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COSBOA seeks protection for SMEs

POLITICAL parties are being urged to commit to delivering meaningful competition policy reforms to better protect small-to-medium sized enterprises (SMEs), in the run up to next month's Federal Election.

Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA) CEO, Alexi Boyd, has called for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to be given "some teeth" to prevent big business from exploiting smaller operators.

"As the election gets closer, the major parties are announcing their plans for small business, but neither have announced anything in their policy platforms regarding competition reform," she said.

"This is a major oversight. Australia's current competition regulation doesn't do enough to stop anti-competitive acquisitions or curtail market concentration, leaving small businesses vulnerable to being exploited by the duopoly

of Coles and Woolworths, put out of business by big box retail chains like Bunnings and Officeworks, and bullied by big landlords like Westfield."

"You know it's bad when even the immediate past Chair of the ACCC has called for reform, saying that our voluntary merger control regime is skewed towards making clearance the default and not in line with international best practice.

"The new ACCC Chair, Gina Cass-Gottlieb, has indicated that this is on her radar as well."

Boyd flagged concerns over moves by large retailers to exert their power by buying into parts of the supply chain, including wholesalers.

"A particular danger we're seeing at the moment is big businesses creeping in and trying to take advantage of the invisible supply chain, the parts of the supply chain we don't see," she said.

"They use aggressive tactics to acquire other businesses with the



intention to dominate the market end-to-end – from logistics through to distribution through to shelf space – extending their control and influence to every part.

"Reforming competition policy is crucial to ensure Australia remains a place where small businesses can grow and thrive – a place where people can bring their entrepreneurial ideas to life and be their own boss as an alternative to working under the CEO of a big, monopolistic company."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages on:

- Wizard Pharmacy Services
- TerryWhite Chemmart

PotY mission accomplished

TERRYWHITE Chemmart Delroy owner, Kaail Bohm, is celebrating being crowned as the group's 2021 NSW Pharmacy of the Year - just 12 months after setting the goal of winning the award.

The Dubbo-based pharmacy took home the State crown, succeeding 2020 winner, TWC Plumpton.

Accepting the Award, Bohm said it was "a privilege to accept this award on behalf of our team in Delroy", praising his colleague's dedication to improving the health of the local community.

See **page five** for more.



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PDL

Merimbula store joins Capital Chemist

BUSHFIRE heroes and owners of Dodd and Dwyer Merimbula Pharmacy, Tania Dwyer and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Pharmacist of the Year, Linda Badewitz-Dodd (*PD* 27 Sep 2021), are joining the Capital Chemist Group.

The NSW South Coast store will officially become a Capital Chemist outlet on Sun 01 May, the award-winning group's

Business Manager, Andrew Topp, said in a post on LinkedIn today.

"While signage and uniforms will change, Badewitz-Dodd and Dwyer's commitment to excellence in healthcare and customer service will continue, with the same awesome pharmacy, same awesome owners and the same awesome staff," he said.

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Time to get vaccinated

WITH winter on its way the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is urging “all Australians to check if they are up to date” with their immunisations to protect vulnerable people.

ACN CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, said that while large numbers of Australians had come forward to be vaccinated against COVID-19, it was important that they got immunised against other vaccine preventable diseases.

“As the colder months loom, now is the time to get vaccinated to ensure you and your loved ones are protected,” she said.

Ward added that nurse immunisers play a leading role in delivering and promoting vaccination uptake in their local communities, and across a range of settings, “from schools to prisons”.

SHPA seeks evidence-based staffing

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is advocating for the implementation of new pharmacist-to-patient ratios for surgical settings.

The SHPA Surgery and Perioperative Medicine Chair, Janelle Penno, said the Society’s *Standard of practice in surgery and perioperative medicine for pharmacy services*, was crucial as surgery becomes more common in older patients with multiple comorbidities and polypharmacy.

“Since 2013–2014, elective surgery admissions have increased on average by 2.1% each year – with around two days hospital admission required for elective surgery and one week for emergency surgery – and people aged 65 years and over accounted for approximately one in three surgical admissions,” she said.

“Our new standards build on growing evidence of the impact expert pharmacists can have on reducing adverse events and

harm caused by surgery and perioperative medicine, by leading emerging and essential services tailored to the size and scope of Australian hospitals.

“This includes, for the first time, outlining the role of the Perioperative Medicine Pharmacist – a key contributor across all settings during the perioperative period – which complements the surgical pharmacist role that is more familiar.

“These emerging services include Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting, smoking cessation intervention and pharmacist involvement in perioperative allergy testing clinics, as well as quality improvement activities such as opioid/analgesic and antimicrobial stewardship programs.”

The Standard recommended ratios of patients to one full-time equivalent pharmacist for five-day clinical pharmacy services could range from 10 for post-anaesthetic and short-stay care, to 20-30 for



lower-risk surgeries.

