

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

PD Year in Review

HAVE you seen the Pharmacy Daily 2025 Year in Review?

This special report reflects on the transformational changes that took place within pharmacy in 2025, and includes interviews with industry leaders and a month-by-month breakdown of the biggest stories of the year.

Click [HERE](#) to read it.



Guild commemorates Senator Ron Boswell

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has acknowledged the significant impact and achievements of former National Party senator Ron Boswell, who died yesterday at the age of 85.

Senator Boswell advocated for small business and regional primary industries throughout his career, creating a lasting impact on rural and regional communities across the country.

"His commitment to ensuring Australians - particularly those in rural and remote areas - had access to essential services, like medicines, reflected values that the Guild holds dear," a Guild spokesperson said.

"The Guild appreciates Senator Boswell's longstanding support for community pharmacy and his efforts to protect the integrity of small business in Australia.

"He was a steadfast advocate for small business and access to high quality regional healthcare.

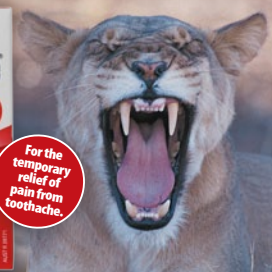
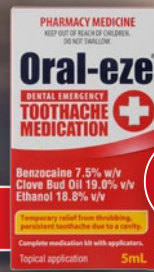
"His belief that only pharmacists should own a community pharmacy stands the test of time, and remains the best model for Australian community pharmacies.

"On behalf of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, we extend our sincere condolences to the Boswell family, friends and colleagues," they concluded.

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Doctors rail against optometrist prescribing

Royal Australian College of GPs have warned against the proposal.

The AMA said the move poses unacceptable risks to patient safety, and optometrists lack the extensive medical training required to safely manage the systemic risks associated with oral medicines.

AMA Vice President Associate Professor Julian Rait said using workforce shortages to justify expanding non-medical prescribing is reckless and puts patients at risk.

"Patient safety must come first and the Board needs to recognise that inappropriate prescribing of these medicines can have very significant consequences for patients," he said.

Associate Professor Rait added that a clear distinction between medical and non-medical roles is needed "to ensure prescribing remains the responsibility of those with appropriate training and accountability".

The ASO also spoke out against the proposal, saying it is "deeply concerning and risks undermining safe patient care".

"We note that some of the



medications the Optometry Board proposes that optometrists prescribe are associated with serious adverse events including renal failure, electrolyte disturbances, liver injury, cardiac complications, and life-threatening allergic reactions," the ASO stated.

"Recognising and managing these risks early can be the difference between full recovery and permanent harm."

Meanwhile, the RACGP reiterated its position that prescribing by non-medical practitioners "should only occur as part of a medically led team-based model of care where prescribing occurs under the direction and supervision of a medical practitioner".

Consultation closed on 24 Dec. KB

Ramsay Health Care expands into ACT

LEADING private hospital operator, Ramsay Health Care, has agreed to acquire National Capital Private Hospital in Canberra in a \$251 million deal marking Ramsay's first hospital investment in the ACT.

"National Capital Private Hospital has a highly regarded clinical and operational team with deep connections to the ACT health community," Ramsay Health Care Group CEO Natalie Davis said.

"The hospital has a strong reputation for clinical quality,

patient safety and strong doctor partnerships," she continued.

"Ramsay shares those priorities and we look forward to supporting the hospital's continued growth over the long term."

Ramsay expects to take over running the hospital in mid-2026, subject to regulatory approvals.

In the meantime, Ramsay said it will work closely with the hospital team and Healthscope to plan a smooth and well-managed transition, including workforce, clinical, operational and technology requirements.

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Dispensary Corner

AS WAYMO robotaxis expand their reach in the US, their safety has come under increasing scrutiny, especially in emergency situations.

However, one of the self-driving vehicles recently acquitted itself nicely when a passenger in labour didn't quite make it to the hospital.

The San Francisco mother-to-be hailed a Waymo when she realised it was time to head to the hospital, but the baby had other ideas and popped out in the back of the taxi.

The company said its rider support team detected "unusual activity" inside the vehicle, and called to check on the rider, as well as alert 911.

"Unusual activity the vehicles are trained to pick up on can include things like "loud noises associated with distress" - and it's a pretty safe bet that's what tipped it off.

The taxi continued safely towards the hospital, arriving ahead of first responders, where the mother and baby were immediately rushed inside.

After what will likely be the most important ride it ever completes, the vehicle was taken out of service for cleaning.

"We're proud to be a trusted ride for moments big and small, serving riders from just seconds old to many years young," Waymo said.

Believe it or not, this is not the first time someone has ever given birth in a Waymo, the company stated - which is probably not surprising given the cost of an ambulance ride.

WEHI team advances fight against malaria

RESEARCHERS at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) have developed an exciting new antimalarial drug candidate to help control and eliminate the disease.

Working in collaboration with global biopharmaceutical company MSD, the new drug candidate MK-7602 targets the most prevalent malaria parasites in humans, *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax*.

It acts by blocking two essential parasite enzymes, providing a unique dual-action strategy with the potential to reduce the risk of drug resistance, the emergence of which has complicated efforts to control and eliminate malaria.

Malaria remains a leading cause of preventable illness and death globally, killing an estimated

600,000 people a year, with children under five the most vulnerable.

MK-7602 is currently in early testing stages, having undergone antimalarial activity, pharmacokinetics and safety studies in a small number of healthy people.

Professor Alan Cowman, lead investigator from WEHI, said new and better treatments for malaria were urgently needed, to drive forward global efforts towards eradication.

"The evaluation of MK-7602 represents an important step in our fight against malaria," he said.

"Its ability to target multiple stages of the parasite life cycle,



combined with its high barrier to resistance, supports our ongoing efforts to find new ways to combat this devastating disease for patients who need the hope of new treatments," he concluded.

Further studies are needed to fully assess the efficacy and safety of MK-7602 in diverse patient populations and real-world settings. KB

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.

The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

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