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Fri 14th February 2020

# Barrister backs Guild in College fight

**MEMBERS** of the Australian Pharmacy College will not be asked to participate in a postal vote to approve a move to bring it under the management of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch.

In a statement released yesterday, College President, Chris Owen, said the result of a vote on the matter at a meeting last month (*PD* 21 Jan) would stand, despite several requests from members that it be put to a postal ballot.

"The overwhelming result of the meeting of members held on 20 Jan, where a Special Resolution to change the company type was passed by a super majority of over 79% of votes, clearly demonstrates that members want the College to get on with the job of providing excellent pharmacy education," he said.

"Surprisingly, the demand was made by some members who had previously strongly objected to the College holding a postal vote on the resolution.



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"It saddens me greatly that a very small group of members and certain external organisations would so willingly and blatantly seek to undermine the College.

"The Board has been resolute in ensuring the College has a bright future, with solid financials and the opportunity to provide excellent pharmacy education.

"Given these circumstances, the College Board sought legal advice on the matter.

"The Board has received comprehensive legal advice from an

#### ACF liquidation threatens pharmacy

**THE** potential closure of a regional Victorian aged care facility (ACF) is putting the future of local health services, including a community pharmacy at risk, a state MP believes.

Speaking in the Victorian Legislative Council, Liberal Party MP, Wendy Lovell, raised concerns about the future of pharmacy and medical services in Murchison, in the state's north, after the Murchison Community Care facility went into liquidation late last year.

Lovell called on the State Government to "urgently intervene" to ensure "these vital community services continue long into the future".



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independent barrister concluding that the College is entitled to reject the demand for a postal poll as it would be inconsistent with requirements prescribed in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) which require passage of a resolution at a meeting on certain matters."

Owen, who is also a member of the Queensland Guild branch committee, said the College would continue as a standalone entity, while providing an expanded range of services, under the Guild's management.

### **Bus Plan Comp**

PHARMACY students from New Zealand will attempt to take the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National Student Business Plan title across the ditch for a third year in a row, following the competition's launch at the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association Congress in Jan.

The 2020 edition of the competition will continue to focus on innovation to ensure that future pharmacy owners are prepared to identify new services they can deliver in the community sector.

The competition is open to all students studying pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand and will provide \$15,000 in cash prizes to the finalists (top three teams) in addition to registration, flights and accommodation to attend the Guild's 2020 Pharmacy Connect conference.

### Today's issue of PD

www.eRx.com.au

Stands 127 & 128

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news.

#### **Bushfire focus**

DELEGATES at next month's Australian Pharmacy Profession Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP) will be given an insight into how pharmacists on the frontline of this year's horrific bushfire crisis supported their communities.

Capital Chemists Group's Andrew Topp and Danielle Campbell will share their experiences of how they managed to maintain pharmacy services and care for patients throughout the disaster.

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**Pharmacy Daily** 





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Fri 14th February 2020

# Dispensary Corner

A PENNSYLVANIAN medical marijuana dispensary claims a disgruntled former employee is trying to slur its reputation after the pharmacist filed a discrimination and retaliation case against it.

The pharmacist, Carol Kopiak, who suffers with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of being a victim in a hostage situation while working for a previous employer, alleged the owners of the marijuana dispensing pharmacy had fired her because she refused to obtain a medical marijuana card that would have enabled her to "speak from experience" with customers.

The company rejected Kopiak's suggestion that she was let go because she did not want to get high on their supply, claiming she had been sacked because she had demonstrated an "unwillingness and inability to complete the most basic pharmacist tasks".

"Carol Kopiak is trying to shake down our company, and we refuse to be extorted," a spokesperson for the pharmacy said.

"Her PTSD-discrimination claim is a fraud.

"She's apparently had success suing her prior employer for 'discrimination' and reaching settlements, but it's not going to work with us."

The statement added that Kopiak had worked as a volunteer at the pharmacy for a few weeks but had been asked not to continue "because she was incompetent".

## Administrators called

**BK CHEMISTS** Pty Limited, the company which operates the Pharmacy4Less online store, has been placed into administration.

ASIC records confirm the company, whose sole director and shareholder is Pharmacy4Less GM of eCommerce, Billal Karem, had Michael Billingsley and Lucica Palaghia of accounting firm Deloitte appointed as External Administrators on 10 Feb.

The appointment was pursuant to the Corporations Act, which states that the board of a company may appoint an administrator if they have passed a resolution to the affect that they believe the company is insolvent, or is likely to become insolvent.

A second business, BK Chemists No2 Pty Ltd, which was listed as the proprietor of a Priceline Pharmacy at Chatswood Interchange, on Sydney's North Shore, of which Billal Karem was listed as the sole director, also entered administration on Mon.

Billal Karem and his brothers, Feras Karem and Assad Karem, are behind the Pharmacy4Less

freeze-frame.com.au for more.

valued at \$69.



group, which has over 100 stores Australia-wide, according to the company's website.

Feras Karem is also Treasurer of the NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and the family's other ventures include BAMM Group Administration, which last year did a major "technology co-development" deal with listed pharmacy software supplier Corum Group Limited (**PD** 25 Sep 2019).

The decision to place the two entities into administration came less than three weeks after Australian Pharmaceutical Industries' CEO, Richard Vincent, had told investors that a number of its Priceline stores had been forced out of business due to "landlords' rental demands" (**PD** 24 Jan).

## Events Calendar

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily. com.au.

- o6 o8 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2020; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; register at www.psa.org.au
- 10 Mar Women in Pharmacy Breakfast; Kirribilli Club, Lavender Bay, RSVP at: www.guild2018.wufoo.com by 24 Feb.
- **19 22 Mar:** APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; Early bird registrations now open: www.appconference.com
- o4 o5 Apr: VIC/TAS Annual Therapeutic Update, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Melbourne; for more information visit: www.psa. org.au
- 18 19 Apr: Pharmeducation Clinical Update; Holiday Inn, Potts Point, Sydney: register at www.pharmeducation. com.au
- o6 May: APC & ANMAC Interprofessional Colloquium 2020; QT Hotel, Canberra; for more info visit: www. ipecolloquium.com/

**31 Jul - 02 Aug -** PSA National Conference; Sydney Hyatt Regency; for more visit: www.psa20.com.au

Pharmacy Daily

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