

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **Ramsay Pharmacy**.

## PDL and NAPSA renew MoU

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Defence Limited (PDL) and the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reinforcing their long-standing partnership to support pharmacy students in developing the skills, knowledge and professional awareness essential for a successful career.

The renewed MoU will see continued collaboration on student engagement initiatives, educational content, national events, and resources that support students as they progress from university into professional practice.

NAPSA president Mia Avram welcomed the partnership and the practical insights provided by experienced pharmacists.

"PDL has been a valued and longstanding supporter of pharmacy students across Australia," she said.

"We look forward to continuing our work with PDL to create opportunities that support the personal and professional development of pharmacy students."

## ED crisis prompts renewed calls to vaccinate

**RECORD** emergency department presentations in Sydney this week, driven partly by influenza cases, have prompted renewed calls from health professionals for Australians to get vaccinated.

Monday saw almost 10,000 ED presentations and 4,100 ambulance callouts, with the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) president Dr Michael Wright stating that Sydney's experience should serve as a warning for the rest of the country.

"Flu is not the only reason hospitals are under pressure, but when they are already operating at or near capacity, a sudden rise in preventable winter illness can tip them over the edge," Dr Wright said.

"Sydney has shown how quickly the pressure can build.

"Flu seasons are unpredictable, and we should not assume this year's lower numbers mean we are in the clear."

NSW Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Mario Barone, also urged people living in NSW to get vaccinated against respiratory viruses, reiterating that it is not too late.

## Ramsay delivers

**RAMSAY** Pharmacy Group held its 2026 conference in Brisbane under the theme 'Connected by Purpose: Delivering Better Care'.

Ramsay congratulated team members recognised with awards for excellence - see the winners on **page five**.



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"The winter flu season is putting considerable pressure on the health system," he noted.

"Flu and RSV cases continue to increase, which is incredibly worrying for vulnerable communities."

Barone said many patients may not realise the breadth of healthcare services available at their local community pharmacy, and encouraged them to 'think pharmacy first' for the treatment of everyday health conditions or minor injuries.

"The health system is under pressure, and it needs every single professional to step up and deliver care to the full extent of their training, skills and experience," Barone said.

"Working together we can deliver the best outcomes for our patients and reduce pressure on the health system."

**MEANWHILE** Asthma Australia noted that the crisis is exposing a national pattern, and serves as "a stark reminder of the gap between reactive hospital care and the preventive support that keeps people with chronic respiratory conditions out of hospital in the first place".

In 2023-24, asthma was the primary cause of around 32,000 hospitalisations nationally, of which up to 90% were estimated to be potentially avoidable with better asthma management in the community.

Respiratory specialist Professor John Blakey, Asthma Australia's

medical advisor, said winter pressure on hospitals should prompt a renewed focus on keeping people well at home, not just managing them once they arrive at the ED.

"Every winter we see the same pattern, emergency departments pushed to breaking point," Professor Blakey said.

"However, many of these conditions don't need to end in a hospital visit if people are getting the right support."

Professor Blakey highlighted that asthma is the best example of the issue, noting that the overwhelming majority of emergency attendances are preventable with appropriate treatment and planning before a crisis hits.

"If we want a different outcome next winter and the winter after, we need to invest in keeping people out of hospital in a co-ordinated systematic way as other countries have done," he said.

The organisation is calling on State and Federal Governments to strengthen investment in community-based asthma education and self-management support. **KB**

## Health Services

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### Melanoma cases forecast to rise

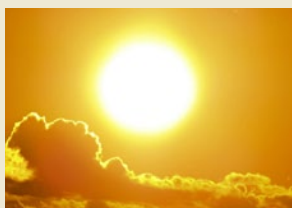
**MELANOMA** cases in Australia are expected to reach 21,000 in 2035, according to forecasts from leading intelligence and productivity platform GlobalData, up from around 16,800 in 2025.

The US is expected to have 130,000 cases diagnosed, with 14,000 in Canada and 88,000 in Europe, reflecting a global annual rise of 1.47%.

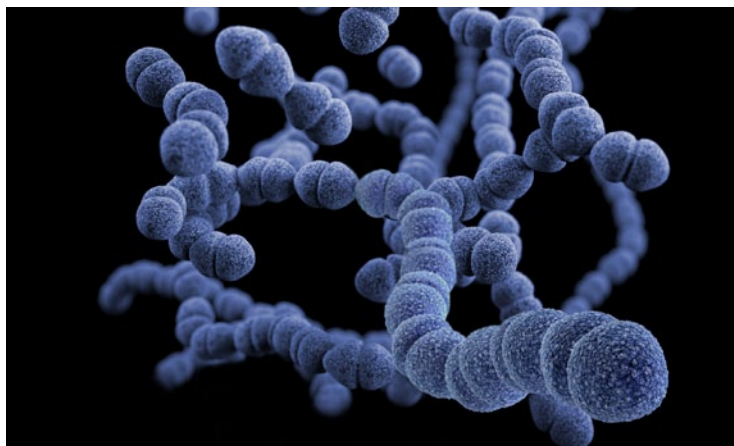
GlobalData epidemiologists noted that Australia had a markedly higher incidence of melanoma per head of population, likely due to a combination of high-risk factors that increase both the exposure and susceptibility to UV radiation.

