

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature.

Butler, Ruston to address APP2026

FEDERAL Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Shadow Minister Senator Anne Ruston will each deliver a keynote address at APP2026 on Fri 13 Mar.

"The Pharmacy Guild is delighted to welcome Minister Butler and Senator Ruston back to the APP stage in 2026," said Guild president Professor Trent Twomey.

"They continue to demonstrate strong commitment to strengthening community pharmacy, particularly through recent policy work to support the sustainability of health care access and affordability."

Priceline records strong 1H26 growth

WESFARMERS has released its first half year financial results for 2025-26, with the Wesfarmers Health division recording an 8.4% increase in revenue and a 35.7% rise in earnings (*PD* breaking news).

Priceline Pharmacy posted a 14.4% boost in sales, including dispensary sales, underpinned by network expansion, promotional campaigns and differentiated personal care products.

Thirteen new Priceline stores were opened, with the Atomica beauty format expanding to six stores and providing positive early trading results.

Growth in InstantScripts services ensured digital health maintained strong momentum, while its Health Hub pilot opened two new outlets in 1H26, bringing its footprint to three stores.

The group has invested and leveraged unique loyalty and digital assets, such as the Sister Club, which now has 10 million members, and a new Priceline app.



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Wesfarmers Health integrated Pharmacy 4 Less into its stable, with Wesfarmers Health chief customer officer Richard Pearson indicating at the time that it had "good growth potential".

The report to shareholders acknowledged the financial difficulties of the Infinity Group franchisees, reaffirming that the stores continue to trade well as they undergo the administration process (*PD* 18 Dec 2025).

Improved performance in wholesale and reduced costs across the business also contributed to the positive results.

In terms of outlook, the report to shareholders noted that "Wesfarmers Health is well-positioned to improve long-term earnings and returns by executing its transformation program and capitalising on favourable structural trends in health and beauty". **KB**

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Mayne suing Cosette, Avista

MAYNE Pharma has announced that it will commence proceedings against Cosette and its private equity backer Avista Healthcare Partners, a move flagged after its buyout by Cosette Pharma fell through (**PD** 11 Dec 2025).

Mayne Pharma is looking to claim substantial damages from Cosette for breach of the \$600 million buyout scheme, as well as Avista and its managing partner and CEO David Burgstahler for inducing Cosette's breach of the scheme.

The Supreme Court of NSW ruled against Cosette's bid to terminate the scheme, and Cosette has filed an appeal.

Ultimately, however, the deal was defeated by Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers, who acted on the recommendation of the Foreign Investment Review Board.

Parental vaccine hesitancy increasing

PARENTAL acceptance of routine childhood vaccines is trending downward, according to a large national survey looking at factors influencing childhood vaccination.

Conducted as part of the National Vaccination Insights project, the survey included over 2,000 parents of children under five years of age and examined 15 common access and acceptance barriers to childhood vaccination.

The main barrier, reported by almost one in three parents (32%), was "feeling distressed about vaccinating".

Lack of trust in information provided by health professionals (9%), affordability (9%), lack of priority (9%), beliefs about safety (8%) and difficulties getting an appointment (8%) rounded out the top six barriers.

While the proportion of children fully vaccinated was relatively high at 93.7%, parents of partially vaccinated children (4.1% of all parents in this study) were now

more influenced by beliefs and concerns about the vaccines themselves than practical issues like cost or travel.

Study lead Dr Jess Kaufman, principal research fellow at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), said the findings reflected an emerging shift in parental attitudes.

"Compared to last year, we're seeing an increase in concerns about vaccine safety and a drop in trust in healthcare providers," Dr Kaufman said.

"While access issues are still relevant, reduced vaccine confidence is now a stronger influence on whether children receive their vaccinations on time."

Vaccine-related messaging from the US appeared to have contributed to increased vaccine hesitancy, MCRI's Professor Margie Danchin pointed out.

"In the last year, parents reported hearing increasingly negative sentiment about vaccines,



including from the current US administration," Prof Danchin said.

"This shows that trust in vaccine safety and healthcare providers can be eroded by global factors, not just local information."

Parents in the study whose children were completely unvaccinated were more likely to hold negative beliefs about vaccine safety compared to parents of up-to-date children, (88% vs 5%) and believe that vaccinating does not protect others (84% vs 3%).

"The challenge now is rebuilding trust and ensuring supportive, empathetic conversations with healthcare providers who can respond to parents' concerns," Dr Kaufman concluded.

The research is available **HERE**. **KB**

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Editor's Choice: The Collagen Co offers range of powder products

THE Collagen Co's range of beauty-first powder products, featuring hydrolysed collagen, promises to improve skin radiance, strengthen hair and nails, and support overall wellbeing.

According to the brand's resident dermal clinician Rylee Walton, collagen provides firmness, strength and elasticity, creating the framework for the skin's inner layer.

However, from the mid-20s onwards, collagen production decreases by 1% every year, with accelerated loss post-menopause.

"Consistent use of oral hydrolysed collagen peptides, alongside sun protection and proper nutrition, can support



skin integrity at all life stages," Walton explained.

