

Today's issue of PD

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

- Differin
- Right Price Pharmacy

Retinoid action

DIFFERIN Acne Treatment contains the potent retinoid Adapalene to treat and prevent acne and restore the skin's natural texture and tone.

Available over the counter - learn more on [page four](#).

Local community

RIGHT Price Pharmacy is not just another pharmacy group.

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Learn more on [page five](#).

First 100 trained in contraceptives

THE first 100 community pharmacists have successfully completed the Australasian College of Pharmacy's Prescribing Hormonal Contraceptives Course.

The milestone has been hailed as a major step forward in improving access to primary healthcare for women and girls.

Pharmacists who complete the accredited course are empowered to prescribe hormonal contraceptives to eligible patients, enhancing the accessibility and convenience of reproductive health services.

"This milestone reflects the dedication of pharmacists to expanding their scope of practice and delivering vital healthcare services in their communities," said College CEO, Amanda Seeto, adding that there are now more accessible options for contraception available in Queensland and Tasmania.

More about the training [HERE](#).

AdPha's MM2025 kicks off

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) launched Medicines Management 2025 - Australia's largest scientific pharmacy conference - this morning, with President Associate Professor Tom Simpson providing delegates with an overview of organisation's achievements over the last year, and the future direction for AdPha and hospital pharmacy.

He began with a reflection on last year's conference in Adelaide, where Health Minister Mark Butler said the rebrand to AdPha demonstrated to the profession and to the government, that members are stepping up to support the profession as it is being called upon to expand its scope of practice and share its expertise in new and increasingly innovative ways.

"Twelve months on, that's exactly what we've done - we've stepped up and got on with the job," he said.

Assoc Prof Simpson explained that AdPha makes three promises to its members, the profession more broadly, stakeholders and patients.

"Connection - AdPha's structures help you create bridges that span geography, practice settings, and career stages.

"Collaboration - AdPha's structures help you break down the silos within and between hospital, community, aged care, and general practice, recognising the collective strength comes from our diversity.

"And identity - we all together strengthen what it means to be a pharmacist or a technician in an



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area in which both roles are rapidly evolving and expanding," he said.

In delivering on these, Assoc Prof Simpson spoke of some of AdPha's projects, including the Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2025 ([PD 13 Nov](#)) and the launch of the first competency standards for pharmacy technicians in hospitals and health services ([PD 22 Oct](#)).

Understanding what is happening today is integral to delivering on its aims, he said, and AdPha's workforce insights report highlighted dire shortages that have left three-quarters of hospitals cutting pharmacy services.

Assoc Prof Simpson reiterated the urgent call for a dedicated national pharmacy workforce plan.

MEANWHILE the opening plenary also saw the announcement of the 2025 Distinguished Fellow, which was presented to Rosemary Burke - the eighth ever recipient of the honour.

"This is an honour that recognises that some members impact has been so great that it has transformed the organisation and transformed the way pharmacy is practised in the country," Assoc Prof Simpson said.

The final award announced this morning was the 2025 Fred J Boyd Award, with Professor Michael

Guild video comp

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has launched two national video competitions for 2026, celebrating the creativity, cultural leadership, and impact of community pharmacies across the country.

In the I Love Rural Pharmacy Video Competition, pharmacists and pharmacy teams in regional, rural, and remote Australia have the opportunity to shine a spotlight on those who are transforming ideas into action for their patients and communities under the theme 'Rural Pharmacy: Insight to Impact'.

Meanwhile, community pharmacists can demonstrate the crucial role they play in delivering culturally safe, inclusive and community-led care in the Community Pharmacy Cultural Engagement Video Competition, which is back this year with the theme 'Full Scope: Shared Care'.

Guild National President Professor Trent Twomey said the competitions celebrated the expanding contribution of community pharmacies across the country.

"Whether it's a rural pharmacy turning challenges into opportunities, or a team breaking down cultural barriers to deliver more inclusive care, these stories need to be told."

