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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Careline Australia**.

Trusted choice

CARELINE Australia has a range of Australian-made skincare products featuring natural ingredients such as lanolin, emu oil and lavender. See **page three** for details.

New diphtheria guidelines

THE Australian Centre for Disease Control has released a range of national diphtheria guidelines in an effort to offer a consistent approach to case management, contact tracing, infection control, vaccination and outbreak response.

The contagious bacterial infection was officially declared a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance on 22 May, with case numbers surpassing 500 since the start of the year.

While notifications continue to decline since the peak between May and Jun, experts warn that case numbers could be higher than currently recorded due to low testing.

Higher-risk regions include the NT, the Kimberley, Goldfields, Pilbara and Midwest regions in WA and the far northwest of SA - click **HERE** for the guidelines.

Aussies recognised by FIP

SYDNEY Pharmacy School academic Professor Parisa Aslani has been honoured by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) in an awards ceremony held at the opening of the 84th FIP World Congress in Montreal on the weekend.

Professor Aslani (**pictured**) was presented with the Exceptional Pharmaceutical Education Award, which recognises an educator "who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the diverse field of pharmacy education, and contributions which have had impacts on policy, practice and research related to education at an international level".

Professor Aslani told *Pharmacy Daily* she was honoured to receive the recognition, which was "both humbling and incredibly meaningful".

"This award holds special significance because it recognises a passion that has guided much of my professional life: educating and empowering the next generation of pharmacists, as well as educating and empowering patients through my research," she said in her acceptance speech to delegates.

"Pharmacy education is about much more than transferring knowledge - it is about inspiring curiosity, fostering critical thinking, and preparing future pharmacists to make a positive impact on patient care and the health of our communities."

Other Australians recognised were John Jackson, Dr Veronika Seda and Professor Michael Ward, who were awarded FIP fellowships,



given to distinguished members of the profession who demonstrate strong leadership internationally and who have served FIP.

In opening the World Congress under the theme 'One health, one pharmacy - bridging science, practice and education', FIP president Paul Sinclair said, "When we bridge science, practice and education, not only do we become one pharmacy and one health, we also unite as one FIP."

Sinclair reflected on a year of advocacy, collaboration and progress, highlighting FIP's growing contribution to global health discussions - particularly through its close engagement with the World Health Organization - and its work to strengthen the voice of pharmacists, pharmacy educators and pharmaceutical scientists.

"The work of the FIP Board, sectors, constituencies, officers, volunteers and team members is not purely to tick boxes and show output," he said.

"It is about reaffirming pharmacists' irreplaceable and invaluable role in the global health care system." *KB*

Keytruda PBS listing expanded

THE Federal Government has announced that the cost of cancer treatment Keytruda (pembrolizumab, MSD) will be subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for an additional 10,000 Australians whose cancer cannot be surgically removed and is sensitive to immunotherapy.

Access to Keytruda through the PBS was previously dependent on separate assessments for each cancer indication, but as of 01 Sep, clinicians will be able to determine whether the treatment is suitable or not for patients.

"This is an important moment that may expand immunotherapy access for thousands of Australians and give doctors the discretion to make appropriate evidence-based treatment decisions," said Associate Professor Sumitra Ananda, medical oncologist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Epworth HealthCare.

"Today's announcement will help make this immunotherapy treatment option more affordable and potentially remove the financial burden that patients with advanced or metastatic cancer may face."

Keytruda is TGA approved for 29 advanced and metastatic indications, of which only 13 were previously PBS-funded.



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Dispensary Corner

SOUTH Korea's pharmacies are emerging as a major tourist spending hotspot as visitors flock to stock up on K-beauty and skincare products, according to a report in *Seoul Economic Daily*.

New data cited in the report revealed that medical spending by foreign visitors to South Korea has exceeded ₩200 billion (A\$204.6 million) for a fifth consecutive month in Jul, with pharmacies ranking first by transaction count.

From Jul 2025 to Jun this year, pharmacy transactions climbed from around 175,000 to approximately 412,000, marking a 2.4-fold increase.

BC Card data on foreign visitors' card spending in the first half of the year also showed pharmacy payments surging 1,177% compared to the previous year.

Experts have attributed the growth to the popularity of K-beauty, which has taken social media by storm globally - so much so, that more and more dermocosmetics-focused pharmacies are opening across Seoul's tourist hubs, including Gangnam and Hongdae.

"Pharmacies are popular as a K-beauty shopping destination because active ingredient concentrations are high and safety is assured," an industry official said.

"It is the result of a perception spreading through social media that the secret to Korean women's skin care lies not in cosmetics but in the neighbourhood pharmacy."

Boosting asthma awareness

THE National Asthma Council (NAC) is encouraging pharmacists to educate their patients about going beyond just treating the symptoms of asthma.

The message comes ahead of National Asthma Week, starting tomorrow, which coincides with the start of peak pollen season.

Now is the ideal time to remind patients that "asthma management isn't just about relieving symptoms, it's about treating what's causing them", said Dr Brett Montgomery, chair of the NAC Guidelines Committee.

Asthma guidelines changed last year and the latest update of the National Asthma Council's Australian Asthma Handbook recommends against the use of blue puffer as the only means of managing asthma (*PD* 17 Sep 2025).

"No adult or adolescent should be using short-acting beta2 agonists alone (SABA-only treatment) and the emphasis is now on embedding anti-inflammatory reliever (AIR-only) and maintenance-and-reliever therapy (MART) approaches as standard care for adults and adolescents," Dr



Montgomery explained.

He said it is important for health professionals to also communicate to patients that if they are using a blue puffer more than two days a week on average, it could be a sign that their asthma is not well controlled.

"Overuse of SABA increases the risk of asthma exacerbations, and using 12 or more SABA canisters per year is associated with a significantly increased risk of asthma-related death," he said.

"As health professionals, we need to recognise that patients may want to hold onto their SABAs, but it is up to us to ensure they understand the danger of a treatment that doesn't deal with the underlying inflammation," he added.

National Asthma Week runs from 01-07 Sep - pharmacists can help get the message across with NAC's new suite of resources **HERE**. *JM*

Statins reduce cardiac events in over 70s

MONASH University research presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress 2026 has revealed that statins can reduce heart attack and stroke by 30% in people aged over 70 years with no history of cardiovascular disease.

While commonly prescribed to manage high cholesterol in people up to 75 years, until now it was unclear whether statins were effective in older people.

The ten-year trial analysed

the cardiovascular outcomes of almost 10,000 participants who took either a statin or a placebo.

Lead researcher Adjunct Professor Sophia Zoungas, from the Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said the findings will change the way clinicians manage cardiovascular risk in older people, and she hoped to see guidelines updated accordingly.

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**.



Connected care needs connected systems

AS PHARMACY takes a broader role in patient care, our systems need to evolve with us.

Pharmacists are increasingly working across vaccinations, prescribing, preventative health and other clinical services, while also connecting with the wider health system.

This makes integration more important than ever.

For pharmacy owners, the challenge is not simply having more digital tools. It is making sure those tools connect with the infrastructure, records and claiming pathways teams rely on every day.

LIGHT is built to support that connected environment, linking pharmacy workflows with national digital health infrastructure including AIR, Healthcare Identifiers, My Health Record, Active Script List and eRx.

This connectivity helps pharmacists access the information they need, supports stronger clinical decision-making and reduces the friction of working across disconnected systems, while creating a clearer picture of each patient's care.

As pharmacy becomes more integrated into the broader healthcare system, having the right connections in place will be essential to delivering care safely, efficiently and with confidence.

Find out more **HERE**.

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