Pharmacy Daily
Tuesday 24th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

TGA acts on unlawful products

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched action in the Federal Court of Australia against Garry Vereb for alleged unlawful importation, advertising, manufacturing and supply of therapeutic goods, including black salve and B17/ laetrile - both Schedule 10 substances prohibited from sale in Australia.

The products, which also included vitamin B15, Megazyme Forte and ketones, were not included on the ARTG and the TGA alleges that Vereb made unlawful claims about the products' ability to treat serious health conditions, including cancer.

Guild launches Centenary celebrations

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia last night launched its Centenary year at the Guild's Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra, ahead of its 100th anniversary in 2027.

Under the theme "Together, we are…", the Centenary year will celebrate the people, patients and communities that have shaped community pharmacy over the last century, leading to today's network of more than 6,000 pharmacies employing more than 100,000 people.

"A hundred years ago, pharmacy owners came together because they believed every Australian deserved care they could trust, close to home," Guild president Trent Twomey said.

"From our biggest cities to our smallest towns, community pharmacies have kept their doors open through pandemics, bushfires and floods," he continued.

"Ninety-six per cent of Australians living in capital cities, and 74% of those living elsewhere, are within 2.5km of a community pharmacy," he added, noting the critical role of pharmacies in providing accessible primary healthcare.

Throughout 2027, the Guild will mark its Centenary with members, patients, communities and partners across the country, with events to be held in every state and territory kicking off in Apr and culminating in the National Centenary Gala Dinner in Sydney on 22 Oct 2027.

"The community pharmacy of today would be almost unrecognisable to a pharmacist from 1927, but one thing has endured: the trusted relationship between pharmacists and their patients," Twomey said.

In his address to guests at the Parliamentary Dinner, Twomey (**pictured**) also looked to the future, highlighting the success of state-based pilots and the pressing need for a national endorsement of pharmacist prescribing to provide consistency of access nationwide.



"Whether you live in Brisbane, Bendigo, Bunbury or Burnie, a national endorsement of pharmacists to prescribe scheduled medicines would meet one set of standards, one set of rules, one set of systems and processes right across the country."

Twomey warned that if the national model fails to reflect the progress already made in states and territories, "we will be forced to preserve this patchwork of different systems that national endorsement was meant to fix so that patients don't lose access to established services".

"Now is the time for action." *KB*



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Dispensary Corner

ADELAIDE University researchers have led an international effort to develop a new way to protect medicines during spaceflight, enabling safer and more reliable therapies for astronauts on future missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

PhD candidate Modupe Adebowale first developed tiny oil-based droplets containing melatonin, and applied a protective coating made from chitosan, a natural material derived from crustaceans.

In partnership with the German Aerospace Center, coated and uncoated versions were sent into space, with the samples later recovered and returned to Adelaide for analysis.

It was found that the coating helped preserve the medicines' stability and controlled release, despite exposure to intense launch vibrations, increased gravitational forces and weightlessness.

The team noted that developing more robust drug delivery systems could also benefit healthcare on Earth, particularly where medicines must withstand difficult transport or storage conditions, in harsh environments and crisis regions.

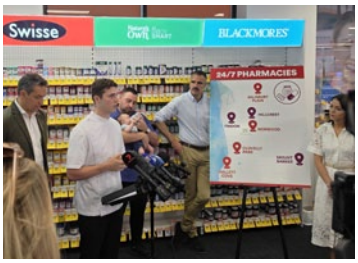
Three more 24h pharmacies for SA

THE South Australian Government has announced the expansion of its extended-hours pharmacy initiative with three additional 24-hour pharmacies to be established across the state, improving access to essential medicines and healthcare services beyond traditional trading hours.

The announcement was made at a press conference at Good Price Pharmacy Hillcrest, one of the three pharmacies selected, and attended by Premier Peter Malinauskas and Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Blair Boyer.

National Pharmacies Mount Barker and National Pharmacies Findon rounded out the three, and with the expanded services scheduled to commence in Feb 2027 will bring the total number of 24-hour pharmacies in SA to seven.

Hugh Scaffidi, pharmacist and CEO of the Scaffidi Group, welcomed the announcement, highlighting the evolving role of community pharmacy in delivering accessible, responsive and community-focused primary healthcare.



"Community pharmacy is no longer just the place where you fill a prescription," Scaffidi said.

"More and more, it's a front door to primary healthcare.

"A 24-hour pharmacy with a prescribing pharmacist can play a powerful role in this community." *KB*

Pictured: Blair Boyer, Hugh Scaffidi and Peter Malinauskas.

Weight loss drug telehealth warning

LEGAL experts are reigniting warnings that the availability of oral weight loss drugs Wegovy and Foundayo, which are expected to reduce barriers to treatment, will likely increase scrutiny of online prescribing platforms, particularly around patient assessments, verification processes and clinical decision-making (***PD*** 23 Jul).

"Greater access increases the legal pressure on telehealth platforms to prove they are providing healthcare, not simply processing demand for a prescription," Astrid Rivalland, practice leader at commercial law firm LegalVision, said.

"The main risks are inadequate clinical assessment, unsafe prescribing, unlawful advertising, poor follow-up and weak patient verification," she added.

PSA welcomes PBS co-pay freeze

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the federal government commitment to freeze the maximum Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment at $25 until 2030 (***PD*** 23 Nov).

PSA national president Prof Mark Naunton highlighted the difficult choices for patients facing financial pressure, and said access to safe and affordable medicines is critical to the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

"Cost should never be a barrier to accessing essential medicines, and medicines can only work if patients can afford to access them," Professor Naunton said.

"Freezing the maximum PBS co-payment is a significant investment in the health of Australians and supports the Safe and Quality Use of Medicines, which we know is Australia's 10th National Health Priority."

Noting that the announcement builds on previous policy measures to reduce the cost of medicines, the PSA said it "will continue to work with government and stakeholders to ensure all Australians can access the medicines they need".

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