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Leaders Panel

The big picture, the future of Pharmacy, from Australia's Pharmacy Leaders



Professor Trent Twomey
National President,
Pharmacy Guild of Australia



Professor Mark Naunton
National President,
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



Assoc Professor Tom Simpson
President,
Advanced Pharmacy Australia

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest news, plus a cover wrap from the **Pharmacy Careers Summit 2026**.

Pharmacists can ease health burden

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reiterated the potential role for appropriately trained pharmacist prescribers in improving healthcare access, as it responded to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) national health report card released yesterday (*PD* 09 Jul).

The report found that one in four (27%) people delayed or skipped seeing a GP last year, while urinary tract infections (UTIs) were the nation's leading preventable acute hospital admission.

In 2024-25, UTIs were responsible for 91,700 acute hospital admissions, but if treated earlier, these figures could be substantially reduced.

"Australians should not be delaying treatment because of cost, waiting times or where they live," Guild national vice president Simon Blacker said.

"With earlier intervention and treatment, including at community pharmacies, patients are less likely to end up in emergency departments or hospital beds with conditions that could have been managed and prevented."

Blacker also highlighted a role for community pharmacists in managing chronic conditions, with the report revealing that 61% of people live with at least one, and 38% with two or more.

PSA leader shares vision for future

TODAY'S 2026 Pharmacy Careers Summit is off and running, with leaders from three pharmacy peak bodies coming together in the first session to share their visions for the future, including opportunities and challenges for the industry.

In his first appearance on the Pharmacy Careers Summit leaders panel, Professor Mark Naunton, national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, said his vision was "very simple".

"Every Australian should be able to benefit from a pharmacist practising to the full extent of their education and expertise within the framework of the pharmacy board, no matter where they live or where they access healthcare.

"Pharmacists have never been more important," he continued.

"Medicines are among the most cost-effective interventions in healthcare, improving both the quality and quantity of life for millions of Australians.

"Yet medicines also carry risk, and ensuring they are used safely, effectively, and appropriately requires the expertise of pharmacists."

Professor Naunton also noted that pharmacists also help to determine when a medicine is not the best solution - which is why they are needed at every stage at the administration pathway and wherever medicines are discussed, prescribed, reviewed, dispensed, or monitored.

As pharmacists move away from being seen primarily as medicine suppliers to being recognised as medicine experts and clinicians who improve patient outcomes, Professor Naunton said the biggest challenge is making sure that pharmacy systems, funding models and the workforce keep pace with that change.

"We need to support pharmacists with the right training, right technology, and career pathways so they can confidently step into expanded roles," he said.

Prof Naunton highlighted the greater responsibility and accountability on pharmacists through having access to patients' clinical records, with the expectation that they will be used to properly review patients' current medications, disease states, and clinical chemistry before dispensing and supply occurs.

"For many pharmacists, it will be a breath of fresh air, and for others, it may still remain a real challenge," he suggested.

"And we need to make sure pharmacists are remunerated fairly for the work they do - modern pharmacy practice is a highly clinical role, and if pharmacists are not paid appropriately, they will not be attracted to it or stay in the profession," he added.

Finally, he pointed out that the future is not about pharmacists replacing anyone.

"It's about pharmacists working alongside other health professionals to deliver better care," he concluded. *KB*

Canngea fined for non-compliance

MEDICINAL cannabis pharmaceutical wholesaler and sponsor Canngea has been issued with infringement notices totalling \$59,400 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The notices were issued for failing to comply with requests to provide information about the supply of therapeutic vaping goods, in alleged breach of conditions applicable to non-approved goods.

Sponsors of therapeutic vaping goods are required to retain and provide when requested certain information to the TGA within a specified timeframe.

This includes information relating to supply, and it is an offence to provide information that is false or misleading.

Switch on to careers

THE 2026 Pharmacy Careers Summit is on today - log in now to enjoy sessions live or catch up later on demand.

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Overcoming selective adherence

PHARMACISTS have a role in delivering personalised strategies to support equal management of interconnected conditions, according to researchers from the University of Sydney Pharmacy School looking at condition prioritisation and medication adherence in patients with both hypertension and type 2 diabetes.

The qualitative research involving 30 participants found that those who prioritised one condition over the other showed better medication adherence for the condition they perceived as more important.

In this patient group, most considered diabetes the higher priority, due to its immediate perceived risks and noticeable consequences, compared to the longer-term risks of cardiovascular disease progression.

