

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- PharmaPrograms Pro
- Glucojel

CWH is running with Raffi

THE Chemist Warehouse Run Club will join Melbourne's Run for the Kids on Sun 29 Mar, and is hoping to surpass last year's team total of more than 400 staff and supporters.

The event raises money for The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, which funds research, cutting-edge technology and patient- and family-centred care.

The Run with Raffi team was inspired by Raffi Verrocchi, who was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2020 when he was two years old and is now in remission.

Pharmacists are ready for flu season

AS INFLUENZA vaccinations start to roll out nationwide and the Australian community is being urged to get their shots, pharmacists are being reminded of the critical role they play.

In a session at APP2026, PSA national vaccination ambassador Anna Theophilos told delegates that pharmacists delivered 2.6 million flu vaccines nationally in 2025.

She also pointed to a 2025 systematic review that found pharmacist-led vaccinations significantly increased uptake.

"That is not just showing up - that is cementing pharmacists as one of the leading vaccinators," she said.

Delegates were reminded that a recommendation from a health professional is the single most influential factor in choosing to vaccinate.

"Confidently lead the conversation that helps our patients understand the disease we are protecting them from," Theophilos urged.

"Because vaccination is not just about administering a dose - it is about translating the risk, explaining the disease burden, and helping patients make informed decisions about prevention."

Meanwhile, the coming flu season is shaping up to be a bad one.

More than 502,000 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were recorded in 2025, and data indicates that influenza activity has already begun in parts of the country, with 22,088 cases already confirmed for 2026.

Kate Gunthorpe, deputy chief pharmacist at TerryWhite Chemmart, said last year's record case numbers were a reminder of the disruptive and dangerous impact influenza can have on families, workplaces and vulnerable Australians.

"Last year showed just how significant and widespread influenza can be and 2026 is shaping up to be just as bad," Gunthorpe said.



"More than half a million confirmed cases placed real pressure on families and the healthcare system," she added. KB

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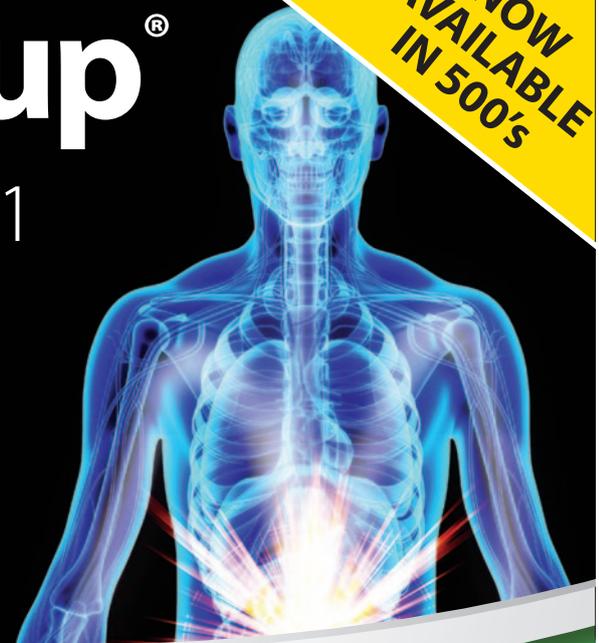
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The Great Dunny Hunt is back

CONTINENCE Health Australia is running the Great Dunny Hunt from 23 Mar to 15 Jun 2026, and has invited people in Australia to add and update public toilets on the National Public Toilet Map to help millions of people plan their day with confidence.

With over 850 added last year, the map now lists over 25,000 public toilets nationwide, including one at the top of Mount Kosciuszko.

Searched more than 3.7 million times each year, the map is especially important for people living with incontinence (around one in four people), those with a disability, and emergency services staff.

Continence Health Australia general manager operations and pharmacist Suzie Bratuskins told **Pharmacy Daily** that having an updated and comprehensive map also helps families with young kids, older people and travellers who may not know the area.

"We aim to make public spaces more accessible for those with continence issues, and the National Public Toilet Map is a step towards a more accessible future for all people in Australia," Bratuskins said.

People can add or update a toilet listing and go in the draw to win a \$1,000 Discovery Holiday Parks voucher.

The map is available online **HERE**, or via the Toilet Map app.

Katherine braces for more



OPINION

***LOCUM** pharmacist Evan Walters is still in flood-ravaged Katherine, NT (PD 10 Mar), having been unable to reach his next locum role in Alice Springs, and was able to help with the clean-up.*

Here he reports as the town braces for more water in the wake of tropical cyclone Narelle.

KATHERINE is facing its fifth flood of the wet season - the river is rising again, even as clean-up from the major 07 Mar peak carries on.

