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Petrus

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including a photo page from APP2026, plus full pages from:

- healthSAVE
- MediChoice

healthSAVE grows

HEALTHSAVE Pharmacy is Australia's fastest growing pharmacy network.

Find out more on **page five**.

PSA for kidneys

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has voiced its support for Kidney Health Australia's new national plan to address surging rates of kidney disease, released yesterday on World Kidney Day.

The evidence-based paper strongly advocates for the expansion of Home Based Medicine Reviews (HMRs) as a critical screening and diagnostic tool to prevent the progression of kidney disease.

PSA backed the idea, recommending that HMRs be uncapped from the current 30 per month limit.

"The latest national statistics from Kidney Health Australia are very sobering and, as frontline health professionals, we are seeing the growing incidence and consequences of kidney disease every day," said PSA national president, Professor Mark Naunton.

"Pharmacists look forward to working with other health professionals to eliminate the incidence of kidney disease as quickly and effectively as we can," he added.

"Our future is ours to shape"

IN YESTERDAY'S opening plenary at APP2026, Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president Trent Twomey presented the highs and lows of the last year, from the rapid increase in prescribing pharmacists and the growth of Guild membership, to the ongoing impact of 60-day dispensing and challenges of federalism.

As women's health takes a front seat in pharmacy and healthcare more generally, Professor Twomey lamented the slow rollout of initiatives agreed in the 8CPA.

"Free pharmacy consultations for concession card holders, and the ability to prescribe PBS medicines.

"However, over the last two years, since this agreement was signed, we are still waiting - women are still waiting," he said.

He acknowledged some progress had been made on initiation of hormonal contraception - at this time last year, only pharmacists in Queensland could initiate, whereas now all states except NSW and ACT can or will soon be able to.

Professor Twomey (pictured) also celebrated the 200 new pharmacist prescribers, pointing out that the previous year there were only 20, and there are now eight universities offering postgraduate training.

"I'm so grateful that every prescribing pharmacist who has put in the hard yards balancing careers, balancing home, and balancing study," he said.

"But to really seize this opportunity, we need prescribing to be included in the base registerable degree, so that every student leaving university can assess, diagnose, and treat both everyday health conditions and long-term chronic conditions."

Alluding to the collapse of the Infinity Group, Professor Twomey



reiterated the Guild's position that the core principles of location rules and pharmacist-owned pharmacies should be strengthened to deliver equitable access for patients.

"They are the backbone of community pharmacy," he said.

Acknowledging the presence of Associate Professor Fei Sim, and Professor Mark Naunton, the former and current presidents of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Professor Twomey highlighted the Society's acquisition of the Australasian College of Pharmacy as a win for education and training.

Guild membership has grown, with Professor Twomey highlighting a reshaped membership offering, a freeze on fees, and increased value.

As he rounded off his address, he pointed out that next year the Guild will turn 100, and urged pharmacists to complete the census the Guild is currently conducting to help it advocate for the future of pharmacy.

"Colleagues, as we head towards our centenary and beyond, remember this: you chose well.

"You chose a profession that changes lives every day, and your Guild is here for you.

"We are in the corridors where deals are done, we're in the rooms where decisions are made, and we're on the ground where issues hit," Professor Twomey added.

"Our future is ours to shape." KB

MediChoice deals

MEDICHOICE is highlighting its winter pharmacy deals, which are now available.

Head to the **back page** for more information.

Keep meds cheap

AUSTRALIANS have saved over \$30 million since medicine became cheaper at the start of the year (PD 05 Jan), the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has revealed.

The maximum cost of a PBS prescription fell to \$25, marking the second co-payment reduction in the history of the PBS.

While the co-payment for those with a concession card has already been frozen at \$7.70 until 2030, the price of prescriptions for non-concession card holders will begin rising from Jan 2027, in line with indexation.

The industry body is now calling on the Federal Government to freeze to co-payment at \$25 until 2030.

"Community pharmacists care for Australians every single day, and we see firsthand the impact that the cost of essential medicines has on their health and wellbeing," said Professor Trent Twomey, National President Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"Prescription prices are now the lowest they have been in 20 years, but we can't stop here.

"Without a freeze, the co-payment will begin rising again, putting pressure back on families and those already feeling the cost-of-living squeeze," he explained.

READY FOR THE Z DISPENSE CHALLENGE AT APP?

Fastest Times				
Rank	Dispenser	Time	Accuracy	Final Time
1	HERMIONE	00'14"560	100%	00'14"560
2	HARRY	00'20"000	100%	00'20"000
3	RON	00'20"000	94%	00'33"000

Visit stands 379-380

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Z software

Gongs for community pharmacy



CAPITAL Chemist Bathurst has been named National Community Pharmacy of the Year, as announced at APP2026 yesterday, with Tasmania's Mia Shinkfield awarded Student Pharmacist of the Year, and Queensland pharmacist Molly McGuire from TerryWhite Chemmart Wilsonton taking out the 2026 National Community Pharmacist of the Year.

