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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our Beauty & Wellness feature.

### Better outcomes with high dose flu shot

A HIGHER dose influenza vaccine is more effective at preventing flu cases and hospitalisations in older people compared to the standard dose, according to an analysis of studies published this week in *JAMA Network Open*.

The higher dose vaccine - which is four times stronger than the standard dose - was developed to enhance protection in older adults who have a diminished immune response to the standard vaccine while also being more likely to experience more severe flu-related complications.

An international team of researchers assessed outcomes of eight studies comparing the high-dose option with the standard dose involving a total of 600,000 people aged 65 and older.

The team found that the higher dose vaccine was linked to improvements in everything except deaths, with participants who had the higher dose vaccine less likely to develop influenza or pneumonia or end up in hospital.

The findings were consistent according to age and cardiovascular disease status.

"These findings may inform decision-makers in developing vaccine recommendations and policies," the authors said.

Read the study [HERE](#).

## Faye McMillan Grant awardees named

WITH National Reconciliation Week launching yesterday, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the recipients of the PSA Faye McMillan Conference Grant: Eliza Brown, Caleb Foster and Penny May.

McMillan (pictured) was the first Indigenous Australian to hold a Western degree in pharmacy, supports First Nations pharmacists, interns and pharmacy students to attend PSA's national annual conference.

PSA/NACCHO Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Practice Community of Specialty Interest Chair, Chastina Heck, said the PSA Faye McMillan Conference Grant demonstrates PSA's commitment to supporting the next generation of First Nations pharmacists.

"This empowerment starts with creating a sense of belonging within the pharmacy profession and is an essential early step in growing our First Nations workforce," she said.



"The legacy of the Faye McMillan Grant reflects the importance of facilitating relationships based on authenticity and creating that welcoming environment."

The grant was sponsored this year by Camurus, alongside Care Pharmaceuticals and Hydralyte.

A spokesperson for Camurus said: "Supporting Indigenous leadership and representation in healthcare is essential to improving outcomes for communities across Australia."

"We wish the recipients and the PSA a successful PSA2026 conference."

## Stricter sunscreen regulations needed

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has called for stronger regulation of sunscreens, warning any perceived weakening of standards risks further eroding public trust in the face of recent concerns about their performance (*PD* 09 Apr).

In a submission to the TGA, the AMA argued that reliability, clarity, and transparency must sit at the heart of sunscreen regulation to ensure Australians can trust the products they regularly use.

"Australians rely on sunscreen every day to protect themselves

and their families," said AMA vice president Assoc Prof Julian Rait.

"Maintaining confidence in its effectiveness is essential for public health."

"Strengthening SPF testing frameworks is fundamental to ensuring that the protection people think they are getting is the protection they actually receive," Assoc Prof Rait said.

The AMA also emphasised the importance of robust and consistent water-resistance standards, and called for simplified SPF labelling, using descriptors such as low, medium, high and very high protection.

## MM2026 abstracts closing soon

ABSTRACT submissions for Medicine Management 2026 (MM2026) close Tue 09 Jun.

The conference marks 50 years of bringing together leaders, researchers, practitioners, and pharmacy technicians, providing an ideal opportunity to contribute to conversations shaping the future of the profession.

Learn more [HERE](#).

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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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## FIP earlybird ending

REGISTER for the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) congress in Montreal, Canada, before 03 Jun to take advantage of the earlybird discount.

The event takes place from 30 Aug - 02 Sep - more [HERE](#).

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

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

## Addressing vaccine inequity

**WHILE** influenza vaccination rates fall across the country (PD 02 Apr), recent data has shown that the decline is hitting some harder than others, particularly among some culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

According to vaccination and health equity expert Professor Holly Seale from the University of NSW it is access to information and services, rather than hesitancy, behind the lower uptake of vaccines.

"If services aren't easy to navigate, if information isn't in your language, or if there's a lack of trusted voices, people can miss out - even when vaccines are free," she explained.

Prof Seale has been working alongside NSW Health to develop online training and resources for staff in local organisations such as migrant resource centres, multicultural groups and community radio stations, to enable them to work directly with their communities.

Part of a \$15 million NSW Government program to boost vaccination rates among priority populations, staff members are trained to share information in culturally appropriate ways, help people understand what vaccines they are eligible for and explain how to access them.

