



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
23 MAY 2006**

HSA PROSECUTES A NON-REGISTERED CONTACT LENS PRACTITIONER FOR SELLING CONTACT LENSES

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has prosecuted Ms Kang Lay Kheng, a non-registered contact lens practitioner, for selling contact lenses to a consumer. At the material time, Ms Kang committed the offence in Asia Optics and Contact Lens Centre, located at Block 190, Toa Payoh Lorong 6, #01-582.

2 The offence was uncovered by HSA following an investigation, which arose from a consumer feedback. The consumer experienced giddiness and suffered from severe headaches from the use of contact lenses that were purchased from Ms Kang.

3 Ms Kang was convicted in court and was fined a total of \$6,000 on 11 May 2006 for selling contact lenses without a valid licence to two consumers on 13 August 2005.

4 In October 2005, a man was convicted of selling contact lens to a consumer without a valid licence and was subsequently fined \$3,500.

5 It is an offence under the Contact Lens Practitioners Act (Chapter 53A), for a person to sell or supply contact lenses without a licence. The offence is punishable with a maximum fine of up to \$5,000, and/or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

6 Members of the public are advised against purchasing contact lenses from non-registered contact lens practitioners as inappropriate fitting of contact lenses can potentially cause severe complications like corneal ulcers, which can result in blindness. Presently in Singapore, there is a large network of some 500 optical establishments where contact lenses can be sold through 521 registered contact lens practitioners. Under the Contact Lens Practitioners Act (Chapter 53A), all registered contact lens practitioners must display their licence at their place(s) of practice. In addition, there is a public register containing information on all registered contact lens practitioners and their place(s) of practice. This can be accessed via the HSA website [www.hsa.gov.sg, select "Contact Lens Practitioners" from the "quick access" button].

7 While HSA continues to enforce this prohibition stringently so as to discourage and prevent the sale and supply of contact lenses without a valid licence, members of the public who have information on the sale of contact lenses by a non-registered contact lens practitioner are encouraged to call the Contact Lens Unit of HSA at Tel: 6866-3569 / 6866-3562 during office hours.

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About the Health Sciences Authority

At the Health Sciences Authority [HSA], a People Developer and Singapore Innovation-class organisation, we apply medical, pharmaceutical and specialised scientific expertise to safeguard public health and safety in Singapore. As one multidisciplinary agency, we serve as the national regulator of all therapeutic products by providing a seamless yet rigorous regulatory process to the healthcare and biomedical sciences industries. We also operate the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, protecting the integrity of the nation's blood supply. As the national reference agency, we exploit specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in order to serve the administration of justice and enhance safety in our community. For more details, visit www.hsa.gov.sg.