

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **Willach**.

## Rethink dispensary

**WILLACH** Consis.C provides the latest in robotic automation for a more efficient dispensary set-up, freeing up space and time within your pharmacy. Learn more on **page five**.

## New PSA branch committee members

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the outcomes of the recent PSA Branch Committee elections, with members set to commence a three-year term on 01 Jul 2026.

The PSA thanked all members who nominated and congratulated the elected PSA State and Territory Branch Committee officials.

"The elected officials bring diverse knowledge, experience, and skills that will further support the pharmacy profession as they represent their states and territories," a spokesperson said.

See the complete list of elected officials **HERE**.

## Free women's health webinar

**MEDRELEAF** is hosting a free, educational webinar with Dr Orit Holtzman, a leading Australian practitioner with experience in integrative and functional medicine and an interest in cannabinoid-based therapies, on Wed 13 May.

The webinar is intended to educate pharmacists and other health care professionals on the emerging role of cannabinoid medicines in women's health - more **HERE**.

## AdPha urges mental health pharmacy funding

**ADVANCED** Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has broadly welcomed the Victorian Government's 2026-27 Budget, with its strong focus on mental health services and more accessible frontline care.

"We commend the Victorian Government for prioritising both mental health and access to free, timely care - two of the most pressing challenges facing our health system," said AdPha president Assoc Prof Tom Simpson. "Initiatives that support care in the community and reduce pressure on hospitals are essential to ensuring patients receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place."

However, the peak body has highlighted a significant gap in dedicated mental health pharmacy services across Victoria's hospital system, underscoring the need for more targeted investment.

The Budget includes a \$46.8 million investment in mental health initiatives, including new and expanded mental health 'Hospital in the Home' beds, alongside \$76 million to strengthen the health workforce - 93% of which is directed toward training and development for mental health professionals such as nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists and

junior medical officers.

Assoc Prof Simpson stated that while the focus on workforce sustainability is critical, it must extend to pharmacists working across both hospital and community settings.

"Mental health pharmacists are a vital but often overlooked part of the care team," he said.

"They support safe and appropriate prescribing of medicines such as antipsychotics, provide specialist advice to colleagues, and advocate for treatment options that are evidence-based and aligned with consumer preferences.

"With more than 12 million mental health-related prescriptions dispensed in Victoria in 2023-24, medicines are central to care - yet the pharmacy workforce is not being supported to keep pace."

AdPha data shows that only 44% of surveyed hospital sites in Victoria had dedicated mental health pharmacists, with 26 pharmacists across 59 hospitals.

"Hospital pharmacists are a highly specialised workforce helping manage increasingly complex patients, prevent medication errors and ensure continuity of care - particularly at transitions like discharge," Associate Professor

## Aussie brand to feature in UK royal book

**SKINCARE** company Ego Pharmaceuticals is set to feature in a British centenary project marking 100 years of royal and parliamentary history in the United Kingdom.

Ego will be specifically highlighted among organisations that exemplify innovation and excellence, with the Australian company recognised for its significant presence in the UK, as well as the development of its QV Skincare range for the Queen Victoria Hospital.

"As a family-owned Australian company rooted in scientific rigour, we are honoured to be featured in *Monarchy and Democracy: A History of*



*Leadership*," said managing director Alan Oppenheim (pictured with Jane Oppenheim).

"This project parallels our own journey of growth, from our heritage in Melbourne, Australia, to our established presence in the UK and across 13 countries globally," he added. **MS**

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Simpson said.

"If we are serious about improving access, strengthening mental health care and reducing system pressure, we must invest in the full multidisciplinary team.

"This includes supporting pharmacists to work at full scope, embedding them across care settings, and ensuring hospital pharmacy services grow in line with community demand." **KB**

# NOT JUST FLU. THERE'S WHOOPING COUGH TOO

Ask about a **DOUBLE SHOT**  
Help prevent whooping cough as well as the flu<sup>1</sup>

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](http://www.sanofi.com.au). MAT-AU-2600393 V1. Date of preparation: March 2026.

**sanofi**



## Registrations open for MM2026

REGISTRATIONS for the Medicines Management (MM2026) conference from Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) are now open, with the announcement of keynote speakers - leadership coach Dr Gemma Munro and mental health expert Barry du Bois.

The 50th Medicines Management conference will take place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 22-24 Oct focusing on the theme 'Limitless'.

MM2026 Scientific Program Committee Chair Stephen Louey is looking forward to both Munro and du Bois joining the speaker program.

"We are excited to see Dr Munro's keynote set the tone - empowering individuals to believe in their capabilities, their capacity to lead, and the ability to create meaningful change," he said.

Louey also spoke highly of du Bois' beliefs around the importance of empathy and courage in leadership.

"In a profession that is deeply centred on caring for others, his message will resonate strongly," he said.

Meanwhile, invitations are now open for abstracts across three categories: original research, pharmacy practice and case reports.

