

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature.

Pharmacy fined over melatonin

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has fined Acacia Pharmacy Pty Ltd, trading as PharmaSave Acacia Ridge Pharmacy, a total of \$99,000 for the alleged unlawful importation of unapproved melatonin products as part of its crackdown on counterfeit therapeutic goods (**PD** 30 Jan).

The regulator has warned that importing, supplying and/or giving away counterfeit melatonin products is illegal and poses a significant public health and safety risk.

Leafio innovates next-gen products

MEDICINAL cannabis distributor Leafio has outlined its clinical innovation pipeline for the second half of 2026, with a focus on expanding clinically appropriate medicinal cannabis treatment options, improving patient experience and supporting best-practice prescribing.

Planned additions include topical creams, THC-free flower, and other formats, alongside ongoing optimisation of existing oils and flower products.

Montu's interim vice president sales, Nicole Le Maistre, said Australia's medicinal cannabis market was entering a new phase.

"The next stage of medicinal cannabis is not simply about introducing more products - it's

Ministers set to address PSA26

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that Mark Butler (**pictured**), the Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, will deliver a ministerial address at PSA26 as part of the opening plenary on Fri 31 Jul.

PSA national president Professor Mark Naunton said Minister Butler's attendance reflects the importance the Albanese government places on pharmacy policy and reform at a pivotal time for the profession.

"It is an exciting time for pharmacy, with PSA26 taking place as the profession is looking to broaden its contributions to improving access to care and supporting greater health outcomes for communities across Australia," Professor Naunton said.

"PSA26 delegates will be able to hear first-hand from Minister Butler during the opening plenary, where he will provide key insights



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about the government's priorities in healthcare and how pharmacists can assist with supporting these priorities," he added.

Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, and Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator Anne Ruston, will also address PSA26 on its opening day.

"Our annual national conference continues to draw political leaders each year, which is a testament to the importance of pharmacists to Australia's primary health system," Professor Naunton concluded.

Keynote speakers also include adventurer, documentary filmmaker and neuroscience enthusiast Todd Sampson and mindset coach Nadine Champion, with Melissa Doyle returning as emcee.

PSA26: The Home of Pharmacists will be held from Fri 31 Jul to Sun 02 Aug at the International Convention Centre in Sydney. **KB**
Learn more **HERE**.

Coatsworth says 'no' to supermarkets

PROMINENT medical expert Dr Nick Coatsworth has warned against making prescription medicines available in supermarkets, one of the proposals put forward in the Grattan Institute report earlier in the week (**PD** 13 Jul).

The former deputy chief medical officer said in an interview with Nine, "I do have some concerns about that, these are the supermarkets, Coles and Woolies, that apparently can't be trusted to price our milk, but can be trusted to price our drugs."

"Imagine going to your dairy aisle, then going to Liquorland and then picking up your blood pressure tablets... it really is bordering on absurdity, particularly when you talk about rural pharmacies and also the push towards making pharmacies hubs of our health care for vaccination and chronic disease," he said.

Coatsworth added "we should focus on strengthening our community pharmacies rather than looking to dilute them into supermarkets".



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Editor's Choice: Straand continues expansion into 500 Priceline stores

AUSTRALIAN scalp-care brand Straand has announced its roll-out into 500 Priceline stores, following its global expansion into 250 Boots UK stores.

Priceline will feature the brand's scalp care range, with its hero ingredient Defenscalp, a prebiotic active that aims to help rebalance the scalp microbiome, regulate excess sebum and support the scalp's natural defence system.

Straand was one of the first haircare brands to focus on scalp health, raising awareness of the scalp microbiome and hair health.

"Scalp health has become a much bigger part of the beauty conversation, and consumers are actively looking for solutions that address the root cause of



concerns rather than simply masking symptoms," said Straand co-founder Meagan Pate.

"Priceline gives us the opportunity to make effective

scalp care more accessible to Australians than ever before."

Straand is now available at Priceline stores nationwide.

Shea tackles shrinkage



SHEAMOISTURE has released its new Curl Stretch collection, formulated to tackle shrinkage for Australians with curls, coils and kinks in their hair.

Featuring ingredients such as Kalahari melon oil, marula oil and hyaluronic serum, the range is formulated to deeply hydrate each strand while improving elasticity and supporting stronger hair.

Benefits include lengthening hair strands, defining and enhancing curls, controlling frizz and maintaining styles without crunch.

The range includes the Curl Stretch shampoo and conditioner (RRP \$23.50 each), the Curl Stretch Multi-Tasking Volume Cream (RRP \$29.99), and the Curl Stretch Refresher Spray (RRP \$29.99).

