

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, plus a full page from **Dermal Therapy**.

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Hep B vax to stay

HEPATITIS Australia has confirmed that national recommendations around hepatitis B vaccination for infants remain unchanged in the wake of new policies introduced in the US yesterday by President Donald Trump (**PD** 11 Aug).

The US changes shifted the hepatitis B vaccine from being routinely recommended for all children to being given on the basis of individual risk or shared clinical decision-making.

Hepatitis Australia CEO Lucy Clynes noted that hepatitis was a major factor in liver disease and cancer, and Australians should continue to have confidence in the evidence-based advice underpinning Australia's vaccination program.

Routine vaccination at birth has been in place for 25 years, and has reduced hepatitis B cases in young people by 60%, Clynes pointed out.

Fly in to pharmacy before travel

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has highlighted the role of pharmacists in providing pre-travel healthcare as Australians head to warmer climes to escape the winter.

Whether it is vaccination, organising essential medicines and first-aid supplies, or managing a UTI before travel, community pharmacists may provide a convenient first point of care while ensuring patients are referred to a GP or hospital when necessary, Guild national president Professor Trent Twomey said.

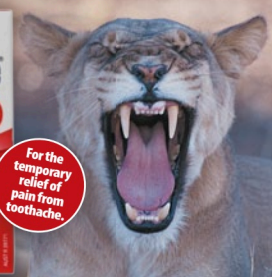
"Australians can spend months planning flights, accommodation and itineraries, yet medication is often left until the final hours," Professor Twomey said.

"With more pharmacists undertaking advanced training and

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more services becoming available, patients have another safe and accessible door into the healthcare system," he continued.

Professor Twomey said that a pre-travel visit to a community pharmacy could save time, money and considerable stress.

"Nobody wants to lose precious holiday time trying to find a doctor overseas for something that could have been managed before departure," he concluded.

MM2026 program reveals 'limitless possibilities'

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has today released the preliminary conference program for Medicines Management 2026 (MM2026), featuring more than 30 invited speakers, 10 interactive workshops, 78 contributed papers and more than 350 posters.

This year's iteration marks the event's 50th edition of shaping the future of pharmacy, with pharmacist MP Emma McBride to open proceedings on Fri 23 Oct at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The milestone event will be headlined by keynote speakers

Dr Gemma Munro, Barry Du Bois, and newly announced Royal Flying Doctor Pharmacist Elizabeth Doran, who will share the story of delivering pharmacy care in remote Australia as part of the event's final day.

Highlights include a look at AI medical scribes and the future of clinical practice, how pharmacists can better demonstrate the value of pharmacy services to health executives, the latest advances in antimicrobials, and how pharmacy can contribute to more environmentally and financially sustainable healthcare.

Find the program **HERE**.

Greg Hunt joins DBG board

DBG Health has appointed former Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Prof Greg Hunt, to its Board as a non-executive director.

DBG Health founder and executive chairman Dennis Bastas welcomed him to the board and said his experience across healthcare policy, medicines access and innovation would support the company's next phase of growth and national healthcare contribution.

"As Australia continues to face increasing pressure on medicine affordability, supply chain resilience and access to healthcare innovation, Greg's insight and experience will be enormously valuable to our Board and leadership team," Bastas said.

Prof Hunt said DBG Health's integrated approach across medicines supply, affordability and healthcare innovation made the opportunity particularly compelling.

"The healthcare sector is entering a significant period of transformation, particularly across precision medicine, genomics and preventative healthcare, and DBG Health is exceptionally well positioned for that future," he said.

"I look forward to supporting the company as it continues its next phase of growth and healthcare leadership."



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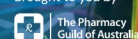
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Sleep services launched at Weipa

NORTHPHARM Weipa Pharmacy is helping close a critical healthcare gap in Cape York by providing comprehensive sleep services, saving residents the time and cost of travelling out of town for testing and treatment.

The pharmacy stocks sleep therapy products such as CPAP machines, masks and filters, while members of the Northpharm team have been trained to provide level three sleep study services.

Northpharm Weipa retail manager Tayla Hay (pictured right, with pharmacist-in-charge Jamie Sutton) said the service was implemented in response to growing demand from local industries such as mining.

"For many people working in mining and anyone that operates heavy machinery, sleep assessments are a requirement before they can start work, so we've already seen strong demand from them since launching the service," she said.



Hay explained that pharmacists conduct an initial one-hour consultation in-store, then provide patients with a testing device to take home and wear overnight.

"The results are then reviewed by a sleep clinician, who provides recommendations for any treatment needed, including the most suitable machine and mask if a sleep disorder is diagnosed," Hay said.

The new sleep services are also expected to benefit local First Nations people, with research showing sleep apnoea is twice as common among this group as it is among non-Indigenous Australians.

Call for better allergy data as update released

ALLERGY experts have called for inclusion of allergic disease in future national data collections to provide better evidence that will help inform policy, planning and care for those affected.

The National Allergy Council (NAC) and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) will gather today at Parliament House in Canberra with leading clinicians, researchers, consumer advocates, parliamentarians and people with lived experience to highlight national progress in allergy research, prevention, care, education and support, as well as future directions.

The event will also launch Australia's first Parliamentary Friends of Allergy group and release *Allergy Update 2026*, which outlines national achievements since 2022 and the next priorities for improving allergy prevention, care, education and research.

"Australia has made significant

progress in tackling allergic disease, and the next step is ensuring we have the national data needed to guide future policy and care," NAC CEO Dr Sandra Vale said.

"Despite around one in three Australians living with an allergic condition, the Census does not currently collect information on allergic disease."

Co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Allergy, Dr Mike Freeland MP, said allergic disease deserved the same attention in national data collections as other chronic health conditions.

"Allergic disease is a growing chronic condition, and we need to progress towards capturing good data on allergic disease, just as we do for other chronic conditions, through national data collections such as the Australian Census and National Health Survey," Dr Freeland said.

Allergy Update 2026 is **HERE**.

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Dispensary Corner

WITH original body proportions almost impossible to attain by mere mortals, Barbie and Ken have moved with the times and now look more like the rest of us, according to new Australian research.

Using the same methods as those used in a landmark Australian study 30 years ago, researchers measured today's Fashionista Barbie dolls, as well as the latest Ken doll, to determine how closely their body proportions match those of real adults.

The findings show that key body proportions, including waist-to-hip and chest-to-waist ratios, are now much closer to those seen in real populations, with Fashionista Curvy Barbie most closely matched to today's average woman.

The researchers welcomed the greater body diversity reflected in the new Barbie and Ken range, noting that for many children, they are an early and influential representation of what bodies of adults 'should' look like.

"Traditional Barbie and Ken dolls have always had unrealistic and statistically improbable body shapes," Assoc Prof Sara Grafenauer from UNSW Medicine & Health said.

"Our study found that Barbie and Ken's body proportions today have become markedly more realistic, with waist-to-hip and chest-to-waist measurements now falling within the normal range for key female body proportions, albeit still below the typical female averages," she noted.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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