

4 ways to help build strong bones



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of industry news, plus a full page from **Brands Australia**.

Single-use is back

1 SHOT single-use cameras are a simple add-on category for pharmacy businesses, offering good margins.

Learn more on **page three**.

Lecanemab four-year data released

EISA has presented new clinical data regarding treatment with lecanemab (Leqembi) amyloid-lowering therapy in adult patients with early Alzheimer's disease, demonstrating continued benefits over 48 months.

Participants taking lecanemab had delayed disease progression by 9.8 months compared to those in the untreated control group, and they were 32% less likely to have progressed to the next stage of the disease.

The company stated that the findings add to the growing evidence base demonstrating the potential benefits of lecanemab for eligible patients.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the medicine's registration in Sep last year (**PD** 26 Sep 2025), a move welcomed by dementia advocates.

IPA gears up for annual conference

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia (IPA) is set to host its second annual Retail Excellence Conference from Sun 08 Feb to Tue 10 Feb 2026 in Melbourne.

The event aims to help retail managers and assistants to strengthen how their pharmacy serves, leads, and supports the local community.

The program will feature insights from industry and behavioural experts, covering themes such as bridging the gap between what is 'expected' and what is 'excellent', hyperlocal engagement, community-led care and optimising product ranges.

To ensure learnings translate into meaningful change at store level, delegates will leave with a



structured and personalised 90-day implementation plan, designed to put new processes into practice in their own pharmacies.

Awards for standout performers within the IPA network will also be presented at the gala and awards dinner on 09 Feb.

"Retail excellence is no longer a 'nice to have' - it's the foundation for strong commercial performance and meaningful community care," said IPA managing director Steve

Kastrinakis (pictured).

"When our members execute well at a local level, it lifts the whole network and strengthens the role of community pharmacy across Australia," he added.

Learn more and register **HERE**. **KB**

PBAC endorses new COVID-19 vaccine

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has supported a platform recommendation for current and future Pfizer Cominarty COVID vaccines to be NIP-listed after TGA approval.

The vaccine is recommended for use in adults aged 75 years or more (two doses per year); adults aged 65-74 years (one dose per year); adults aged 18-64 years with severe immunocompromise (one dose per year); and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 50-74 years (one dose per year).

During its Dec meeting, PBAC also recommended the PBS listing of seladelpar for the

treatment of primary biliary cholangitis (PBC).

The committee noted the medication was found to be as effective as obeticholic acid (OCA) at reducing markers of liver damage and improving cholestasis, with similar safety, while also improving itching symptoms and promoting lower rates of PBC-related pruritus than patients treated with OCA.

PBAC also recommended amending the PBS listing for hydroxychloroquine sulfate 200mg tablets - which are commonly prescribed for autoimmune conditions - to increase the maximum number of repeats per prescription from one to three.

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Dispensary Corner

MOVE over quinoa and kale, kiwi fruits are set to take over as the next trending superfood.

The green fruit offers a surprising array of benefits, nutritionist and founder of the Rhitrition Clinic, Rhiannon Lambert, told the *Daily Mail*.

"They're rich in fibre, vitamin C, potassium and plant compounds known as polyphenols - all of which play supportive roles in overall health when included as part of a balanced diet," Lambert said.

"Kiwis are one of the most underrated fruits out there."

The humble kiwi is known to help digestion and improve sleep length and quality, but perhaps one of the most unexpected benefits of the humble kiwi is its mood-boosting ability.

Research published in the *British Journal of Nutrition* showed that kiwi fruits improved vitality and mood within four days, with the effect of the boost peaking at around 14-16 days, thanks to its high level of vitamin C.

In comparison, vitamin C supplements were shown to only marginally improve mood until day 12.

And, if you can stomach the fuzzy texture, leaving the skin on boosts the kiwi's fibre content by around 50%, while also increasing vitamin E and folate by 32% and 34%, respectively, compared with eating the flesh alone.



CPS elects new president

COUNCIL of Pharmacy Schools Australia and New Zealand (CPS) members have elected Associate Professor Ramesh Walpola (**pictured**) as its new president after Professor Joseph Tucci stood down late in 2025.

A highly regarded researcher and educator, Assoc Prof Walpola is a pharmacist, certified health manager and the pharmacy academic lead at the School of Health Sciences at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney.

He is currently leading the implementation of the new pharmacy program at UNSW Sydney.

"I thank the CPS Councillors for the opportunity to serve as president at such a pivotal time for pharmacy education and the wider profession," Assoc Prof Walpola said.

"I also extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Tucci for his leadership of CPS in 2025.

"His contributions to pharmacy higher education over many years have left a meaningful and lasting impact on the profession."

CPS vice-president Professor Andrew McLachlan and the CPS councillors were pleased to have an academic pharmacist and leader with Associate Professor Walpola's education and research experience to take on the role of president.

"Ramesh is well placed to lead CPS over the next 12 months, with a strong track record of working closely with pharmacy stakeholders and partners," Prof McLachlan said.

The CPS thanked Prof Tucci for his commitment, service and leadership during his year as president.

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) congratulated Assoc Prof Walpola on his election, noting he has been a contributor to the work of APC as an accreditation assessor, assisting APC with the assessment



of pharmacy programs.

"Ramesh is a collaborative and passionate pharmacy educator and leader, and we look forward to working closely with him in this new role," APC CEO Bronwyn Clark said.

APC also acknowledged and thanked Professor Tucci for his leadership and service during his term as CPS president, pointing out that his commitment to advancing pharmacy education has been valued across the profession. *KB*

LocumCo discount for Guild members

GOLD Cross has announced a new partnership with LocumCo, offering discounted locum rates to Pharmacy Guild of Australia members who undertake scope-of-practice education.

The aim is to reduce staffing pressures during training as pharmacy teams to expand their clinical capabilities.

"As we work together to implement full scope of practice, having the right team is more important than ever," said LocumCo founder Sue Muller.

"Backed by my 50 years as a pharmacist and LocumCo's 40 years in pharmacy recruitment, this partnership guarantees Guild members the high-quality locum cover and permanent recruitment support required to evolve their businesses confidently."

Learn more **HERE**.

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