

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

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AMENDMENTS TO PHARMACY LOCATION RULES: LINK TO SHOPPING CENTRES

The Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, has approved [amendments](#) to the pharmacy location rules. The changes, which will have impacts on pharmacies in the context of shopping centres, including their relocation out of shopping centres, have been justified on the basis of providing further stability of the community pharmacy network and to address identified anomalies. The amendments, reportedly negotiated between the Department of Health and Pharmacy Guild of Australia, also include changes to the definition of 'large shopping centre'. The amended rules will apply in the context of applications for the establishment of a new pharmacy or the relocation of an existing pharmacy from 3 October 2018 and may be a relevant factor in leasing-related activity. Responses to Frequently Asked Questions are available [here](#).

FEDERAL GIFT CARD BILL Tabled IN PARLIAMENT: THREE YEAR EXPIRY PERIODS

Last week, the Assistant Treasurer, Stuart Robert, tabled the [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Gift Cards\) Bill 2018](#) in the Federal Parliament to establish a national approach to the regulation of gift card expiry periods. The Bill will require most gift cards to be supplied with a minimum three-year expiry period and the prominent disclosure of expiry information on cards. The Bill will also ban the application of certain post-supply fees. The progress of a national approach to gift card regulation follows the commencement of similar laws in NSW in March 2018 ([Shop Talk 23/2/18](#)), and proposed laws which are still before the South Australian Parliament ([Shop Talk 15/6/18](#)). In an accompanying [media statement](#), the Assistant Treasurer noted that "nationally consistent reforms will also benefit businesses in keeping compliance costs to a minimum relative to a patchwork of state based regulations". It is proposed that the new laws will apply to gift cards supplied on or after 1 November 2019. The tabling of the Bill follows a consultation process run by Federal Treasury over several months, including the release of a Regulation Impact Statement ([Shop Talk 4/5/18](#)) and a draft Bill ([Shop Talk 27/7/18](#)).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS ANNOUNCED

The Western Australian Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations, Bill Johnston, has [announced](#) extended trading hours for the 2018 Christmas period for the Perth metropolitan area. Overall, the Minister has announced less 'extended hours' than previous years, largely by function of a later commencement date, and a staggered commencement for extended weekday trading (i.e. a 7am opening time instead of 8am). Like previous years, Saturday will have an extended closing time of 6pm, instead of 5pm, and Sundays will have an opening time of 8am instead of 11am. While it can be said that the overall decision is disappointing, the traditional suite of extended hours applies closer to Christmas which aligns with our analysis and submission, which highlighted consistent increased consumer demand in that period. In our view, the enduring strong demand for earlier Sunday trading, along with the fact that Sunday has been the strongest growth day across recent years, warrants permanent earlier opening hours on an ongoing basis.

GERALDTON COUNCIL SUPPORTS PERMANENT EXTENDED TRADING AFTER 12-MONTH TRIAL

This week, Geraldton City Council voted to [support](#) permanent extended shop trading hours, including Sunday trading. This comes after a 12-month trial which commenced in October last year following approval by the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations, Bill Johnston ([Shop Talk 22/9/17](#)). The Council has recently undertaken a community survey, which indicated community support of 63% for extended hours. The extended hours align with the current regime in the Perth metropolitan area. The Minister will need to approve the permanent continuation of the extended hours.

2018 SCCA MARKETING AWARDS GALA DINNER TICKETS – ONLY A FEW TABLES LEFT!

There are only two tables left for the [2018 SCCA Marketing Awards Gala Dinner](#), which will be held in Sydney on 17 October 2018 at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf.

PREVIOUS ISSUES