years of healthcare excellence for one of Australia's leading providers of end-to-end solutions for pharmacy and hospital customers.

More than 100 guests, including Pharmacy Guild of Australia President Trent Twomey and South Australia's Chief Pharmacist Naomi Burgess, together with past and present Symbion employees and customers, came together at the National Wine Centre of Australia in Adelaide to commemorate Symbion's legacy, which stretches back to 19 May 1845, when Francis Hardy Faulding opened a retail pharmacy in Adelaide.

Operatic soprano Greta Bradman performed at the event, paying tribute to the company's connection to Australian cricketer, the late Sir Donald Bradman - her

grandfather - who was a director of FH Faulding and Co, now Symbion.

"There are a few Australian companies whose origins pre-date Symbion's, but in the realm of healthcare we truly stand apart in how we have positively impacted generations of Australians," said Symbion CEO Brett Barons.

"Alongside our wonderful people, what gives me the greatest pride is knowing that every medicine we distribute, every pharmacy and hospital we support and with every investment in our people and our technology, we make a difference to health outcomes and the communities we serve.

"It's been an honour to be given the opportunity to lead a business founded in my hometown."

Barons said that around one in three of all medicines consumed in Australia daily have ultimately passed through one of Symbion's



nine warehouses nationally, which coordinate deliveries of over 16,500 product lines to nearly 4,000 retail pharmacy customers and 1,300 hospital customers.

Pictured: Brett Barons, Symbion CEO; Naomi Burgess, South Australian Chief Pharmacist.

China healthcare expo coming to Mel

MORE than 800 representatives of China's multibillion dollar pharmacy and traditional medicine industry will highlight the largest China health products exhibition ever held in Australia.

The expo will be held at Melbourne's National Tennis Centre complex on 26-27 Oct, with delegates representing more than 3,000 pharmacy chains and 300,000 outlets.

Together they account for more than 80% of sales in the \$220 billion market and are the largest Chinese health industry purchasing group to visit Australia.

Supporters and organisers of the expo include the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Victoria), the World Traditional Medicine

Forum and the Oceania Business Association.

The Victorian President of the Pharmacy Guild, George Tambassis, said that the expo will introduce a much wider range of traditional Chinese medicines to Australia but also provide Australian manufacturers the opportunity to showcase their products to the delegates.

Australian products to be promoted at the expo include health food, cosmetics, skincare, maternity and baby merchandise, wine, travel and education.

Chinese manufacturers, particularly of alternative and traditional medicines, will be seeking agents and retailers for their range of goods.

Read more about the Expo [HERE](#).

Bupa to open mental health clinics

BUPA today announced further investment in preventative primary healthcare, including a new network of mental health clinics, called Mindplace, supported by virtual health and medical centres to meet growing consumer demand.

Its first Mindplace mental health clinic will open this month as part of a plan to open a further nine clinics by the end of the year and have around 60 clinics by 2027.

Offering psychologist matching consultations, integrated telehealth options and practical digital resources, the clinics will be open to all, not just Bupa customers.

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