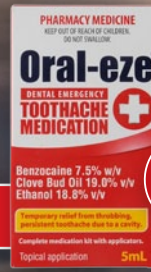


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Today's issue of PD

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

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Compeed
- PharmXchange

TerryWhite offer

AUSTRALIA'S fast-growing community pharmacy brand, TerryWhite Chemmart, is inviting pharmacists to realise their dreams, grow their business and deliver better healthcare to all Australians by joining its pharmacy network.

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For more information, see [page four](#).

\$1 million payout over pharmacy sale

THE Supreme Court of NSW has ordered that the purchaser of a pharmacy in the Sydney CBD be paid more than \$1 million by the vendor, after a hearing alleging misleading or deceptive conduct.

The plaintiffs originally also pursued a case against Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, but in Oct this year reached a settlement with API on the basis of those proceedings, with associated cross-claims being dismissed and each party to pay its own costs.

The judgement handed down earlier this month cited evidence relating to 2017 financial statements which were provided as part of the valuation process for the QVB Pharmacy to provide an opinion as to the goodwill of the business, which was independently valued, based on those figures, at about \$750,000.

The plaintiff claimed that the financial statements provided, which also included PBS script analysis reports and details of

private prescription sales, were "inaccurate, wrong or false", and that had the true position been reported the deal - and the negotiation of loans to buy the pharmacy - would not have proceeded.

The defendant, who was selling both the QVB Pharmacy and two other Sydney CBD pharmacies while his registration had been suspended, noted that the financial statements were unaudited, that no warranty as to the position of the business was made, and that the purchaser had acknowledged it was buying the business as a result of its own inspection and was not induced to enter into the sale contract "by any warranties or representations whatsoever".

The judgement notes that in early 2018 the overall price was reduced from \$2 million to \$1.4 million (including stock), and that a Health Care Complaints Commission investigation into the vendor was initiated in mid-2018 involving the

seizing of documents, CCTV footage and computer records due to a complaint regarding the sale of pseudoephedrine products.

The purchaser claimed that despite implementing a range of measures to improve the pharmacy's business performance, turnover was down significantly, alleging that the vendor had inflated turnover by using Medicare claims, cash injections and "erroneous calculations" including an abnormally high number of Ferinject prescriptions.

The judge found that unexplained discrepancies in the financial records of the business amounted to confirmation that the representations were misleading or deceptive, and that the purchaser was therefore entitled to damages.

The ruling ordered damages of \$1,027,163.52 which included the principal sum plus interest on loans paid to purchase the business obtained through Medipac Finance.

The judgement is at austlii.edu.au.



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Antibiotic over-prescribing data skewed

WIDESPREAD reports of over-use of antimicrobials may be significantly exaggerated in some situations due to methodologies relating to stock levels, according to new research printed in the latest issue of the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice & Research* (JPPR) published by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

The study was led by Georgia Macauley from the University of South Australia's School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, and explored "inadvertent overreporting of antimicrobial use based on stock levels into centralised surveillance".

Aggregate usage rate for 12 smaller, more remote hospitals was examined, finding that the exclusion of expired stock resulted in an average monthly reduction of about 6% in reported figures.

"Replacement of expired stock may account for a substantial proportion of perceived antimicrobial usage in rural and



remote hospitals, particularly for agents infrequently prescribed," the authors wrote.

The SHPA *Journal* also recounts a Queensland study which implemented the pharmacist-led Toronto deprescribing tool in three Australian kidney dialysis settings, finding that the use of the tool led to substantial deprescribing.

The SHPA's *Journal of Pharmacy Practice & Research* is available online, with all articles free to SHPA

members, and the latest issue also features an open letter to the profession calling for combined year-round support for achieving Indigenous health equity by 2030.

SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels noted the Society's support for the call, and its partnership with Pfizer to deliver free cultural safety training to all members via Indigenous Allied Health Australia's Cultural Responsiveness Training online modules - [CLICK HERE](#).

