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Thu 27th August 2020

ACPA to reconsider s90 application

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from Willach.

Today's issue of PD

Heroism hailed

PHARMACISTS' bravery in continuing to stand on the frontline of Australia's COVID-19 response has been highlighted by Federal MP for Mackellar, Jason Falinski.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday the Liberal MP praised health workers' contribution to supporting public health through the pandemic.

"I particularly want to thank pharmacists who at the beginning of this crisis were not able to move to telehealth and took on the role of dealing directly with the public," he said.

"Many of them were not able to get hold of personal protective equipment.

"Therefore, they were very brave in the way they continued to assist their community during this period."

Pure LIVING

THE Australian Community Pharmacy Authority (ACPA) is being compelled to reconsider its decision to reject an application of section 90 (s90) approval for a new pharmacy, following a Federal Court ruling.

Under the ACPA's Rules, s90 approval can be given if the Authority is satisfied that "at all relevant times there is within 500m, in a straight line, from the proposed premises, either: both the equivalent of at least one full-time prescribing medical practitioner and a supermarket that has a gross leasable area of at least 1,000m²; or a supermarket that has a gross leasable area of at least 2,500m²".

ZAA Ventures Pty Ltd lodged an "approval to establish a new pharmacy" at Shop 3, 8-12 Wild Mint Drive, Flagstone, Queensland, on 19 Mar, which was within a 500 metre radius of a new Coles supermarket with a gross leasable area of 3,655m² that opened on 21 Mar.

The ACPA rejected the application on the evidence that "the Coles supermarket was not trading on the day the application was made", saying it was

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"therefore not satisfied that, at all relevant times, there is within 500m, in a straight line, from the proposed premises", with its recommendation issued on 26 Jun.

Issuing the Federal Court's ruling, Justice Sarah Derrington, said, "in the face of the evidence of the commercial activities that the Coles Supermarket was clearly already undertaking, it would have been surprising for the Authority to have found, in an unqualified sense, that the Coles Supermarket 'was not trading'".

Justice Derrington ordered that the ACPA's recommendation that

ZAA's application for approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits under s90, should not be approved, be quashed.

Justice Derrington added that the ZAA application be remitted for the ACPA to consider again, and that the Authority make a recommendation according to law and a writ of mandamus be issued compelling the ACPA to consider the application and make a recommendation according to law.

ACPA has been ordered to pay costs of and incidental to ZAA's application.

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Dispensary Corner

A CANADIAN pharmacy has been forced to warn patients about a telephone scam with the caller claiming to need credit card information to pay for their medicines before picking them up at the store.

The scam emerged after patients contacted the owner reporting that they had received calls from an individual claiming to be their pharmacist and that their script was ready, before asking for a credit card payment.

The owner told YorkRegion. *com* that while the pharmacy did take payments over the phone, the calls "didn't come from us".

He added that calls from the store would not come "out of the blue", urging patients to always double-check who was calling before releasing personal information.

The pharmacist said the store had posted a warning about the scam calls, noting elderly people were particularly vulnerable to con-artists.

Scamwatch has said there has been a 55% increase in reports involving loss of personal information this year compared with the same period in 2019.



Pharmacy rescued

ADMINISTRATORS have

confirmed a deal has been reached to sell one of four struggling Adelaide pharmacies linked to pharmacist, Peter Ting.

Under the agreement Chan Bok will take over as sole director of the Burnside Village Pharmacy, and will be a joint shareholder in the business, with James Cameron, The Advertiser reported.

The pharmacy initially entered administration in Jun, months after Ting resigned as the sole director and shareholder of the store.

The Adelaide-based publication reported that under a deed of company arrangement, Ting's daughter, Rachel Tze-Li Ting, will provide \$430,000 to pay outstanding debts.

Administrator Alan Scott from SV Partners Director, said Ting's funding combined with profits generated by the store in recent weeks would be used to repay employees and creditors.

"We will be paying a dividend in two tranches - the first one will be to employees in the next four weeks or so, and that will be for leave entitlements and superannuation," he said.



"And then a dividend to the remaining unsecured creditors will occur later in the year."

Scott said unsecured creditors could expect a return of 50c in the dollar under the deal.

Meanwhile a second pharmacy linked to Ting could be sold to Bok and Cameron, with Scott saying the Glenunga Pharmacy could be reopened if a deal is made.

However, he said the Findon Pharmacy, which also entered liquidation in Jul, would remain closed, with the liquidator trying to sell the stock, plant and equipment.

COVID a game changer for MedAdvisor

MEDTECH company,

MedAdvisor, has seen its share of the Australian community pharmacy market continue to grow, with more than 60% of stores using its platform.

Announcing a 20% uplift in revenue, to \$11.1 million for the 2020 financial year, the company said COVID-19 has "changed the game" for the business.

"As healthcare professionals on the frontline continue to face the challenge of COVID-19, the sector is changing to deal with these challenges," the company said in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange. MedAdvisor noted there had been heightened demand for services including in-app payment and on-demand

been delivered using the

platform during the pandemic.

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