"People are far more likely to act on information that comes from someone they know and trust," Professor Seale said.

"This could be a community leader, a local organisation, or even a family member."



One such organisation is the Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC), which participated in an interview on an Afghan radio station to encourage listeners to seek trusted health information about vaccines, with an "overwhelmingly positive" response, according to the CMRC.

"Many community members expressed appreciation for receiving information in a culturally safe and accessible way, particularly when sessions were delivered in their native language or supported by interpreters or community leaders," said the CMRC's immunisation project coordinator Shikha Arora.

"Some groups have shown interest in having community pharmacists attend their meetings or community sessions to provide on-site flu vaccinations," Arora continued.

"This demonstrates growing engagement and trust in vaccination services.

"Overall, the program has contributed to greater awareness, more open conversations around vaccination and stronger community engagement with health services," she concluded. *KB*

## Govt menopause campaign launched

**THE** Australian Govt has launched a national menopause and perimenopause campaign, designed to help women better understand their symptoms, access trusted information and feel more confident seeking care and support.

It follows recommendations from the 2024 Senate inquiry into perimenopause and menopause, which found many women entered the stage of life without enough information about symptoms, treatment or available support, while also experiencing stigma.

Developed in consultation with experts and communities, the campaign is informed by extensive research with a diverse group of women with lived experience.

"Menopause should not come as a surprise, but for too long silence and stigma have left too many women in the dark," said Minister for Women, Senator Katy Gallagher.

"Making sure women have credible, evidence-based information that is easily accessible is essential to supporting their health and wellbeing," she continued.

"It is important that this campaign reflects the different experiences of perimenopause and menopause, because no two women experience it the same way, and every woman deserves to feel seen and supported," she concluded.

## Payday super is here

Free resources for small business

From 1 July 2026, super must be paid on payday.



COSBOA's free Small Business PEAK program gives small business owners the expert guidance, tools and training to get it right, without the cost. Whether for your own business or someone in your network, PEAK is the practical support small business needs right now.



## Editor's Choice: Australian brand Zencell reveals new way to treat acne

**ZENCELL** is a new Australian skincare brand focused on treating acne breakouts and inflammation in a different way.

The brand was launched last year by pharmaceutical industry specialist Shaun Baldwin, who also played a role in introducing Roaccutane to the local market.

While other brands often use retinoids, benzoyl peroxide and antibiotics in their formulations, Zencell's core ingredient is pharmaceutical-grade compound p-Toluenesulfonamide, featured for the first time in skincare in its hero product, the Restore Serum.

Pre-clinical studies have shown the compound's antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, which the skincare brand says



"shifts the focus from symptom management to the underlying biological processes that drive inflammation".

Designed to support calmer, more resilient skin, the

lightweight Restore Serum (RRP \$55) can also be used to treat rosacea, eczema, dermatitis, redness, and ongoing skin sensitivity, on the face and body. Learn more [HERE](#).

## Banking on collagen



**NEUTROGENA** has recently launched its Collagen Bank range in Australia, formulated with patented micro-peptide technology.

According to the skincare brand, the technology "penetrates more than 10 surface layers deep to support collagen for firmer, youthful skin".

The anti-aging Neutrogena Collagen Bank Moisturiser (RRP \$45) features bakuchiol, a plant-based retinol alternative known to improve early visible signs of collagen decline.

Meanwhile, the Neutrogena Collagen Bank Reviving Eye Gel (RRP \$45) works to visibly improve dark circles, under-eye puffiness, fine lines, elasticity and texture, thanks to niacinamide, which works to help visibly improve skin tone and radiance.

The eye gel is ophthalmologist tested and features a gentle, fragrance-free formula.

At a recent launch of the range, Neutrogena hosted its new live podcast 'Skinvestment Clinic', featuring dermatologist Dr Shreya Andric, discussing skincare myths and the importance of investing in skin health.

## Gem loves skin

**AUSSIE** personal care brand Gem has launched a new range of Skin-Loving Body Washes (RRP \$18 each) available in four different fragrances, including coconut vanilla, vanilla sugar, watermelon fresh and vanilla macadamia.

On sale now at Chemist Warehouse nationwide.



