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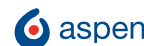
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## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features five pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from **APP2026**, our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, and full pages from:

- Restin
- Glucojel

## APP program out

**THE** program for the 2026 Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2026), taking place from 12-14 Mar, has been released.

See the **cover page** for more.

## Get better sleep

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Nova Pharmaceuticals is offering pharmacists a special deal - see **page six** for details.

## First Nations network launched

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the establishment of the First Nations Pharmacy Network, which is to be led by Linda Burney, a proud Wiradjuri woman and former Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The initiative marks a significant milestone in the Guild's Indigenous health strategy, which aims to embed cultural safety, amplify community voices, and improve health outcomes for First Nations communities across Australia.

"We know there can be no Closing the Gap without collaboration," said Professor Trent Twomey, Guild National President.

"With the expert guidance of Linda Burney as Chair, we are committed to ensuring culturally safe, accessible, and community-led care remains at the heart of our sector."

The initiative comes as pharmacists prepare to take on a greater role in primary care through expanded scope and pharmacist prescribing, particularly in rural and remote communities.



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## Back the bid

**GLUCOJEL** has teamed up with Netball Australia in its bid for the game's inclusion at the Brisbane 2032 Olympics.

Customers can win a year's supply of beans, Diamonds gear, and more - see **p7**.



Burney (**pictured**) said she is "honoured to Chair the First Nations Pharmacy Network".

"This initiative reflects the power of genuine partnership and the importance of embedding cultural safety in every part of our health system," she stated.

"We don't have to choose between practical and symbolic reconciliation - we can and must do both."

Burney observed that community pharmacies are trusted, accessible entry points to the health system, empowering informed decision-making and active participation.

The approach values cultural knowledge and community leadership, she said, with pharmacist-owned pharmacies working in true partnership with those they serve.

"By respecting and elevating the voices and wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we strengthen self-determination and uphold the principles at the heart of Closing the Gap," Burney concluded. **KB**

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## EMA teams up on medicine shortages

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has collaborated with European healthcare professionals and consumer organisations on a new awareness campaign around medicine shortages.

The #ItTakesATeam campaign highlights the shared efforts to prevent and manage shortages across the EU, and the role of all those involved in supporting patients who face these shortages.

Through videos, social media messages, and stories from real people involved in addressing shortages, #ItTakesATeam puts a human face on the coordinated efforts to keep medicines available for those who need them most.

"The campaign represents a step forward in how we engage with healthcare professionals and patients," said Emer Cooke, EMA's Executive Director.

## Rural award for Pharmacy 777

**THE** efforts of health professionals and organisations serving remote and rural communities throughout Australia, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, were celebrated last night as the winners of Rural Health Pro's 2025 National Rural and Remote Health Awards were announced at the National Press Club in Canberra.

Among the winners was Pharmacy 777 Pilbara, which won Rural/Remote Health Employer of the Year and was a finalist for another two awards (PD 07 Oct).

Benjamin Teo from Pharmacy 777 Karratha said, "These awards shine a light on the importance of rural and remote healthcare and the people who dedicate their careers to it."

"We're proud that Pharmacy 777's work in the Pilbara - building a sustainable workforce, collaborating with local health providers, and going the extra mile for patients - has been acknowledged on a national stage,"

he told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"It's a celebration of what can be achieved when communities and health professionals work together," he concluded.

National Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Jenny May, joined more than 180 guests to honour the winners and celebrate the 30 finalists across 10 award categories and the contribution, innovation and dedication they make to the health of their local communities.

"It is an honour to be here to recognise the important work being done to build high quality health access for remote and rural Australians and celebrate the rural, remote and First Nations health professionals and organisations on a national stage," Prof May said.

"Thank you for your work and your commitment; thank you for being people that communities can trust and know will carry the message of real access, culturally safe and connected care," she said.

## IPE student, intern scholarships open

**SCHOLARSHIPS** for pharmacy students and interns to attend the 2026 IPE Colloquium event on Tue 05 May are now open, with the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) encouraging students and interns to apply.

Under the event theme, 'Empowering voices: educating health professionals for respectful and inclusive conversations', attendees will hear from mental health advocates, consumers with lived experience, and disability researchers and policymakers.

Attendees will learn from experts in the industry, meet leaders from across the health sector, and network with like-minded peers.

There are 10 scholarships on offer, of which five are for First Nations applicants, with applications closing 09 Feb.

Find more information [HERE](#).

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### 'Highway to health' as ACDC passes

**THE** Federal Senate yesterday passed a bill to establish an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC), a move welcomed by health bodies nationwide.

The Australian CDC has been described by the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) as "the most important piece of public health infrastructure in generations".

The legislation will make the interim Australian CDC, which began in Jan 2024, a permanent agency effective 01 Jan 2026.

PHAA CEO Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin said that with childhood vaccination rates falling, misinformation rife, and health harms from climate change growing, an Australian CDC is "more important than ever".

"The tsunami of preventable chronic disease must also be addressed," he added.

Prof Slevin acknowledged and thanked the many people "who've put in hard work and long nights, showing it's a long way to the top to get a Centre for Disease Control".

