

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Dapsone shortage and SSSI

LINK Medical Products has advised the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) that Dapsomed (dapsone) 25mg tablets will be in shortage until 31 Dec 2026 due to manufacturing issues.

An anti-infective medicine which also has anti-inflammatory effects, Dapsomed is used to treat dermatitis herpetiformis, leprosy and actinomycotic mycetoma, and is the only brand of 25mg strength of dapsone tablet registered in Australia.

Dapsomed 50mg tablets are expected to remain available during the shortage, and can be split in half to get a 25mg dose.

The TGA has made a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) that is active between 14 Aug 2026 and 31 Jan 2027, allowing a pharmacist to provide 50mg dapsone tablets in place of 25mg tablets without a new prescription - if considered appropriate for the patient.

Pharmacists are advised to use Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) leaflets to help explain the substitution to patients and to obtain their consent.

Patients with low health literacy or from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds may require adapted communication and additional support.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Measles immunity warning

GROUNDBREAKING research led by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has revealed that an estimated 1.7 million Australians, or 6.7% of the population, did not have sufficient immunity to measles in 2019.

In a world-first, the study combined national immunisation register data with multiple serosurveys - studies that test many blood samples to measure population immunity levels - to produce a detailed analysis of measles susceptibility across all age groups.

The study, which was published today in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, found overall measles immunity in Australia was 93.3%, meaning that a significant minority of people were unlikely to have sufficient protection against measles if exposed to the virus in 2019.

Experts have warned that these immunity gaps may now be wider due to a continued decline in childhood vaccination coverage since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The findings come as global measles outbreaks increase and imported cases continue to reach Australia, with national measles notifications rising from single figures in 2022 to 181 in 2025, and 113 cases recorded so far in 2026.

"Our study represents the most comprehensive national estimate currently possible using Australia's most recent serological data and whole-of-population immunisation record data," lead author Zoe Croker, an epidemiologist and data analyst at NCIRS, said.

"Australia remains a measles elimination success story, but our findings show we're closer to the minimum level of population

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protection needed to prevent outbreaks than many people might expect," Croker warned, referring to the World Health Organization (WHO) target range of 93-95% immunity needed for herd protection.

Susceptibility was highest among infants who were too young to receive their full measles vaccination schedule, as well as Australians born from the late 1970s onwards.

"While we have maintained our measles elimination status since 2014, protection isn't shared evenly across the population, and the margin for error is relatively small," Croker explained.

The NCIRS is urging anyone born during or since 1966 who does not have documented evidence of two vaccine doses or immunity to get vaccinated, particularly those planning to travel overseas.

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

New ED for NAPSA board

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has elected Vanessa Menghan Li as an executive director in the role of International Relations Director for the 2026/27 term, following a Special General Meeting held yesterday.

Currently studying at the University of Queensland, Li will lead NAPSA's engagement with the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), supporting opportunities for Australian pharmacy students to connect with their peers globally.

"The Board is delighted to welcome Vanessa to the NAPSA team," president Mia Avram said.

"I look forward to working with Vanessa to build on NAPSA's existing global relationships and create new opportunities for our members," she added.

NAPSA has also elected 11 chairs for 2026/27, joining the board elected in Jul (*PD* 06 Jul), and thanked all who applied.

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Dispensary Corner

JETTING off to Türkiye for some form of affordable cosmetic surgery may save a buck or two, but can come at a high price, as a number of Australians have recently learned.

As part of a viral social media trend to 'get snatched', influencers have documented their surgery and recovery, filming themselves with bruised and swollen faces, bandages and other complications, highlighting the ups and downs of the experience.

While there are many success stories, not all are so lucky, and according to the president of the Australian Society for Plastic Surgeons Dr Brigid Corrigan, the doctors back home are left to pick up the pieces.

Doctors have treated permanently damaged nerves, dead skin, bleeding, wound infections, abnormal scarring and asymmetry that required revision surgery.

"We are really seeing the full spectrum of complications," Dr Corrigan told *Nine* media.

The peak body has started to collect data on botched procedures and complications in a national database, and is also tracking hospital admissions.

The society warned that prospective patients are being lured by holiday packages, providing five-star hotels and private airport transfers to allow doctors to squeeze in as many surgeries as possible within a short timeframe.

An estimated 15,000 Aussies travel overseas for cosmetic surgery annually.

New Ahpra First Nations lead

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has appointed Nicole McCartney (**pictured**) as the new national director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit (HSU), commencing the role today.

A proud Yorta Yorta woman living on Bunurong country in Victoria, McCartney is a respected leader with more than 20 years' experience in Aboriginal health.

With tertiary qualifications in science and significant experience working with State and Commonwealth governments, McCartney is highly skilled at navigating health policy and reform.

Prior to this appointment, McCartney served as the inaugural Chief Aboriginal Health Adviser in the Victorian Department of Health, spearheading the delivery of an Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Division that has focused on embedding self-determination and cultural safety in the Victorian health system.

Ahpra CEO Justin Untersteiner



welcomed McCartney's appointment and affirmed Ahpra's commitment to cultural safety and eliminating racism in healthcare.

"Ahpra is proud of the significant contribution the HSU has played and continues to make in the important work and commitment to culturally safe healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," he said.

"Discrimination and racism cause harm and stop people from accessing the health services they need," he continued.

"I look forward to working with Nicole, whose experience and advocacy work will have a profound impact on our important work to keep the public safe." KB

Safe to stop statins in later life: study

OLDER adults with no history of heart disease or stroke can stop taking statins without increasing their risk of death, according to a recent study from France.

The trial enrolled 1,160 adults aged 75 or older with no history of heart disease or stroke who were taking statins for primary prevention, and randomly assigned them to either stop or continue their statin medication.

After three years, 7.2% of adults in the statin discontinuation group had died, compared with 7.9% in the continuation group. There was no significant

difference in major cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes, between those who stopped statins and those who continued over the three years, although there was an increase in LDL cholesterol among the adults who stopped statins.

Measures of quality of life, both physical and mental, stayed the same for both groups.

The authors warned against simply stopping statins in later life, and said it should be an individualised, shared decision-making process between patient and doctor - read the study [HERE](#).



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 governance in the pharmacy

AS PHARMACY scope expands, clinical governance is becoming more important than ever.

For owners, governance should not be viewed simply as a compliance requirement - it is part of what gives you the confidence to grow services safely, consistently and sustainably.

As more pharmacists deliver vaccinations, prescribing, preventative health and other clinical services, owners need clear processes for documentation, quality, incident reporting, audit readiness and oversight.

Those foundations become even more important as services grow across different pharmacies, locations and patient groups.

Strong governance helps create consistency in how care is delivered, gives owners better visibility across their clinical operations and supports teams to practise with confidence.

LIGHT has governance built into the platform from the outset, helping pharmacies strengthen documentation, visibility and accountability as services expand.

For owners looking to grow, the right governance is not something that sits around the edges of clinical care - it is part of the infrastructure that makes sustainable growth possible.

Find out more [HERE](#).

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