

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from Willach.

## Vic Guild extends scholarships

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victoria Branch has expanded its pharmacist prescribing training scholarship to cover all courses accredited by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC), allowing more members to access training sooner.

Announced in Dec last year, the \$1.5 million scholarship fund provided eligible applicants with up to \$5,000 in reimbursement upon successful completion of Monash University's Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing.

The scholarships will now be available to those undertaking other APC-accredited postgraduate courses, including those offered by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) as well as tertiary education providers.

## Expanded kids vax in Tas

PHARMACIST immunisers in Tasmania are now able to initiate and administer a broader range of vaccines to children following yesterday's expansion of the *Tasmanian Authorised Pharmacist Immuniser and Program Guidelines*.

Authorised pharmacist immunisers will be able to vaccinate children aged from two against the flu, and also initiate and administer a greater range of vaccines to kids aged between five and 10 years.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has strongly welcomed the move as a "significant step forward" and an important strategy to address declining vaccination rates in vulnerable and priority population groups.

"Pharmacists across Tasmania are really pleased by these

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## Mar PBS updates

ULTOMIRIS (ravulizumab, Alexion) is now listed on the PBS as a Section 100 item for the treatment of the autoimmune disease generalised myasthenia gravis.

Susan White, chairperson of Myasthenia Alliance Australia, said it is great news for patients who will now have PBS access to a new treatment.

"It's been a long journey to see this medicine reach the PBS and we thank the government for making this innovative medicine accessible for Australians," White said.

Other new PBS listings this month are glofitamab in combination with gemcitabine and oxaliplatin (Glofit-GemOx, Roche) for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, and an expanded listing for incobotulinumtoxinA (Xeomin, Merz Therapeutics) for the treatment of chronic sialorrhoea, a condition that causes excessive saliva.

Indications for nivolumab and ipilimumab have also been expanded for the treatment of advanced or metastatic cancers.

## Rethink dispensary

WILLACH Consis.C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up, freeing up space and time within pharmacies.

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### Dispensary Corner

**NOT** a fan of artificial sweeteners? While many people report liking non-nutritive sweeteners as much as sugar, others prefer the real deal.

However, a new study suggests it may help if you're in the dark. Researchers found that by telling people an artificially sweetened drink contained sugar, they enjoyed it more - and conversely, when told a sugar-sweetened drink contained sugar substitutes, they enjoyed it less.

The team also monitored brain activity during the experiment, where they found increased activation of a brain area related to reward when participants falsely expected an artificially sweetened drink to contain sugar - and this activity was greater than when told that it contained sugar substitutes.

"If we emphasise that healthier food alternatives are 'nutrient rich', or have 'minimal added sugars', this may create more positive expectations than using terms like 'diet' or 'low calorie'," they suggested.

## GLP-1 RAs work better for women

**GLUCAGON-LIKE** peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) are more effective for women than men when it comes to weight loss, according to a large review published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* today.

Researchers looking at findings from 64 trials found that apart from sex differences, the efficacy of GLP-1 RAs appeared to be consistent across age, race and ethnicity, baseline body mass index, and baseline haemoglobin A1c.

The researchers suggested this could be due to "the ability of GLP-1 RAs to synergistically interact with oestrogens as well as the potential for altered pharmacokinetics and greater response among women because of their lower median body weight".

"These study findings may be useful to stakeholders vested in improving the care of individuals with obesity, diabetes, and other conditions for which GLP-1 RAs may be indicated," they concluded.

Read the study [HERE](#).

**MEANWHILE**, results from a phase 3 trial of GLP-1 RA pill orforglipton have reported a larger reduction in blood sugar levels after one year than the currently available oral GLP-1 RA, semaglutide.

Patients taking orforglipton also had significantly greater reductions in body weight than those taking oral semaglutide.

The trial involved over 1,500 people with type 2 diabetes from 131 medical research centres and hospitals in various countries.

With an average starting weight of 97kg, those taking orforglipton lost on average 6-8% of their weight, depending on the dose, compared with 4-5% with semaglutide.

However, more people dropped out of the trial due to gastrointestinal side effects when taking orforglipton (9-10%) than when using semaglutide (4-5%).

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

### Counterfeit GLP-1 meds warning

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued an updated safety advisory after discovering counterfeit imported weight loss products.

The unregistered products falsely claimed to contain GLP-1 receptor agonists or GLP-1 analogues, but testing revealed they did not contain these drugs - learn more [HERE](#).

### healthSAVE opens 100th store

**THE** healthSAVE Pharmacy Network has celebrated the grand opening of its Lowwood store in south-east Queensland, marking its 100th pharmacy milestone.

This followed a period of expansion, with 23 new stores joining the network in 2025 and IQVIA noting it was the fastest-growing banner group in the last quarter of 2025.

Attendees experienced an in-store activation and community sausage sizzle.

"It's wonderful to see so many pharmacists, their teams and customers embracing the brand and contributing to its strong growth across the country," said Brett Barons, CEO of Symbion, which backs healthSAVE.



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**Editorial Director** - Damian Francis

#### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

**Head of Sales & Marketing** - Sean Harrigan  
**Business Development Manager** - Kara Stanley  
[advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

#### GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER

Matthew Vince

#### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
 Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

[info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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- Tel: (03) 9429 8222
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