Submission deadline is Tues 09 Jun at 11.59pm AEST.

Click [HERE](#) for more.

## Quit-smoking spend falls short

FEDERAL Government investment in tobacco addiction treatment is falling short of recommended levels and is inconsistent with best-practice evidence, experts have warned, calling for greater investment in making effective tobacco dependence treatments more accessible and affordable.

In a paper published in *Public Health Research & Practice*, Dr Elizabeth Greenhalgh from Cancer Council Victoria and Professor Lisa Wood from University of Notre Dame pointed to 2021 WHO modelling that recommended a per capita investment of A\$2.39 (in 2024-25 adjusted for inflation) annually on pharmacological interventions.

However, only \$23 million was spent in Australia on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) benefits for subsidised nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and quit smoking drugs bupropion and varenicline in 2024-25, approximately one-third of the WHO recommended per capita investment.

The experts also pointed out that the treatment duration and types of nicotine-dependence medications available via the PBS are also not consistent with best-practice evidence.

PBS-subsidised NRT treatments are limited to two 12-week courses per year, and only nicotine patch monotherapy is available on the PBS.

However, combination NRT has been found to be more effective than single-form NRT, and major professional bodies have advocated



for PBS-subsidised combination NRT.

They also noted that short-acting products like mouth spray or lozenges, which appear to be just as effective as patches in terms of quit rates, have been withdrawn from the PBS by manufacturers, leaving consumers to pay out-of-pocket.

"Given the much higher prevalence of smoking among socioeconomically disadvantaged people, the barriers to accessing affordable best-practice cessation support perpetuates health inequality," the researchers wrote.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has backed this with a call for governments to expand access to evidence-based cessation support through primary care and community health services, particularly for groups experiencing disadvantage.

In its submission to this week's parliamentary inquiry into the illegal tobacco crisis in Australia, the medical peak body also urged the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), pharmaceutical sponsors of NRT, varenicline and bupropion, QUIT and the government "to hold discussions and reassess the access criteria and price points for people wanting to quit".

Access the paper [HERE](#). KB

## Newer migraine drugs work better

PEOPLE living with chronic migraine who take newer prevention drugs experience two fewer headache days on average per month, according to a large review of evidence published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* this week.

Researchers looked at 43 studies involving over 14,000 patients, comparing various pharmacologic interventions for chronic migraines with placebo.

They found that calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) targeted medications - eptinezumab, erenumab, fremanezumab, galcanezumab and atogepant (but not rimegepant) - reduced headaches by two days a month compared to placebo, and were generally well tolerated.

Evidence was weaker for older migraine prevention drugs, including botulinum toxin and some traditional oral medications (topiramate, valproate and propranolol) and there may be a greater risk of side effects.

While concluding that most CGRP-targeted therapies are likely effective options for preventing chronic migraine, the researchers noted that most evidence supporting the use of these migraine drugs comes from industry-sponsored studies, and called for more independent research into their effectiveness.

Access the research [HERE](#).

## Pharmacy spend grew to \$15.6b over the year.

Discover what's driving the uplift.

Read [CommBank Health Insights](#)



CommBank iQ Market Monitor iQ. Health industry spending between 01 February 2025 and 31 January 2026.

## Editor's Choice: Dermal Therapy's hair care range has sebum under control

In partnership with Dermal Therapy  
**DERMAL** Therapy has released a new Sebum Control range, featuring a clinically tested three-step system designed to rebalance oily scalp at the source.

The products are formulated to support and balance the scalp microbiome to promote a healthier scalp while keeping hair feeling fresh and clean for longer.

Results will be visible within a week after consistent use.

To deep clean oily hair and scalp, the Sebum Control Shampoo (RRP \$18.99) is formulated with a unique oil control complex to extend the hair wash cycle while balancing a healthy scalp microbiome.

Also featured is the Sebum



Control Dry Shampoo (30g/120g: RRP \$7.99/ \$15.99), a translucent spray powder that absorbs into all hair types and colours while giving hair an overall shine.

Meanwhile, the Sebum Control Serum (RRP \$18.99) is a

lightweight, leave-on treatment that targets oily scalps without leaving any residue, making it simple to integrate into a daily routine.

Stockist enquiries: 1300 555 597. For more info, visit [HERE](#).

## Gem's sparkly future



**AUSTRALIAN** personal care brand Gem is stepping into a major growth phase, branching out into body and hair care and accelerating its global retail expansion.

"We saw an opportunity to elevate the body care category, and do it in a way that felt accessible, yet still very Gem," founder Georgia Danos told *Retail Beauty*.

"By introducing skincare-recognised ingredients into high-repeat, everyday formats, we're premiumising the experience - without premiumising the price."

Meanwhile, the brand is also looking to fill the current gap in the haircare market between mass market and premium salon.

Its first product line focuses on two ranges: Repair & Smooth and Hydrate & Nourish.

