

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest industry news, plus a full page from Bernie Burn Cream.

## Aid burn recovery

BERNIE Burn Cream heals, soothes and reduces blistering and scarring from mild skin burns and sunburn.

See page three for details.

# NOT JUST FLU. THERE'S WHOOPING COUGH TOO

Ask about a

# DOUBLE SHOT

Help prevent whooping cough as well as the flu<sup>1</sup>

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.

**sanofi**

## CWH tops consumer perceptions

CHEMIST Warehouse dominates the Australian pharmacy chain industry across almost all metrics of consumer awareness, visits and preferred brand, according to newly collected data from brand tracking platform Conjointly.

The company has recently expanded its coverage to include pharmacy businesses, providing detailed insights into how consumers discover, consider shopping at and choose their preferred pharmacy.

Around nine in ten adults (91%) surveyed by the company indicated they were aware of Chemist Warehouse when prompted, with Priceline Pharmacy (81% awareness), TerryWhite Chemmart (75%) and Amcal+ (62%) also rating well.

In terms of brand perception, Chemist Warehouse rated highest on trust at 94%, with MyChemist, Priceline, TerryWhite Chemmart and Blooms the Chemist rating close to 90% and the vast majority scoring over 80%.

"This tight clustering near the top reflects an inherent consumer confidence in pharmacies as health partners, a baseline trust that is sector-wide rather than brand-



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specific," the report noted.

Chemist Warehouse also led the pack by a large margin on value for money, product availability and reliable health services, but was pipped by Capital Chemist on providing professional expertise and fast service.

"What the pharmacy data shows is a category with a clear market leader and a strong baseline of trust across the board," said Nik Samoylov, founder of Conjointly.

"Chemist Warehouse has built something valuable: scale and trust simultaneously," he continued.

"For challengers like Priceline and TerryWhite Chemmart, the opportunity lies in converting existing awareness and perceived expertise into stronger consumer preference and commitment."

Conjointly's live pharmacy brand tracker is **HERE**. *KB*

## Last week for ethics code input

PUBLIC consultation on the PSA's draft revised Code of Ethics for Pharmacists closes on Fri 17 Apr, and all pharmacists are encouraged to take part.

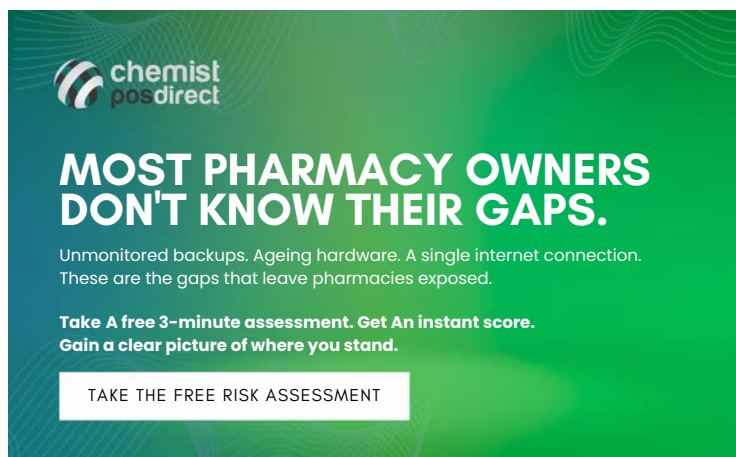
The code underpins the professional practice of all Australian pharmacists, articulating the values of the profession and expected ethical standards - more **HERE**.

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## Dispensary Corner

**AFTER** featuring in video footage floating around in zero gravity courtesy of the recent Artemis II mission, much-loved hazelnut spread Nutella has been subjected to perhaps unwelcome attention from nutritionists.

Okay, it's mostly sugar (56%), with a significant proportion of its 31% fat coming from palm oil, which has led some so-called experts to suggest it's more like a confectionery than a health food.

On the plus side, it does contain essential hazelnutty goodness, and cocoa, which is rich in antioxidants, not to mention the calcium- and protein-containing skim milk powder.

But it is hard to get past all that sugar and fat, which are found at levels similar to that of a milk chocolate bar.

In fact, until fairly recently, it was classified by the US Food and Drug Administration as a "dessert topping" rather than a spread - so more like a chocolate fudge condiment than spreads like peanut butter or jam.

Getting back to our astronauts, Professor Gunter Kuhne from the University of Reading told *The Daily Mail* that Nutella can be part of a healthy diet, as long as it is combined with other foods that contribute fibre, protein and complex carbohydrates.



## Sexual misconduct reporting live

**UNDER** changes to the national law flagged at the end of last year (**PD** 17 Dec 2025), Ahpra has begun adding sexual misconduct findings to the public register of practitioners and the register of cancelled practitioners, with two pharmacists among those affected.

The first round of changes, which were published last week, resulted in additional information being added to the register entries of 107 practitioners, of whom 86 have had their registrations cancelled and 21 are still practising.

Overall, doctors constitute the largest number of reports (50), followed by nurses and midwives (21) and psychologists (seven).

There are two pharmacists among the health practitioners listed who have both had their registrations cancelled - one in Oct 2022 (**PD** 27 Oct 2022), and the other in Dec 2023 (**PD** 22 Jan 2024).

More health practitioners are still under investigation and will not have their records updated until later this year.

Sexual misconduct covers a wide range of behaviours, including



professional boundary violations, sexual harassment and criminal offences, and may take place inside and outside of a practice setting.

"Sexual misconduct by registered health practitioners is an unacceptable breach of trust that undermines public health and safety," Ahpra CEO Justin Untersteiner said.

"Publishing sexual misconduct findings on the public register empowers patients to make informed choices about their care and reinforces that breaches of trust will not be hidden."

Most tribunal decisions are already published online, and the register entry will now clearly state when the decision involved sexual misconduct. **KB**

## HPV vaccine protects men from cancer

**THE** 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine - which protects people against diseases caused by nine different types of HPV - could help protect men against cancer, according to international research published in *JAMA Oncology*.

While only offered to females in some countries, in Australia the 9vHPV vaccine (Gardasil 9) is free for all people aged nine to 25 years under the NIP.

The team looked at data from over 615,000 males vaccinated with the 9vHPV vaccine and

close to 2.3 million unvaccinated males aged between nine and 26 years, and found those who were vaccinated had a lower risk of HPV-related cancers - which included head and neck, oesophageal, anal and penile cancers - than their unvaccinated peers.

"This study found a significant negative association of the 9-valent HPV vaccine with HPV-related cancers in adolescents and young adult males and contributes to the development of sex-neutral HPV vaccination," the researchers concluded. **KB**

## Antidepressant reduces meth use

**PEOPLE** who want to stop using crystal methamphetamine may be able to treat their addiction with the cheap and readily available antidepressant mirtazapine, according to research conducted by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at UNSW Sydney.

The team recruited 339 adults with moderate to severe methamphetamine use disorder who had taken the drug on at least 24 days in the last 28, and randomly assigned them to receive either mirtazapine (30mg daily) or placebo for 12 weeks.

Those in the mirtazapine group reduced the frequency of their methamphetamine use by seven days (out of the past 28 days) at the end of the treatment period, compared to a 4.8-day reduction in the placebo group.

This represented an 8% decrease in the risk of methamphetamine use, which was described as "modest but clinically important".

"Even small reductions in methamphetamine use can translate into meaningful improvements in health and well-being," said study co-author Shalini Arunogiri.

There are currently no approved medications available for people with methamphetamine use disorder, and the team said mirtazapine has a well-established safety profile and could be prescribed with limited clinical oversight.

Read the paper **HERE**.

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