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## Today's issue of PD

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

- Willach
- PharmaPrograms Pro
- Glucojel

## PBS changes for antihypertensives

THE Department of Health, Disability and Ageing has advised that PBS restrictions have been changed to allow fixed dose combinations (FDCs) for dual therapy antihypertensives to be used as a first-line treatment for hypertension in line with international clinical guidelines.

On 01 Apr, 30-day prescription items for antihypertensive dual therapy FDCs were changed to Unrestricted Benefit listings, while 60-day prescription items were changed to Restricted Benefit listings in stable patients - learn more [HERE](#).

## NT GPs welcome consultation

THE Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has welcomed the Northern Territory Government's decision to take a measured, consultative approach to potential changes in pharmacists' scope of practice, acknowledging their vital role in the Territory's stretched health system.

RACGP Northern Territory chair Dr Sam Heard said the establishment of an expert advisory group signals a constructive, evidence-based way forward that recognises the expertise of both pharmacists and GPs.

"Bringing pharmacists and doctors together around the same table is the right approach," Dr Heard said.

"Pharmacists are incredibly important to healthcare in the NT.

"We have a scarce workforce of GPs and pharmacists, and we need to use their skills in the safest and most effective way."

Dr Heard highlighted that pharmacists already play a critical role in medicines management,

patient education and improving access to care, and that their contribution will be increasingly important as demand grows.

The RACGP supports the expansion of pharmacist roles when implemented through well-designed, collaborative models that ensure strong clinical governance and patient safety.

"Pharmacists can do more in providing services from a retail environment, but they are not a substitute for the comprehensive, person-centred care provided by a patient's GP over time," Dr Heard said.

"GPs specialise in managing the healthcare of the whole person - there are risks in treating symptoms in isolation and delaying a thorough medical assessment.

"We look forward to working constructively with government and pharmacy colleagues to strengthen patient care across the Territory," he concluded. *KB*

## Glucojel glucofest

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1. Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Australian Immunisation Handbook. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>. Accessed March 2026. sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. [www.sanofi.com.au](http://www.sanofi.com.au). MAT-AU-2600393 V1. Date of preparation: March 2026.

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### Dispensary Corner

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's Celebration Key has been officially recognised for its accessibility efforts, making it the first cruise destination to earn KultureCity's sensory inclusion certification.

The non-profit aims to create sensory-inclusive spaces for those who live with disabilities such as autism, dementia, and sensory processing disorders, and the cruise line has been working with them for six years.

At the private island, guests with sensory needs are given complimentary packs with noise-reducing headphones, fidget tools and glasses with filters to block out strobe and bright lights.

It also includes a VIP lanyard with a headphone logo and lightbulb symbol to signal to Carnival employees that they may need support, as well as a feelings thermometer to help non-verbal guests to communicate with the team.

"Creating truly inclusive experiences means anticipating the needs of every guest before they arrive," said Uma Srivastava, executive director of KultureCity.

"By certifying Celebration Key, Carnival Cruise Line is setting a new standard for the travel industry, ensuring that individuals with sensory needs and invisible disabilities can fully participate in and enjoy every moment of their journey," she added.

## Complete Care health hub opens

**COMPLETE** Care Pharmacy Health Hub has officially opened in Launceston, introducing a purpose-designed pharmacy with dedicated consultation spaces, a clinical workflow platform, and an integrated care model that connects patients with the right support at the right time.



The launch represents "a significant, forward-looking model for the future of pharmacy services across the country," a Complete Care Pharmacy spokesperson said.

Located within a dedicated health hub, alongside doctors, specialists, clinics and nurse practitioners, the Complete Care team hosted tours for their health provider neighbours, walking them through how the group's model works in practice and how it can function as a genuine extension of integrated patient care.

The grand opening was attended by Launceston Mayor Matthew

Garwood, pharmacy owners Christine White (pictured front row centre) and Luciana Torrents, and Complete Care Pharmacy general manager Shannon Kerr.

White shared that the team's energy on the day reflected how they felt about the model.

"Our team [is] genuinely excited about the way we practise at Complete Care Pharmacy," she said.

"There's enthusiasm across the board, and that comes from working in an environment that's built for the kind of care we want to deliver." KB

### "You've got to know when to say no"

**COMING** from a pharmacist with a rich and varied career who has achieved great success in pharmacy practice, leadership, research and academia, it may surprise some to learn that Professor Mark Naunton believes not every opportunity should be accepted.

In the latest episode of the *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast, the national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia told host Krysti-Lee Patterson that saying yes "with caution" is an important lesson for pharmacists who are trying to grow without overcommitting.

"You've got to know when to say 'yes' and you've got to know when to say 'no', because if you say 'yes' to everything then nothing becomes a priority in my view," he said.

In a wide-ranging discussion, Professor Naunton shared some of the experiences that shaped his career, and talked about the issues he believes will define the next chapter of Australian pharmacy, including his priorities as PSA president.

When it comes to full scope, prescribing is only one part of the picture, Prof Naunton pointed out, with broader opportunities to improve patient care through deprescribing, medication review, and supporting patients during transitions of care.

In summing up, he encouraged pharmacists to do hard things, take small steps, and learn from failure - "you'll come back stronger."

Listen to the podcast **HERE**.

## Leadership EOIs for PSA pall care COP

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is set to launch a Palliative Care Community of Practice (COP), bringing together pharmacists from across Australia with a shared passion for supporting palliative care through collaboration.

PSA is now seeking motivated and committed pharmacists to join the inaugural COP leadership group to advocate for meaningful change in palliative care, collaborate with PSA and health sector leaders, and drive priority initiatives and workforce development through an annual palliative care workplan for



pharmacy.

EOI closes 26 Apr, with applicants to be notified by 05 May.

Learn more about the COP and submit an EOI **HERE**.

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