Pharmacy Daily
Wednesday 25th Nov 2026



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

HTA reforms

THE Federal Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is inviting stakeholders to a webinar on 17 Dec exploring the health technology assessment (HTA) reforms and their implementation.

A 2024 review of Australia's HTA and medicines funding systems highlighted that they are "world class", but also recommended improvements to the HTA systems and processes to ensure they keep providing Australians access to medicines while also meeting future needs.

Several recommendations from the report have been implemented, and the webinar will outline the next phase of work - learn more **HERE.**

Pharmacy educators honoured by APC

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has recognised three leaders in pharmacy education and practice with 2026 APC Dr Erica Sainsbury Awards, which were announced at the Emeritus Lloyd Sansom AO Distinguished Lecture Series in Canberra last night.

The Early Career Pharmacy Educator Award was presented to Dr Hannah Yejin Kim, lecturer and clinical skills lead at University of New England, who has transformed the learning experience for pharmacy students through the introduction of culturally safe teaching practices, community-informed curriculum design and innovative digital learning tools.

"I'm inspired by my team culture that values innovation," Dr Yejin Kim explained.

"I believe innovation comes from seeing the potential, generating hypotheses and learning from smart failures."

Belinda Angelico (**pictured**), from Balwyn North Discount Drug Store was honoured with the Community Pharmacist Supervisor Award, and with the intern who nominated her describing her as "empowering".

"She made the pharmacy a place where I could ask anything... Belinda made asking the easiest thing in the room, and in doing so she taught me a professional value that no written assessment could have," they said.

Finally, the recipient of the Hospital Pharmacist Supervisor Award was Chastina Heck from Logan Hospital Pharmacy.

Heck's interns stated that her leadership, mentorship and commitment to cultural safety had impacted their personal and professional development, and named her ability to create a safe and respectful learning environment where they could be vulnerable and ask questions freely as one of her greatest strengths.

"Several of us, as First Nations interns, found her mentorship



particularly impactful as she supported us through our own journeys of cultural identity and reflection," they said.

Congratulating the recipients, APC chair Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson stated: "These individuals reflect Dr Sainsbury's enduring legacy of nurturing the next generation of pharmacists and a deep commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession.

"Through their leadership and dedication, they are helping to shape confident, capable pharmacists and strengthen the future of pharmacy education in Australia." *KB*

GO FURTHER. GO PROTECTED.[1]

Don't risk your travel plans.
Vaccines and preventative medicines may be recommended for where you're going.[2]
Talk to your healthcare provider.

If you are exploring the vast lands of Australia or venturing across the seas, you might also come across some diseases that can put a stop to your travel plans. So, to help prevent travel diseases while you are away, speak with your healthcare provider to see if there are any vaccines that you might need before you go.[1,3]



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. sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi. All rights reserved. ABN 31 008 558 807. Sydney, Australia. www.sanofi.com.au. MAT-AU-2601898. Date of preparation: October 2026.

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Peptide inquiry needs to go further: Ryan

HEALTH Minister Mark Butler has called for a parliamentary inquiry into peptide prescription and use, citing concerns about unsafe online prescribing practices and an alarming surge in hospital visits linked to the substances, particularly unapproved products.

The peptide inquiry will likely hear from the TGA, doctors, pharmacists and researchers, and is expected to begin consultation hearings this month, with a final report due in mid-2027.

While welcoming the announcement, the Member for Kooyong Dr Monique Ryan, who recently called for an inquiry into telehealth (***PD*** 29 Oct), raised concerns about the terms of reference, which are limited to online and direct-to-consumer care.

"GLP-1 weight-loss drugs are being prescribed to women with eating disorders after just two phone calls, medicinal cannabis is being approved after a three-minute consultation, and supermarkets are offering loyalty points for booking telehealth



appointments," Dr Ryan said.

"Often, the company that books the consultation also owns the pharmacy, and sometimes even the supplier.

"This is an industry that needs more scrutiny."

Dr Ryan said the terms should be expanded beyond peptides to cover all single-condition and direct-to-consumer telehealth services, including those prescribing GLP-1 receptor agonists, medicinal cannabis, stimulants and hormone therapies.

In addition, she has proposed the inquiry should consider commercial relationships and conflicts of interest, patient lock-in practices, prescribing oversight, reliance on non-traditional medicine supply pathways, and regulatory gaps across Australia's health and consumer protection frameworks.

New weight loss PharmaProgram

PHARMAPROGRAMS, Novo Nordisk and Arrotex Pharmaceuticals have announced a new program designed to enable community pharmacists to help support patients prescribed oral or injectable Wegovy (semaglutide), with over 4,700 pharmacies currently enrolled.



The pharmacist-led model combines quality use of medicines (QUM) education, ongoing treatment support and accessible pricing, with consenting patients enrolled in the program at the first dispensing.

Participating pharmacists then deliver extended education counselling at each dispensing point, and patients also receive ongoing support by email and SMS, along with medication reminders while under the care of their prescribing doctor.

