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If you would like more time to focus on your pharmacy, see **page six** to learn more.

Ahpra sets out strategy for reform

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has released a new five-year strategy for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, with safety and sustainability at its core.

The strategy outlines Ahpra's commitment to further protecting the public, improving access to and trust in regulated health practitioners, while supporting a rapidly evolving health system.

It centres around three priorities: effective harm prevention, a culturally safe health system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and a sustainable health workforce.

Community voices will be elevated to ensure people of all backgrounds, faiths, cultures, ages and identities can access safe healthcare, with all interactions to be timely, transparent, straightforward, and empathetic.

The strategy commits to focusing on the user experience and working as a responsible,

credible and trusted partner in the health system.

Meanwhile, optimising the use of data and insights, robust governance and collaborative leadership will enable Ahpra and other stakeholders to act on emerging issues.

CEO Justin Untersteiner explained the priorities will drive Ahpra's reform agenda, and guide decisions and investment to ensure it can continue protecting the public over the coming years.

"We have a proven ability to effectively register and regulate health practitioners in Australia," Untersteiner said.

"This is our core business and our commitment to public protection has never been in doubt, but we

know we can't stand still.

"We have to take stock and make sure we're in step with what's next - for health consumers, health workers and the health of the system," he concluded.

The strategy is available **HERE**. *KB*

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1. Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. Australian Immunisation Handbook. Available at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>. Accessed March 2026.
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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of industry news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy Choice**.

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Guild video winners

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the winners of the 2026 Community Pharmacy Cultural Engagement Video Competition with its theme 'Full Scope: Shared Care' (PD 28 Nov 2025).

The judge's award for best video went to Carter's Pharmacy, Gunnedah, whose entry showcased powerful, community-led cultural engagement in action.

The video highlighted tangible steps taken to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and strengthen inclusive, culturally responsive care.

"A standout example of how community pharmacies are driving lasting impact through connection, respect and shared care," the judges said.

The people's choice award - as voted by attendees at the Cultural Engagement Forum at APP2026 - went to The Balgo Bush Medicine Project from Kimberley Pharmacy Services.

"This moving entry celebrated partnership, culture and the deep community knowledge at the heart of inclusive practice," the Guild stated - see the video [HERE](#).



Safer psychotropics in aged care



RESEARCHERS at Monash University and Flinders University have created a series of educational videos designed to support the safer and more appropriate use of psychotropic medications for people living with dementia and in residential aged care.

The video series was designed to support translation of key recommendations and good practice statements from the *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications in People Living with Dementia and in Residential Aged Care*.

Comprising 12 short, practical modules (approximately five to seven minutes each) the videos cover key topics including initiation, monitoring and discontinuation of antipsychotics, antidepressants and benzodiazepines.

Developed by researchers from The Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS) within the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) and the Caring

Futures Institute at Flinders University, the videos were based on the EMBRACE trial, which explored the role of pharmacist 'knowledge brokers' in supporting implementation of the guidelines.

"Our knowledge broker pharmacists in the EMBRACE trial were able to leverage the benefits of the small group, targeted education to help empower aged care staff to be advocates for appropriate use of psychotropic medications," explained Dr Amanda Cross, senior research fellow from CMUS.

"This video series represents an exciting new resource that aged care onsite pharmacists could use to support quality use of medicines," she said.

The videos are part of a broader resource suite that includes a companion guide in six languages, nine medication fact sheets and a curated inventory of existing quality use of medicines resources.

Access the suite [HERE](#).

Are your ads TGAC-compliant?

CONSUMER Healthcare Products Australia is running a virtual training workshop on the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code and the regulatory framework that underpins it.

It covers when and how the Code applies, core requirements for ads, the use of testimonials and endorsements, social media, and restricted or prohibited representations.

Ideal for retailers and marketers, the next workshop takes place over three sessions of around two hours each, spread over three weeks in Apr.

See the CHP website for more information [HERE](#).

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Have your say on Standards

PUBLIC consultation for the revised Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Programs used for degree and intern training programs in Australia will close on 23 Mar, and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is urging health professionals, consumers, educators and other stakeholders to have their say. Learn more [HERE](#).

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APP2027 planning now underway

AFTER the largest ever APP wrapped up on Saturday, conference convenor Kos Sclavos thanked all delegates, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and suppliers for their contribution to another outstanding event.

"Our aim is always for attendees to leave APP feeling inspired, informed and ready to turn opportunity into action," Sclavos said.

"APP2026 once again demonstrated the strength, professionalism and innovation of community pharmacy across Australia," he added.

Sclavos also acknowledged the broader pharmacy and health sector that supports APP each year, pointing out it would not be possible without the commitment of our industry partners and suppliers.

Planning is already underway for APP2027 from 18-20 Mar.

Northpharm delivers in NT floods

WITH floods affecting many communities in the Northern Territory in the last two weeks (*PD* 10 Mar), the Northpharm pharmacy group has worked alongside health agencies and emergency services to maintain continuity of medicine supplies to communities and patients cut off by the ongoing emergency.

While experiencing significant disruption and flood damage to its own pharmacies, the Northpharm team has worked in partnership with the NT Government, NT Health, ACCHOs, community services and police to keep critical medicines flowing to patients as part of the broader relief effort.