Capital Chemist Bathurst was recognised for its exceptional innovation, leadership, and community-centred service model. Using new models of care that are now influencing national practice, it serves large numbers of people across its community through its home care and NDIS model.

The judges noted the innovation was possible because of the dedication of its staff, showing that award-winning pharmacies are built on strong team culture.

Marcus Heiner (pictured right), one of five owners of Capital Chemist Bathurst said, "We're incredibly proud to receive this national recognition, but the real honour is being trusted by our community every day."

"Our focus has always been simple - if a service will make it

easier for patients to get care when they need it, we want to find a way to deliver it in the pharmacy.

"Whether it's supporting NDIS participants, running vaccination clinics, or helping someone manage a new diagnosis, we want Bathurst families to know they can come to us first," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Pharmacist of the Year Molly McGuire was celebrated for her advanced clinical practice, leadership in regional healthcare, and deep community engagement, redefining what patient-centred pharmacy care looks like in Qld.

"This award is incredibly humbling, and I accept it on behalf of our entire pharmacy team and the communities we serve," McGuire said.

"I'm passionate about showing patients, especially in regional Queensland, that their pharmacist provides advice, care and a health professional who knows their story," she added.

Finally, student winner Mia Shinkfield was recognised for her commitment to culturally safe care, academic excellence, leadership and advocacy - qualities that reflect a future pharmacist already shaping the profession. *KB*

All-in-one platform

PHARMAPROGRAMS has announced the launch of an all-in-one pharmacy and patient engagement platform designed to easily integrate into existing pharmacy workflows.

Building on the company's established IT platform, myPharmaPrograms Pro aims to simplify daily operations, enhance patient communication and foster new revenue opportunities, while elevating patient care.

The new program allows community pharmacies to manage prescriptions, track appointments, and message patients, and is accessible via a single subscription with no hidden fees.

PharmaPrograms general manager Joe Martino said the platform "delivers the functionality pharmacists need to support patients and grow their business, without hidden fee structures that erode their margins".

Pharmacists attending APP 2026 this week will get a first glimpse at the platform, and can take advantage of exclusive launch benefits.

Conference convenor and DBG Health chief pharmacist Kos Sclavos said: "Pharmacists are under increasing pressure to deliver more services with tighter resources."

"MyPharmaPrograms gives them the tools to manage patient programs efficiently while maintaining a clear view of their business performance."

APP2026

Today's issue of PD is coming to you courtesy of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia from APP2026 on the Gold Coast.

DAY two of the conference will see the morning kick off with an address from Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, followed by the popular 'State of the Industry' panel discussion, featuring peak organisation industry leaders.

Other keynote speakers today include Shadow Health Minister Anne Ruston, and maths geek Adam Spencer, who will talk about how AI is changing the way we work.

NAPSA launches future fund

WITH this year marking the 80th anniversary of the national student body NAPSA, current president Sebastian Harper and Guild president Professor Trent Twomey announced at APP2026 the launch of the NAPSA Future Fund, with the bold ambition of raising \$1 million.

Trustees for the fund will be the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and dividends will be used to fund NAPSA activities. Learn more and donate [HERE](#).

Health Services

“More services & support. Better access. Stronger community care.”

Ruthanne Jaja, TerryWhite Chemmart, Macquarie Street



TerryWhite Chemmart
Dedicated to Care

APP2026 brings industry together

THE Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP) has brought together around 7,000 proprietors, pharmacists, interns, students, pharmacy assistants and industry professionals this week at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC).

Under the theme 'Beyond the Script', the three-day event kicked off with the opening plenary, before delegates tuned in for business, innovation and leadership stream sessions, providing them with insights into the challenges and opportunities shaping the profession.

There is also a trade exhibition featuring more than 450 stands, showcasing the latest products, services and tech. "APP is the heartbeat of community pharmacy - it's where we come together to share knowledge, celebrate achievements, and shape the future of our profession," said APP Conference Convenor, Kos Sclavos.



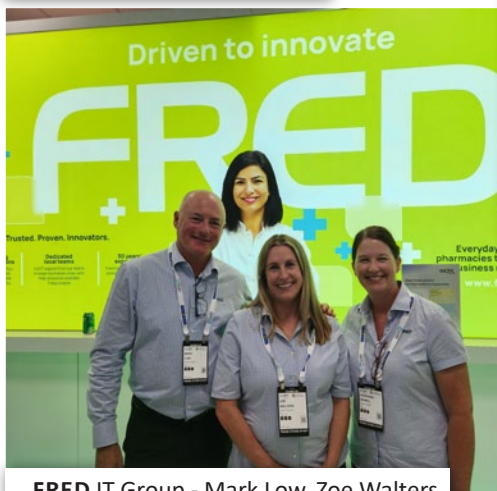
MOOGOO - Emilia Hyvarinen and Jacob Byrne.



