

Friday 23rd Jan 2026

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today
features two pages of news.

Public holiday

THERE will be no issue of **Pharmacy Daily** on Monday, due to the Australia Day public holiday.

Have a safe long weekend, and see you on Tuesday.

Med cannabis in dementia - webinar

MEDRELEAF Australia is hosting a free webinar for healthcare professionals on medicinal cannabis and its evolving role in managing behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD).

Presented by Dr Sean Hui, a leading Australian specialist in dementia and aged care, the content will draw on the latest literature and real-world experiences in residential aged care.

The webinar will be held on Tue 10 Feb 2026, at 7.30pm AEDT - register [HERE](#).

Digital health skills

THE Australian Digital Health Agency offers a variety of free eLearning courses for pharmacists, with topic areas including My Health Record, active script lists and digital safety/security - more [HERE](#).



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Med cannabis, vapes on TGA priority list

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released its compliance principles for 2026-27, outlining its strategic approach to monitoring and enforcing regulatory compliance for the import, export, manufacture, supply and advertising of therapeutic goods in Australia.

The regulator also announced its 12 priority focus areas for compliance and enforcement activities the first three months of 2026.

Among them are medicinal cannabis, vaping goods, sunscreen, direct-to-consumer in vitro diagnostic kits, erectile dysfunction medicines, melatonin, listed medicine advertising, and weight loss medications.

The new compliance principles

are the result of a 2025 review of the TGA's 2023-2025 Compliance Priorities, with a realigned approach focusing on five core themes:

- Safeguarding therapeutic goods to ensure protection from unsafe products
- Proactively engaging with the public, health professionals, industry and other stakeholders
- Protecting and engaging those most vulnerable
- Providing an active response to digital and technology risks
- Strengthening enforcement.

The principles complement the TGA's Regulatory Compliance Framework, which describes how compliance is encouraged and how the regulator responds to alleged contraventions of the law.

"Our 2026 and 2027 compliance



principles and focus areas detail the how and why we act: to safeguard Australians from unsafe products, empower the community with clearer information, and take firm, proportionate action when the rules are broken or ignored," explained TGA head Professor Anthony Lawler.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Pharmacy 4 Less opens first ACT store, with more to come

PHARMACY 4 Less has launched into the ACT, with the opening of the banner's Tuggeranong pharmacy representing its first franchise in the nation's capital.

A spokesperson told **Pharmacy Daily** there will be another ACT store opening soon in Belconnen.

"This is an exciting milestone for our growing network, and we're thrilled to now bring our promise of "more care for less cost" to the Tuggeranong community," the group enthused on LinkedIn.

"A huge congratulations to the Pharmacy 4 Less Tuggeranong team, and a big thank you to

our wider support team for helping deliver another successful store opening."

Open seven days a week, the pharmacy offers a wide range of products and professional services, including vaccinations, leave certificates and medication reviews.

The discount chemist group was acquired by Wesfarmers Health in Jun last year (**PD** 05 Jun 2025) after it entered voluntary administration.

"With more stable financial support, we see good growth potential for Pharmacy 4 Less's brands and stores and look



forward to working with the franchise partners," Wesfarmers Health Chief Customer Officer, Richard Pearson, said at the time.

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Dispensary Corner

WHILE restaurants and fast food outlets may be suffering collateral damage as the uptake of weight loss drugs such as Wegovy and Mounjaro increases, potential winners - apart from health - include the airline industry - and the planet.

An analysis by US-based equity researchers Jefferies calculated that if the average weight of a flyer on a Boeing 737 were to go down 10% from 81kg (the average weight for US passengers) the total passenger weight would drop by almost 1.5 tonnes, which equates to 2% of the plane's maximum allowed takeoff weight.

This in turn could amount to a 1.5% improvement in fuel efficiency, saving the country's four largest carriers 900 million litres of fuel and US\$579 million (A\$850 million) per year, while also cutting 2.25 million tonnes in carbon emissions.

While it's a tiny drop in the ocean of total planetary emissions, it's roughly equivalent to taking 500,000 passenger cars off the road.

"A slimmer society equals lower fuel consumption," Jefferies reportedly said in a letter to clients.

"Airlines have a history of being vigilant around aircraft weight savings, from olives (pitless, of course) to paper stock," they added, referring to United Airlines' switch to lighter paper stock for its inflight magazine, saving it about 30 grams per copy and 643,000 litres of fuel.

PPIs not linked with stomach cancer

THE long term use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), which treat acid reflux and ulcers, may not be linked to any increased risk of developing gastric cancer, a large new study published in *The BMJ* has found.

The findings are based on healthcare registry data in the five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - over a 26-year period from 1994 to 2020.

The team identified 17,232 patients with stomach cancer and matched each one with 10 healthy participants as controls.

After taking into account factors that may have influenced results - such as age, sex, *Helicobacter pylori*, peptic ulcer disease, smoking and alcohol-related

diseases, obesity or type 2 diabetes, and use of certain medications - they found no link between use of PPIs and increased risk of gastric cancer.

Concern that using PPIs could lead to stomach cancer has been ongoing since the 1980s, with some research suggesting their use doubles the risk.

However, the team behind the current study said previous research has been hampered by several methodological limitations, making this possible association uncertain, so they designed this study to overcome these issues.

"The results of this study do not support the hypothesis that long-term proton pump inhibitor use is



associated with an increased risk of gastric adenocarcinoma," the researchers concluded.

"This finding should offer relief for patients needing long-term proton pump inhibitor therapy and is valuable for healthcare in clinical decision making," they added.

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

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