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CWH switch sparks WA court battle

A DISPUTE over a Western Australian property developer's decision to drop Wizard Pharmacy CEO, Lyndon Dyson, as a tenant for a pharmacy at a yet-to-be-built medical centre in favour of Chemist Warehouse (CWH) is set to be tried in the Supreme Court of WA.

Dyson has applied for an extension of caveat over the property which he had agreed to lease from developer, Ian Johnson.

An in-chambers hearing was told Dyson and Johnson had discussed the possibility of setting up a new pharmacy in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in Jan 2015, with the Wizard Pharmacy founder noting the new store would need a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) number, which would require it to be allied to a medical centre.

Negotiations between Dyson and Johnson continued through to Jan 2018, when the pharmacist introduced Dr Jagdish Krishnan to the developer as the doctor

required to set up the medical centre.

In Feb 2018 Johnson's solicitor sent a suite of documents including an agreement of lease between Dyson's Sommerville Kalgoorlie Pty Ltd, as the tenant, and the developer's Gullan Pty Ltd entity.

However, in Jan 2020 Johnson informed Dyson that although the development of the land was proceeding he did not intend to grant the pharmacy lease to Sommerville, but instead proposed to grant a lease to CWH.

An affidavit presented by Dyson noted the "agreement for lease dated in or about 2018 between the registered proprietor as lessor and the caveator as lessee for a term of five years commencing on the date of practical completion of the building being constructed or to be constructed on the land described together with two option terms each of five years".

Johnson claimed the agreement



for lease had been terminated on non-fulfilment of a condition contained in the contract, that he obtain financing for the development, within a 60-day timeframe.

Johnson said his bank had told him it was not prepared to finance the project at the time.

Following the hearing it was ruled that the matter should be progressed to trial as soon as possible.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

APP program

DETAILS of the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) and Exhibition program are set to go live today.

Confirmed speakers Commonwealth Bank of Australia Chief Economist, Craig James, Queensland University of Technology Consumer Behaviour Researcher, Professor Gary Mortimer, Olympic track cycling star, Anna Meares, and Winter Games hero, the sure-footed gold medalist, Steven Bradbury.

APP will take place on the Gold Coast from 20 to 23 May, with delegates able to access super early bird registration until 08 Feb.

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FIP vax push

GOVERNMENTS across the globe have been urged by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to “enact legislation necessary to support pharmacists in their contribution to bringing the COVID-19 pandemic to an end”.

The plea came during the 148th session of the World Health Organization Executive Board overnight, with FIP telling delegates that to deliver immunisation coverage as quickly as possible, “pharmacists must be enabled to contribute”.

FIP noted that in at least 36 countries pharmacists already play an active role in administering vaccinations, adding that as trained health professionals pharmacists have the appropriate skills to perform COVID-19 testing, interpret results and advise on appropriate actions.

PSA expects early COVAX role

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, expects State and Territory Governments will engage pharmacist immunisers during Phase 1a and 1b of the COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) rollout.

Acknowledging Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt’s commitment to having community pharmacists administering COVAX from Phase 2, Freeman told **Pharmacy Daily** that PSA would continue to assist State and Territory Governments with their plans to rollout and distribution of vaccines.

“We would also expect that pharmacists as authorised immunisers will be utilised by State and Territory Governments during phase 1a and 1b to rollout the vaccine in State and Territory vaccination clinics, in aged care, and potentially within general practice led clinics,” he said.

“This will need to be an all



hands on deck approach therefore utilising pharmacists as authorised immunisers makes sense in multiple settings.”

Freeman noted that pharmacist immunisers will be required to undergo additional training before being eligible to administer COVAX, however details as to how the training will be funded have yet to be confirmed.

“It is our understanding a provider has been commissioned

to develop nationally consistent COVID-19 training for all vaccinators including pharmacists,” he said.

“Implementation of this training is currently being worked through.”

MEANWHILE, Freeman added the Australian Technical Advisory Group of Immunisation had yet to issue its guidance for the rollout of the seasonal influenza vaccine, which could coincide with the COVAX campaign.

TGA identifies defects in face masks

A POST-MARKET review of face masks included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) has seen product defect alerts for four brands.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued alerts for Wuhan Topmed Trading Co’s Softmed disposable face mask (ARTG No: 333133); Chengdu Xinjin Shifeng Medical and Apparatus and Instruments Co Ltd’s Shifeng surgical face mask (ARTG No: 333739), and masks from Henan Gore Medical Instruments Co Ltd (ARTG No: 334004 and ARTG No: 332939).