## Clean and Conscious finalists named



**A RANGE** of pharmacy favourites have been recognised as finalists in the Clean and Conscious Awards, including Weleda Skincare, Jurlique, and Sukin.

Weleda's Firming Face Serum is a finalist in the Best Face Serum category, and Jurlique's Peeling Jelly Mask is a finalist in the Best Face Mask category.

Meanwhile, Sukin's Kids Mineral Sunscreen has also been recognised in the awards.

Featuring a range of natural skincare and makeup products, the annual awards feature a diverse range of categories across skincare, makeup, body, haircare, food and nutrition, baby, home, and kids.

Click [HERE](#) to view the full list of award winners.

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## Dispensary Corner

**A VISIT** to the doctor in the US may have you walking out with a prescription for fresh food, rather than drugs, as medical schools start to include culinary medicine in their curriculum. Not only that, they'll arm you with cooking tips, recipe ideas and food swap advice based on hours spent in campus kitchens. At Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Ohio, the 'produce prescription' program emphasises diet, alongside other lifestyle modifications, before turning to medication to manage chronic conditions. The medical school opened its state-of-the-art teaching kitchen in 2023 to provide hands-on culinary training for medical students, where they learn to modify recipes for different dietary needs, deliver effective nutrition advice to patients and prepare nutritious meals on a budget. "By gaining these experiences now, future MDs will pass on the importance of lifestyle choices to their patients," said program lead Dr Hope Barkoukis. Having grown from a handful of participants to more than 200 medical students, other institutions are looking at the CWRU program as a model.

## Why Australia needs a better quit strategy

### OPINION

*Jeff McEvoy (pictured), GM of Myriad Pharmaceuticals, discusses the need for better access to regulated nicotine vaping products through pharmacies.*

**AUSTRALIA** likes to see itself as a global leader in tobacco control.

But ahead of this year's World No Tobacco Day on 31 May, there is an uncomfortable truth we need to confront: smoking remains stubbornly persistent, and in some demographics, appears to be heading in the wrong direction.

Roy Morgan data from Jul 2025 shows a concerning rise in smoking among younger Australians - 11.1% of 18-24-year-olds reported smoking factory-made cigarettes, up from 8.2% in the year to September 2024.

That is not a marginal shift - it is a reversal that should prompt serious reflection across public health and policy settings.

For decades, the goal has rightly been to reduce smoking-related disease and death.

But if we are serious about achieving that outcome, we need to be equally serious about the tools that help smokers quit - including vaping.

This should not be a controversial statement - around the world, a substantial and growing body of evidence supports the role regulated nicotine vaping products

can play in helping adult smokers' transition away from cigarettes.

Yet in Australia, the public conversation around vaping has become so dominated by concerns about youth uptake and illicit products that we risk losing sight of the core issue: smoking itself remains the leading cause of preventable death.

That does not mean concerns about youth vaping or black market operators should be dismissed - they are legitimate issues that deserve strong regulatory responses.

But conflating illegal disposable products sold through criminal supply chains with regulated pharmacy products intended for adult smokers is neither accurate nor helpful.

At present, Australia's legal vaping market is heavily restricted.

While these restrictions may have been well-intentioned, an unforeseen outcome has been the rapid growth of a vast illicit market that operates entirely outside regulatory oversight.

The answer to this problem is not to make regulated products harder for adult smokers to access.

It is to make the regulated market stronger, more visible and more accessible than the illicit one.

That means ensuring legal nicotine vaping products are readily available through pharmacies across Australia.

It means reducing unnecessary



friction for adult smokers who are actively trying to quit.

And it means giving healthcare professionals the confidence to discuss vaping as one option within a broader smoking cessation framework.

Right now, too many smokers encounter barriers at every stage of the process, and access can be confusing, inconsistent and intimidating.

Meanwhile, illicit products remain widely available through tobacconists, social media channels and informal networks.

If a smoker seeking to quit faces more obstacles accessing a regulated product from a pharmacy than buying an illegal vape from an unregulated outlet, the system is not functioning as intended.

The illicit market is not going away on its own - it will only be displaced by a stronger, trusted and genuinely accessible regulated market.

And for thousands of Australian smokers trying to leave cigarettes behind for good, that could make all the difference.



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