Women more likely to react

A **NEW** Australian National University study has found that women are 75% more likely to experience adverse reactions to prescription drugs compared to men, prompting calls for a new approach to women's healthcare.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners highlighted the research which analysed over two million data points to conclude that the differences cannot be just attributed to difference in body sizes, with other factors including iron levels, temperature, stored fat and heart rate also playing a role.

The study's author, Dr Laura Wilson, noted that most biomedical research had been conducted on male cells or male animals, with assumptions the same results will apply to females.

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Dispensary Corner

WANT to seem a little younger?

There's no need to lie about your age any more in South Korea, where the Government has passed changes to the official age-counting system which will automatically make citizens a year or two younger.

Currently most Koreans measure their lifespan by the so-called "Korean age", where a person is one year old as soon as they are born, and gain another year every New Year's Day.

That means a baby born on 31 Dec is automatically two years old the next morning - and to complicate things further, some people also add in the nine months of gestation.

The official change, agreed to by the National Assembly last week, will see Korea move to a more conventional arrangement like that in most other countries, where babies are zero when they are born and add a year every anniversary of their birth.

The Ministry of Government Legislation found that more than 80% of South Koreans supported unifying the age-counting system in a Sep poll, with the move part of a key campaign platform during the recent election won by President Yoon Suk Yeol.

He said having multiple age-counting systems - which are used to calculate the legal age for smoking and drinking alcohol - created "unnecessary social and economic costs".

The alignment with the international standard method will be officially implemented from Jun next year.

Capital Chemist names its top pharmacies

THE National Museum of Australia was the glittering venue for the Capital Chemist group's annual Christmas Party last weekend, with the gala event also seeing the presentation of the Capital Chemist Pharmacy of the Year awards.

The hotly contested tradition focuses on 38 measures which reflect the aim of the group's overall strategic plan, such as dispensary management, health services, retail performance, business management and compliance with brand standards.

Capital Chemist Crace took home the top Westpac-sponsored award, with the organisation's Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, presenting the trophy to Managing Partner Ryan Chan and his team (**pictured**) alongside Capital Chemist Board Chair Cathy Rice.

The runner up Capital Chemist Pharmacy of the Year was awarded to Magna Tsui and the team at Capital Chemist Lyneham, while the Up and Coming Award for Most Improved Pharmacy went to Catherine Yee and Dickson Yan at Capital Chemist Bowral.

In the ACT Capital Chemist has a diverse program of support for about 40 charities and community organisations, totalling about



\$400,000 each year.

The annual Community Program award goes to the pharmacy that has made the largest contribution to the scheme, and in 2022 this went to Mark Aspden and Gareth Wheeldon at Capital Chemist University of Canberra Bruce.

The Team Member of the Year award went to Chidi Nlekwuwa, Dispensary Manager and Workplace Health Assessments Coordinator (and resident artist and musician) at Capital Chemist Kingston (**pictured right**).



PSA refresher

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will host its 47th Offshore Refresher Conference in Greece next year.

The eight-night program will be split between Athens and Costa Navarino, with speakers including Professor Peter Carroll, Bruce Annabel, Shane Hamblin and Dr Shane Jackson. For details **CLICK HERE**.

New Zealand e-prescribing changes

UPDATES to New Zealand's Misuse of Drugs Regulations will come into effect on 22 Dec, allowing prescribers to use the NZ ePrescription Service (NZePS) to issue signature-exempt prescriptions for controlled drug medicines.

The revised regulations will, in principle, allow prescribers to issue scripts for Class B

controlled drug medicines for up to three months via the NZePS.

The change will enable those with chronic conditions to get prescriptions that cover a longer time period, according to the Pharmacy Guild of NZ.

The NZ Government is currently preparing technical information for NZePS users about the changes - see health.govt.nz.

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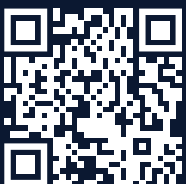
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