The research has implications for existing adherence frameworks, which are typically based on a single disease state, and overlooking drivers of selective adherence in multimorbidity may reduce the effectiveness of interventions.

Lead author Pauline Maniki noted that pharmacists should not assume that patients with multimorbidity adhere to medications for all conditions equally, and pointed out they are well placed to identify condition prioritisation and work with patients and prescribers to develop tailored interventions for patients managing multiple conditions and medications.

"During dispensing, medication reviews, or Home Medicines



Reviews (HMRs), pharmacists should assess adherence across all prescribed therapies rather than assuming that adherence is consistent across all conditions," Maniki told *Pharmacy Daily*.

"Exploring patients' perceptions of the relative importance of managing each condition can help reveal selective adherence."

Maniki also highlighted the need for pharmacists to educate patients about interconnected conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, emphasising that poor control of either condition can affect the other and increase the risk of complications.

"Counselling should focus on the importance of managing both conditions simultaneously rather than viewing them as separate conditions," she said.

"Pharmacists can help patients understand that managing interconnected conditions together is important by linking each medication to the patient's overall health rather than to a single condition.

"Medication adherence education should address misconceptions that result in condition prioritisation such as perceived condition severity," she added.

Read the research [HERE](#). *KB*

Complete Care Devonport transforms

COMPLETE Care Pharmacy Devonport celebrated its grand opening last week, with pharmacy industry representatives, local healthcare partners, and local community members attending to mark the occasion.

Owned by mother-and-daughter pharmacists Susan and Hannah Lee, the pharmacy was transformed to the Complete Care model after joining the network earlier this year.

The pharmacy features private consult pods, a triage desk system and an expanded range of clinical services delivered by pharmacists practising to their full scope.

There is also a new dispensing robot that provides staff with more time to focus on patients.

The launch caps an exciting period for the pharmacy, with Hannah Lee and Jared Wilson named Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year finalists, while the pharmacy itself is a finalist for



Tasmanian Pharmacy of the Year.

"Devonport has always supported our pharmacy, and this launch is our way of showing the community what modern pharmacy care can look like," said co-owner Hannah Lee.

"Patients can now see a pharmacist privately for a growing range of health concerns, without an appointment or the need to travel elsewhere," she added.

Complete Care Pharmacy Devonport joins a growing network of pharmacies adopting the Complete Care model across Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Multimorbidity clusters in Aussies 65-plus

A NEW national study from the University of Sydney has found that more than three-quarters of people aged 65 and over are living with multiple chronic conditions, which tend to cluster into three main groups rather than occurring at random.

The research led by Associate Professor Edwin Tan from the School of Pharmacy analysed the health records of over 4.4 million older Australians and identified three consistent multimorbidity

clusters: cardiovascular and metabolic conditions; neuropsychiatric and functional decline conditions; and inflammatory, musculoskeletal and cancer-related conditions.

Prevalence of multiple chronic conditions rose sharply with age and was higher among disadvantaged communities, exposing major health inequalities, Associate Professor Tan said.

Access the research [HERE](#).

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Dispensary Corner

EXPERTS in Australia have spoken out against "rib recontouring", a new plastic surgery procedure for those seeking a smaller waist.

Also known as rib remodelling, it has become a hot topic after Aussie influencers Rebecca Zacharia, Monique Morley, and Carly Ellen all posted on social media last week about visiting Bali-based company Snatched Waist, which reportedly "gifted" the women the procedure.

It is promoted as a "minimally invasive" cosmetic surgery that uses ultrasound guidance to partially reshape and reposition the lower ribs inward - without removing them - to create a narrow waist.

But now experts are questioning how safe the procedure actually is, given its relatively recent invention.

"Surgical procedures are meant to be developed slowly, carefully, thoughtfully with data backing their safety and their efficacy," Professor Anand Deva, head of plastic surgery at Macquarie University said.

"There are a lot of vital structures that could be damaged, particularly by something that's done through a small incision."

Another expert shared Dr Deva's opinion, with Dr Jason Girkin, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Newcastle and the Hunter Medical Research Institute, pointing out that "ribs are surrounded by intercostal nerves, so complications can result in pain or discomfort".

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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Heel care this Diabetes Week

Did you know? One in nine adults around the world currently live with diabetes, an estimated **589 million people**.

National Diabetes Week from 12-18 July is an important time to raise awareness, provide support, and empower those living with diabetes.

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