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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of the latest industry news, plus a front cover from **Independent Pharmacies Australia**.

## Build your future

**INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia** provides community pharmacies with the support needed to build for the future - learn more on the **cover page**.

# New Palliative Care COP announced

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has marked National Palliative Care Week (10-16 May) with the launch of its new Palliative Care Community of Practice (COP) in collaboration with Palliative Care Australia, Ageing Australia and caring@home.

The COP, which will be chaired by WA-based palliative care advanced practice pharmacist Penny Tuffin, recognises the essential role that pharmacists play



in providing timely, compassionate end-of-life care.

"Pharmacists are uniquely placed to support patients and families at one of the most challenging times of their lives, and this requires not only clinical knowledge, but empathy, compassion and confidence," Tuffin said.

"I am excited to be part of the new palliative care COP to connect with, engage, and empower pharmacists who are interested in or involved in delivering palliative care medicines.

"I look forward to working with the PSA and the Palliative Care COP to strengthen the role of pharmacists in palliative and end-of-life care," Tuffin concluded.

PSA national president, Professor Mark Naunton, explained the Palliative Care COP was designed to support pharmacists to optimise medication management and to ensure patients receive quality end-of-life care that is safe, effective, and respectful.

"Following the success of PSA's ASPIRE Palliative Care Foundation Training Program, we are delighted to launch our new COP and equip pharmacists with the skills and support they need to deliver compassionate palliative care services," Professor Naunton said.

"The community of practice will bring pharmacists from all practice settings and career stages together to discuss real-world

cases, build confidence in delivering palliative care, and learn from clinical experts, such as the newly appointed Palliative Care COP chair, Penny Tuffin."

The Palliative Care COP is supported by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing through the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Commonwealth Funding. Learn more about it **HERE**.

## Free meningococcal B vax for Vic teens

**VICTORIAN** Minister for Health Harriet Shing today announced the meningococcal B vaccine will be made available at no cost to year 10 students from 01 Jan next year.

It will be delivered through existing school immunisation programs via GPs, pharmacies, local council immunisation services, and Aboriginal health services.

While the vaccine for meningococcal A, C, W, and Y strains is free under the National Immunisation Program for all

adolescents, the vaccine against the B strain is not, and generally requires an out-of-pocket payment of around \$250.

SA, Qld and the NT also provide the free meningococcal B vax to all teens.

"This free vaccination program will save lives and give parents the peace of mind that their teenager is protected from this awful disease," Shing said.

"We're continuing to advocate to the Commonwealth to consider adding this important vaccine to the NIP."

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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

**FANS** of smoked food will be disheartened to hear that the cooking method can actually result in increased risk of certain types of cancer.

Experts have warned that consuming too many of the chemicals created during the food smoking process could lead to higher likelihood of developing breast, prostate or colorectal cancer.

Smoking food involves hanging it above smouldering wood, which - when burning under low-oxygen conditions - produces chemical compounds that settle on the food, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), known to be carcinogenic.

"These compounds can be harmful to the body when ingested at high concentrations," said Dr Idolo Ifie, a lecturer in food processing and food chemistry at the University of Leeds.

"Avoiding them completely would be extreme, but people should be more conscious of the amount of smoked foods they eat - and aware of the potential danger," he added.

Flavourful as they may be, smoked salmon, meats and cheeses should be only be eaten every once in a while, he said.

Smoked flavourings, such as smoky bacon flavour chips and sauces, are also not risk-free.



## NAPSA future fund grows

**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), in collaboration with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), has launched the NAPSA Future Fund, a long-term initiative designed to strengthen the sustainability and impact of Australia's peak body for pharmacy students.

First announced at APP 2026 by NAPSA national president Sebastian Harper (**pictured**) and Guild national president Trent Twomey (**PD 13 Mar**), the fund will be developed as a 10-year investment vehicle governed by a dedicated trustee corporation in partnership with the Guild and the PSA.

Having set a bold ambition of raising \$1 million for the fund, NAPSA is delighted to reveal that the fund has already attracted strong interest from across the profession, with Dennis Bastas,



chairman and group CEO of DBG Health, leading the corporate support with a \$100,000 donation.

Harper said the initiative would have a lasting impact on the organisation, and has invited organisations, industry leaders and pharmacy owners to support the industry's future workforce.

"NAPSA has evolved significantly over the past 80 years, and the stability this fund will provide will allow future leaders to focus on advocacy, development and member support in ways that are not possible today."

Learn more and donate **HERE**. *KB*

### Free varenicline samples lead to quitting

**PROVIDING** smokers with a sample of quit-smoking medication varenicline with no strings attached could increase the likelihood of quitting smoking, a US study found.

The researchers from the Medical University of South Carolina recruited around 650 smokers and gave them either four weeks' supply of varenicline or nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), or a referral to a quitting hotline.

Participants were not under any obligation to take up the treatment provided to them.

After six months, those given the varenicline sample were more likely to smoke less or not at all, when compared to those

referred to the quitting hotline.

The varenicline sample also appeared to be more effective than an NRT sample, although the differences were not statistically significant across all measures.

"This randomised controlled trial found that varenicline sampling was efficacious, with outcomes at least as efficacious as, and potentially superior to, NRT," the study team wrote in *JAMA Network Open*.

"This trial provided additional evidence in support of medication sampling as a pragmatic option to engage adults who smoke in the cessation process, worth additional evaluation in a health care setting."

Access the paper **HERE**.

### Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Brenton Hart**, chief pharmacist, TerryWhite Chemmart.



### Governance is the enabler, not the brake

**THE** future of pharmacy care will not be judged by access alone, but by how safely and consistently we deliver it.

For many teams, that will bring understandable friction: new standards, new expectations and the need to demonstrate quality and safety more clearly in everyday practice.

But the opportunity is bigger than compliance. As pharmacists move further into primary care, safe and high-quality care cannot sit with the owner, pharmacist-in-charge or "the person who looks after QSP" alone.

It has to become part of how the whole team thinks, works, documents, escalates and learns.

The next phase of pharmacy leadership will belong to those who make governance easier to do well: through clear systems, practical support, smarter use of technology and, increasingly, AI-enabled tools that reduce duplication and give clinicians more time with patients.

If we get this right, governance will not take pharmacists away from care - it will help us deliver more of it, more safely, more consistently, and at scale.

Explore the future of community pharmacy **HERE**.

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