Reasons for issuing the

alerts included “indications of systemic failures in quality control measures, an absence of batch numbers and inconsistent testing results” in the case of the Wuhan Topmed masks, while the TGA reported their was “insufficient evidence to support claims for bacterial filtration efficiency, differential pressure or splash resistance”, relating to the other manufacturers’ masks.

A product notification was also issued for Wuyishan Jian Medical Device Manufacturing Co Ltd’s Korango Disposable Surgical Mask (ARTG No: 333778), as it had the “incorrect ARTG classification”.

Total Beauty Network sees 2020 growth

TOTAL Beauty Network (TBN) is aiming to help pharmacies achieve record sales in 2021 after reporting 4% growth in 2020.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, TBN CEO, Tony Rechtman, said the company shipped more than 83,000 orders in the last 12 months, with the group’s RAWW Cosmetics brand delivering more than 17% revenue growth in pharmacy alongside record Christmas sales.

The company’s DB Cosmetics had retained its position as the top cosmetics brand in Australian community pharmacy, while DB has also sold more than

\$1.5 million worth of its hand sanitiser.

Meanwhile, Colour by TBN cemented its place as pharmacy’s leading nail brand, Rechtman told the group’s annual conference, which took place online last week.

“I am very proud of what TBN has done in 2020 – a shocking year – how we got through it, and what we achieved at the company,” he said.

“We stuck to our COVID 19 company goals of 0% infections in the workplace, 100% of staff retained in their jobs, and 100% support for staff, customers, and suppliers.”

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Dispensary Corner

DRUG policy can have wide-reaching effects beyond simple decriminalisation - as evidenced by a new study published in the *Economics and Human Biology* journal which found legalising marijuana in the US has led to a big jump in the sale of snacks.

Cannabis users have long been mocked for getting "the munchies" with study co-author, Georgia State University economist Alberto Chong, saying "you think marijuana does no harm... but there are unintended consequences, and one of them is the fact that you get really hungry and you start eating crap".

The report found legalising recreational marijuana had caused junk food sales to increase by about 6.3%, across categories including ice cream, biscuits and chips.

Chong said while the tendency to binge on junk food after smoking a joint may be a "stoner stereotype," the issue had major public policy ramifications in the USA, where over 40% of adults are obese.

Wizard lands WA trio

WESTERN Australian franchise, Wizard Pharmacy, is continuing to expand, signing up three new stores since the beginning of the year.

The group's growth in 2021 has seen two Greg's Discount Chemist stores rebrand as Wizard Pharmacy Galleria Upper and Wizard Pharmacy Galleria Car Park, both in the Perth suburb of Morley, with Priceline Pharmacy Carramar set to join the group next month, taking the group's footprint in WA to 33 pharmacies.

Wizard Pharmacy Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, said the group was committed to providing its new franchise partners with the Wizard business platform to support business growth and their team.

"The past year has been a challenging year for our pharmacy owners and our community, but Wizard is determined to provide outcomes that support success, whilst delivering value and our customer-centric care to as many West Australians as we can," she said.

"The acquisition of these three new franchises really set the tone for Wizard for the New Year, and I'm excited to see where 2021 takes us."

Wizard Pharmacy Professional



Services Manager and proprietor of the Galleria stores, Jeanette Drury (pictured with Parker), said the group's ability to be agile and adapt, as well as continuing to innovate its systems and offerings is what she believes sets it apart.

"We hope that Wizard continues to bring new offerings and value to our customers, giving them the confidence to know, that when they shop with us, we ensure the best health outcomes for their individual needs," she said.

Wizard Pharmacy Carramar proprietor, David Tomazin, said the move to the brand would allow him and his team to focus much more on the local community and its specific needs concerning its health and wellbeing.

NZ social furore

CONSUMER New Zealand, a non-profit advocacy group across the Tasman, has been blasted for reposting a 2003 article on social media slamming pharmacist behaviour during a mystery shopping exercise.

The controversial post (pictured), depicts the cover of the organisation's magazine from May 2003, with the pharmacy sector reacting with outrage at the rehashing of a 17-year-old story.

Consumer NZ has clarified that it was a "throwback" post highlighting a moment in consumer history, and "not intended as a crack at today's pharmacists".



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