Click [HERE](#) for details about the rural competition, and [HERE](#) for the cultural engagement competition.

Save \$140 on APP

APP2026 is offering a three-tiered registration pricing structure to help improve affordability, with tier 2 pricing available until 31 Jan 2026.

You could also win your way to the conference, including registration, accommodation and economy class flights.

The event takes place at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 12-14 Mar - learn more [HERE](#).



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PSA launches new aged care summit

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) will hold its inaugural Aged Care Pharmacist Summit next year, bringing together Australia's leaders in aged care to champion the role of pharmacists in protecting older Australians from medicine-related harm and maximising quality of life.

The only national conference dedicated exclusively to pharmacists working in aged care, the summit will showcase leading models of care, quality use of medicines initiatives, and policy developments.

Attendees will receive insights from both local and international experts, helping to ensure pharmacists can work within their full scope of practice.

Dementia Support Pharmacist,

Dee-Anne Hull, encouraged all pharmacists with an interest in aged care pharmacy to attend the Summit to develop their knowledge so they can better serve their patients and communities.

"There has been a lot happening in the aged care sector, particularly over the last year," Hull said.

"The Aged Care Summit will provide a great overview of the changing landscape of medicine usage in aged care and identify pharmacists' integral role in the quality use of medicines."

Hull said the PSA is demonstrating its commitment to driving best practice in aged care and tackling medicine safety issues.

"This is critical as, sadly, exposure to harm in aged care



facilities remains far too high," she explained.

"Attendees can feel confident that the Summit will equip them with the knowledge and skills to work with confidence in aged care."

The Aged Care Pharmacist Summit will run as a satellite event on 27 Feb ahead of the NSW Annual Therapeutic Update from 28 Feb to 01 Mar 2026 at Rydges Hunter Valley.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Turning grief into action

SINCE young Qld-based pharmacist Emily Turkovic sadly lost her brother Isaac to an accidental overdose, she has become an advocate for harm reduction in her career.

Turkovic has channelled personal experience into purposeful action, including the Take Home Naloxone health promotion she led as an intern.

The promotion provided more than 400 naloxone doses over two days, sparking national attention for her harm reduction advocacy.

Speaking to host Krysti-Lee Patterson in the *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*, Turkovic shared practical ways pharmacists can normalise harm reduction conversations, such as talking about naloxone without stigma or judgement.

Her key message for students and pharmacists at any stage of their career is that "if you want something you have never had, you need to be willing to try something you have never done".

This may be putting your hand up for a new role, speaking publicly for the first time, or starting honest conversations about harm reduction with patients.

"Emily shows us what it really means to combine clinical knowledge with courage and compassion," Patterson said.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

TGA sunscreens recall notice

SIX sunscreen products are being recalled by the TGA due to test evidence indicating that the SPF levels may be lower than claimed on the label.

These are:

- Fountain of Youth Environmental Defence Cream SPF50+
- Ethical Zinc Daily Wear Light Sunscreen SPF50+
- Ethical Zinc Daily Wear Tinted Facial Sunscreen ('Light' and 'Dark' variants)
- Endota Mineral Protect SPF50 Sunscreen
- Allganic Light Sunscreen SPF50+ 70g - Baby & Kid.

Complete Care comes to Burnie, Tas

COMPLETE Care Pharmacy Burnie officially opened last Friday, attended by Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff to celebrate the launch.

Owned by local pharmacists Jack Muir Wilson, Kath Witherden and Heather Wild, Complete Care Burnie is a state-of-the-art healthcare hub at a new large-scale site.

"The Burnie team has created something truly exceptional - a future-proofed pharmacy that delivers a unique health service offering to their community," said Shannon Kerr, General Manager of the Complete Care



Pharmacy Group.

"This pharmacy demonstrates our vision of transforming community pharmacy into genuine healthcare hubs where pharmacists can work to their full scope of practice and deliver exceptional health experiences for their patients."

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Dispensary Corner

A NEW study suggests tai chi might be the bedtime hero we didn't know we needed.

