Pharmacy Daily
Wednesday 11th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, plus a full page from **Cyventine**.

Quit smoking aid

NEW nicotine-free Cyventine from Key Pharmaceuticals can help your patients quit smoking in 25 days.

The Pharmacist Only oral medicine contains clinically proven cytisine 1.5mg.

See **page four** for more.

Raven's to continue as ELS supplier

THE Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) has announced that Raven's Recruitment will continue to deliver and operate the Emergency Locum Service (ELS) from 01 Jan 2027.

Raven's has operated the ELS since 2021, and the company's reappointment followed a competitive tender process.

The ELS provides support to community pharmacies in rural and remote areas via direct access to pharmacist locums in emergency situations.

Under the services agreement signed with PPA, Raven's Recruitment will be responsible for receiving and assessing applications, making locum placements and reimbursing locum travel expenses.

The PPA acknowledged the quality of tender responses received and congratulated Raven's Recruitment on its success with the tender.

Learn more about the ELS and apply **HERE**.

APC bolsters accreditation committee



THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has welcomed new members to its Accreditation Committee (AC) to help guide evidence-based accreditation decisions that support quality pharmacy education and safe patient care.

Faced with a large number of high-quality applications, the selection committee arrived at the following additions to the AC:

- Jason Buccheri, senior lecturer, course coordinator Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) at La Trobe University
- Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice Helen Benson, University of Technology Sydney
- Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane, course coordinator Doctor of Optometry, University of Melbourne.

APC has also announced the incoming deputy chair as Adam Forrest, a community pharmacist and pharmacy practitioner in residence at Adelaide University who has been on the committee for more than four years.

APC CEO Bronwyn Clark said she was delighted to welcome the new members to the committee.

"Their experience across pharmacy and other health professions will strengthen the breadth of expertise and perspectives supporting our accreditation work," Clark said.

"I am looking forward to working with them all.

"I also want to thank the selection committee for the difficult task of choosing members from such a strong group of applicants," she concluded.

Chief standards officer Kate Spencer thanked all those who applied as part of the Expression of Interest process.

"We were delighted to receive an exceptionally high number of quality applications and to see such high interest in supporting our work," Spencer said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by the three retiring AC members, Professor Lisa Pont, Professor Tim Chen and Dr Margaret Gatling," she continued.

"Their expertise, commitment and thoughtful contributions have helped shape APC's accreditation work over many years, and we sincerely thank them for their service and dedication."

The AC makes final accreditation decisions under delegation from the APC Board, drawing on expertise and diverse perspectives from pharmacy, other health professions, consumers and First Nations representatives to support robust, evidence-based outcomes.

Pictured: CEO Bronwyn Clark, Professor Tim Chen, Dr Margaret Gatling, Professor Lisa Pont and Professor Rhonda Clifford.



1. Australian Centre for Disease Control. Australian immunisation handbook. Vaccination for international travellers. Available at https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccination-for-special-risk-groups/vaccination-for-international-travellers. Accessed July 2026. 2. CDC. Travelers' health. Before you travel. Available at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/before-travel. Accessed October 2026. 3. Australian Centre for Disease Control. Australian immunisation handbook. Available at https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au. Accessed July 2026.
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Long-term look at antidepressants

AN ANALYSIS of research involving over 30,000 people and 21 different antidepressants has revealed that some drugs may work better than others over the long term.

Using the widely prescribed fluoxetine (Prozac) as a benchmark, the international team found that escitalopram (Lexapro), duloxetine (Cymbalta) and agomelatine (Valdoxan) performed better over periods ranging from three to six months.

Those taking escitalopram or duloxetine were also less likely to stop taking their medicine.

Results for most other medicines showed no real difference from fluoxetine, while reboxetine (Edronax) was less likely to lead to a sustained response.

The authors stressed that differences between the medicines were modest, and that personal preferences, past experiences and side effects should be considered when choosing a treatment.

Noting that the study was the first to compare antidepressants over more than three months, the authors concluded, "Our findings could inform clinical guidelines and shared decision making involving patients, carers, and clinicians when choosing an initial antidepressant that both achieves and maintains treatment response".

Read the paper **HERE.**

Flannery's takes women's health to community

FLANNERY'S Pharmacy in Forbes, NSW, recently held its fourth annual Ladies Night, bringing more than 80 local women and healthcare professionals together for an evening dedicated to women's health education and awareness.

