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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of the latest industry news, plus a full page from **MediChoice**.

## The right choice

**NOVA** Pharmaceuticals' MediChoice range of analgesics, Epsom salts and cough and cold remedies are a cost-effective solution for winter illnesses.

Learn more about a special deal on **page four**.

## Public holiday Mon

*PHARMACY Daily* will not be published on Mon due to the additional public holiday for Anzac Day.

We will be back again on Tue.

## Dr Karl to speak at Pharmacy Connect

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that renowned science communicator Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will present at Pharmacy Connect 2026.

Attendees are invited to sharpen up their thinking skills on Thu 10 Sep as Dr Karl draws on memorable moments from science, medicine and everyday life to unpack how evidence is built, challenged, misunderstood and sometimes overturned - and how questioning assumptions is essential for safe, effective healthcare.

Registrations are now open, and the full program will be released in May - more **HERE**.

## IPA to provide \$5,000 scope training boost

**INDEPENDENT** Pharmacies Australia (IPA) has announced it will provide a \$5,000 contribution per pharmacy towards expanded scope of practice training, equipping its member pharmacists with the clinical capability, confidence and business support to deliver expanded services in-store.

With 31 pharmacists having completed the training and a further 84 enrolled this year, the network is seeing strong momentum as more pharmacists look to embed expanded scope into everyday practice.

IPA managing director Steven Kastirnakis said the program reflects IPA's long-term commitment to the future of independent pharmacy.

"For IPA, 'Here for Good' means standing beside community pharmacists for the long-term," Kastirnakis said.

"It's about giving pharmacy owners and their pharmacists the capability and confidence as their role continues to evolve to deliver more for their patients, while



building sustainable, future-ready pharmacies," he explained.

"And as part of our new IPA Community Pharmacy membership, we are contributing \$5,000 per pharmacy to help remove barriers and support members to undertake expanded scope of practice training."

IPA's program combines clinical education with practical, in-pharmacy execution, supporting members to integrate services, workflows and patient engagement into their business.

IPA will also hold its second Pharmacist Academy Conference, from 20-22 July in Sydney, to further develop members' expanded scope-of-practice capabilities.

"By bridging clinical capability with operational delivery, IPA

is positioning independent pharmacies as accessible, trusted healthcare destinations and ensuring that their member pharmacies are ready to play a greater role in Australia's primary healthcare system," a spokesperson for IPA said. **KB**

**Pictured:** IPA's Full Scope of Practice Support Program trainees - Michael Allen, Natalie Allen, Audrey Teoh, Nikita Ranchod, Linda Wallin, and Jonathan Bray.

## TGA approves new follicular lymphoma drug

**SPECIALISED** Therapeutics has announced that Minjuvi (tafasitamab), in combination with rituximab and lenalidomide, has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the treatment of Australian adults with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma.

Minjuvi is the first and only chemotherapy-free CD19 and CD20 dual-targeted immunotherapy combination regimen to be approved for this group of patients.

Follicular lymphoma is the second most common form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, with an estimated 1,500 Australians newly diagnosed each year.

While most patients respond well to initial treatment and patients' prognosis has improved, around one in five will see their lymphoma return within two years, and are less likely to respond to current therapies.

The new combination therapy brings Australian clinical practice in line with accepted global standards of care.

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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.  
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### Pfizer pushes for prevention

**PFIZER** Australia is marking World Immunisation Week (24–30 April) by urging the Federal Government to make prevention a Budget priority, warning that declining vaccination rates and slipping confidence in immunisation are leaving communities vulnerable as winter approaches.

In a Pre-Budget Submission, the pharma giant has called for a stronger national focus on prevention, including increased investment in preventative health and timely access to vaccine innovation.

Modelling commissioned by GSK Australia showed that for every \$1 invested in vaccination in Australia, more than \$3.50 in benefits are generated.

With vaccines an important part of preventive health, Pfizer's Pre-Budget Submission highlights the need for the government to act on the recommendation of the National Preventative Health Strategy and set a 5% minimum target for investment in preventative health by 2030, up from the current 3%.

Pfizer is also pushing for the implementation of recommendations from the Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review to enable faster and more predictable access to vaccines through the National Immunisation Program.

Pfizer's submission is [HERE](#).

### New RNA facility boosts sovereign capability

**RNA** Australia has officially opened one of the world's leading biotech manufacturing facilities in Sydney this week, marking a defining moment for national science and sovereign health capability.

