

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **StirlingFildes**.

Introducing SF+

STIRLINGFILDES has evolved, with SF+ offering a multi-channel pharmacy growth platform that makes it simpler for brands to reach more pharmacies and grow with confidence.

Learn more on **page three**.

Win your way to Pharmacy Connect

PHARMACY Connect is giving one pharmacist and one pharmacy assistant the chance to win a prize package comprising two nights at the Hyatt Regency Sydney and full conference registration - learn more **HERE**.

Not out of the wood yet, warns Novartis

NOVARTIS Australia has welcomed confirmation that its high-efficacy multiple sclerosis drug Kesimpta (ofatumumab) will remain on the PBS (**PD** 17 Jul).

However, the company raised concerns over a PBAC-recommended rapid review of MS treatments, warning the process could ultimately limit patient access to treatment options.

The review, which will cover Kesimpta, Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) and Lemtrada (alemtuzumab), aims to ensure that the subsidised use of MS medicines remained "consistent with contemporary evidence base", and is expected to be completed by Dec this year.

"We are pleased that the Health Minister has confirmed that Kesimpta, and other MS treatments, will remain available on the PBS whilst a review takes place," Marco Muscardo, ad-interim country president Novartis ANZ, said.

"While we note the

Guild launches Scope Hub

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has unveiled a new Implementation Hub to help community pharmacies expand their service offerings and respond to increasing patient demand with confidence.

Developed in response to strong interest from pharmacy owners and teams nationwide, the Scope of Practice Implementation Hub is a one-stop-shop providing practical, step-by-step guidance to support pharmacies as they safely, efficiently and sustainably assess, diagnose and treat a broader range of health conditions.

Guild national president Professor Trent Twomey said the platform was designed to ensure pharmacists and pharmacies are ready to meet future healthcare needs while maintaining the highest standards of patient care.

"The Scope of Practice Implementation Hub gives pharmacy owners and their teams the tools, guidance and confidence to take the next step - improving access to care for patients and

government's decision to undertake another review of PBS-listed MS medicines, we are concerned that this process could ultimately result in limiting patient access to treatment options that people living with MS rely on," he continued.

"We await further detail from government on the scope and process for the review," Muscardo concluded.

MEANWHILE, AstraZeneca has agreed to make access to the 3.6mg Zoladex Implant (goserelin) available through the Zoladex Continuity Program, after requesting its removal from the PBS over pricing issues.

The 3.6mg version of the hormone-lowering drug is used in endometriosis and breast cancer.

AstraZeneca is currently seeking regulatory and PBS reimbursement approval to make the 10.8mg implant available for hormone receptor-positive breast cancer patients.

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strengthening our primary health system," Professor Twomey said.

"As we work towards a nationally consistent endorsement model for pharmacist prescribing, the Guild wants to ensure its pharmacist members are given all the tools necessary to improve the health of their communities.

"With one in four Australians waiting an unacceptable time for a GP appointment, it's clear specially trained pharmacists have an important role to play."

The Implementation Hub will continue to evolve with new materials, tools, content and guidance to be added over time as services evolve across jurisdictions.

Resources include:

- practical implementation checklists and readiness tools
- guidance on workflow design, premises readiness and team roles
- governance, documentation and risk management resources
- education and training information
- patient communication and marketing resources
- service implementation guidance and support tools.

Members can access the hub **HERE**.

Govt ups nicotine pouch regulations

THE Australian Government has introduced new regulations restricting access to nicotine pouches, with pharmacists no longer permitted to compound them (**PD** breaking news).

From 24 Jul 2026, people will no longer be able to import nicotine pouches - which are unapproved Schedule 4 prescription-only medicines - through the Personal Importation Scheme, access them through the Special Access Scheme or Authorised Prescriber Scheme, or have them compounded by pharmacists for individuals.

The changes were introduced following consultation with stakeholders, and reflect concerns about the health risks associated with emerging nicotine products - particularly their potential appeal to young people and increased risks of nicotine dependence.

In its report on nicotine use released last week (**PD** 17 Jul), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) noted that in 2025, 1.8% of people aged 14 and over reported using nicotine pouches in the past year.

Australian Medical Association president Dr Danielle McMullen welcomed the announcement as a first step in closing loopholes around illicit tobacco products.

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Dispensary Corner

MOVE over Paleo - it is time for a new diet to take the spotlight.

The 'Kilimanjaro diet', which is based on the eating habits of those who live close to the Tanzanian mountain, is being lauded by international experts for its host of benefits.

Rich in fermented foods, grains, and beans, the traditional East African diet has been found to reduce the risk of diabetes and heart disease, according to the World Diet Initiative, a new paper that looks at traditional diets in non-Western countries.

Led by researchers at the Radboud University in the Netherlands, the study followed 77 healthy Tanzanian men, 23 of whom were put on a Western-style diet, including processed sausages, white bread and fries.

Within just two weeks, the men who were following the Western diet experienced higher inflammation levels and weakened immune systems, while previous studies have found that residents in Tanzania are less likely to develop obesity-related illnesses.

PSNSW celebrates 150 years

THE Pharmaceutical Society of NSW (PSNSW) celebrated its sesquicentenary on Fri evening with a banquet held in the University of Sydney Great Hall, marking 150 years since apothecaries, chemists and druggists came together to form the second - and enduring - version of the society.

Distinguished guests were the NSW Governor Margaret Beazley (**pictured**) and her spouse Dennis Wilson, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health Dr Michael Holland, and NSW Shadow Minister for Health Sarah Mitchell.

Official guests included 10 past presidents of PSNSW, as well as current president Lily Pham, national president of the PSA Professor Mark Naunton, and many other significant figures from pharmacy and public office.

After an Acknowledgement of Country from Professor Andrew McLachlan, Master of Ceremonies Professor Rebekah Moles introduced Charbel Azzi, head of sales - pharmacy & institutional at Viatris, which was the principal sponsor for the event.

Governor Beazley then took to the stage with an account of the history of pharmacy, starting with First Nations medicines and moving



onto the Ancient Greek origins of pharmacy and pharmaceutical terms, with plenty of - currently very much on-topic - references to potions from Homer's *Odyssey*.

The Governor also spoke of the chequered life of apothecary John Tawell, who was sentenced to the convict colony transportation for forgery, and went on to establish the NSW's first pharmacy in 1820 but later in England poisoned his mistress, and was hanged.

Dr Holland "emerged from the trenches" as a medical doctor and University of NSW alumnus, to talk about the importance of women's health services offered by pharmacists.

Warwick Plunkett, who served two terms as president of the PSNSW, as well as national president of the PSA, provided an overview of the last 150 years of pharmacy in NSW, with Lily Pham wrapping up the event with a look to the future of pharmacy. KB

Lasting immunity

SMALLER doses of COVID-19 booster shots offer long-lasting immunity, helping to reduce costs and improve access to vaccination, an international research program led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) has found.

The \$17.6 million program evaluated different COVID-19 booster approaches through three randomised clinical trials, tracking more than 2,000 participants across Australia, Indonesia and Mongolia for up to two years.

Fractional doses, where people received half the standard vaccine amount given as boosters, produced strong immune responses that remained comparable to full-dose boosters, the trials found.

MCRI Dr Nadia Mazarakis said the findings were "encouraging for countries looking for practical and affordable ways to deliver booster programs".

"These vaccine strategies will reduce costs, extend supplies and support broader and more equitable access to booster programs, especially in resource constrained countries."

Check out the latest in

Beauty & Wellness

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