

Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- MediChoice

Dispensary help

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7, at rates from as low as \$8.94 per hour, for services that include compounding, DAAs and any other required tasks - see **p3**.

Manage pain

MEDICHOICE'S new Ibuprofen Mini liquid capsules provide rapid pain relief in an easy-to-swallow format. Available in packs of 20, 40 and 100 liquid capsules containing 200mg ibuprofen. See details on **page four**.

PSA signs for acquisition of College

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has signed an agreement to acquire the Australasian College of Pharmacy, marking a significant step for expanding educational offerings and professional and practice support for members and the pharmacy profession.

The acquisition was first proposed in Jan, with PSA members voting in support of the move in Feb.

While there are still steps to be completed before settlement, the PSA is focused on how the acquisition will strengthen its leadership in education and training for pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and technicians.

National President and Chair of the PSA Board Associate Professor Fei Sim stated the agreement was "a transformational opportunity for the future of pharmacy education".

"This agreement is a major milestone in our journey to strengthen and unify pharmacy education in Australia," she said.

"As the custodian for standards and guidelines for professional practice, the acquisition of the College by the PSA is a further strategic step toward building scale, capability and capacity for pharmacy education in Australia, amidst the fast-evolving practice landscape."

Assoc Prof Sim noted that the agreement demonstrates a shared commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession and supporting professionals throughout their careers, while guiding the industry through major changes, including expanded scope of practice and rising healthcare demands.

"This is about building a stronger, more sustainable future for pharmacy education, so we can do more for our members," Assoc Prof Sim said.

Regarded by the College as a "momentous event in the history of the Australian pharmacy industry", College CEO, Amanda Seeto, said she looks forward to working with PSA to unite the two organisations.



"Both the College and PSA exist to serve our members, learners and the pharmacy industry, and I'm excited for what we can deliver together," said Seeto.

"Expanding the scope of the workforce, from the youngest pharmacy assistant to the most experienced pharmacy owner, has been our mission at the College and we will ensure this important work continues with the PSA.

"Over the next few months, our priority is developing a robust plan to ensure a seamless transition for College members, learners and staff over to PSA when the time comes," Seeto added.

The PSA said it will continue to engage with stakeholders through the transition process. **KB**



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Dispensary Corner

BEING time poor is not only sucky but bad for your health, experts suggest - specifically your risk of dementia.

Researchers from University College London argued in *The Lancet* that 'temporal inequality' - defined as an unequal distribution of discretionary time owing to structural conditions shaping daily life - is an under-recognised threat when it comes to preventing the devastating illness.

It manifests through insufficient time for restful sleep, working intense or unsociable hours, having a reliance on screens or a lack of downtime to relax.

Time poverty disproportionately affects structurally disadvantaged populations and is exacerbated by performance-driven cultures.

"Although evidence for modifiable risk factors of dementia, such as sleep, physical activity, nutrition, and social engagement, is strong, adopting healthy behaviours requires time," the authors said.

"We call for temporal justice through research and policies that recognise time as both a resource and a site of inequity in ageing and dementia."

They also urged further research into how time constraints affect brain health across all phases of life.

"Reducing dementia risk is not only about promoting healthy behaviours but also ensuring the provision of sufficient time and opportunity to adopt and sustain such behaviours," the researchers concluded.

IPA celebrates excellence

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia (IPA) held its 2025 Member Summit on the Gold Coast last week, culminating in the celebration of ten outstanding contributors at the Gala Dinner and Awards Night.

Doc's Megasave Newcastle claimed the IPA National Pharmacy of the Year Award and Lisa Gibson from Orana Mall Pharmacy was crowned IPA Pharmacist of the Year.

In line with the 'Here for Good' theme, pharmacists Joseph O'Malley from Westside Pharmacy and Tracy Minett from Chemist Discount Centre Bass Hill, Chester Hill and Oran Park, were presented with the inaugural Here for Good Award for exemplifying innovation, leadership, growth, community and integrity.

The IPA Retail Manager of the Year was awarded to Jessica Brown of Emerald Pharmacy, who recently took out the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award (**PD** 08 Sep).

Mountview Pharmacy was recognised with the Community Engagement Award, while the Professional Services Innovation Award went to Mary's Family Pharmacy.

State group winners for



Pharmacy of the Year were Doc's Megasave Newcastle (NSW); Twin Waters Pharmacy (Qld); Botts Compounding Pharmacy (WA/SA); and Chemist Discount Centre Blackburn (Vic).

IPA Managing Director Steven Kastrinakis said the 2025 Gala Awards Evening was an example of IPA's ongoing commitment to spotlighting the incredible work done by pharmacies within the IPA network.

"From pioneering professional services to deepening community engagement, the winners exemplify the leadership, innovation, and care that are shaping the future of our industry," Kastrinakis said.

"Their commitment to better health outcomes inspires us all." **KB**

Pictured: Steven Kastrinakis, IPA MD; Here for Good Award winners Tracy Minett and Joseph O'Malley; and Michael Flannery, CEO of the Life Pharmacy Group.

Lilly to seek ARTG listing of GLP-1 pill

TOP line results from two recent phase 3 clinical trials showed Eli Lilly's once-daily GLP-1 tablet orforglipron delivered significant improvements in glycaemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes, further establishing its effectiveness in these patients.

The findings build on earlier studies demonstrating efficacy in T2D patients (**PD** 23 Jun), as well as meaningful weight loss and

cardiometabolic improvements in patients without diabetes (**PD** 18 Sep), and has now recorded superior results against both placebo and active comparators.

"Lilly plans to submit orforglipron for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and also for the treatment of obesity to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by the end of this year," a spokesperson for Eli Lilly said.

WHO sounds AMR warning

THE World Health Organization has warned of a global increase in antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with one in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections worldwide in 2023 resistant to antibiotics.

Between 2018 and 2023, antibiotic resistance rose in over 40% of the monitored antibiotics, with an average annual increase of 5-15%.

The new *Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025* presents resistance prevalence estimates across 22 antibiotics used to treat common infections, such as urinary tract, gastrointestinal, bloodstream and gonorrhoea.

Antibiotic resistance was highest in Southeast Asian and Eastern Mediterranean regions, where one in three reported infections were resistant, while in the African region, one in five infections was resistant.

Resistance is also more common and worsening in places where health systems lack capacity to diagnose or treat bacterial pathogens, while drug-resistant gram-negative bacteria - especially *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* - are becoming more dangerous worldwide.

The Western Pacific region, including Australia, had the lowest rate of antibiotic-resistant bacteria at one in 11.

While Australia is faring well, experts point out that there is no room for complacency as antibiotic-resistant infections spread across the world through international travel.

Read the report **HERE**.



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