

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Vax rates falling

ADULT pneumococcal vaccination rates are falling short of the mark in Asia-Pacific, according to new findings by the International Longevity Centre UK (ILC).

While 85% of infants have been vaccinated, less than half (44%) of older adults and only 20% of at-risk groups have had the pneumococcal vaccination, ILC's new APEC Pneumococcal Vaccination Atlas has shown.

People aged 70 and over accounted for 70% of pneumonia deaths in the region in 2023 - 407,000 deaths, up from 113,000 in 1980.

At-risk groups are disproportionately affected by out-of-pocket costs, with only four economies (Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), and Mexico) providing free vaccination to those with underlying health conditions, compared to nine for older adults, and 16 for infants.

ILC is now calling for governments across APEC to fully fund pneumococcal vaccination programs for all life course groups.

"There's no point in having amazing vaccines if we're not getting them into people's arms," David Sinclair, CEO of ILC, said.

Bupa calls for overhaul

PHARMACISTS could take on a greater role in coordinated chronic disease management and preventative care under health reforms proposed by Bupa.

Building a More Accessible, Modern and Sustainable Health System, a new discussion paper from the private health insurer, has set out a roadmap for a health system better equipped to address the chronic disease burden affecting 15.4 million Australians.

Launched at Parliament House in Canberra last week, the paper calls for Medicare to move towards blended funding models that focus on prevention, chronic disease management and coordinated care involving pharmacists, nurses, and allied health professionals.

Bupa's key recommendations include establishing a National Prevention Partnership Framework to help governments, providers and insurers invest in prevention, improve health outcomes and reduce pressure on hospitals.

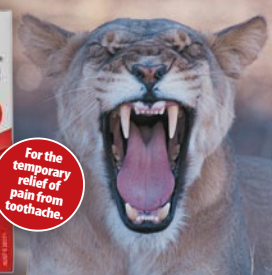
It calls on government to enable private health insurers to fund prevention and early intervention including health checks, screening, coaching and care coordination before conditions become serious, as well as to fast-track workforce reforms, including a national specialist workforce plan and expanded specialist training.

Bupa also recommended greater flexibility for insurers to fund mental health care outside hospitals, potentially avoiding 41,000 admissions and saving \$140 million a year.

Don't suffer the pain of toothache.

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.



Have your say

PUBLIC consultation on the rapid review of PBS medicines for relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis is now open via the government's Consultation Hub **HERE** until 01 Oct.



"We have one of the best health systems in the world, but it was designed for a different Australia and a different era of care," Bupa APAC CEO Nick Stone said.

"The next generation of healthcare will require bold, practical reform.

"Too often, the system is organised around health episodes, institutions and locations rather than the journeys, continuity of care and outcomes that people face," he added. *JM*

Dementia tool

ALZHEIMER'S Association has created a tool to help identify early signs of dementia - the Spatial Navigation and Memory questionnaire.

Flinders University conducted a study using it on 940 older adults, finding that it captured their perceived spatial navigation and memory function from their lifetime and within the past three months.

Research has shown that spatial navigation may emerge in the early stages of Alzheimer's, but is not often assessed in clinical settings.

LocumCo

Ready to Fill Your Next Shift?

Get Started in 3 Easy Steps

1. Tap to download the LocumCo Client App

 **LOCUMCO CLIENT APP**
(Click here to download)

 **LOCUMCO CLIENT APP**
(Click here to download)

2. Contact our team to receive your login details

3. Start posting jobs

02 93286300 or 1800 357 001 (Free Call) ✉ jobs@locumco.com.au 🌐 <https://locumco.com.au>

VITACEUTICALS

MagZorb Calm

Back in Stock. Targeted support for calm & relaxation.

Magnesium Glycinate + Ashwagandha KSM-66®
A targeted blend to support relaxation, nervous system function and the body's response to stress.



CALMS THE MIND



HELPS MANAGE STRESS



EASES NERVOUS TENSION



Available via Symbion, API & CH2

To take advantage of MagZorb range discounts, please contact your Alita representative on 1300 769 355 or sales@alitasales.com.au



Dispensary Corner

WE ALL know that regular physical activity can help protect against many health problems, including dementia, but a new study has found that the opposite may be true when it comes to your job.

Those with physically demanding occupations may be more at risk of cognitive decline later in life, according to research published in *The Lancet Public Health* journal.

Scientists from the University of Southern California analysed data from 74 studies involving more than 4.2 million participants aged 45 to 93 years old, followed them for around a decade and tracked diagnoses of dementia.

They found work that required long periods of standing, heavy lifting and strenuous physical activity was associated with a 20% higher dementia risk compared to those who were least active, while participants who engaged in physical activity during their leisure time had a 24% lower risk of dementia than their sedentary counterparts.

The researchers believed this is because labour-intensive jobs usually involve limited recovery time, longer hours, fewer opportunities for recreational exercise, and exposure to workplace hazards, including air and noise pollution.

"When it comes to protecting the brain, the context of physical activity may matter just as much as movement itself," Professor David Raichlen, an expert in biological sciences, and study co-author said.

Galbraith given fellowship



THE Australian Pharmacy Council's (APC) deputy chair and board director, Professor Kirstie Galbraith (**pictured**), has been appointed as a Monash University 70th anniversary fellow.

The honour recognises Professor Galbraith's significant contributions to research, education, enterprise and commercialisation.

Professor Galbraith has served on the APC Board since 2021 and was appointed deputy chair in 2024.

She is also a member of APC's People and Culture Committee and has made significant contributions to several APC governance and stakeholder consultation initiatives, helping to shape the future of pharmacy education, accreditation

and workforce development.

The APC congratulated Professor Galbraith on the fellowship, with the body's chair, Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson, saying the appointment reflected the depth of expertise and leadership she brings to both the pharmacy profession and the higher education sector.

"Professor Galbraith brings exceptional insight, strategic leadership and a deep commitment to advancing pharmacy education and professional practice," Professor Roberts-Thomson said.

"Her contributions have played an important role in supporting APC's work to assure quality and strengthen the future pharmacy workforce," she added. *JM*

Australia's most prevalent cancer

AROUND half a million Australians have had at least one common non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) removed, making it three times as common as all other cancers combined, revealed new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

In 2021, around 15,000 people were diagnosed with melanoma and around 154,000 people were diagnosed with all other types of cancer combined.

Australians most at risk of NMSC are those who work extensively outdoors, have lighter skin tones, live in regional and remote areas, and have a family history of NMSC.

"[NMSC] is Australia's most common cancer by a significant margin, affecting half a million people every year and costing our health system close to \$2 billion annually," said Cancer Council's Sally Blane.



Weekly Comment

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



Beyond the patient appointment

AS PHARMACISTS, we know the patient journey does not end when the consultation does.

As our clinical role expands, there is a real opportunity for pharmacy to build strong, ongoing relationships with patients before, during and after care.

For pharmacy owners, that means thinking beyond the appointment itself. Reminders, follow-up, script ordering and digital communication can all help patients stay connected to their pharmacy and engaged in their care. Importantly, every patient interaction is different.

LIGHT can be tailored to support the individual customer journey, helping pharmacies respond to different needs across bookings, consultations, follow-up, reminders and script management through Scripty. Rather than relying on disconnected systems, LIGHT helps bring clinical services and patient engagement together in one connected platform.

For patients, that can mean greater convenience, continuity and a personalised experience, and for pharmacies, it creates more opportunities to build stronger relationships and stay connected between visits.

As pharmacy becomes an increasingly important part of healthcare, that ongoing connection matters.

Find out more [HERE](#).

Advertorial content