"This is a moment for the public health history books, and is testament to the tenacity of countless people who've toiled for decades to achieve this," Prof Slevin said.

"This centre will save lives, not just here but also overseas, as it will increase our links with our neighbours."

### Patients at heart for Life Member

**AT ITS** Parliamentary Dinner last night, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia bestowed Life Memberships upon those who had been members for 50 years.

Victorian pharmacist Geoff Kirschner (pictured) was one of those recognised on the night.

Kirschner's daughter Jenny, the founder of Pharmacy Addressing Loneliness and Social Isolation (PALS), proudly told *Pharmacy Daily* that Geoff has always championed members of the community who may otherwise have fallen through the cracks.

"My father has always shown me that being a pharmacist is not about transaction but about supporting and helping others, and helping to build community," Jenny said.

"This really influenced and inspired my work with PALS."

Jenny recalled some of the people Geoff has helped over the years, going above and beyond in his role as a pharmacist.

"There is a particular patient who comes to mind, who has only one leg, is confined to a wheelchair and lives alone.

"She often calls my father's pharmacy on Saturdays, just before closing time, to ask for a delivery from my dad.

"When he arrives at her house, she encourages him to come in while she sorts out the scripts that she needs to give him.

"She has also asked for assistance with things like changing a light



bulb, which my dad will do, and he has also helped her go through her fridge a few times to sort things out," Jenny said.

She also mentioned Geoff's willingness to help people on the opioid replacement program who are struggling in other areas of life, such as covering the costs of food, accommodation and bills.

"Financial pressure is a risk factor for loneliness, and my dad has been known to lend patients money to help them out in that situation," she said.

"Examples like this are my dad witnessing critical social determinants of health, which include loneliness and social isolation, and leaning in to address these as part of his role as a pharmacist."

In acknowledging Geoff's achievement, Guild Executive Director Gerard Benedet told him, "Your interactions with patients have ensured that the pharmacy profession is held in extremely high regard.

"Congratulations on a well-deserved honour," he concluded. *KB*

### APP2026 program launched

**APP** Conference Convenor, Kos Sclavos has announced the program launch for next year's Australasian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2026), which is taking place from 12-14 Mar 2026 on the Gold Coast.

The conference theme is 'Beyond the script', with the program centred around delivering a range of content to encourage innovation, critical thinking and a patient-centred approach.

Some of the key speakers include eminent Irish pharmacists Clare Fitzell and Tom Murray (*PD* 22 Oct), who will provide a perspective from Ireland and Europe; athlete Jana Pittman, who will deliver the Ann Dalton Address; and Alan Russell Oration guest speaker Walter Mikac, founder of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

"This year's theme, 'Beyond the script', is a call-to-action for pharmacy professionals to adapt, innovate and lead with compassion," Sclavos said.

"The program was designed to drive the next chapter of community pharmacy, equipping delegates with the insights and inspiration to deliver even greater value to their patients and communities," he said, adding that the program offers something for everyone in the profession and industry.

The program is available **HERE**.

## Save time. Save Money.

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## Editor's Choice: DermaAngel offers clear, radiant skin this Christmas

**GIVE** the gift of clear skin and a healthy glow this festive season with DermaAngel's Total Glow Try-Out Bundle (\$25 for 72 patches).

The pack features an array of different patches for different needs.

The day patches are ultra-thin and provide invisible coverage and protection, while also being water- and sweat-proof, ensuring they stay in place all day.

The night patches have a thicker hydrocolloid layer and added salicylic acid for deeper cleansing and overnight absorption.

Meanwhile, the lightning patches aim to fade post-acne marks and dark spots.

Dermatologist-tested, hypoallergenic and cruelty-



free, each patch is packed with niacinamide and salicylic acid to gently calm inflammation and minimise pores.

DermaAngel Acne Patches are available at pharmacies nationwide including TerryWhite, Chempro and more.

## DB gifts under the tree



**AFFORDABLE** Australian beauty brand DB Cosmetics has released its wide range of products just in time for the holidays.

Inspired by Hailey Bieber's cult beauty brand Rhode and available in two colours, the creamy On the Go Blush Duo (RRP \$24.99) glides and melts into the skin, leaving a long lasting satiny glow.

There is also DB Cosmetics' take on Nars' popular palettes, the Light Diffusing Cheek and Eye Palette (RRP \$19.99), featuring blendable, light-diffusing pigments.

There is also the Plump Up Mini Lip Boost Trio (RRP \$14.99), similar to Glossier's products, with an ultra nourishing, antioxidant balm that helps keep lips soft, smooth and hydrated.

Meanwhile, the Sweetest Set Mini Liquid Blush and Highlighter Trio (RRP \$24.99) features DB Cosmetics' liquid blush and highlighter, creating a natural, dewy finish and infused with hyaluronic acid for smooth, hydrated skin.

## Super food for your skin

**WELEDA** Skin Food Serum (RRP \$35.95) aims to provide moisture and glow, formulated with ceramides, hyaluronic acid, and the brand's Skin Food Phyto Infusion made from natural plant extracts.