"The discrepancy between incidence rates of melanoma in Australia and those in all other markets may be explained by a combination of its location in the Southern Hemisphere, its proximity to the equator, and a considerable number of its population with fair skin," GlobalData epidemiologist Robyn Jones explained.

The good news was that cases were most frequently diagnosed early, at stage 1, which Jones attributed to the success of public health protection efforts aimed at increasing awareness of how melanoma presents.



### *S. pneumoniae* AMR stable



**AN ANALYSIS** of data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to penicillin, macrolides and tetracycline antibiotics in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* over the last 10 years has found that resistance rates have remained relatively stable, according to a recently published report by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The World Health Organization (WHO) classified *S. pneumoniae* as a priority pathogen in 2024 due to the emergence of macrolide-resistant strains, and it collects and reports on data from more than 100 countries, including Australia.

Resistance to macrolides was the most common in *S. pneumoniae* across all specimen types, at an overall average of 23%, followed closely by resistance to tetracyclines.

Penicillin resistance was less than 5% across all specimen types, while resistance to ceftriaxone/cefotaxime was the lowest at less than 1%.

The Commission noted that high and rising rates of resistance to macrolides and tetracyclines reduce the effectiveness of empirical monotherapy when *S. pneumoniae* is the causative pathogen, increasing

the risk of treatment failure.

Meanwhile, growing antimicrobial resistance in *S. pneumoniae* may also restrict available treatment options, potentially increasing reliance on broader-spectrum agents such as fluoroquinolones and carbapenems.

However, the Commission warned that greater use of these antibiotics may contribute to AMR development in other bacterial species, not just pneumococcus.

"Strategies to prevent and control the occurrence of *S. pneumoniae* infections and development of AMR must include prevention through vaccination, ongoing infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programs, surveillance and monitoring programs, and early detection of clinical disease, especially for vulnerable populations," the report concluded.

"The Commission will continue to work with developers of antimicrobial prescribing guidelines, including Therapeutic Guidelines and other expert groups, to ensure they are evidence-based and informed by current Australian AMR data," it added.

Access the report [HERE](#). KB

### MenB vax lowers gonorrhoea risk

**RESEARCH** led by Adelaide University has found that the meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine could also provide protection against gonorrhoea.

The study, which was conducted in partnership with NT Health, found that two doses of the 4CMenB vaccine were associated with a 38% lower risk of gonorrhoea notifications in young people aged 14 to 22 years in the Northern Territory.

Territorians aged 14-19 are offered the vaccine for free, and researchers analysed immunisation and notification data from over 30,000 adolescents and young people.

The researchers speculated the dual benefit may be due to the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease and gonorrhoea being closely related, with the vaccine triggering an immune response to help the body recognise and prevent both infections.

"This study adds to growing evidence that the MenB vaccine may offer modest protection against gonorrhoea when provided to young people, in addition to its established role in preventing invasive meningococcal B disease," said principal investigator Professor Helen Marshall from Adelaide University.

The team cautioned that the gonorrhoea analysis was observational, with information on some potentially important factors such as sexual behaviour, healthcare engagement and testing frequency not available.

Read the paper [HERE](#).



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## Editor's Choice: Next-generation silicone scar care

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## TBN founder to lead



**TOTAL** Beauty Network (TBN), the Australian-owned company behind Designer Brands, Colour by DB, Raww and Inika Organic, has announced that founder Tony Rechtman (**pictured**) has returned in the role of chief executive officer, succeeding Liz Webster, until a permanent replacement can be found.

The change comes as leading pharmacy cosmetic label Designer Brands (DB) prepares for its 20th anniversary in Sep.

The milestone will present a sales opportunity for pharmacy partners, with a limited-edition anniversary range and a major consumer campaign designed to bring more shoppers into store, giving DB consumers a chance to share in a \$20k prize pool.

"I'm looking forward to working closely with the team again, and I want to thank Liz for everything she's brought to TBN - we wish her all the best," Rechtman said.

"We're walking into a big year: Designer Brands turns 20, and Inika Organic keeps adding to its global award cabinet.

"My focus is backing our brands and our pharmacy and retail partners through it, while we run a considered search for our next permanent CEO."

## Continence comfort

**AUSTRALIAN** brand Svelte has launched a new breathable pull-up continence garment designed for people managing incontinence across different life stages, including postpartum recovery, menopause, disability, chronic illness and active ageing.

The underwear-style continence garment is designed for mobile and semi-mobile adults managing moderate urinary incontinence, and is now available to stock in pharmacies - for details, contact [info@getsvelte.com.au](mailto:info@getsvelte.com.au).



## Dual-action wrinkle reduction in a pen



**OLAY** has released a new precision serum designed to reduce the appearance of permanent wrinkles in areas commonly

treated by neurotoxin injections.

Informally known as the 'Olay Wrinkle Pen', the Olay Regenerist Retinol24 Overnight Wrinkle Concentrate (RRP \$59.99) is clinically proven to reduce persistent wrinkles visible at rest.