All SheaMoisture products are free from sulfates, parabens, phthalates, mineral oil and petrolatum, and are formulated with fair trade shea butter.

Garnier's sweet range

GARNIER has launched its Hydrating Sorbet Cream range, made of three lightweight moisturisers that target different issues, from dehydration and dullness to blemish-prone skin.

Priced at RRP \$15.99 each, they are now available in pharmacies nationwide.



Calmerceuticals reformulates performance range



SUPPLEMENT brand Calmerceuticals has relaunched its Ultra Performance range, described as "a world-first adaptogenic performance formula" by founder Rose Rayner.

Designed to support skin health, energy, recovery and overall performance, the brand brought on board former NRL star Braith Anasta as its product development partner to work with scientists in reformulating the product.

The new Ultra Performance formula includes the brand's pharmaceutical-grade Creassure creatine, with fermented shilajit, maca root, Panax ginseng, marine and bovine collagen, activated B vitamins, zinc, vitamin D3 and a polyphenol complex with pomegranate and Davidson plum.

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Dispensary Corner

A RECENT study has suggested that sniffing chocolate will make leg day easier.

But can the smell of chocolate really help your workout?

Researchers from Malaysia recruited 23 young male gym enthusiasts and looked at the number of leg extensions they could do under three different conditions: sniffing dark chocolate, sniffing milk chocolate, and sniffing water.

After sniffing the substance, they completed 10 reps, then sniffed again and did 10 more, and so on, until they felt they could not complete another set.

Sniffing dark chocolate increased the number of reps by around 25%, while the milk chocolate also increased the number reps completed compared to water.

While sniffing chocolate will not do any harm, experts were sceptical about the study's findings, suggesting that the conditions were not sufficiently disguised and participants were likely influenced by knowledge of the study goals.

Pregnancy prebiotics offset allergy risk

PROVIDING pregnant women with a prebiotic could help protect against the increased risk of food allergies associated with antibiotics taken before birth, new research from The Kids Research Institute Australia has suggested.

The study showed that babies born to mothers who received antibiotics during labour and were also supplemented with a prebiotic during pregnancy did not have an increased risk of developing food allergy, while babies of mothers who received antibiotics but did not take prebiotics were more than five times more likely to develop a food allergy.

Lead author and research assistant at The Kids Research Institute Australia, Summer Walker, said around one in every four Australian mothers received antibiotic treatment during pregnancy, and up to half of infants were administered antibiotics in their first year of life.

"There has been increasing concern regarding the potential link between antibiotics and food allergies, with maternal antibiotic use during pregnancy shown to be associated with a higher risk of child eczema and food allergies," Walker said.

"We know that prebiotics promote the growth of healthy gut bacteria, while antibiotics disrupt the gut microbiome, by reducing diversity and potentially lead to a gut microbiome imbalance," she explained.

"During pregnancy this can potentially result in long-term child health effects."

Walker said the research is an important first step to exploring whether prebiotics could also help protect against other child health conditions linked to antibiotics.

"For now, it's best for women to follow existing dietary advice and speak with their healthcare provider before starting supplements," she stated.

"The good news is that many healthy diets, such as the Mediterranean diet, are rich in prebiotic containing foods such as garlic, leeks, onions, asparagus and legumes."

Associate Professor Joanna Harnett from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney, said that while the findings were biologically plausible, they should be viewed as hypothesis-generating rather than evidence of



a causal relationship.

"They highlight the need for further research into the potential mechanisms, benefits and harms of prebiotic supplementation - perhaps versus dietary prebiotic - exposure during pregnancy and early life," she said.

"Importantly, the study did not assess maternal gut, vaginal or breastmilk microbiomes, nor the infant gut microbiome, and no immune biomarker data were collected," she continued.

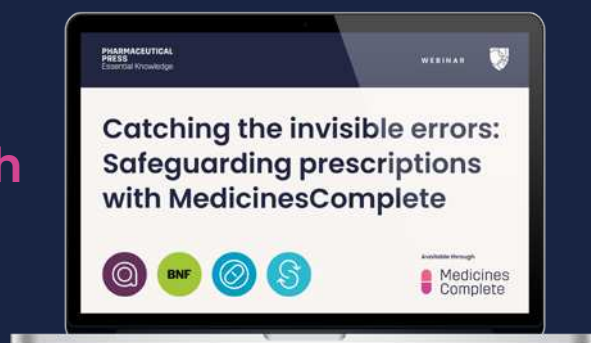
"Consequently, it cannot determine whether prebiotics modified antibiotic-associated changes in the microbiome or whether such changes contributed to the observed allergy outcomes."

Read the study [HERE](#). KB

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