

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of the latest news, plus a full page from Pharmacy Connect.

## Program out now

THE Pharmacy Connect 2026 program has launched and is now available online.

With the conference taking place from 09-11 Sep in Sydney, the program has something for everyone.

Learn more on [page five](#).

## Almost 1m unlawful therapeutic goods seized

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has taken part in a coordinated global action targeting the illegal trade of illicit and counterfeit therapeutic goods, which resulted in over 260 arrests and the dismantling of more than 60 criminal groups involved in the illicit pharmaceutical trade.

Over the course of a fortnight, authorities across 90 countries cooperated to detect and seize almost six million units of unapproved and counterfeit pharmaceuticals worth an estimated \$20.7 million.

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In Australia, over 900,000 units of unlawfully imported therapeutic goods were seized, including melatonin products, nicotine pouches, weight loss products, erectile dysfunction medicines, complementary medicines, vitamins and supplements, and various wellness, cosmetic and performance-enhancing products.

Counterfeit products reported or seized during the operation included ivermectin tablets, erectile dysfunction medications, botulinum toxin and semaglutide products.

In addition, ads for weight loss medications, therapeutic goods used in cosmetic procedures, and other medical devices were removed, in line with the TGA's 2026 and 2027 compliance principles and priority focus areas (PD 23 Jan).

TGA head Professor Anthony Lawler said, "This operation demonstrates the scale of the global trade in unlawful therapeutic goods and the very real risks they pose to consumers."

"By working closely with international partners and Australian enforcement agencies, we are preventing illegal and dangerous products from entering Australia and protecting the health and safety of the community." *KB*

**GET ECZEMA MANAGED**

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with dissolved hydrocortisone, has demonstrated up to  
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**DermAid 1% Hydrocortisone:** Topical application for the temporary relief of symptoms associated with acute and chronic corticosteroid responsive conditions including: minor skin irritations, itching and rashes due to eczema, dermatitis, contact dermatitis (such as rashes due to cosmetics and jewellery), psoriasis, anogenital pruritus and sunburn. **DermAid 1% cream:** Apply a thin layer to affected skin 1–2 times daily as required. **DermAid 1% solution:** Apply a few drops to the affected area 2–3 times daily as required. Massage in gently. **DermAid 1% spray:** Hold bottle approximately 10 cm from the affected skin and apply 1–2 sprays, 2–3 times daily as required. Massage in gently.

**Healthcare Professionals:** Review the full Product Information (PI) before recommending DermAid 1% cream, DermAid 1% solution, DermAid 1% spray. Full PI is available from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd and can be accessed at [ebs.tga.gov.au](http://ebs.tga.gov.au)

**References:** 1. Greive KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2015; 56(2):e30–e34. 2. van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijsen APM, Arents BWM Emollients and moisturisers for eczema (Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD012119.pub2.

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## NMS date named

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has announced that the National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2026 will be held on Wed 11 Nov 2026.

Under the theme 'Medicines Stewardship', healthcare professionals consumers, researchers and policymakers will come together to explore strategies and interventions to improve the safe and quality use of medicines.

**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.

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## Growing concern as diphtheria spreads

**EXPERTS** are becoming increasingly concerned as the Northern Territory diphtheria outbreak affecting mostly First Nations peoples (*PD* 29 Apr) spreads further afield, pointing to vaccination and boosters as the best protection against severe disease.

There have been 133 cases now reported in the NT, including one likely death, along with 79 cases in WA, six in SA and five in Queensland.

"Diphtheria does not return to a population by chance," said Professor Adrian Esterman from Adelaide University.

"It returns where vaccination coverage has slipped and where living conditions allow it to spread.

"Nationally, childhood vaccination coverage at 24 months fell below 90% in 2024 for the first time since 2016 - that weakens community protection across Australia, not just in Aboriginal communities."

Adult diphtheria boosters are recommended at 50 and 65 if more than 10 years since the last dose, with a tighter five-year interval for at-risk groups.

