

Chemist Warehouse drops Jones

DISCOUNT pharmacy group, Chemist Warehouse, has bowed to pressure from activists calling on it to drop its sponsorship of radio shock-jock, Alan Jones' show on 2GB, following his controversial comments about New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern.

Mad F*cking Witches, a group that highlights sexism, misogyny, racism and homophobia, revealed Chemist Warehouse had pulled its advertising from the *Alan Jones Breakfast Show*, last night, joining a host of brands in walking away from the star broadcaster.

The move came hours after a spokesperson for the company told *Pharmacy Daily* that it had "no comment" to make about whether or not it would continue to advertise in time slots around Jones' show.

As of 6pm last night 19 advertisers, including Mercedes-



Benz, ME Bank, Bunnings Warehouse and Anytime Fitness had cut times with Jones, over his on-air response to Ardern's statement that "Australia has to answer to the Pacific" on climate change, at the Pacific Islands Forum last week.

Jones said he hoped Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, "gets tough here with a few

backhanders".

"I just wonder whether Scott Morrison's going to be fully briefed to shove a sock down her throat," he said.

Jones has since been dubbed "an appalling misogynist" by former Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, while mattress brand Koala also hit out at the comments.

"Koala has cut ties with Alan Jones...it's something we should have done earlier," the company said in a tweet on Mon.

"Violence against women starts with words and the bloke has had too many chances."

On Fri Jones used his show to say his words had been misinterpreted, adding, "I would never wish any harm to any politician male or female".

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature.

Robber arrested

A **SECOND** teenager has been charged in relation to an armed attack on a suburban Melbourne pharmacy last week, during which staff were injured (**PD** 19 Aug).

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Rural paper falls short

THE complex role community pharmacy plays in regional and remote parts of Australia is not fully appreciated in the National Rural Health Commissioner's (NRHC) consultation paper on allied health services in the bush, the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) believes.

In its submission to the NRHC, the RPNA called for greater acknowledgement of the role pharmacists play in rural health care.

"The consultation paper does not do justice to the complexity of rural pharmacy practice and its crucial underpinning role in rural health infrastructure," the RPNA said.

"Collectively rural pharmacists spend millions of dollars of their own money establishing and growing primary health care infrastructure, skills and resources throughout rural Australia."

The group warned the lack of continuity of care in Australia was "one of the most damaging features of the ad hoc approach

to rural health workforce", noting that despite having the heaviest patient contact rate of any rural primary care provider pharmacists were "routinely overlooked by rural health planners".

The RPNA called for new remuneration models to "incentivise team-based care" in rural areas.

The group also flagged concerns about the rural pharmacy workforce, saying it "is in crisis and yet community pharmacies – despite their accessibility and importance to the viability of both GP practices and rural hospitals – have been conspicuously excluded from recent government initiatives to enhance rural health workforce".

The RPNA noted that pharmacists working in remote areas expected higher salaries than those working in the city, placing pressure on owners, leading to calls for new remunerated service programs to support team-based care, such as GP Care Plans.



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Pharmacy robber's appeal dismissed

A NSW man will serve out the remaining 14 months of the non-parole period on his jail sentence for an armed robbery at a South Hurstville Pharmacy.

Tony Karacic's appeal against the severity of his six years and three months sentence, was rejected by the Supreme Court of NSW Court of Criminal Appeal on Mon.

Karacic was found guilty of robbing cash and prescription medicines from the pharmacy, after confronting a 20-year-old pharmacy assistant (PA) and demanding access to the medicines safe before going into the dispensary, where the PA told the pharmacist to "open the safe, he had a gun".

On 11 Feb 2016 the offender was stopped by police while driving and the gun used in the robbery was found under the driver's seat of his car.

Karacic was sentenced to a six-month non-parole period

for charges relating to the possession of an unlicensed firearm, on 07 Jun 2016, before the District Court of NSW handed down a separate six-year and three-months sentence for the pharmacy robbery on 17 Nov 2017, with the sentence starting from 12 Oct 2016.

Karacic challenged the severity of the sentence, claiming the prison terms should have run concurrently as the charges for possession of a firearm and the robbery were connected.

However, the Supreme Court of NSW ruled that the two cases were separate, adding the "crimes were serious, involving as they did the use of a functional firearm to hold up pharmacy staff so that drugs could be taken," and "the sentence imposed was...very much towards the lower end of the available sentencing range, it could not be characterised as manifestly excessive".

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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS are often treated far worse than they deserve by customers, as one pharmacy employee in the English city of York recently discovered.

Methadone patient, Carla Graham, 43, had a reputation for behaving badly while collecting her prescription, often arriving drunk.

The situation became so inflamed her local Boots pharmacy arranged for her to collect her drugs from another store.

Under new legislation in the UK patients prescribed methadone can only get the drug from a nominated pharmacy, and they must take the drug under supervision in-store.

When a pharmacist told her of the new rules in May, Graham spat in her face - leading to a criminal charge.

During a court case the prosecutor said the pharmacist feared she may have been exposed to illness through the saliva that landed on her face.

Graham pleaded guilty to assault, but avoided jail time, after the magistrate heard of her hard work with a rehabilitation agency and her self-reformative probation service.

The court handed down a three-month suspended sentence.

Graham's solicitor Keith Waterhouse explained his client "felt she was being ordered about a little bit like an animal rather than like a human being."

Priceline, SiSU extend deal

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries (API) will expand the health station offering across the entire national Priceline Pharmacy network, extending its exclusive partnership with SiSU Health Group for a further five years.

SiSU's free health check stations have so far completed more than 900,000 diabetes risk assessments and measured significant improvements in health risks, API CEO, Richard Vincent, said.

"More than 10,000 customers every week are using the health stations, showing us they want easy access to reliable, accurate information which helps inform them about how to better manage their healthcare," he said.

"Our pharmacy teams will remain the front line for helping customers through their healthcare journey,

and the health stations allow us to triage customers that are at risk through to the pharmacists.

"We're increasing the footprint to put the health stations into more stores, including our company stores, so they are more easily accessible for all our customers."

The health station checks take four minutes on average, and the companies said that over the next three months the health stations will add the identification of atrial fibrillation, which can often be undiagnosed without regular heart health check-ups with a GP.

SiSU Health Group CEO, Noel Duncan, said "it is likely that we are running Australia's largest ongoing health program which we can demonstrate is delivering benefits and significant results for the participants".

MMR approval

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has granted Section 19A approval for a new MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) Vaccine, due to a current shortage of Australian registered products.

Details at tga.gov.au.

Portal checker

THE Pharmacy Programs Administrator has added a new "Service History Checker" option to its 6CPA portal.

The enhancement allows users who are linked to an approved HMR, RMMR or MedsCheck Service Provider to check whether a patient has received a previous service within the relevant eligibility period - see ppaonline.com.au.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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