Penno noted that “advances in technology and clinical practice have resulted in shorter hospital stays and surgery being performed for previously inoperable conditions, while an aging population results in more surgical patients with complex comorbidities, polypharmacy and a higher dependence on medicines”.

“Consequently, we increasingly see surgical and perioperative specialities with higher throughput, acuity and complex older patients that will require lower patient to pharmacist ratios,” she said.



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Pharmacist bullied into dispensing

FORMER hospitality worker, Brett William Searle, has been sentenced to six months behind bars after pleading guilty to a charge of intimidating a pharmacist into dispensing a prescription medication.

Gympie Magistrates Court heard that Searle went to the Sands Centre Pharmacy, Cooloola Cove, on 01 Mar to obtain a prescription, but was told he would have to wait a week before getting the medication, the *Courier Mail* reported.

The Court was told the 34-year-old then became agitated and threatened to hurt the pharmacist.

Police prosecutor, Sergeant Melissa Campbell, said "he stated... he knew what time the store closed and he would assault the victim at his car".

"[He said] 'if you don't give me the medicine, you won't have a shop to come back to,'" Campbell told the Court.

Concerned for his and his colleagues' safety, the pharmacist



handed over the medication in the hope that Searle would leave.

After the 34-year-old left the store, the pharmacist called the police, who arrested Searle in the carpark a short time later.

Searle's lawyer told the Court that he had been seeking a "mood stabiliser" having argued with his partner before he went to the pharmacy, adding that despite making threats to hurt the pharmacist, he had been unarmed

at the time of the incident.

However, the Court heard that Searle had a prior conviction for grievous bodily harm, when he attacked a man with a pool cue in 2015.

Sentencing Searle to six months imprisonment, Magistrate, Chris Callaghan, said he had "bullied" the pharmacist into dispensing.

Having been remanded in custody since 01 Mar, Searle is expected to be eligible for parole on 30 Apr.



Dispensary Corner

PLANNING officials in Wisconsin have made a pharmacist's dreams come true approving his application to convert a former Pizza Hut outlet into a pharmacy.

Ozaukee Press reported that Michael Vineburg plans to reopen the site as an independent pharmacy during the northern hemisphere summer.

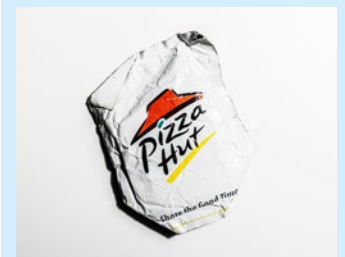
The renovations will see the building's "Pizza Hut peak" removed, and the addition of a drive-thru window to allow patients to pick-up their scripts without having to leave the comfort of their car.

While Vineburg plans to make changes to the structure of the building, he intends to retain at least one service the previous occupant provided, offering home delivery.

Vineburg, who currently works at Ye Olde Pharmacy in Cedarburg on the outskirts of Milwaukee, said he had always wanted to own a pharmacy.

"I have found independent pharmacies generally have much more time for patients," he said.

"That's what an independent pharmacy offers - solid relationships and customer service."



Vax storage failure concerns

ALMOST 2,000 patients who received COVID-19 vaccines at Denver's Red Rock Pharmacy are being urged by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, to get revaccinated, because vials were improperly stored.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found 2,100 primary and booster doses administered through the pharmacy, between 15 Jan 2021 and 01 Apr 2022, were invalid due to storage and handling violations.

UK pharmacists flag COVID concerns

PHARMACISTS working for British chain, Well Pharmacy, have raised concerns over the group permitting COVID-19 positive staff to attend work.

Responding to the chain's policy, the Pharmaceutical Defence Association (PDA) has reminded its members that "they play an essential role in deciding what is safe for patients and colleagues in the pharmacy, when faced with staff members at work who have tested positive".

"The PDA share the concerns of members that vulnerable patients and vulnerable colleagues who have a

reasonable expectation of rigorous infection control procedures in any healthcare setting, could be exposed to the COVID-19 virus by the policy of permitting positive COVID-19 employees to attend work," the organisation said.

In a statement issued to *Chemist and Druggist*, Well Pharmacy said it was "not forcing" staff with COVID-19 to work, and urged them to "take a common-sense approach", but noted that "isolation is a personal choice", under the British Government's *Living with COVID-19 guidance*.

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“A few years ago, I set myself and our team a goal, that would be the NSW Pharmacy of the Year and tonight it is such a privilege to accept this award on behalf of our team in Delroy. When I think about the best leaders, they are the ones with the best teams around them and I truly do have the best – a team who are dedicated to seeing the health of our community improve and a team who go above and beyond every single day. - Kail Bohm 'Network Partner, TWC Delroy'”

Pictured above: Kail Bohm along with one of the amazing pharmacists from Delroy, Alice and his beautiful wife Stacy along with Group Operations Manager Michael Beaumont and TWC Executive General Manager Nick Munroe.



**TerryWhite
Chemmart.**