

Today's issue of PD

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

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Learn more on **page four**.

PSOTY winner

IN A tightly contested grand final featuring the eight state winners and a wildcard entry, Alexandra Ravenhall from RMIT University took out the 2026 PSA Viatrix Pharmacy Student of the Year competition (PSOTY).

Sophia Watson from Curtin University was awarded the People's Choice Award, voted for by PSA26 delegates who attended the grand final on Fri afternoon at PSA26.

"These students represent a bright future for the profession, and they should all be proud of their achievements," Dr Amanda Cross, who was a member of the judging panel, said.

"Congratulations to Alexandra for her highly competitive performance and all the finalists for participating," she added.

PSA awards excellence

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) celebrated excellence in pharmacy through its annual awards, presented at PSA26 on Fri last week.

Dr Paul Tait (**pictured** centre) was awarded Pharmacist of the Year in recognition of his excellence in pharmacy practice research and his contribution to advancing pharmacy practice.

A visibly moved Tait told the audience when accepting the award, "When I was 17 I chose pharmacy - today, pharmacy chose me."

"Research and innovation in pharmacy practice have been my passion, but this milestone is truly a reflection of the dedicated collaborators, mentors, and colleagues I've had the privilege of working alongside," Tait said on LinkedIn.

The Early Career Pharmacist of the Year went to Pooja Sharma, who was recognised for delivering innovative pharmacist-led care models, improving access to medicines services for underserved communities, and demonstrating exceptional leadership early in her career.

Meanwhile, Carlene Smith was recognised for her extensive contribution to Australian pharmacy and her ongoing commitment to advancing the profession with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

PSA national president, Professor Mark Naunton, congratulated the awardees on their "well-deserved national recognition", and commended them for their ongoing

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dedication to the PSA and the broader pharmacy profession.

"As the name suggests, this year's recipients represent the very best of our profession, encompassing pharmacists across different stages of their careers and working across a range of practice settings," Professor Naunton said.

"On behalf of the PSA and the pharmacy profession, I commend Carlene, Paul, and Pooja for their excellent service and contributions."

The 2026 PSA MIMS Intern Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Tayler Holdman, from Merimbula NSW, for her outstanding commitment to patient care and contributions to advancing pharmacy practice during her intern year.

Holdman was recognised for her advocacy, particularly for vulnerable patients, as well as her dedication to improving health literacy through patient education and expanding access to healthcare services in regional NSW.

Western Australian pharmacist, Alistair Kasimi, was awarded the 2026 PSA Locummate Locum Pharmacist of the Year, for his outstanding contribution to patient care and workforce sustainability in regional communities. **KB**

New PBS listings

SEVERAL new medicines have been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 01 Aug, including the first and only chemo-free immunotherapy for lymphoma and a new treatment option for a rare brain cancer.

Independent biopharma company Specialised Therapeutics (ST) has announced the PBS listing of Minjuvi (tafasitamab), in combination with rituximab and lenalidomide for the treatment of adults with relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma (Grade 1-3a).

Minjuvi is a CD19-targeting immunotherapy that works within a patient's immune system to help find and eliminate malignant B-cells, and in combination with rituximab and lenalidomide delivers an immune-mediated approach to help control disease progression and support improved long-term patient outcomes.

Meanwhile, Servier Australia has welcomed the listing of Voranigo (vorasidenib) for eligible Australians living with Grade 2 IDH-mutant astrocytoma or oligodendroglioma.

The listing marks the first new treatment option in more than 20 years for the rare, incurable brain cancer, which is the most common malignant primary brain tumour in adults under 50 years of age.



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Chat to us at Pharmacy Forum!

Once-weekly HIV drug success

A MAJOR international clinical trial has found that a once-weekly oral treatment for HIV is as effective as one of the leading daily therapies currently used, potentially offering a more convenient option for people living with the virus.

The phase 3 trial evaluated a once-weekly tablet combining two antiretroviral medicines, islatravir and lenacapavir, and compared it with once-daily bicittegravir-emtricitabine-tenofovir alafenamide.

Over 600 adults across 106 clinical sites in 12 countries took part, all of whom had already achieved stable viral suppression through standard HIV treatment before joining the trial.

After 48 weeks, results showed that the weekly regimen was just as effective as daily therapy.

Side effects were minimal, with around 3% experiencing diarrhoea and fewer than 2% reporting fatigue.

The findings could help address challenges such as treatment fatigue and stigma associated with daily medication, while also avoiding the need for injectable HIV treatments.

The study was published in the *NEJM* and presented at the International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro last week.

Read the study [HERE](#).



The new faces of vaccination

TWO new vaccination ambassadors were introduced at PSA26, with Julianna Neill and Jemma Keay taking the baton from inaugural PSA Vaccination Ambassador Anna Theophilos.

THE appointments of Neill and Keay recognise their leadership and commitment to advancing pharmacist-led immunisation services across the country.

Neill, who hails from the Sunshine Coast, has worked in community pharmacy and aged care, and was among Australia's first pharmacist vaccinators, while Keay is a hospital pharmacist at Perth Children's Hospital and has played a key role in expanding immunisation services within acute and outpatient paediatric care.