In addition to the patient-facing interactions, the program also connects the patient's prescribing doctor with their community pharmacist so they can work together to provide ongoing support for the management of the patient's treatment.

Wegovy sponsor Novo Nordisk is partnering with PharmaPrograms to facilitate the program and provide the technology platform, patient support infrastructure and program administration, along with a Pharmacy Program Kit and training through each pharmacy.

Meanwhile, Arrotex is providing national face-to-face pharmacy engagement and implementation support through its pharmacy field team.

Novo Nordisk Oceania GM Michael Azrak said the program has been designed to complement the care patients receive from their prescribing doctor and community pharmacist.

He added: "Patients prescribed Wegovy may need practical information and support throughout their treatment.

"Offering that information and support at the point where patients collect their medicines is an important part of the program."

Pharmacies seeking further information about the Wegovy Pharmacy Program can contact PharmaPrograms.

Learn more **HERE**. *KB*

VIPs attend Chemist Warehouse UK official opening

TWO weeks after first opening its doors in Harrow, London (***PD*** 06 Nov), Chemist Warehouse has marked its official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by dignitaries including Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to the UK Elisabeth Bowes, and Gareth Thomas, Member of Parliament for Harrow West.

The landmark event was also attended by Sigma Healthcare's CEO Vikesh Ramsunder, Sigma Healthcare's CFO Richard Murray and Chemist Warehouse head of UK business - managing partner, James Kocharunchitt.

The store has seen more than 1,000 customers visit each day since opening, with Kocharunchitt remarking that the group has "been overwhelmed by the support we've received so far from the British public".

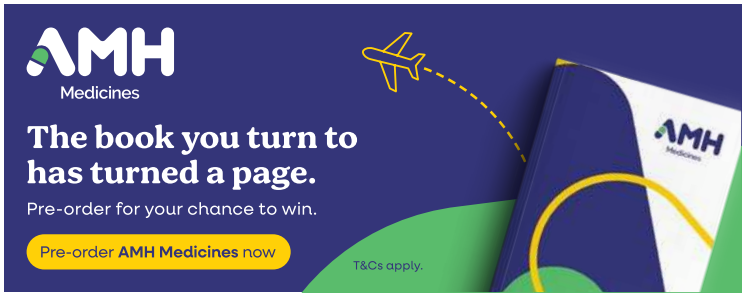
"We've also received the backing from other stores on the High Street in Harrow, who have already seen we are bringing more people out to shop locally," he added.



A further grand opening to the public will take place on Fri 04 Dec 2026, and will feature a special celebrity guest appearance and lots of give-aways.



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Dispensary Corner

WITH its light weight and plenty of holes to create drag, a pickleball ball might seem fairly innocuous, but as players of the increasingly popular sport are learning, that is not necessarily the case.

US researchers reported in the online journal *BMJ Case Reports* that a woman who had been hit directly in the eye with a pickleball went on to develop glaucoma, which led to structural optic nerve damage and impaired vision.

Immediately after taking the hit, the woman experienced blurry vision, severe pain, and extreme light sensitivity (photophobia), and attended the emergency department.

The doctors treating her said the pressure in her eye was high, and blood had collected in an area that made her case a medical emergency.

Two weeks after discharge she returned with worsening pain, by which time she had developed optic nerve damage, which the doctors determined had been caused by glaucoma, which in turn was likely the result of the accident.

"With the growing body of players and advancement of technology in the sport, such as modern paddles that can generate shots exceeding 60 miles per hour, these injuries will continue to occur unless proper safety measures are implemented," the authors noted, adding that sport-specific safety guidelines similar to those for other racquet sports should be developed.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Mag-Sup powder - a better way to absorb magnesium

Mag-Sup powder is a high absorption magnesium supplement for use in magnesium deficiencies. It contains magnesium aspartate which has increased bioavailability compared to other forms of magnesium. Magnesium aspartate has better oral absorption than magnesium citrate, magnesium glycinate, magnesium chloride and magnesium oxide.

- High dose, once a day
- Rapidly absorbed
- Natural forest berry flavour
- Up to 300mg elemental magnesium per day

Available in 200g packs equivalent to 40 doses.

RRP: $21.57

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Website: CLICK HERE for more information.



Long-lasting protection against excessive sweating

Dermal Therapy Sweat Control Spray & Roll-On are aluminium-free antiperspirants designed for excessive sweating.

The Dermal Therapy Sweat Control range contains 100% natural actives which provide 48-hour sweat protection by shrinking pores and reducing perspiration.

The products feature snowflake bulb extract and a horsetail and sage complex for reducing pore-size and controlling odour, providing long-lasting, effective protection.

RRP:
Dermal Therapy Sweat Control Spray - $17.99
Dermal Therapy Sweat Control Roll-On - $17.99

Stockist: Contact 1300 555 597

Website: CLICK HERE for more information.



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