Health Minister Mark Butler said on *ABC Radio National* yesterday that the Government is "very concerned about it", and is working closely with the NT Government, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and the Aboriginal Medical Service for the NT to lift vaccination rates.

## Qld expands free FluMist to U18s

**THE** Queensland Government has expanded the needle-free influenza vaccination program for those aged six to under 18 who struggle with needles.

This builds on the 2026 Queensland free flu vaccination program and the FluMist nasal spray flu immunisation program, which currently provides free needle-free influenza vaccines for children aged two to five.

As of 18 May, almost 40,000 Queensland children aged six months to five years have been vaccinated, an increase of 9,530 compared to the same period last year.

Among those aged two to five years, around two in three vaccinated children (20,380 of 29,140) received FluMist.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the decision, with PSA Queensland president Hannah Knowles stating



that extending eligibility for FluMist would remove significant barriers to vaccination and improve overall protection against influenza in the state.

"This fear of needles presents a genuine vaccination barrier, and so the expansion of free access to FluMist for more children and adolescents will significantly increase Queensland's vaccination rates," Knowles said.

The FluMist nasal spray is also available free of charge for children aged two to four years (inclusive) in NSW and SA, and two to 11 years (inclusive) in WA. *KB*

## Bambi Mini and CWH raise over \$560k for kids

**BAMBI** Mini Co. and Chemist Warehouse are celebrating a successful 2026 Super Sock Charity Campaign, with \$562,777 raised for children's hospitals across Australia and NZ, contributing to a total of more than \$2 million since the initiative began in 2021.

Thanks to the support of over 160,000 customers who bought the campaign's limited edition Super Socks, or donated at the till, this year's campaign was the biggest and most impactful yet. "We are absolutely blown

away by the support this year's campaign received," said Bambi Mini Co. founder Nicole Verrocchi.

"Every pair of socks purchased and every donation made is helping create brighter futures for sick kids," she added.



## Panadol most trusted painkiller

**PANADOL** has once again been named Australia's most trusted pain relief brand, marking its 17th consecutive win in the category at the 2026 *Reader's Digest* Trusted Brands Awards.

As Panadol celebrates 70 years in Australia, the Awards also recognised the brand as Australia's second most trusted across all categories, its highest ever overall ranking, with Dettol household cleaning products taking top gong.

Haleon's leadership in the pain relief category received a further boost as Voltaren was also recognised for the first time, receiving a Highly Commended accolade.

"This recognition is a remarkable achievement and testament to Haleon's ongoing commitment to building trust and confidence in the Australian pain relief category," said Elena Pintado, marketing manager Panadol, Haleon ANZ.

"We could not have reached this milestone without the support of community pharmacists who play an invaluable role in helping Australians choose the products best suited to their needs."



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### Podcast host shares career journey

IN the latest episode of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast, regular host Krysti-Lee Patterson (**pictured**) becomes the guest, interviewed by Jenny Kirschner, founder of Pharmacy Against Loneliness and Social Isolation (PALS).

The episode explores Patterson's pharmacy career journey, from accidentally falling into pharmacy while studying biomedical science, to leadership, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and health technology innovation.

From being a pharmacist in charge and founding Meitheal Services to building Inrx, an innovative pharmacy education platform, Patterson discussed the defining moments, mentors, challenges, and career pivots that have shaped her path.

"We spend so much time talking about careers in pharmacy, but not enough time talking honestly about uncertainty, failure, growth, and the reality that careers rarely follow a perfectly linear path," Patterson shared.

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).



### Fast weight loss better than slow

**CONTRARY** to long-held beliefs, it appears that dropping weight quickly may be better in the long run than losing it slowly and steadily.

Norwegian researchers presenting at the recent European Congress on Obesity in Istanbul conducted a study involving 284 adults with obesity, half following a rapid weight loss program (RWL) and half a gradual weight loss program (GWL).

Both programs were dietary-based, with daily calorie intake in the RWL group restricted to an average 1,200 per day, and 1,400 calories per day for the GWL group.

