

Today's issue of PD

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

Single-use is back

1 SHOT single-use cameras are a simple add-on category for pharmacy businesses, offering good margins. Learn more on **page three**.

SA dementia med safety workshops

COUNTRY SA PHN and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) are conducting two-hour workshops on high risk medicines, optimisation of medication management, and deprescribing strategies for people living with dementia.

The workshops will be held at various locations throughout the state over the first half of 2026 - more info **HERE**.

PDL student educational grants open

APPLICATIONS for the PDL 2026 Student Grant Program are now open, giving recipients the opportunity to broaden their education by attending a professional pharmacy conference.

Each of the three grants available is valued at up to \$5,000 and can be used to cover event registration, travel, accommodation and meal expenses.

Last year marked the most successful round yet, with application numbers doubling from the previous year, and

Counterfeit melatonin warning

CONSUMERS and health professionals are being warned about imported unregistered melatonin products in an updated safety advisory from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Testing on a range of products confirmed that they are counterfeit, with results showing significant discrepancies in the actual melatonin content compared to the labelled amounts.

One product contained more than 400% of the labelled content while another contained no melatonin at all.

"This variability in melatonin content raises serious safety concerns for consumers, including the risk of accidental overdose and hospitalisation, especially in children," the TGA stated.

These unregistered therapeutic goods can be purchased online or from local retailers, and do not have an AUST R or AUST L number.

The TGA has previously raised concerns about the increase in Australians purchasing melatonin products from online stores,



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particularly for use in children, and has included it on its priority list for compliance and enforcement activities the first three months of 2026 (**PD** 23 Jan).

Melatonin products approved in Australia include some scheduled as pharmacist-only medicines - up to 2mg modified release for short-term treatment of primary insomnia, or 5mg for treatment of jetlag - or prescription only.

Details on the tests are **HERE**. **KB**

GBMA Summit rego closes today

THE Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) is holding a summit, 'No Patient Left Waiting: Ending the Era of Medicine Shortages', exploring the story behind medicine shortages and how healthcare stakeholders can achieve sustainable access to medicines for Australians.

The event features speakers from government and industry, as well as healthcare leaders, with Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) president Assoc Prof Tom Simpson and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Anthony Tassone among them.

It takes place on 04 Feb at Parliament House in Canberra, with registrations closing today. Find the details **HERE**.

Presolol (labetalol) SSSI in place

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that Presolol 200 (labetalol 200mg) tablets (Alphapharm), used to treat all grades of hypertension, are in shortage due to manufacturing issues.

The regulator has approved the supply of overseas-registered labetalol hydrochloride 200mg tablets to ensure ongoing access to this essential medicine.

A new Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) is now in place to allow pharmacists to dispense a different strength of the labetalol tablets prescribed in an equivalent quantity - if appropriate - without a new script, as well as the overseas-registered 200mg tablets.

PBS subsidies may be affected, as Presolol 200 tablets and the overseas-registered alternative are not subsidised on the PBS.

Similarly, if a patient has a non-PBS prescription for Presolol 200 and is given Presolol 100 by a pharmacist, they will not receive a PBS subsidy despite 100mg tablets being listed on the PBS.

Learn more **HERE**.

Last chance to save

TIER 2 pricing for APP2026 ends tomorrow, Sat 31 Jan, so do not miss the opportunity to save up to \$140 on full registration fees.

APP2026 runs from 12-14 Mar on the Gold Coast.

Click **HERE** for more info.



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SPECIAL REPORT OUT NOW

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

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Dispensary Corner

IN news that will surprise almost nobody, it seems that people are promoting botanical acne treatments on social media that have no evidence behind them while downplaying safety risks.

In appealing to young people with an interest in "natural" remedies versus conventional therapies, the promotion of medicinal plants on platforms including WhatsApp, Instagram and Telegram has raised concerns about misinformation and unsupported claims.

So a team from Iran's Shiraz University investigated herbal acne treatments recommended on virtual platforms and weighed up the evidence.

Some treatments had relatively robust evidence, particularly tea tree oil, green tea extract and basil oil.

Others including chamomile, thyme, eucalyptus, and coriander demonstrated antibacterial or anti-inflammatory activity in vitro but hadn't been tested in patients with acne.

Meanwhile, adverse effects were often underemphasised, including irritation and allergic contact dermatitis found with essential oils such as tea tree, lavender, cinnamon and turmeric.

Rare systemic or endocrine effects associated with topical lavender and tea tree oil exposure were also underreported.

"Individuals should be encouraged to critically evaluate treatment claims shared on social media and avoid trusting unverified cyberspace content," the authors concluded.

Daily aspirin does not head off cancer

NEW research has found no effect on overall cancer incidence among healthy older adults who took a low-dose of aspirin daily, but there was an increased risk of cancer-related mortality.

Conducted by Monash University and published in *JAMA Oncology*, the results vary from previous research, mainly in middle-aged adults, where taking daily aspirin was found to reduce the risk of cancer after 10 years, particularly for colorectal cancer (*PD* 20 Jul 2023).

The study involved over 19,000 Australian and American adults predominantly aged 70 years or over, who received either 100mg of aspirin daily or a placebo for 4.7 years.

First author Associate Professor

Suzanne Orchard said that during a median follow-up period of 8.6 years, there was no difference in cancer incidence between the two groups.

"Whilst we found overall no change in cancer incidence risk with aspirin when initiated in older age, we found cancer mortality remained significantly elevated by 15%", Assoc Prof Orchard explained.

However, after the participants stopped taking aspirin, the increased cancer mortality risk did not persist, suggesting there was no lasting effect

"From these findings, commencing a program of low-dose



aspirin for a number of years for the prevention of cancer is not recommended in older adults," she concluded.

"Individuals who are concerned about their cancer risk should speak to their doctors about the right strategy for their individual health care," she added.

The paper is available [HERE](#). *KB*

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Mag-Sup powder - a better way to absorb magnesium

Mag-Sup powder is a high absorption magnesium supplement for use in magnesium deficiencies. It contains magnesium aspartate which has increased bioavailability compared to other forms of magnesium. Magnesium aspartate has better oral absorption than magnesium citrate, magnesium glycinate, magnesium chloride and magnesium oxide.

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