As one of its two Katherine stores remains closed, the state government and Northern Territory Police have provided escorts to Northpharm teams to enable access to their flood-affected premises to retrieve medicines for urgent delivery to stranded communities and patients.



The team has also ensured continuity of supply of medication to Katherine patients who were evacuated to Royal Darwin Hospital.

Northpharm Chief Pharmacist Sze Lim said Northpharm will continue to provide all support necessary to ensure continuity of medicine and care to patients.

"Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this emergency, and it is our priority to ensure patients

continue to receive the medications they depend on," Lim said.

"Our teams and partners have shown extraordinary commitment to maintaining continuity of care for remote communities during this emergency.

"This shows the value of working together and the strength of our partnerships with government agencies, health services and our pharmacy network," she concluded.

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Ruthanne Jaja, TerryWhite Chemmart, Macquarie Street

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Young vapers diss risks

YOUNG people rarely consider the health risks of vaping and regard it as normalised and socially embedded, according to recent Flinders University research into the perceptions and motivations of young vapers.

Findings from the qualitative study involving people aged 16-24 highlighted a need for tailored messages to disrupt youths downplaying its risks.

Vaping remains prevalent among Australian adolescents and young adults, and vapes continue to be easily accessible from peers and stores, regardless of restrictions imposed in 2025.

"We need to understand how - and if - uncertainty about long-term health risks of [vaping] is a factor among youth who vape, to measure the potential influence of messages to reduce vaping prevalence," said lead author Dr Joshua Trigg, from Flinders University's College of Medicine and Public Health.

The study revealed that participants discounted prevention messages, citing low personal relevance and limited credibility.

Many framed warnings on health harms as distant or hypothetical, enabling their continued use of vapes, while uncertainty about long-term consequences of health damage was not only tolerated but often used as evidence to justify their risk-taking.

"Australian youths navigate vaping by rationalising and deferring their engagement with risk," Dr Trigg said.

"Uncertainty tolerance plays a role in continued vaping, particularly in the absence of visible harms, so prevention strategies should address this tolerance directly and use social and peer-based messaging to counteract their belief that vaping is normalised," he suggested.

The study was published in the journal *Substance Use and Misuse* - read it [HERE](#). *KB*

Ahpra takes stand against Islamophobia

THE Australian Health Practitioner Agency (Ahpra) and Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, Mr Aftab Malik (**pictured**), have issued a joint statement on efforts to combat Islamophobia in healthcare.

It comes ahead of Malik's presentation to the United Nations on Australia's efforts to combat Islamophobia.

"Public safety is Ahpra's core priority and everyone has the right to safe, respectful and equitable healthcare," the regulator said in a statement.

"Acts of Islamophobia prevent Muslim Australians from freely practising their religion and culture and create unacceptable barriers to care.

"Ahpra stands with the Special Envoy in our shared commitment to eliminating Islamophobia, along with all forms of racism and discrimination, from Australia's healthcare systems."



As Special Envoy, Malik provides advice, promotes education and awareness, and engages stakeholders to address anti-Muslim sentiment.

He was appointed in 2024 for a three-year term, and his office - the Office of the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia (OSECI) - is independent of government.

"Combating Islamophobia requires systemic reform, not just statements after the damage is done," Malik said.

"It requires accountability, protection for victims, and policies that proactively protect and include Muslim communities in Australia's social fabric."

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Dive into our latest podcast episode featuring **Ellen Bolger-Rowe**, final-year pharmacy student at Charles Sturt University and Secretary of NAPSA - "My non-linear Journey into Pharmacy from Performing Arts".

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Dispensary Corner

A 58-YEAR-OLD woman in Greece sneezed out late-stage maggots after sheep bot fly larvae were trapped in her deviated septum, according to a case report in the *Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases*. It was reported that the woman worked outdoors in an area of a Greek island close to a field with grazing sheep, where one hot dry day, a swarm of flies bombarded her face. A week later, she experienced facial pain, developed a cough soon after, and a month later, when she sneezed, she reported that "worms" came out of her nose.

Over the years, there have been other cases where second- and third-stage larvae have found their way into people's noses, but this particular case is the first reported instance of late-stage sheep bot fly larvae, including pupa and puparium (pictured), being found in a human's nose.

It is believed that the larvae were able to develop in the woman's nose due to her severely deviated septum - basically meaning that there were so many maggots in her nasal passage that they created a bottleneck on their way out, allowing some to develop further than usual.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

Hartley's Gripe Water

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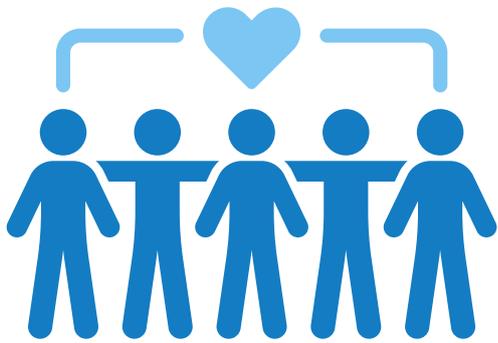
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