

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Guild spends big on donations

THE Pharmacy Guild retained its status as the largest political donor from the health sector in the 2024/25 financial year, donating a total of \$600,170.

The sum is significantly larger the 2023-24 figure of around \$400,000, and was made up of 64 separate donations over the 12 months.

More than half (\$360,000) of the total sum was put towards the Australian Labor Party's state and territory arms.

Western Australia's branch of the Labor Party received the biggest single state or territory donation from the Guild, at \$27,500 in Apr 2025.

The state announced an expanded pharmacist-led prescribing pilot several months later (*PD* 21 Jul 2025).

The Guild's two biggest individual donations went to Labor's federal branch - \$110,000 in Mar 2025 and another \$100,000 the following month - ahead of the May 2025 federal election.

The third and fourth largest payments made by the Guild were less than \$50,000 each and were allocated to the Liberal Party of Australia and the National Party of Australia, respectively.

Tas enacts interstate prescriptions reform

THE Tasmanian Government has announced that pharmacists around the state will be able to dispense most prescriptions issued by interstate practitioners.

From 16 Feb, Tasmanian pharmacists will be able to dispense interstate prescriptions for controlled drugs, provided the prescription complies with regulation requirements.

This includes psychostimulant medications commonly used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), as well as medicinal cannabis, opioid analgesics, and benzodiazepines.

The Tasmanian branch of the Pharmacy Guild welcomed news.

"This is going to make life easier for Tasmanian patients, and we thank the state government for their work to progress these reforms," Tasmanian branch president Joe O'Malley said.

"When these changes come into



place on 16 Feb, patients who access care interstate will no longer need to jump through more hoops just to access medications they've been prescribed," he added.

O'Malley noted that the changes are part of the inquiry into the assessment and treatment of ADHD and support services in making the case for the reform.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia also praised the state government's decision, with

Tasmanian branch president Joanne Gross saying it will "reduce the stress on Tasmanians requiring care from interstate prescribers and interstate travellers who require treatment with Schedule 8 and Schedule 4 declared medicines".

The announcement follows the passing of the Poisons Amendment (Interstate Prescriptions) Bill through the Tasmanian Legislative Council in Dec 2025 (*PD* 04 Dec 2025).

Find out more **HERE**. *JM*

National oral health plan nears completion

THE Australian Government has completed its consultations for the next 10-year National Oral Health Plan.

The feedback, which will be used to inform the roadmap, was gathered through stakeholder workshops around the country, consultations with rural and remote stakeholders, and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and organisations.

Feedback highlighted broad

support for the draft framework, alongside calls for a stronger focus on health equity and cultural safety.

Other calls included a focus on prevention, emphasising child oral health and early intervention, and embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander oral health priorities throughout the plan.

The new roadmap will be published once agreed by all health ministers.

SA measles alert

SOUTH Australia is currently on alert after an infection was identified in someone who had not recently travelled.

According to SA Health, the adult acquired the infection locally, with chief public health officer Nicola Spurrier describing the case as "very much a concern".

The person, who visited several locations while infectious, marks SA's second known measles case this year.



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Dispensary Corner

A HEALTH expert has given her hot take on which spicy sauces boost wellbeing, and which to steer clear of.

Most hot sauces are a good condiment choice compared to other supermarket options, given they tend to be lower in calories, according to Jessica DeLuise, US-based culinary medicine specialist and registered dietician.

"For people who are aiming for weight loss, we often talk about 'flavour boosters' and hot sauce is a great one - adding a lot of flavour for few calories," she said.

"However, like anything we buy from the supermarket, there will be added ingredients that we should watch out for."

DeLuise advised hot sauce lovers to be mindful of the added sugar and salt that some brands may feature.

The ever-popular Tabasco pepper sauce is one of the healthier options, given it is less than one calorie per teaspoon, low in sugar, and does not contain nasty preservatives, while Nando's range of peri-peri sauces are also fairly balanced.

In contrast, sweet chilli sauce and Chinese crispy chilli oil should be used very sparingly due to a comparatively higher calorie count, along with high sugar and saturated fat levels.



Guild WA reveals state award winners

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's WA branch has revealed the state winners of this year's National Pharmacy Awards, celebrating the outstanding contributions of community pharmacies, pharmacists and students across the state.

Pharmacy 777 was named Community Pharmacy of the Year in recognition of its strong commitment to patient-centred healthcare and its proactive response to local health needs.

The Community Pharmacist of the Year award went to Nam Vuong, who the Guild said "demonstrates leadership, clinical excellence and a strong commitment to advancing community pharmacy practice".

Vuong has mentored students and interns, participated in



national leadership programs and developed one of Perth's most trusted sleep apnoea services.

Lastly, the Student Pharmacist of the Year title was bestowed on Kaitlyn Campbell, who has led long-term strategic planning and advocated for improved student wellbeing as President of the Western Australian Pharmacy Students' Association.

The winners will now progress to the national stage at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference in Mar 2026.

Bracing for Nipah

AUSTRALIA must be prepared for a Nipah virus outbreak, infectious disease expert Professor Allen Cheng has warned.

While the risk to Australia is currently low, there would be severe consequences if the disease were to reach the country, given there are currently no vaccines to treat it.

"We need to plan and prepare so that we know what is happening, monitor for cases that might arrive in Australia, and know what to do if a case is detected," Cheng told *Yahoo News Australia*.

He described Nipah as a "terrible disease", pointing out that around half of those who develop severe infection die from it.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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Revive Tears - PBS-listed

Revive Tears lubricating eye drops provide long lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

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