

Today's issue of PD

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

Ahpra cracks down on COI

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the National Boards have put health professionals on notice over unmanaged conflicts of interest with the release yesterday of new interim guidance on managing financial or commercial conflicts of interest.

The regulator is acting on concerns that emerging business models are creating situations that have the potential to unduly influence the advice and treatment provided by practitioners.

This includes businesses that advertise, prescribe and dispense a single medicine.

"The relationship between a patient and their practitioner is based on trust," Ahpra CEO Justin Untersteiner said.

"The vast majority of practitioners put their patients first and do not allow their clinical judgement to be corrupted by outside influences," he continued.

"We take action when practitioners depart from the acceptable standards and also have the power to prosecute those who incite practitioners to do the wrong thing."

Ahpra emphasised that practitioners are entitled to profit from their profession, provided they do not cross the line into unprofessional conduct.

The guidelines recognise that pharmacists both assess patients and advise about - or sometimes prescribe - treatments they may sell, which is a conflict of interest to be managed.

The guidance is **HERE**.

WPD26 celebrates creating healthier futures

PHARMACISTS globally are today celebrating World Pharmacists Day, with this year's theme 'Empowering pharmacists for healthier futures' highlighting pharmacists' critical contribution to prevention, access to care, health system resilience and sustainability.

"Empowering pharmacists means equipping them with the competencies, recognition and working environments necessary to meet evolving health needs," International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) president Paul Sinclair said.

"Pharmacists are uniquely positioned at the intersection of medicines supply, scientific innovations and patient care delivery," he continued.

"When they are enabled to practise to the full extent of their expertise, health systems are more accessible, more responsive and more sustainable."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has highlighted the growing number of pharmacists completing advanced training to deliver more clinical services across the country, helping to reduce pressure on the broader health system, while giving patients greater choice about when and where they receive care.

"Pharmacists are returning to university to complete their advanced training and, by next year, more than 1,500 pharmacists will be able to assess, treat and manage everyday and long-term health conditions," Guild national president Prof Trent Twomey said.

"Australians make more than 440 million visits to more than 6,000 community pharmacies each year.

"On World Pharmacists Day, I'm particularly proud to highlight the role community pharmacists play in ensuring people can access health care when and where they need it, creating healthier communities every day," he said.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) president Professor Mark Naunton has acknowledged the work of pharmacists, thanking all for their contributions.

"Whether that's in the early stages of drug development,

4 ways to help build strong bones

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drug regulation, government, education, research, or our frontline pharmacists and support staff across community pharmacy, hospital, aged care, general practice, ACCHOs, wherever you are, thank you very much," he said.

Meanwhile, as hospital pharmacy services face challenges due to workforce constraints, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has highlighted the critical role of an empowered and sustainable hospital pharmacy workforce in delivering safe, high-quality care.

"You cannot empower pharmacists to deliver more for patients without first giving them the workforce, career pathways and recognition they need to practise at their full contribution to patient care," AdPha president Assoc Prof Tom Simpson pointed out.

AdPha has called on health services, governments, professional organisations and pharmacy staff to work together to build a strong hospital pharmacy future. **KB**

IPA excellence

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies Australia has marked World Pharmacists Day by celebrating the winners of its 2026 Pharmacy Excellence Awards. See **page three** for details.

Time for national consistency: Guild

NEW research commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has shown strong support for pharmacist prescribing, identifying key benefits such as reduced pressure on GPs, more convenient access through community pharmacies, and more care options beyond GPs and hospitals.

The survey found that 88% of Australians trust their pharmacist to provide advice for common, non-complex health conditions, while 92% recognised the benefits in enabling specially

trained pharmacists to assess, treat and manage everyday and long-term health conditions.

Guild national president Professor Trent Twomey said the findings reinforced the need for the government to introduce nationally consistent prescribing frameworks.

"Australians want easier, more convenient access to care - and that's exactly what pharmacist prescribing delivers," he said.

"Now is the time for federal and state governments to deliver a nationally consistent prescribing framework," he concluded.

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Dispensary Corner

OZEMPIC may be changing the way we eat - and McDonald's is paying attention.

Rather than seeing shrinking appetites as a hindrance to its profits, the fast food giant said that it fully intends to ride the Wegovy wave.

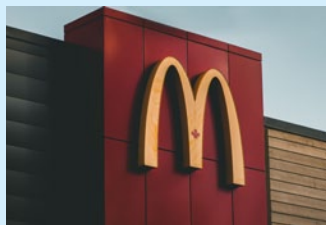
"Eighty-four percent of households with GLP-1 users visit McDonald's - this is an opportunity," the company's USA president Skye Anderson told investors this week, referring to US households.

While Australia has been much slower on the uptake of GLP-1s, with just 1-2% of the population on the drug versus around 11% of Americans, it is fair to assume that a similar trend may eventually emerge here.

McDonald's revealed it plans to cater to shrinking waistlines by overhauling its menu, introducing smaller, protein-dense meal options, including 'burger bowls', 'egg bites' and a strawberry lychee drink.

It is not the first fast food company to respond to the rise of Ozempic.

Before closing its US operations, Guzman y Gomez said that weight-loss drugs were creating more demand for mini burritos, while US-based franchise Chipotle recently launched a "protein cup".



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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

Revive Tears - PBS-listed

Revive Tears lubricating eye drops provide long-lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye.

The product moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes.

Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate and protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

RRP: \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs)

Suppliers: Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Crampeze Active - high-performance support for active bodies

Crampeze Active combines magnesium glycinate, *Viburnum opulus* (cramp bark), creatine and carnitine in a high-performance formula designed to support energy production, electrolyte balance and performance during high-intensity exercise.

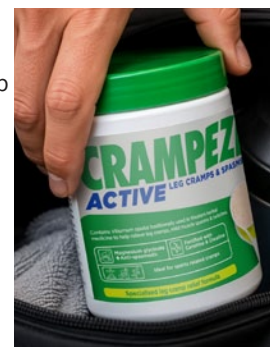
Key ingredients include:

- Cramp bark - traditionally used in western herbal medicine to help relieve leg cramps, mild muscle spasms and twitches.
- Magnesium glycinate - supports muscle function.
- Creatine and carnitine - provide support for energy metabolism and exercise performance, making Crampeze Active suitable for active bodies.

RRP: \$27.99

Suppliers: Contact 1300 555 597.

Website: [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



Pharmacy Excellence Awards 2026

Today, on **World Pharmacists Day**, we celebrate the remarkable people and pharmacies strengthening the health of communities across Australia.
Congratulations to our 2026 Pharmacy Excellence Award winners.



National Pharmacy of the Year

Dixon's Pharmacy, TAS



Here for Good Award

Josephine Host

Mooloolaba Beach Pharmacy,
QLD



Community Engagement Award

Ian Shanks

Fullife Pharmacy, VIC



Professional Services Innovation Award

Michael Troy

Southside Pharmacy, NSW



Retail Manager of the Year

Carmen Kelly

Williams Advantage
Pharmacy, NSW



Pharmacist of the Year

Shengqui Na

Equal Health Pharmacy,
VIC



NSW & ACT Pharmacy of the Year

**Piggotts Pharmacy
Huntlee, NSW**



QLD & NT Pharmacy of the Year

**Hooper Centre
Pharmacy, QLD**



VIC & TAS Pharmacy of the Year

Dixon's Pharmacy, TAS



WA & SA Pharmacy of the Year

**Chemist Discount
Centre Bunbury, WA**

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