Since it launched six years ago, the brand is now stocked worldwide, gaining traction in the UK and US.

"Our recent launch into M&S saw over three months' worth of stock sell in just one week," said Danos.

"We've since launched into Tesco, expanded in Boots, launched in Superdrug, and most recently into Walmart in the US."

## Revlon in soft focus

**SOFT**, full lips are a step away with Revlon's new Photoready Instant Blur Liner (RRP \$26)

Formulated with the brand's own blurring technology, the creamy formula helps to smooth and reduce lines, creating an instant, soft-focus effect.

Now in pharmacies nationwide.



## Beautyheaven.com.au award winners announced



**BEAUTY** industry website beautyheaven.com.au has announced the winners of its Best New Beauty Awards for 2026, packed with pharmacy favourites. Bioderma, Natio, Garnier, No

7, Maybelline, Burt's Bees, OPI, Weleda Skin Food and Du'It Tough Lips all made an appearance on the list.

In the Best New Prestige Skin Care Product category, No7 Future Renew Repair Night Serum was given the top award, with Elizabeth Arden Hyaluronic Acid + Peptides Ceramide Capsules Hydra-Plumping Serum in the runner-up position.

Best New Highlighter went to Maybelline New York Lifter Stix, Best New Lip Balm was given to Burt's Bees Rescue Lip Relief and Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula Tahitian Vanilla Whipped Body Cream won Best New Body Moisturiser.

To view the full beautyheaven.com.au winners list, click [HERE](#).

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## Dispensary Corner

**A YOUNG** American woman who recently moved to Australia has taken to social media to express her surprise and delight over how much easier it is to fill prescriptions here.

Natalie Carroll, who moved from Seattle to Sydney around six weeks ago, was amazed that it only took her five minutes to get her medication from her local Priceline store.

"There wasn't any line," she told *Yahoo Lifestyle*.

"Back home, I would literally carve out time in my work day to go get my prescription, and there'd still be a line of four people ahead of me."

The pharmacy staff were very helpful, Carroll emphasised, and talked her through the difference between well-known brands and generic brands of medication.

The American expat explained that back in the US, some pharmacies refused to fill prescriptions unless they were linked to your insurance provider, and said it could take days for your medication to arrive at the pharmacy.

She even admitted to splitting pills in half because of the long wait for her prescriptions.

"Even just finding a doctor was very different," Carroll added.

"I think it's a lot more accessible here.

"Just to be able to go online and find a GP...that shocked me," she said, pointing out that in Seattle, it was typical to wait up to six months to see a GP for a regular checkup.

## La Trobe tackles global AMR threat

**LA TROBE** scientists have made a pivotal discovery in the fight against drug-resistant bacteria, as the university launches a major research initiative focussed on new ways to target antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The Research and Engagement for Antimicrobial Resistance and Community Health (REACH) initiative brings together the expertise of scientists in the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science (LIMS) with clinicians and members of the community impacted by antimicrobial resistance to find new ways to prevent and treat pathogenic bacteria, fungi and viruses.

LIMS researchers have made a recent major breakthrough in understanding how a protein that helps 'turn on' the tools bacteria need to make people sick works.

Study lead Taylor Cunliffe said the discovery of the precise regions of the protein responsible for its activity had fundamental and applied impact, creating a strong foundation for future drug development.

"This research provides a strong foundation for developing new antivirulence therapies and highlights a promising strategy for tackling the global challenge of antibiotic resistance," Cunliffe said.

Professor Begona Heras, LIMS Infection & Immunity Research Program co-lead, said REACH takes a new approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance, combining cutting-edge molecular science with clinical insight and community engagement to develop more effective and sustainable solutions.

"Antimicrobial resistance cannot be solved by antibiotics alone," Professor Heras said.

"It requires new ways of

understanding and targeting infection, across the pathogen, the host and the broader environment.

"Through REACH, we are bringing together expertise across disciplines to develop innovative therapeutics, improve diagnostics, and better understand how immune responses shape infection outcomes, particularly in communities most affected by infectious disease."

Professor Heras noted that REACH also places strong emphasis on community-informed research and translation, with a focus on improving infection prevention and treatment in rural and underserved populations.

**MEANWHILE**, delegations from over 100 countries are expected to gather in Nigeria this Jun to attend the 5th High Level Ministerial Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

This meeting is the first iteration to be held in a low or middle income country, giving advocates hope that it will spur more



relevant actions to prevent AMR, and features a change in focus from human health to a 'One Health' approach.

"AMR is not just about human health and protecting just our medicines," explained Dr Ayoade Alakija, ministerial global envoy on AMR for the government of Nigeria.

"It is also about prevention and protecting our animals, plants and our environment.

"We need to ensure that not only are humans not harmed due to AMR but also our animals, agriculture and food systems and our environment are kept safe so that we all can live in harmony together," Dr Alakija said. *KB*

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