Funded by the NSW Government to the tune of \$96 million, this Australian-first will accelerate the development of RNA-based therapies and enable research translation, development and advanced manufacturing of life-saving RNA therapeutics to take

place under a single roof.

The RNA facility includes advanced laboratories and support spaces, and industry partner and operator Aurora Biosynthetics will now engage with researchers and clients who aim to advance their therapeutic innovations from the laboratory towards clinical trials.

Located within the Macquarie University Innovation Precinct, the facility is the centrepiece of RNA Australia - a joint venture between the NSW Government and five leading universities: University of NSW, Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, the University of Technology Sydney and the Australian National University.

RNA Australia CEO Paul McDonald said the opening represented a turning point for Australian biotech.

"The opening of this facility marks a landmark moment for Australia's RNA ecosystem," McDonald said.

"For the first time, we have a facility that brings research translation, advanced

manufacturing and commercial expertise together under one roof.

"RNA Australia exists to do what Australian biotech has historically struggled to do - take world-class ideas out of our universities and turn them into real medicines, manufactured here, for the benefit of Australia and the world," McDonald concluded.

The NSW Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology Anouack Chanthivong highlighted the importance of facility for the state's health innovation sector.

"We all saw during COVID how quickly global conditions can change, and how vital it is to have the capability to develop vaccines and treatments here at home.

"This facility strengthens NSW's resilience and ensures we can respond faster and more effectively to future health threats," he said.

The NSW Govt plans to provide an additional \$119 million over 10 years in support of RNA research and development projects. *KB*

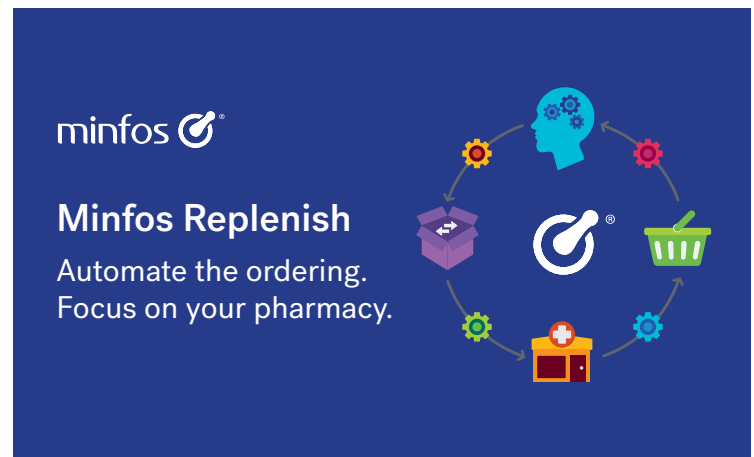
### New CEO for PCA

**PALLIATIVE** Care Australia (PCA) has announced the appointment of Dr Chris Hatherly as the organisation's new chief executive officer.

A highly respected not-for-profit leader with 20 years' experience across research, policy, health and ageing, Dr Hatherly brings deep expertise in national advocacy, evidence-informed policy development, and coalition-building across government, academia, industry and consumer groups.

PCA chair Dr Peter Allcroft welcomed the appointment, stating that his experience working at the interface of research, policy, service delivery and the community will be invaluable for PCA's critical mission.

Dr Hatherly commences the role on 08 Jul, with Simon Waring remaining as interim CEO until then.



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## Dispensary Corner

**FREQUENT** pub-goers will be pleased to hear that beer has now been found to offer some nutritional benefits, with researchers from Germany reporting that the popular beverage is a good source of vitamin B6.

Many of beer's key ingredients - including barley, wheat and brewer's yeast - contain the vitamin, which the body uses to extract and store energy from food, and enables red blood cells to carry oxygen.

"Vitamin B6 is an essential cofactor of numerous enzymes, and beer may contribute substantially to its dietary intake," the authors said.

The researchers carried out their analysis on 65 different types of beer, including lager, alcohol-free lager, unfiltered lager, dark lager, wheat beer, alcohol-free wheat beer, pilsner, bock beer and rice beer.

The highest nutritional value was found in bock beer - a German form of the beverage - which contained 808.2 micrograms per litre, followed by unfiltered lager, standard lager and pilsner.

While alcohol-free options had a much lower amount of the vitamin, the authors acknowledged they could still contribute to the overall uptake of B6, "as it is not subject to any limitation of alcohol intake".



## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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