It features a dual-action formula of 0.35% retinoids to resurface the skin and signal peptides to plump from within.

Designed with a targeted, non-invasive precision tip, it addresses five key areas: forehead lines, under-eye, crow's feet, smile lines, and cheek creases.

In consumer testing, 97% of users reported seeing a visible reduction in permanent wrinkles by day 28.

Part of Australia's leading retinol range, it is now available in pharmacies nationwide.

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## Dispensary Corner

**ADVICE** - or more likely remonstrations - to "sit up straight" as kids and teenagers could actually have had a positive benefit on cognitive health and wellbeing, recent research has suggested.

A team from McGill University in Canada found that participants who completed a task while sitting up straight reported more positive feelings and performed better during a task involving risk and reward than those who slouched.

To overcome criticisms of earlier "power pose" studies, the researchers cleverly manipulated the task setup to influence how the participants sat without them being aware of it.

People in the upright group generally took greater risks and earned larger rewards over the course of the task, but the risk-taking was effective rather than simply reckless.

The upright group also reported significantly stronger feelings of pride, which is often associated with a more positive mood.

## Multi-store leaders gather

**LEADING** pharmacy industry figures, multi-store owners, and key decision-makers gathered at Pier One on Sydney Harbour last week for the third annual Sydney leg of the State of the Nation Pharmacy Series (SOTN).

The invitation-only event was designed to address the key trends, regulatory shifts, and commercial opportunities shaping the future of Australian pharmacy.

Co-hosted by Yield Advisory, Allfin, Lease1, and Pharmacy Solutions, the event was emceed by Mario Barone and Catherine Bronger from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW Branch), who guided guests through a day of high-level insights, dynamic discussions and networking.

"The energy in the room at Pier One was remarkable," said Lachlan Ballinger, managing director at Yield Advisory.

"Bringing together such a high calibre of industry leaders allows us to have the vital conversations that will shape the commercial and operational future of community pharmacy in New South Wales and beyond," he enthused.

The 2026 State of the Nation Series spans Australia's major commercial hubs, with events to be



held in Melbourne on 12 Aug and Perth on 11 Nov.

Among the partners this year is Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS), with the SOTN organisers pointing to the series' commitment to "supporting and unifying the broader pharmacy community".

"State of the Nation has quickly become an essential fixture on the industry calendar," said Mark Churchill of Allfin.

"It provides multi-store owners and decision-makers with a rare, dedicated space to collaborate, share market intelligence, and gain a clearer strategic vision for what lies ahead." **KB**

**Pictured:** Mike Hadaway, Pharmacy Solutions; Lachlan Ballinger, Yield Advisory; Mario Barone; Catherine Bronger; Mark Churchill, Allfin; and Phil Chapman, Lease 1.

## BreastScreen funds fall short

**THE** Federal Government has announced an investment of \$1.3 million to strengthen BreastScreen Australia, to help more women detect breast cancer early and support the national screening program in keeping pace as new technology and research emerges.

"We want more women to benefit from breast screening, regardless of where they live, their cultural background or their circumstances," Assistant Minister for Women Rebecca White said.

"By working together with states and territories, we're ensuring BreastScreen Australia continues to deliver world-class screening services and embraces new research and technology that can further improve outcomes for women."

However, Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) said the funding falls short of what is needed, with the government's own modelling showing reforming BreastScreen Australia could cost up to \$2 billion over the next decade.



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Ramsay Pharmacy™

# CONNECTED BY PURPOSE: *Delivering better care* 2026 CONFERENCE



**Ramsay Pharmacy Group gathered in Brisbane for their 2026 conference themed 'Connected by Purpose: Delivering Better Care'.**

The event brought together over 250 leaders from across the pharmacy network and broader Ramsay Health Services team to celebrate our success, share insights, and explore innovative ways to deliver exceptional, integrated care for our customers and communities. The conference was a celebration of individual and collective achievements, honouring our award winners on the Ramsay Red Carpet, recognising team members who reached significant service milestones, and looking ahead to the exciting innovations and growth on the horizon for Ramsay Pharmacy in FY27.

## Congratulations to our award winners for 2026:

### Rising Star Award:

Brad Foale – Pharmacy Systems Trainer

### Kindness in Care Award:

Angela O'Riordan – Pindara Private Hospital Dispensary

### Mentor of the Year Award:

Rebecca Whittaker – Ramsay Pharmacy Shoalhaven

### Innovation & Sustainability Award:

Tahnee Coulter – Ramsay Pharmacy Elmore Vale & Warners Bay Private Hospital

### Better Care Award – Hospital Dispensary:

Beleura Private Hospital

### Better Care Award – Community Pharmacy:

Ramsay Pharmacy Cairns Medical Centre

### Better Together Award:

Ramsay Pharmacy Park Avenue

### Above & Beyond Award:

Chelsea Page – Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Dispensary

### Excellence in Leadership Award:

Mahsa Wessling – Ramsay Pharmacy Wishart



Thank you to our team members and sponsors for making the 2026 conference our best yet - connected by purpose, delivering better care.