The rhythm feels oddly familiar - move stock, check roads, keep the work going.

When the water first dropped, the priority was safety.

We inspected every shelf to see which stock items were flood-affected, and while the electronic systems mostly held, losing the main server meant no reliable way to track damaged stock.

Staff at both pharmacies in town spent days cleaning, counting, and logging stock losses.

It feels like a long time ago, but

it's been two weeks - the smell in the dispensary still reminds us where the water reached.

No one tackles this alone.

Police coordinated safe access to the pharmacies during the last flood; transport crews continue road repairs; and the local health service works alongside pharmacies to maintain continuity.

Greyhound buses and local businesses have become ad-hoc couriers.

Customers who have waited through it all stay patient - they've seen worse, and they understand the show must go on.

There's no handbook for the fifth flood in a season.

What keeps life going is the people - those who turn up, improvise, and trust that someone else will do the same.

The river's rising again, but there's community effort behind every script dispensed to match it.

Evan Walters is a senior pharmacist with extensive experience in rural and remote communities.

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See **page five** for more.

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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. sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. www.sanofi.com.au. MAT-AU-2600393 V1. Date of preparation: March 2026.

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Dispensary Corner

RESIDENTS at St Vincent's Care Toowoomba have been given the opportunity to explore the world from the comfort of their home, thanks to a new fully immersive virtual reality experience inside a replica fine-dining train carriage.

Developed for people who have dementia, the St Vincent's Express allows guests to "travel" through 10 countries via digital windows, with surround sound and an AI travel guide available in five languages.

"I had been looking for an idea that would offer a completely different experience for our residents and which also would be very stimulating for them, especially residents who had some form of cognitive impairment," said residential care services manager Elzette Lategan, who came up with the concept.

"Many of them would still love to travel overseas but it's just not practical or possible for them anymore," she added.

"So I thought, 'Why don't we bring the travel and the world to them?'"



War threatens generic meds supply

AUSTRALIAN supplies of generic medicines are at risk due to shipping disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, according to leading global supply chain management company Infios.

Many of the generic medicines used in Australia are produced in India, but the supply chains feeding the production are global, Infios chief supply chain strategist Steve Blough pointed out.

"Many of the chemical precursors and active pharmaceutical ingredients originate in China and are frequently routed through major distribution centres in the Gulf, including hubs in Dubai and across the United Arab Emirates, before reaching Indian manufacturers," Blough explained.

"Even when materials move directly between Asia's manufacturing centres, the pharmaceutical sector still relies heavily on petrochemical feedstocks and energy supplies sourced from the Gulf region."

In addition, the Middle East is a major transit corridor for pharmaceutical cargo, with high-value and time-sensitive medicines transported by air through Gulf hubs.

Meanwhile, temperature-sensitive medicines have specific cold chain requirements, with many needing dry ice or battery-powered cooling systems to be replenished periodically during transit.

"Disruptions to flight schedules or ground handling operations can therefore increase the risk of cold-chain interruptions," Blough said.

Sea cargo faces more significant challenges, with refrigerated containers operating within tightly planned sailing schedules and requiring consistent electrical power at ports to maintain



internal temperatures.

"If vessels are forced to divert away from conflict zones or if sailings are cancelled, containers can accumulate at origin ports while others are redirected to alternate hubs that may not have sufficient power capacity to support large volumes of refrigerated cargo," Blough explained.

Furthermore, empty containers can become trapped in affected regions, unable to return to Asian export hubs where new pharmaceutical shipments are waiting to be loaded.

"This creates a compounding logistics challenge: manufacturers may have product ready to ship but lack the specialised containers required to move it," Blough said.

With the Middle East conflict a few weeks in, air cargo rates from India are reported to have increased significantly as shippers compete for limited space.

"The pharmaceutical sector is particularly sensitive to logistics disruptions because many wholesalers and pharmacies

operate with relatively lean inventories of generic medicines," Blough said.

"This just-in-time approach helps manage costs but leaves little buffer when global transport networks are disrupted."

Blough predicted the effects will be felt in Australia in four to six weeks, starting with high-volume generic medicines including treatment for diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol, as well as antibiotics.

"Certain temperature-sensitive therapies, including some oncology treatments, could also face delays if refrigerated transport capacity becomes constrained," Blough said.

"For Australia, the key issue is not necessarily a sudden halt in medicine production, but the vulnerability of the logistics systems that connect manufacturers with global healthcare markets.

"When shipping routes lengthen, containers are delayed, and air freight capacity tightens, medicines can take longer and cost more to reach pharmacies and hospitals," he concluded. *KB*

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