PHARMACY GROUPS SYMPOSIUM

A PHARMACY GROUPS & BRANDS / PHARMACY GUILD EVENT

26-28 OCTOBER 2026
ADELAIDE MARRIOTT

PROGRAM



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The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

VERSION 5 OCT 2026

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2026	
5.00pm – 7.30pm	**REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**
6.00pm – 8.00pm	**WELCOME RECEPTION** Join fellow delegates, Guild representatives and industry partners at this casual welcome function hosted in the Marriott's Exchange Lane Bar - a hidden gem nestled in an historic laneway. Enjoy gourmet canapés, beverages and live entertainment while reconnecting with familiar faces, or meeting new ones. This charming location is the perfect setting to kick-start your symposium experience. **Venue**: Exchange Lane Bar, Adelaide Marriott Additional tickets: $100 per person

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026	
7.45am – 5.00pm	**REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**
8.00am – 8.30am	**ARRIVAL TEA & COFFEE**
8.30am – 8.45am	**Symposium Welcome** Professor Trent Twomey, National President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, will set the scene for the two days ahead. **Speaker**: Professor Trent Twomey, National President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
8.45am – 9.15am	**Department of Health, Disability and Ageing presentation** Mr Blair Comley PSM, Secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, will brief delegates in person on the Australian Government's priorities and pharmacy's future role in the health system. **Speaker**: Blair Comley PSM, Secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
9.15am – 9.45am	**Navigating Australia's political landscape** One of the most popular sessions for this event, Evan Moorhead, Director, Anacta Strategies Australia, will brief delegates on the latest political landscape. This will include updates on key state elections in the coming months. **Speaker**: Evan Moorhead, Director, Anacta Strategies Australia
9.45am – 10.30am	**Economic headwinds and tailwinds: What's influencing Australia?** Ryan Felsman, Senior Economist (Director), Business & Industry, Commonwealth Bank, will brief delegates on the direction of the economy and the impact on cost of living pressures. **Speaker**: Ryan Felsman, Senior Economist (Director), Business & Industry, Commonwealth Bank
10.30am – 11.00am	**MORNING TEA**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

VERSION 5 OCT 2026

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026	
11.00am – 12.00pm	**Guild's Community Pharmacy Update** This session will provide an 8 CPA update and other important Guild priorities. **Speakers**: Professor Trent Twomey, National President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Anthony Tassone, Chair of Health Economics & Policy Services, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
12.00pm – 12.45pm	**From search to AI: How consumers are finding health and treatment information** Bonnie Leibel, Senior Director, Cube Health Communications, will present fascinating research on the interface between the consumer, health and AI. **Speaker**: Bonnie Leibel, Senior Director, Cube Health Communications
12.45pm – 1.15pm	**QSPP: More than just a name change** QSPP will be live on 1 October 2026. Natalie Willis, Chair of Clinical Governance Committee, will outline the important changes that pharmacy groups should be addressing. **Speakers**: Natalie Willis, Chair of Clinical Governance Committee, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
1.15pm – 2.15pm	**NETWORKING LUNCH**
2.15pm – 2.45pm	**Pharmacy Industry Developments** Explore what's on the horizon for pharmacy, including the Women's Health Package, the future of scope of practice across Australia, and the key opportunities and challenges facing the profession over the next 12 months. **Speaker:** Professor Trent Twomey, National President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia & Gerard Benedet, Executive Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
2.45pm – 3.30pm	**The impact of Commonwealth tax reforms and housing security on consumer confidence** The capital gains tax changes announced in the May federal budget has created some winners and losers. Tom Panos, Australasia's #1 Real Estate Coach & Trainer explains the impact on the key housing market. **Speaker**: Tom Panos, Australasia's #1 Real Estate Coach & Trainer
3.30pm – 4.00pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**
4.00pm – 4.30pm	**Dispensary Panel Session** Delegates can put their questions to a panel of pharmacy experts in this moderated session. **Moderator:** Chris Owen, Queensland Branch President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia **Panellists:** Anthony Tassone, National Vice-President Health Economics & Policy; Dennis Bastas, Executive Chairman & Group CEO, DBG Health; Nick Biggs, General Manager Client Services, NostraData; Bec Rogers, Chief Pharmacist National Pharmacies

