

Friday 20th Feb 2026

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **ID Station**.

Passport to profit

THE ID Station biometric passport camera system provides ICAO-compliant passport photos that deliver high margin returns for pharmacy businesses.

It is quick to set up and easy to use, with no expertise required - learn more on **p3**.

Free RSV shots for WA aged care

THE Western Australia Government has announced it will fund free RSV vaccines, which normally cost around \$300 privately, for people aged 65 or over and living in residential aged care.

An estimated 15,000 residents will benefit, with the state having reported 12,804 RSV cases in 2025.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the move, with WA branch president Kristian Ray saying pharmacists stand ready to work with aged care providers to vaccinate residents.

"This is a practical, prevention-first decision that removes cost and access barriers from some of our most vulnerable community members," he said.

More nuanced rural policy needed

THE Remote and Isolated Pharmacists Association of Australia (RIPAA) is calling for a fresh approach to the future of healthcare in rural and remote pharmacy that recognises unique challenges facing thin markets.

Fundamental to the vision is a shift towards locally embedded, full-scope pharmacy models, which RIPAA said will better support the seven million Australians living outside major metropolitan hubs.

While acknowledging calls to remove the Home Medicines Review cap of 30 per month, RIPAA maintained that without targeted rural protections, simple uncapping risks opening rural and remote communities to volume-based urban models that do not provide long-term care.

"We aren't just asking for more numbers; we are asking for a model that works for the bush," RIPAA president Fredrik Hellqvist said.

"Simply removing the cap nationwide might help some consultants to provide more reviews, but in a thin rural market, it doesn't solve the sustainability of the locally embedded clinical pharmacist.

"We need a nuanced policy that prioritises the practitioner who works in the community over 'fly-in' services."

Also on the agenda is the current workforce crisis, which is creating a funding deficit for rural towns, with RIPAA pointing to the need for a funding model that recognises the high cost and low volume of thin markets.

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the staff, the health dollars are redirected to cities where the workforce is more plentiful," Hellqvist said.

"When you don't have the workforce, you can't deliver the service; and unless you can deliver the service, you cannot access the funding," he continued.

"We need a system where funding follows the local presence, not just the volume of claims."

Finally, RIPAA is calling for greater data transparency.

"We are flying blind without public data," said Hellqvist.

"We need to know what pharmacy services are being delivered and where - we need to know where the service gaps are."

ReRetrieve gets acne indication

THE TGA has approved iNova's ReRetrieve Cream (tretinoin 0.05%) for the treatment of acne vulgaris in patients aged 12 and over.

Currently used as an adjunctive therapy for dry, photoaged skin and related conditions, the topical retinoid targets multiple pathogenic factors of acne, including abnormal keratinisation and inflammation.

"Topical retinoids such as tretinoin are widely used in acne care because of their recognised mechanism of action, including beneficial effects on follicular keratinisation and inflammation," said dermatologist Dr Jo-Ann See.

"The availability of an additional approved formulation now provides clinicians with another option to consider where suitable."

The **Emergency Locum Service (ELS)** provides support to community pharmacies in rural and remote regions of Australia via direct access to pharmacist locums in emergency situations.

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*A year in review:
2025's biggest news*
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Dispensary Corner

WITH no evidence that the obsession with longevity - especially among the wealthy - is coming to an end anytime soon, a new enterprise has started up to address some of the downsides.

Perhaps inevitably, large sums of money are involved.

It seems that the desire for a longer and healthier future often comes at the expense of health, happiness and relationships now.

Cancelled social engagements to avoid clashing with fasting, sleeping or cryotherapy sessions, and being unable to eat normally with others due to restrictive diets, can lead to anxiety, depression, insomnia and isolation.

Enter the Swiss-based Paracelsus Recovery clinic, which treats so-called "longevity fixation syndrome".

The clinic's founder and CEO Jan Gerber told the *New York Post* the syndrome has some of the same characteristics of an eating disorder, "almost being an extension of orthorexia", an obsession with eating healthily which could also include things like supplements and IV drips.

Gerber also pointed to the use of wearables in feeding the obsession, in particular continuous glucose monitors in people with no risk of diabetes.

The exclusive clinic treats one person at a time and has the support of 15 experts on hand, while using cognitive behaviour therapy and other talking therapies to address underlying issues behind the fixation.

And the cost? \$170k per week.

SPS hosts First Nations student camp

THE Sydney Pharmacy School (SPS) recently hosted the Sydney Pharmacy First Nations student camp, with the aim of encouraging those currently in years 9-11 to study pharmacy at the University of Sydney.

Six students stayed at St Andrew's College and the Not on My Watch consultancy team was engaged to support the students during their stay at the camp.

Various activities on-site at SPS gave the students a taste of pharmacy at USyd, including making a cream.

A scholarship information session was conducted by Sydney Future Students and current SPS First Nations student ambassadors (Amirah, Jazmyn, Isaac and Noah), together with a tour of the university's Gadigal Centre.

Students experienced visits to external sites, including Pfizer Australia, Westmead Hospital, Webstercare and Emerton Pharmacy, and went on a Redfern walking tour with Aunty Donna.

First Nations SPS student ambassadors were key to the success of the camp, along with camp organisers Prof Rebekah Moles, Wiradjuri man Dr Alex Burke, Dr Jack Collins and Dr Susan Welch.

Deputy head of school and camp facilitator Professor Rebekah Moles said, "The camp was a roaring success for both students and staff involved."

"I know that we have opened the possibility of studying pharmacy and studying at Sydney for these students, and I can't wait to see



them again and meet next year's crew," she enthused.

At present, only 0.4% of the pharmacist workforce identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

An increase to 3.43% would help provide culturally safe healthcare, according to the Department of Health National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021-31. KB

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