Apply the Super Serum to cleansed skin, then follow with day or night cream.



## New CeraVe products battle blemishes in 3 days



**CERAVE** has expanded its Blemish Control range with two new products: new Blemish Barrier Patches and Blemish Control Clay-to-Foam Cleanser.

According to the brand, the ultra-thin patches feature hydrocolloid technology to protect the skin, absorb excess oil and deliver visible results in just three hours.

Meanwhile, the new multi-action cleanser is formulated with 2% salicylic acid and 15% kaolin clay to draw out impurities & excess oil, and target blemishes, even after rinsing.

It can also be used as a daily cleanser, weekly mask or an overnight treatment.

Within three days, it promises to visibly reduce the appearance of blemishes, and the appearance of clogged pores in a week.

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## Dispensary Corner

**WOULD** you take the advice of a man who expects to live to the age of 180?

American entrepreneur Dave Asprey, known for his advocacy of the often-criticised Bulletproof diet, is encouraging health enthusiasts to take his lead, with his new concept Upgrade Labs.

Asprey, who takes around 100 daily health supplements, founded Upgrade Labs to offer "the same tools crazy billionaires use to make themselves younger, smarter, faster and stronger".

The lifestyle guru has yet to open any Australian locations, however if you find yourself in the United States, there are nine sites around the country where you can pimp out your own body to cutting-edge therapies.

The US\$189-a-month (A\$290) facility offers advanced recovery tools designed to speed healing, boost energy and help you look and feel your best, including a 360-degree lymphatic massage known as 'The Big Squeeze'.

The FDA-approved compression therapy device is designed to target areas linked to the lymphatic system, which helps flush out toxins and maintain the body's fluid balance...interesting.

Inside the suit, 24 air chambers inflate and deflate in waves, applying pressure that moves up the body while focusing on the stomach, hips, and thighs.

This is all pioneered by a man who has kept an ejaculation journal since the beginning of the decade.

## Access to contraception falling short

**THE** landscape of sexual and reproductive health and rights is shifting: millions of women want to avoid pregnancy but are not using a modern method of contraception.

Modern contraceptives are essential and life-saving, and yet an estimated 224 million women in developing countries who want to avoid pregnancy are not currently using safe and effective family planning methods.

As the seventh International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2025 takes place in Bogota from 01-06 Nov, more than 3,500 attendees from across the globe (including world leaders, researchers, and advocates), the world stands at a decisive crossroads for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

By committing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2015), all government leaders had promised health and wellbeing (SDG-3) and gender equality (SDG-5) by 2030 "where no one is left behind".

Two-thirds along the way in 2025, the writing on the wall is clear: promises are not being kept.

"Together, these two SDG goals (SDG-3 and SDG-5) are at the heart of the 2030 SDGs agenda," said Benedicta Oyedayo Oyewole, Community Engagement and Partnership Lead, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa.

"Without them, there can be no human development, no sustainable peace, and no economic transformation."

Experts warn that this is not just a health issue - it is a human rights and economic crisis that threatens decades of progress in gender equality, education and

maternal health.

"When women and adolescent girls have access to contraceptives, their pregnancies are more likely to be planned and safe, they are more likely to complete school, be employed and fulfil their potential, their children are healthier, and their societies are more prosperous," said United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Diene Keita.

"Contraceptives reduce abortion rates and lower the incidence of death and disability related to complications of pregnancy and childbirth," she added.

She noted that every \$1 spent ending unmet need for contraception yields nearly \$27 in economic benefits.

In the Asia-Pacific region, more than 140 million women of reproductive age still lack access to modern methods of contraception.

The consequences are staggering: an estimated 13 million unplanned pregnancies occur every year, alongside 3.9 million adolescent pregnancies, nearly half of which are unintended.

Fewer than one in four sexually active, unmarried adolescent girls in Asia and the Pacific are using a modern contraceptive method.

Across the region, 64 out of every 1,000 women will experience an unintended pregnancy during their lifetime.

For many, this leads to unsafe abortions - a leading cause of maternal death and injury - or forces girls out of school and women out of the workforce.

"The supply, distribution, and availability of contraceptives are simply not keeping up with demand," a UNFPA regional report states.

"Persistent supply gaps and



funding shortfalls are putting millions of women at risk."

This is especially true of women living in remote and rural areas.

Despite the proven benefits, global funding for family planning is falling.

Recent major funding disruptions and proposed cuts by key donors, including the USA, threaten to worsen this crisis significantly in communities that rely on international family planning funding.

The UNFPA projects a US\$1.5 billion shortfall in reproductive health commodity financing by 2030 in low- and middle-income countries.

Rising anti-rights and anti-gender pushbacks, along with conflicts, wars, invasions and genocides, have not only arrested the progress made on gender and health but also threaten to reverse - and are reversing - some of the fragile gains made on health and gender.

Gender equality and the right to health are fundamental human rights.

Governments must correct course and be on track to deliver on the promises of Agenda 2030.

*This article was contributed by Shobha Shukla, President of Asia Pacific Regional Media Alliance for Health, Gender and Development Justice, and Executive Director of Citizen News Service.*

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