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

VERSION 5 OCT 2026

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2026	
4.30pm – 5.00pm	**Feedback Session #1** Gerard Benedet, Executive Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia will highlight the key themes from Day 1 that will shape Guild policy moving forward. **Facilitator**: Gerard Benedet, National Executive Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
6.30pm – 9.30pm	**SYMPOSIUM DINNER** Set within Adelaide's iconic riverbank precinct, the Symposium Dinner will be held at the world class Adelaide Oval, where contemporary design meets rich sporting heritage. Enjoy pre-dinner drinks overlooking the 'hallowed turf', sweeping grandstands and Adelaide city skyline, followed by a premium three course dining experience showcasing the finest South Australian produce, paired with world renowned local wines. **Guest Speakers:** The Hon Blair Boyer MP, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing & Damien Fleming, Former Australian Cricketer **Venue**: John Halbert Room, Adelaide Oval **Cost**: Inclusive in registration fees | $165 pp for additional tickets

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026	
8.00am – 2.00pm	**REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**
8.00am – 8.30am	**ARRIVAL TEA & COFFEE**
8.30am – 9.00am	**Keynote Address – The impact of GLP-1s: The future landscape and role of pharmacy** Use of GLP-1 medicines in Australia has surged since 2020, and they are reshaping healthcare through significant improvements in metabolic disease. Community pharmacy has a key role to play across several areas. **Speaker**: Michael Azrak, General Manager Novo Nordisk Oceania
9.00am – 9.30am	**Industrial Relations: The impact of multi-employer bargaining** This session will address one of the key silent issues that could heavily impact pharmacies in 2027 and beyond. **Speakers**: Gerard Benedet, Executive Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Ben Rogers, In-House Legal Counsel/WR Specialist, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
9.30am – 10.15am	**Dispensary and front of pharmacy data insights** The combined knowledge of IQVIA and NostraData will highlight the key opportunities in community pharmacy today and the future. **Speakers**: Sashi Anantham, Principal, Consumer Intelligence and Insights, IQVIA; Jim Xenos, CEO, NostraData and Nick Biggs, General Manager Client Services, NostraData
10.15am - 10.45am	**MORNING TEA**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

VERSION 5 OCT 2026

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026		
10.45am - 11.30am	**Retail Excellence: Six consumer trends predicted to impact pharmacy retail** Professor Gary Mortimer, Professor of Retail Marketing and Consumer Behaviour, QUT Business School, will present key retail insights, shaping pharmacy strategies for groups into the future. **Speaker**: Professor Gary Mortimer, Professor of Retail Marketing and Consumer Behaviour, QUT Business School	Metagenics
11.30am - 12.30pm	**Retail Panel Session** Delegates can put their questions to a panel of pharmacy experts in this moderated session. **Moderator:** Chris Owen, Queensland Branch President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia **Panellists:** Sashi Anantham, Principal, Consumer Intelligence and Insights, IQVIA; Craig Wagner, GM ANZ and Asia (ex China) Metagenics; Andrew Pattinson, Strategic Advisor, Guild Group and Matthew Gillespie, SA Branch President, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia	Sigma Healthcare
12.30pm - 12.45pm	**The Guild is 100 in 2027** The Guild will brief delegates on how they plan to celebrate their 100th birthday in 2027. It will not be about the Guild. We will celebrate community pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy teams, founders, families, patients and communities, with the Guild positioned as connector, advocate and steward. Formal support from pharmacy groups will be sought.	
12.45pm - 1.00pm	**Feedback Session #2** Gerard Benedet, Executive Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, will highlight the key themes from Day 2 and wrap up the focus of the Guild moving forward. **Facilitator**: Gerard Benedet, National Executive Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia	
1.00pm – 2.00pm	**NETWORKING LUNCH & CONFERENCE CLOSE**	RSM