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See **page three** for details.

Qld pharmacist vindicated

A **BRISBANE** pharmacy owner has had her Pharmacy Board of Australia-imposed registration suspension lifted, after an appeal to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

In Jul 2020 she received notice from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency of proposed immediate action to suspend her registration, and was invited to respond.

She did so, telling the Board she believed the suspension was on the basis of false accusations from disgruntled employees, who had alleged she had unsafely disposed of S8 medications by asking a customer, who was also a former casual employee, to burn "bags and bags" of syringes containing morphine and used prescriptions.

The Board proceeded with the suspension a week later, saying it "reasonably believes that because of your conduct and/or performance, you pose a serious risk to persons and it is necessary to take immediate action to protect public health or safety".

The pharmacist took the matter to the tribunal, which held a hearing in late Aug and delivered its decision earlier this week.

The hearing included evidence of previous cautions given to the pharmacy owner, including a 2008 guilty plea in the Caboolture Magistrates Court to 76 counts of contravening regulations around labelling and record keeping in relation to controlled drugs.

The tribunal also noted that despite the pharmacist's "vehement denials" that she had supplied dangerous medications to the customer, the "material before the Board was clearly sufficient to found a reasonable belief" in terms of the National Law.

However the tribunal also heard that the customer who claimed they had been given the drugs to burn had also had another, separate, bag of medications seized by officials later in 2020, with these items dispensed by other pharmacies.

Moreover some of the allegations were from a pharmacist who had worked in the pharmacy for some years and had a fractious relationship with the owner.

The judge said the Tribunal was "not inclined" to believe the pharmacy owner posed a serious risk to persons, and set aside the Board's suspension.

Jab milestone

MORE than one million COVID-19 vaccinations have now been delivered through community pharmacies nationwide, according to figures from the Australian Immunisation Register.

The watershed moment was welcomed by Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President Chris Freeman, who said pharmacists were key to achieving vaccination rates which will allow Australia to begin to reopen.

"Pharmacist immunisers have been the key to bolstering vaccination rates across the country, and community pharmacy has managed the surge in demand brilliantly.

"This patient-centric approach is evidently paying dividends, with states like NSW and ACT now within touching distance of life-after-lockdown," he said.

"It is apparent that increased vaccine choice and greater accessibility is having a positive impact amongst the community," Freeman added, thanking pharmacies for opening extended hours to protect their communities.



Corum Health

Cyber Security Webinar

Is Your Pharmacy At Risk?

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14TH OCTOBER AT 6:30PM

TO LEARN ABOUT CURRENT THREATS,
HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM AND KEEP
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Dilaudid update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has authorised the import and supply of a second alternative overseas product to address shortages of dilaudid 1mg/mL oral liquid.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a full page update from **Dispense Assist**.



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Wizard offers 3 hr delivery

WIZARD Pharmacy is bringing pharmacy deliveries to the community in Perth in less than three hours, through a new partnership with on-demand health services app Packapill.

The platform allows patients to send a photo of their prescription or their ePrescription SMS token through to their preferred Wizard Pharmacy outlet for dispensing and delivery within three hours, or click and collect within 30 minutes.

"From those who are time-poor to those confined to their homes due to sickness or COVID-19 restrictions, the ability to conveniently order and receive your medication at home in under three hours is a service we are proud to provide for our customers and patients," said Wizard Pharmacy Chief Operating Officer,



Sally Parker.

The rollout of the system follows a trial which resulted in extremely positive feedback, with Parker saying Packapill's service "gave us every confidence our patients' medications were being delivered to our delivery safety standards, whilst simultaneously providing our pharmacy team with a simple and seamless system to use".

Funding for scholarships confirmed

THE Department of Health has confirmed funding for a range of pharmacy scholarship and university programs for the remainder of the 2021/22 financial year.

An update from the Pharmacy Programs Administrator this week said participating universities and existing scholars would receive an email regarding their specific funding details for Jan-Jun 2022 shortly.

University programs covered

by the funding extension to 30 Jun next year include the Administrative Support to Pharmacy Schools Scheme, the Rural Pharmacy Student Placement Program and the Rural Pharmacy Liaison Officer Program.

Scholarship programs with continued Department of Health funding include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Scheme and the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme.

CBA focuses on pharmacy

THE Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) will host a free webinar focused on vaccinations and the emergence of technology in community pharmacy on Wed.

The session will include a panel discussion with Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, Fred IT CEO, Paul Naismith, and CBA Executive Manager Cyber Recovery Planning, Fergus Brooks.

The panel will provide insights on the key themes that have emerged in the community pharmacy sector since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as discussing the sector's role in the vaccination rollout and how technology can assist.

"Telehealth and increased appetite for online sales platforms/home delivery brings forward the need to increase investment in technology," an invitation from the CBA notes.

The event will be conducted using the Microsoft Teams videoconferencing platform.

It kicks off at 7pm (AEDT) on 13 Oct - email commbankhealth@cba.com.au with your first and last name, along with your contact number, to register.



Dispensary Corner

PEOPLE suffering from the multiplicity of mental health impacts of COVID-19 long lockdowns may like to try so-called "apiary therapy," a mindfulness treatment involving the use of live bees.

The idea comes from in Philadelphia, USA, where since May last year a business called Half Mad Honey has been using beehives to boost distress tolerance among patients.

According to a report in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the company aims to help people by putting them in a situation that would typically trigger a flight-or-fight response and then learning how to recognise and cope with emotions.

Skills learnt can then be adapted to everyday life, said Half Mad Honey co-founder Amelia Mraz, who said "this is a space where we can practice safely activating our alarm response and bringing ourselves back down to a calm place".

go-minute sessions involve participants wearing beekeeping suits and then entering the apiary where they watch the bees go about their work and sometimes even take a spoon of honey from the hive.

Sounds like an ideal way to not worry but just bee happy.



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You book a session, selecting a pharmacist or dispensary technician, and an exclusive or shared session.



You log us into your dispense workstation during the session and we dispense through your dispense software.



You complete the dispensing process including taking the medicines off the shelf and labelling them.



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