Middle-aged and older people battling chronic insomnia have found that waving their arms slowly in the park works almost as well as sessions with a therapist.

Chronic insomnia in older adults has been linked to increased risks of cardiovascular diseases, mental disorders and cognitive impairment.

While cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is the gold standard, it can be expensive and there aren't enough therapists available.

So researchers asked: "Can tai chi kick insomnia's butt?"

Previous studies have shown the benefits of the practice for insomnia, but it hasn't been directly compared with treatments such as CBT.

They rounded up 200 people over 50, with half doing a tai chi program, and the other half CBT.

After three months, CBT was more effective, but a year down the track, tai chi was holding its own, as reported in *The BMJ*.

As a bonus, no one got hurt, everyone felt better, and tai chi might just be the cheapest ticket to Snoozeville.

The authors noted that the positive effects of tai chi may be partially due to participants' continued practice after the end of the interventions.

"Our study supports tai chi as an alternative treatment approach for the long term management of chronic insomnia in middle aged and older adults," the team concluded.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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Differin treats acne

with a potent retinoid: Adapalene.

Differin is the first (and only)¹ acne fighting retinoid available over the counter.

Adapalene works in three ways.^{2,3}

1 Treats

acne deep in the pores at the source, to reduce redness and underlying inflammation

2 Prevents

new acne from forming by increasing cell turnover

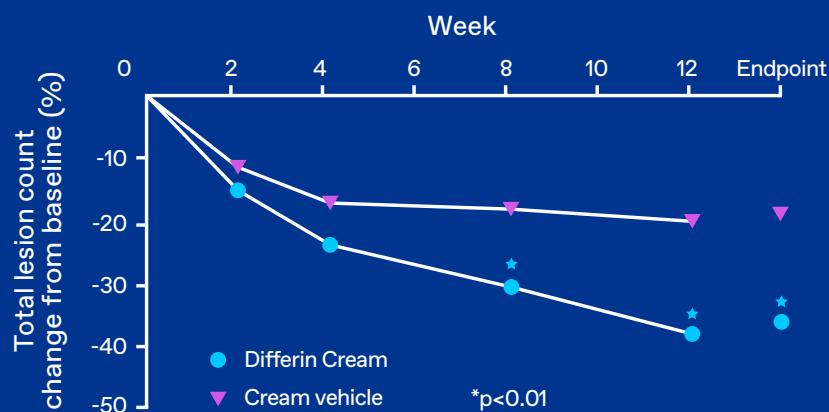
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- As effective as tretinoin (0.025%) cream in reducing total lesion count at 12 weeks
- Superior in local tolerability compared to tretinoin (0.025%) cream⁵

Who can be recommended Differin?

- Differin is indicated for the treatment of mild to moderate comedonal and papulopustular acne (blackheads, whiteheads & pimples) of the face, chest or back
- Can be recommended from 12 years to adult
- Breastfeeding – can be used however should not be applied to the chest
- Pregnancy – don't use

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT THIS PRODUCT. ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

Apply a thin film to the affected areas once a day before bedtime and after washing. Avoid the eyes, lips and mucous membranes. The affected areas should be dry before application.

1. ARTG listing as at 15th October 2023. 2. Differin® Gel & Cream Consumer Medicines Information 2020. 3. Gollnick H et al. J Am Acad Dermatol 2003; 49(1 Suppl): S1+ S37). 4. Lucky A et al. Cutis 2001; 68 (4 Suppl): 34-40). 5. Cunliffe WJ et al. A comparison of the efficacy and tolerability of adapalene 0.1% gel versus tretinoin 0.025% gel in patients with acne vulgaris: a meta-analysis of five randomized controlled trials. Br J Dermatol. 1998 Oct; 139 Suppl 52:48-56. Galderma Australia Pty Ltd. 1 Denison St, North Sydney, Australia 206. AU-DIC-2500001

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If you'd like to learn more about how we support independent community care, we'd love to have a chat.

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Right Price Pharmacy. Community Health First.



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