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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news, plus a front cover from **Pharmacy Connect 2025**, and a full page from **Independent Pharmacies Australia**.

## Connect this week

**THE** highly anticipated Pharmacy Connect 2025 kicks off on Wed this week.

Book now for the latest industry updates, fresh insights, and networking opportunities. See the **cover page** for more.

## IPA Summit 2025

**RUNNING** from 14-17 Oct on the Gold Coast, the Independent Pharmacies Australia (IPA) Member Summit 2025 is offering an all-inclusive package for \$500. Learn more on **page three**.

## Whooping cough crisis

**PREGNANT** women, parents, and caregivers are being urged to ensure they are vaccinated against whooping cough (pertussis), amid a concerning surge in cases across the country.

Australia is currently experiencing its most significant and long-lasting outbreak in decades, with more than 57,000 cases reported in 2024 alone - the highest annual total since 1991 - and ongoing high rates.

Some areas, including Queensland and Western Australia's Kimberley region, are seeing particularly high rates of infection, while in South Australia, more than 1,000 cases were recorded in early 2025 - 11 times higher than the same period last year.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen described the resurgence of whooping cough cases as "extremely concerning", especially in light of below-target vaccination rates and growing vaccine hesitancy. "Each year, thousands of lives

are lost to respiratory diseases like whooping cough, and we all have a role to play in preventing their spread," Dr McMullen said.

"Vaccination remains our most powerful defence."

Pregnant women should receive a dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine during each pregnancy to protect their newborn from whooping cough, as antibodies are passed to the unborn baby, protecting them in their first days and weeks of life.

**MEANWHILE**, nearly 140,000 Australian babies were protected against severe respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) this winter, helping reduce the number of infants admitted to hospitals with life-threatening complications of the disease by 30%, according to the Immunisation Foundation of Australia.

"Every parent who embraced RSV protection for their baby should be congratulated," said the Foundation's Catherine Hughes. *KB*

## Biologic PBS listed for asthma

**THE** first biologic medicine that both improves lung function and reduces asthma exacerbations in children aged six to 11 years with severe, uncontrolled asthma, is now available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Dupixent (dupilumab, Sanofi) is indicated for add-on maintenance therapy for children in this age group who have severe asthma with type 2 inflammation that is inadequately controlled.

More than half all people with asthma have type 2 inflammation, which increases the risk of asthma attacks and decreased lung function.

The biologic comes in a pre-filled pen, meaning parents can administer the medication at home, instead of having to go to a treatment centre.

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### Dispensary Corner

**STEP** away from the hair straightener, ladies - the way we style our hair may be putting our health at risk, according to new research out of the US.

Just 10 minutes of heat-based hair care exposes a person to the same nanoparticle pollution as they would get standing in heavy motorway traffic for the same amount of time, reported Purdue University researchers.

This is due to the heat from the hair tool vaporising volatile chemicals found in products such as conditioners, hair sprays, or creams, and releasing them into the air in the form of tiny nanoparticles.

Those particles may then be inhaled, potentially leading to respiratory stress and lung inflammation, and have even been linked with cognitive decline.

"This is really quite concerning - studies of this kind have not been done before, so until now, the public has had little understanding of the potential health risks posed by their everyday haircare routines," said study lead Dr Nusrat Jung.

## Prof Lisa Nissen awarded by FIP

**AUSTRALIAN** Professor Lisa Nissen was among 16 pharmacists from around the world recognised for excellence by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) at its 2025 award ceremony on the weekend.

Held at the opening of the 83rd World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Copenhagen, Professor Nissen (pictured) of the University of Queensland was awarded an FIP Fellowship.

The Fellowship recognises individual members of FIP who have exhibited strong leadership internationally, distinguished themselves in pharmacy practice or the pharmaceutical sciences, contributed to the advancement of the practice of pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences, and have served FIP.

Professor Nissen said in social media that she was "proud to be recognised".

"I am overwhelmed by the award and the acknowledgment among such a distinguished group of international pharmacists," she wrote on LinkedIn.



The Health Promotion Campaign Award was awarded to the Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association (KNMP, Netherlands) for its project 'Running out is not an option', an initiative tackling medicine shortages.

Through this campaign, the KNMP aimed to highlight the pharmacist's vital role in managing medicine shortages, with pharmacists exploring all possible avenues to ensure patients receive their treatment in the event of a temporary shortage, from consulting with fellow pharmacists and doctors, to importing or compounding medicines.

The goal was to make it clear that pharmacists are not part of the problem but are working to find the best possible solution for patients to continue their treatment safely. *KB*

## Free online opioid overdose training

**INTERNATIONAL** Overdose Awareness Day was marked on 31 Aug, and Inrx is offering pharmacists and pharmacy assistants an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and confidence in responding to opioid emergencies.

Nearly 190 Australians die each month due to overdose, with opioids involved in nearly half of all unintentional drug-induced deaths.

One of the most effective tools in saving lives is naloxone, a safe, fast-acting medicine that reverses the effects of opioid overdose.

It is available free of charge, without a prescription, from participating pharmacies.

To support pharmacy staff in playing a leading role in overdose prevention, pharmacy training platform Inrx is offering a free online course, 'What is the Take Home Naloxone Program', authored by pharmacist Emily Turkovic.

It covers recognising and responding to opioid emergencies, engaging with patients, and more.

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\*Primary insomnia is insomnia without an underlying medical cause or any other clear cause.



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