Reflecting on her time as PSA's first vaccination ambassador, Theophilos (**pictured**) said the role had been "driven by a belief in the untapped potential of pharmacists to improve vaccination access across Australia".

"When I accepted the role as PSA's inaugural Vaccination Ambassador, I knew pharmacists were one of the most underutilised parts of Australia's healthcare infrastructure," Theophilos said.

"We have the workforce, we have the trust, we have the reach, and Australians walk through pharmacy doors every day.

"My mission was to talk to anyone and everyone about how pharmacy is the cornerstone of vaccination access in Australia, but just as importantly, to ignite belief within our own profession and build confidence in the impact pharmacists can have," she continued.

"Over the past year, I've had the



privilege of seeing our profession through many different lenses, and I am more convinced today than ever of the incredible capability and capacity of pharmacists to improve the health of Australians."

Theophilos spoke of the two new ambassadors' passion for vaccination, and said she "couldn't be more excited" to introduce them.

"I have every confidence they will continue to elevate the conversations around vaccination, champion the role of pharmacists, and inspire even more progress in the year ahead," she concluded.

The PSA Vaccination Ambassador Program is supported by GSK, Pfizer and Sanofi. KB

PSA and Australian Prescriber ink deal

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and *Australian Prescriber* have announced a new partnership that will give pharmacists access to accredited continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities through selected *Australian Prescriber* articles.

The collaboration combines PSA's commitment to professional development with *Australian Prescriber's* trusted, independent, and peer-reviewed clinical content, helping pharmacists stay current and practice-ready.

"This partnership is another example of how PSA is working to support pharmacists across all practice settings, at every career stage, ensuring they have access to trusted learning that is practical, accessible and relevant to everyday practice," PSA national president Mark Naunton said.

Eligible articles will be clearly identified with a PSA-accredited CPD logo, making activities easy to find, complete and track.

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Dispensary Corner

HEALTH Tracking company Oura has reported that 16 May 2026 was the most stressful day for Americans over the past 12 months, based on statistics obtained from its Oura rings.

With a paid subscription, ring-users have their stress measured through metrics such as heart rate, heart rate variability and body temperature.

What it terms 'stress' isn't necessarily a bad thing - the rings record physiological stress, and the body interprets feelings of both excitement and emotional stress as virtually the same.

While nothing major occurred nationwide, 16 May was the day of the Long Island Rail Road strike in New York City, with over 300,000 people affected.

For New Yorkers, the second-most stressful day was 13 Jun, which was game five of the NBA Finals, in which the New York Knicks won its first championship since 1973.

Statistics from Oura also revealed high levels of stress associated with major holidays, including Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

It was also found that the most stressful days usually occurred on Saturday, due to what Oura's SVP of science Shyamal Patel believes is a result of a disruption in routine.

"Even if the day feels fun or relaxing, weekends often disrupt routine with spikes in socialising, travelling, drinking and less sleep," Patel told the *New York Post*.

Iron levels awareness drive

CHEMIST Warehouse put the 'drive' into public health drive last week, as a car covered in the word PRICK was seen travelling through the Sydney CBD and Bondi during peakhour traffic.

Hosted by *Still Not Straight* podcast personality Shannen Jai Peroomal (**pictured**), the activation saw passers-by stopped to answer simple questions such as: "When was your last prick?" and "Would you let a prick tell you something about your health?"

While responses were mixed, the message behind the campaign was that some pricks are not worth the energy, but this one - a fingerprick iron test - just might be.

The aim of the event was to encourage people to better understand their iron status through the new Ferro-grad Ferritin Rapid Test, an at-home test designed to screen ferritin levels using a simple finger prick.

The test delivers results in just five minutes, providing an easy way for consumers to take the first step



in checking their iron levels.

If screening results indicate low ferritin levels, consumers are advised to consult their GP or healthcare professional for further assessment.

"By encouraging Australians to recognise the signs of low iron and take action sooner, Ferro-grad and Chemist Warehouse hope to make conversations around iron levels more accessible, empowering more people to take the first step towards understanding their health," a spokesperson for Chemist Warehouse said.

The test is sold exclusively by Chemist Warehouse.

DID YOU KNOW?

That we regularly publish Health Professional only editions of *Pharmacy Daily*?

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **John Le**, pharmacist and head of growth at LIGHT.



Clinical services need structure

AS PHARMACISTS, we have always focused on providing the best possible care for our patients.

But as our scope expands, clinical services are becoming a bigger and more important part of the pharmacy business.

The challenge is that services cannot grow sustainably by simply adding more appointments to an already busy day.

Behind every vaccination, consultation or clinical service are bookings, documentation, patient records, claiming, follow-up and governance requirements.

When those processes sit across disconnected systems or rely on manual workarounds, they create more pressure for pharmacists and their teams.

For pharmacy owners, the opportunity is not just to offer more services - it is to build the structure that allows those services to be delivered consistently, efficiently and safely.

That is what turns clinical activity into a scalable part of the pharmacy business.

LIGHT brings the key parts of clinical service delivery together in one connected platform, helping pharmacists spend less time managing systems and more time delivering care to patients in their communities.

Find out more [HERE](#).

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