

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### Pharmacy thief's appeal fails

**PHARMACY** bandit, Jacob Williams-Savage, will remain behind bars after the Supreme Court of the ACT Court of Appeal dismissed claims his initial sentence was "manifestly excessive".

Williams-Savage was sentenced to eight-and-a-half-years imprisonment in Oct 2021, after being convicted of 30 offences including burglaries and thefts from three pharmacies in the ACT between 05 and 13 Apr 2020.

In addition to the burglaries at the three pharmacies, Williams-Savage also broke into three Dominos Pizza outlets and a beauty salon, and drove while disqualified.

## Reputation a key for rural attraction

**RURAL** pharmacies' reputations within their communities are key for attracting and retaining pharmacists, research reveals.

The authors of the study published in *The Australian Journal of Rural Health* interviewed 24 pharmacists, senior pharmacy assistants, practice managers and a Director of Clinical Services, in 12 communities across Tasmania and Western Victoria.

They found the most vital factors for the retention of pharmacists in rural areas "were the reputation of the pharmacy, the ability of the pharmacist to be independent and autonomous, the loyalty of the community to the pharmacy, the level and stability of monetary compensation and the breadth of tasks available to a pharmacist".

However, the authors reported that lower rated factors including spouse or partner satisfaction and the availability and quality of schools, could have the greatest impact on the recruitment and

retention of pharmacists.

"If the needs of both candidate and spouse are not properly met their recruitment and retention will likely fail as seen among other healthcare professionals," the authors said.

"If the spouse or partner is also a pharmacist, this would be advantageous.

"However, if this is not the case, it will be vital to provide information to the spouse or partner as a part of a recruitment package and encourage them to accompany or be involved in part of the selection process.

"It is vital to include the spouse or partner in regular social gatherings with other partners or spouses of local pharmacists or health professionals.

"It has been suggested to use a community network approach and work with the larger employers in the region (health services, schools, etc) to examine and locate work for dual-career couples."

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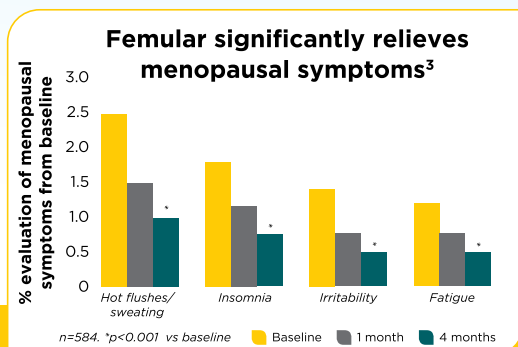
The authors added that rural pharmacies may need to highlight community support for local schools, or the adequacy and affordability of bus services to enable pharmacists' children to attend school in a larger town.

"However, when recruiting and retaining staff there is a need to recognise that long-term solutions may mean recruiting staff at certain life stages, such as those who may have no children, young children, or those who have grown children," they said.

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2. IQVIA, national sales data Switzerland, sell-in (Pharmacy, Drugstore, Self-dispensing Doctors), turnover (ex-factory) in CHF, MAT June 2021.



## Dispensary Corner

**SELF-MEDICATING** pharmacist, Anthony Pape, is set to spend two years behind bars for tampering with medications prescribed for two children.

The Iowa-based pharmacist was convicted on two counts of tampering with consumer products, and two further charges of acquiring controlled substances by deception.

Prosecutors revealed that between 01 Jan 2018 and 27 Mar 2020, Pape stole more than 2,500 doses of medicines.

"Pape admitted he tampered with the medication by opening the capsules containing the medication and removing most or all of the medications," the prosecutors said.

"He then put the empty capsules back into the stock bottles so they would be dispensed to patients."

Authorities claimed that Pape used the medications he stole, which included ADHD treatments, Dextroamphetamine-Amphetamine ER, Vyvanse, Methylphenidate, Adderall XR and Focalin XR.

In addition to serving two years in a US Federal prison, Pape has been fined US\$10,000, and ordered to pay a further US\$9,993 in restitution, *The Sacramento Bee* reported.



## Locums advised not to rush into roles

**PHARMACISTS** looking to pursue careers as locums are being urged to get properly briefed about the expectations of pharmacies before signing up to a job.

Speaking on the latest episode of the Raven's Recruitment Your Pharmacy Career podcast, locum pharmacist, Miruna Vivekanandarajah, recommended that those looking to try life as a locum should do some research about the various locum agencies.

"Raven's is very professional, they've got a good team," she said.

"They tell you about the pharmacy before you go in - how many scripts they do, are you [going to be] a sole pharmacist, a second pharmacist, or are you the pharmacist manager,

what's the team like, how many Websterpak patients they do, do they have methadone patients... what are your responsibilities.

"Asking all these questions really makes a huge difference before you walk in.

"Definitely don't just take a job because it turned up and you want to try that place.

"Ask your questions beforehand and see if you're comfortable in an environment like that.

"Some people are not comfortable in a high script environment, [as] it's too stressful, some can manage it, it's about knowing what you want out of the role.

"I'm a very professional services-orientated pharmacist, I love my



counselling, and I love being around patients.

"In certain places where it's a high script environment sometimes I'm pulled away from my counselling, which affects me, because I'm in pharmacy for that reason - I want to help patients - so I look at the balance and see what my limits are."

## TGA acts on complementary meds ads

**QUEENSLAND-BASED** company, IMUNI Pty Ltd, has been issued with an infringement notice for \$13,320, for allegedly advertising a complementary medicine for a therapeutic use that is not permitted.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reported that IMUNI had promoted a

complementary product for preventing upper respiratory tract infections in infants and children.

The regulator noted that the claim was not permitted to be used for the medicine, adding that listed medicines can only use pre-approved therapeutic claims.

## GPs Rx experts?

**QUESTIONS** are being raised over GPs' prescribing practices and training, after one pharmacist reported receiving multiple scripts lacking vital information.

In a post on the Australian Pharmacy Healthcare Workforce Facebook page, Pardeep Singh Dehal, said a number of doctors were failing to follow legal requirements.

"[I] got a prescription for Predmix for a child prescribed on [its] mother's prescription," he said.

"Why can't these so-called prescribing experts write a prescription properly?"

Singh Dehal noted that pharmacists are required to ensure all legal aspects of prescriptions are compliant, with those who fail to address a doctor's prescribing error at risk of losing their registration.

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