"Collagen renewal is gradual, but with a consistent approach,

skin integrity can be supported over time," she added.

The Collagen Co is currently sold via Chemist Warehouse.

Sexual health in endo



A NEW sexual health resource to help support patients and their partners living with the effects of endometriosis is now available online, created by pelvic physiotherapists Jess Teeger and Felicity de Blic (**pictured**).

Endometriosis affects one in seven women, with symptoms including fatigue, severe pain and dyspareunia (sex-related pain).

Decoding Intimacy Pain with Endo, is designed to provide an accessible resource for endometriosis patients.

The eBook aids understanding of types of sexual pain, identifying differing pain, and how to reduce it, and also includes a partner guide and strategies around tools.

"It was always about highlighting not just pain management, but all the other symptoms that can come with Endo, like bladder and bowel issues and sexual health issues," de Blic said.

"We wanted people to feel really seen, and to start to understand their body better while feeling empowered with strategies they can use at home for managing their symptoms."

The eBook costs \$9 through the Endo Online website, which also provides other self-management endo resources - learn more **HERE**.

Burberry Her Parfum

BURBERRY has launched a new gourmand fragrance, Burberry Her Parfum (RRP \$217), featuring top notes of cherry and pear, developing into amber and soft florals and with a base of vanilla, moss and musk.



RoC's new serum with "breakthrough" ingredient



ROC Skincare has launched the Derm Correxion Firming Serum Stick (RRP \$49.99), a new touch-free solution developed to deliver "a non-invasive lift" and offer long-term skin benefits.

Developed with dermatologists and plastic surgeons, the stick features the "breakthrough" ingredient THPE, which promises to "instantly firm" the skin, as well as antioxidants and slow-release pure retinol, which aims to improve elasticity and reduce the appearance of lines.

According to the brand, RoC Skincare offers clinically proven skincare solutions backed by more than 150 clinical studies and 30 years of skin health research.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

IN A scandal dubbed 'penisgate', it seems Olympic ski jumpers have allegedly been injecting hyaluronic acid you-know-where in order to fly further.

If you're wondering how on earth that works, it's all down to the jumping suits.

Suits are made up based on 3D body scanner measurements of the ski jumper's body length, including crotch height, in accordance with particular rules around posture.

The total size of the suit can impact the amount of lift that the athlete can generate, which allows them to jump further, and the bigger the suit, the greater the lift.

So a bigger penis means a larger suit - which means a longer jump.

While penile injections of hyaluronic acid are not uncommonly used outside of competitive ski jumping, the procedure carries risks.

These include penile pain, deformity, infection, inflammation, sensory change, and sexual dysfunction, and in rare cases, infection can spread to cause gangrene and loss of the penis.

CWH raises \$168k for SHE

CHEMIST Warehouse stores in Tasmania have raised \$168,837 through an in-store donation campaign in support of Tasmanian-based SHE Gynaecological Cancer Group.

Over three weeks in Jan and Feb - which is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month - customers were invited to make a donation to help fund vital awareness initiatives and support services for women diagnosed with gynaecological cancers, with all funds directly benefitting local patients.

The funds will also contribute to the establishment of a Cancer Wellness Centre within the Hobart hospital precinct, designed to deliver critical wellbeing services and support programs for cancer



patients and their families.

"A huge thank you to our remarkable Tasmanian team members for driving the initiative at store level, and also to the Tasmanian public for their generosity to a cause that makes a meaningful difference close to home," said Chemist Warehouse Tas state manager Warren Lucas.

Weight loss pills ingredient may be risky

A NEW study from Adelaide University suggests that a key ingredient in tablet versions of blockbuster weight loss drugs, salcaprozate sodium (SNAC), may have measurable adverse biological effects for the gut and beyond.

SNAC is used to enhance absorption of semaglutide when taken orally, and is not needed when injected as the drug is absorbed directly into the bloodstream.

Testing on animals revealed lower levels of beneficial gut

bacteria that help break down dietary fibre, higher levels of blood inflammatory markers and reduced levels of a brain-derived protein associated with cognitive impairment, among other changes.

While the study does not directly show that SNAC causes harm, and the findings were in an animal model rather than in humans, the findings suggest that the absorption enhancer may have biological effects beyond simply helping semaglutide work in pill form.

Read the research **HERE**.

CSL and Lilly team up on ESKD drug

CSL and Eli Lilly have entered into a licensing agreement on the development and commercialisation of clazakizumab, an interleukin-6 (IL-6) inhibitor monoclonal antibody.

CSL will retain exclusive rights of the drug for preventing cardiovascular events in patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), while Lilly will pursue development, regulatory approvals and commercialisation for other conditions.

"This agreement marks a significant step forward in our mission to bring innovative therapies to patients worldwide," said Bill Mezzanotte, CSL EVP and head of research and development.

"Clazakizumab is a promising therapeutic candidate with the potential to significantly impact the treatment landscape for various immuno-inflammatory and cardiovascular conditions," he explained.

Having acquired the drug from its developer Vitaeris in 2020, CSL will now receive an upfront payment of \$100 million and be eligible to receive potential clinical, regulatory and commercial milestone payments, as well as royalties on global sales.

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