Part of Life Pharmacy Group, Flannery's hosted the community event to encourage open conversations about women's health and provide opportunities for residents to engage with local healthcare professionals.

Attendees heard from physiotherapist Rachel Kerin, dietitian Jasmine Howard, registered nurse Nadine Moxey and McGrath Cancer Care Nurse Dianne Green, who shared practical advice across a range of health topics, including pelvic floor health, nutrition, hormonal changes, cardiovascular health and breast cancer awareness.

"Events like this are about creating a space where women feel comfortable asking questions, learning more about their health and connecting with local healthcare professionals," pharmacy co-owner Sarah Hazell said.



"We're fortunate to have such a supportive community here in Forbes, and it's wonderful to see everyone come together for something so important."

The evening also raised more than $500 for the McGrath Foundation, supporting access to McGrath Cancer Care Nurses for people experiencing cancer.

Michael Flannery, CEO and founder of Life Pharmacy Group, said the initiative highlighted how community pharmacies can contribute to health education and awareness beyond traditional dispensing services, while strengthening connections between local healthcare providers and the communities they serve.

"Initiatives like Ladies Night demonstrate how our pharmacies can bring healthcare professionals and communities together, encourage important conversations and improve access to health education," Flannery said.

"We're incredibly proud of the Flannery's Pharmacy team for their commitment to the Forbes community and the work they've put into making this event such a success," he concluded. *KB*

Stopping Ozempic may have negative health impacts

NEW research has found that starting then stopping GLP-1 treatment was linked to double the risk of heart attack, stroke or death compared with continuing, in people with type 2 diabetes (T2D) and no cardiovascular disease (CVD).

Data shows that up to 50% of people taking GLP-1s stop within the first year, which has been linked to weight gain and other health effects, but it was not known if the risk of cardiovascular events and death was increased compared to those who continued.

Using medical records of over 80,000 people with T2D and no established CVD, the Italian team found that the risk of non-fatal heart attack, non-fatal stroke or death from any cause was about twice as high in people who stopped GLP-1 treatment as in those who continued.

While those who stopped experienced weight gain and worsening of several cardiometabolic risk factors, such as blood sugar levels and blood pressure, this did not fully explain the increased higher risk.

The researchers cautioned that the study was observational, so could not determine whether stopping GLP-1s directly caused the increased risk or whether people who stopped were already in poorer health.

Read the study **HERE**.



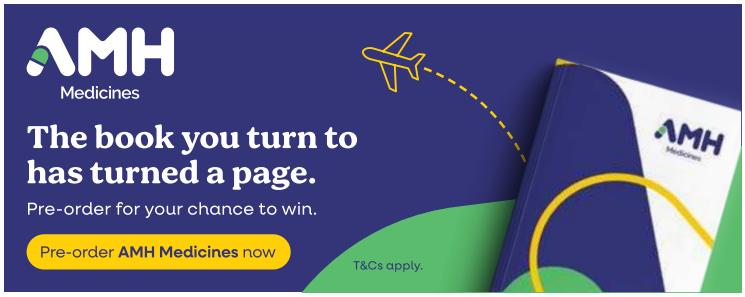
Creating opportunities

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia CEO **Bridget Totterman** on the future workforce.

» READ OUR LEADERSHIP REPORT

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Dispensary Corner

PHILIP Morris Australia has been awarded the dubious honour of being crowned winner of the 2026 Dirty Ashtray Award on the strength of its covert participation in the Senate's illicit tobacco inquiry.

Established in 1994 by the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Dirty Ashtray awards were joined by the Exploding Vape awards in 2023 and expose conduct that undermines public health and efforts to reduce tobacco and nicotine harm.

Philip Morris Australia's 2026 Senate appearance took place with cameras turned off and the spokespersons' names redacted, and marked the first time in 16 years that the tobacco industry was invited to appear before a government inquiry.

"When we talk about policies that impact public health, Big Tobacco, with its long history of selling products that cause death and disease, has no place at the table," AMA president Dr Michael Bonning said.

Meanwhile, multiple Ezymart branded stores have earned the 2026 Exploding Vape Award after being caught up in closures by NSW authorities investigating illegal nicotine sales involving tobacco and vapes.

However, ACOSH CEO Laura Hunter pointed out that there was no suggestion that EzyMart itself was involved, and acknowledged the group for moving to terminate the agreements of the operators involved.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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1. West R, et al. N Engl J Med. 2011;365(13):1193-1200. 2. Walker N, et al. N Engl J Med. 2014;371(25):2353-2362.