

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Careline Australia**.

Guild recognises Tassie leader

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has acknowledged "the remarkable contribution" of Tasmanian community pharmacy leader Helen O'Byrne, who has retired from her position as senior vice president of the Tasmanian Branch.

Branch president Joe O'Malley thanked O'Byrne for her service and dedication, saying she has been one of community pharmacy's "most respected and influential leaders".

"Her commitment to patients, her profession and the future of healthcare has left an enduring mark on Tasmania and on community pharmacy nationally."

"Throughout her career, Helen has consistently put patients first."

"She has been a passionate advocate for ensuring Tasmanians can access timely, affordable healthcare through their local community pharmacy," he concluded.

The Guild also welcomed Jack Muir Wilson, a committed advocate for community pharmacy, as he takes over as senior VP for the Tas Branch.

PSA advances pall care role

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced initiatives that will facilitate pharmacists in providing greater support for people with life-limiting illnesses, their families, carers, and the interprofessional teams who care for them.

The peak body is set to deliver a range of activities from 2026 to 2030 to further upskill pharmacists in palliative care, broaden pharmacists' roles in advance care planning, and support expanded career pathways for pharmacists in palliative care.

Building on the success of the National Palliative Care Project 2023-2026, the PSA's Palliative Care Pharmacist Integration and Workforce Development Initiative expands efforts that equipped more than 2,500 pharmacists through a foundation palliative care training

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and delivered six service model pilots embedding pharmacists in Specialist Palliative Care Service community teams.

PSA national president Professor Mark Naunton said the PSA is committed to building a skilled workforce and creating care models that support the needs of patients and families accessing palliative care services.

"The PSA has been involved in palliative care projects for nearly a decade now, working in partnership with Primary Health Networks and state and federal governments," Professor Naunton said.

"This is an opportunity to build on the learnings from the pilots."

"We're looking to progress palliative care education and training opportunities for pharmacists and support pharmacists to meet the rising demand for palliative care in Australia."

The PSA's Palliative Care Pharmacist Integration and Workforce Development Initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Access ASPIRE Palliative Care Foundation Training Program **HERE**.

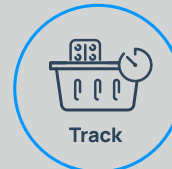
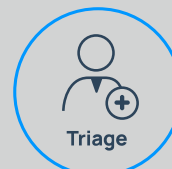
First biologic for COPD on PBS

NUCALA (mepolizumab, GSK) has become the first biologic treatment to be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for adults with uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and raised blood eosinophils who are on stable inhaler triple therapy.

The drug acts by blocking interleukin-5, which decreases the number of eosinophils in the blood lung tissue and can reduce symptom flare-ups.

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Dispensary Corner

DRUGS stamped with former Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi's face have been seized by authorities in the country.

The tens of thousands of ecstasy pills (pictured) bore the likeness of the former dictator, who ruled Libya from 1969 until his overthrow in 2011.

Images released by a security agency in Libya's capital Tripoli showed sacks of brown pellets moulded into the shape of Gaddafi's head and shoulders, with the lines of his distinctive features and robes pressed into their surface.

Security agents received a tip-off that a gang was planning to send the drugs by sea and tracked the shipment until it arrived, according to local security organisation Al Rada for Combating Terrorism & Organized Crime.

Officers intercepted the shipment after it arrived and found the pills hidden in a cargo van, the agency said.

Libya has become a major regional transit hub for synthetic drugs and other narcotics on their way to local users and other parts of Africa.

Drug gangs have been taking advantage of the tumultuous situation in the country since 2011, when Gaddafi fell.



Vic acts on women's pain

THE Victorian Government has acted on findings of medical bias, sexism and dismissal from its 2024 Inquiry into Women's Pain with the launch yesterday of the *Victorian Women's Pain Standard*.

The Australian-first initiative sets clear expectations for how health services recognise, assess and respond to pain, and states that care should be consistent and high quality, regardless of where a woman lives in Victoria.

The Inquiry into Women's Pain heard from over 13,000 women and girls, who outlined the impact of pain on every part of a person's life, including their health, work, study, relationships, family life and ability to take part in everyday activities.

Many women face an added burden of having their pain minimised, normalised or overlooked, and when not taken seriously, diagnosis and treatment can be delayed, causing them to miss out on timely and appropriate care.

The standard aims to ensure women, girls and gender diverse people can have greater confidence that they will be respected when seeking care for pain.



Created alongside clinicians, experts and everyday Victorian women, the Standard is guided by four key principles:

- Women must be taken seriously and believed when discussing their pain.
- Women must be listened to and supported to ask questions and express their concerns.
- Women must be respected as partners in decisions about their body, treatment and care.
- Women must be given choices and practical support to manage their pain safely and effectively.

The Standard recognises the expertise of health professionals and provides a basis for learning and improvement.

"Women must be heard, believed and treated with respect when seeking care - it's as simple as that," Victoria's Minister for Health Ingrid Stitt stated. *KB*

Concern over NSW scope expansion

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has accused NSW Premier Chris Minns of prioritising politics over patient safety by expanding its pharmacist prescribing scheme, as announced at Pharmacy Connect last week (*PD* 11 Sep).

RACGP NSW & ACT chair Dr Rebekah Hoffman said better access to healthcare was critical, but could not come at the expense of patient safety.

"The safeguards built into

general practice exist for a reason - to catch red flags, prevent misdiagnosis, use antibiotics appropriately and make sure patients get the follow-up care they need," Dr Hoffman said.

She reiterated the RACGP's call for stronger evidence around pharmacist prescribing, stating, "Pharmacists are highly valued health professionals and we want to ensure healthcare changes are based on evidence that patients will be safer and better off."



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Glen Knocker**, managing director at Silverline Medical.



Trust starts with accurate BP readings

ACCURATE blood pressure monitoring is essential for effective cardiovascular health management, yet many Australians may be relying on devices that have not been validated for accuracy.

Research from the Menzies Institute for Medical Research found that only 7% of blood pressure monitor models available in Australia had undergone approved validation, highlighting a significant challenge for consumers and healthcare professionals alike.

This is particularly important as the National Hypertension Taskforce works towards boosting controlled blood pressure rates from 32% of Australians in 2022 to 70% by 2030.

Millions of Australians live with hypertension, including many unaware they have it, making accurate home monitoring critical for detection, treatment and ongoing management.

Community pharmacies are well placed to help consumers make informed choices.

By recommending monitors validated through recognised organisations such as STRIDE BP, pharmacists can support reliable health decisions, improve patient outcomes, strengthen trust in pharmacy, and support preventive care nationwide.

Find out more [HERE](#).
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