After the 16-week initial phase, participants in both groups entered an identical 36-week weight-regain prevention program.

Participants in the RWL group lost significantly more body weight than those in the GWL group in the first 16 weeks (12.9% vs 8.1%, respectively), and the difference was maintained at one year (14.4% loss for RWL vs 10.5% for GWL).

The proportion of participants achieving the target BMI of 27 or less was significantly higher in the RWL group than in the GWL group at both 16 weeks (13.8% vs. 0.8%) and one year (28.3% vs. 9.7%).

While the study does not include measures of body composition or energy expenditure, it does address the common concern that large energy deficits drive disproportionate losses of muscle mass compared to fat mass, leading



to greater metabolic slowdown and risk of regain.

"Our results clearly challenge the prevailing belief that slow and steady gradual weight loss is necessary to prevent weight regain and reduce obesity-related complications," the authors said.

"By contrast, we show that rapid weight loss is not associated with weight regain, and, more importantly, that a larger proportion of participants undergoing rapid weight loss - compared with gradual weight loss - achieved clinically meaningful treatment targets for reducing the 10-year risk of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and hip/knee osteoarthritis."

Dietitian Dr Dimitrios Koutoukidis, from the University of Oxford, who was not involved with the study, noted: "A helpful message for people trying to lose weight is that if one approach does not work for them, they should not feel let down but may benefit from trying different evidence-based approaches until they find one they can follow successfully." *KB*

### CDC keeping an eye on Ebola

**THE** World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to be a 'public health emergency of international concern', but does not currently meet the criteria of a pandemic emergency.

The outbreak involves a strain of Ebola for which there are no licensed vaccines currently available.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said yesterday that the Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) has been working with the WHO to monitor the situation, and the chief health officers of the states, territories and the Commonwealth have met to consider the CDC's work.

"The risk to Australia is still low, but we're monitoring it very closely because, first of all, the case numbers are increasing almost every day, and it's a rare strain that's not responsive to vaccines or treatments that we have," he told *ABC Radio National*.

"We'll be working with the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Border Force to see whether any change to travel advice and border screening arrangements needs to take place," he added.

Travellers to affected countries have been urged to be aware of official travel advice before leaving Australia and to avoid areas with outbreaks. *KB*

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## Dispensary Corner

**THE** lure of cheaper dental work and cosmetic surgery overseas appears to be losing its shine among Australians.

New research from Insure&Go has found that Aussies are becoming more cautious about travelling internationally for medical procedures, with only 33% saying they would do so without insurance - a huge drop from the 69% in 2023 who were willing to risk it.

In general, 54% of respondents said they would consider overseas medical procedures, representing a decline from 57% in 2023.

Of those who were still keen on the idea of medical tourism, cost savings were the top motivator, replacing shorter wait times, which was the primary driver in 2023.

Dental procedures were still the most popular treatment that Aussies would travel overseas for, however even this category has seen momentum drop, with 56% open to treatments such as implants and veneers compared to 65% in 2023.

Cancer treatments were the second-most popular category, with 26% saying they would consider travelling for it - down from 42% in 2023.

"While overseas medical procedures can cost significantly less than the same procedures in Australia, our research highlights that Australians are becoming more aware of the risks of complications and around aftercare," said David Mayo, commercial and marketing director at Insure&Go.

# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

## Revive Tears - PBS-listed

Revive Tears lubricating eye drops provide long lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

**Suppliers:** Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

**RRP:** \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs)

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



## Crampeze: effective multi-combination solution vs magnesium alone for cramp relief

Crampeze combines *Viburnum Opulus* (cramp bark), magnesium and a unique combination of ingredients. It is an effective multi-combination product versus magnesium alone for cramp relief.

- Crampeze is ideal for chronic cramp sufferers and long-term use.
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**CRAMPEZE RRP:** 30 Capsules - \$17.95 / 60 Capsules - \$26.95 / 120 Capsules - \$44.95

**CRAMPEZE FORTE RRP:** 30 Capsules - \$24.95 / 60 Capsules - \$37.95

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





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