TERRYWHITE Chemmart - Elena Pauna, Anh Ngo, Kate Gunthorpe, Tess Alvin and Chloe Backers.



LOCUMCO - Asa Tse, Jeyda Shiaxiates and Sue Muller.



FRED IT Group - Mark Low, Zoe Walters and Kerrieanne Winmill.



PARAGONCARE - Pierre Wassef, Clint Poole, Christine Wang, Shannon Colebatch, Stephanie Jones, Barbara Bone and Darren Poutney.



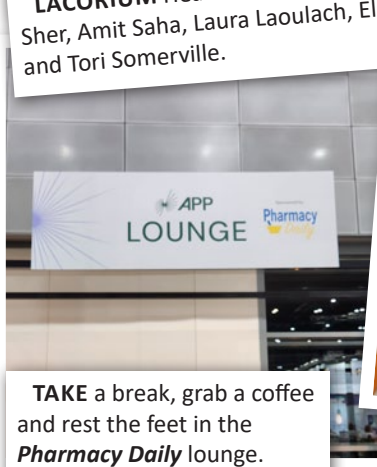
LACORIUM Health - Shelley Sher, Steven Sher, Amit Saha, Laura Laoulach, Ellie Taylor and Tori Somerville.



RAVEN'S Recruitment - Leanne Virtue, Sheryll Dobson, Amal Amaneddine, Heidi Dariz, Debbie Capuano and David Shaw.



GOLD Cross Glucojel - Laura Hope and Andrew Appleton.



TAKE a break, grab a coffee and rest the feet in the **Pharmacy Daily lounge**.



HEY Sister - Eoin Byrne and Sally Parker.



THE Hey Sister uterus makes an appearance.



SUN Road Group - Gene Donoghue, Christina Di Scala and Tony Abraham.



Dispensary Corner

SLEEP issues can be highly frustrating, but they can also be downright scary, with new research in the UK showing that sleep paralysis is on the rise.

The condition describes a temporary inability to move or speak while falling asleep or waking up, usually accompanied by vivid hallucinations that are often frightening in nature.

It is not uncommon to sense an intruder, see shadowy or even demonic figures, or feel pressure on one's chest.

According to a study commissioned by blinds firm Hillarys, searches for sleep paralysis have increased 31% in the past week.

"During REM sleep the brain is highly active, almost as active as when we're awake, and vivid dreaming occurs," Tom Coleman, a sleep scientist at Hillarys, explained.

"At the same time, most voluntary muscles are switched off in a protective mechanism called REM atonia.

"Sleep paralysis happens when this process becomes uncoupled: the brain wakes, but the body remains in REM paralysis.

"Dream imagery can spill into waking awareness, causing hallucinations," he added.

People can lessen their chance of sleep paralysis by reducing stress before bed and avoiding heavy meals, alcohol and caffeine in the evening.

It is estimated that around eight in every 100 Aussies will experience the chilling phenomenon at some stage.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

Panadol Optizorb: your go-to choice for a wide range of patients

Paracetamol, the main ingredient of Panadol Optizorb, is suitable for 98% of Australian adults.^{1†} Panadol Optizorb provides effective relief of pain and discomfort associated with a wide range of pain states, and also reduces fever.

Panadol Optizorb's patented delivery system enables 25% faster absorption of paracetamol compared to regular Panadol tablets, delivering paracetamol more efficiently^{2‡} to the body, and relieving pain while remaining gentle on the stomach.

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Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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Panadol Optizorb contains paracetamol. Use: For the temporary relief of pain. Reduces fever. †Based on criteria derived from contraindications, warnings and precautions from prescribing information of OTC paracetamol, ibuprofen and aspirin; and Australian population demographics, 2006. ‡Compared to regular Panadol tablets. Per the definition of 'efficiency', Panadol with Optizorb Technology is a more efficient formula because it disintegrates faster and is absorbed faster.

1. Clarke GD et al. *Int J Pharm Prac* 2008;16:333-6 (GSK sponsored study). 2. Wilson CG et al. *Drug Dev Ind Pharm* 2011;37:747-53 (GSK sponsored). Trademarks are owned by or licensed to the Haleon group. ©2026 Haleon or its licensor, Sydney, NSW Australia & Auckland, New Zealand. PM-AU-PAN-26-00050. HALEOY0240g. February 2026.



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