

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority's first newsletter. We hope to make this a quarterly newsletter. More often, if necessary! It will cover topics that the Authority wishes to communicate to owners as well as pharmacists. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Registrar.

### New Authority Website & Members

The Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority welcomes our new Pharmacist Member, Ms Christine Timms, who was appointed in December, 2020. After many years of dedicated service, our Chair, Mr Rhys Jones, has now stepped down from the role of Chair and has been replaced by Member, Ms Kimbra Fitzmaurice. Ms Christine Arnott continues as Community Member. The Authority thanks Rhys Jones for his longstanding service to the Authority and wishes him all the very best for the future.

The Authority also has a new website which we hope is much easier to navigate and also explains the processes for ownership applications, premises applications, alterations, and vaccinations. The Authority welcomes your feedback at all times on how we can make our site easier for you.

### Expressions of Interest – TPA Inspector

The TPA is seeking expressions of interest from registered Pharmacists who would like to take on the role of Inspector. [Click here for further information.](#)

### Common Inspection Issues

When conducting inspections, the Inspectors will often see the same issue crop up over and over. Scales and weights are definitely a common issue. Scales and weights should be professionally calibrated every two years. The TPA recommends the use of digital scales which are relatively inexpensive to purchase and maintain. If you are not conducting simple compounding at all, you should remove or decommission your scales and have, in place, a written policy to deal with patients who require a compounded medicine.

### Vaccination Rooms

With the expected roll-out of COVID vaccinations through pharmacies, now is a timely reminder to ensure that you have approval for your vaccination area. If you have previously received approval from the TPA for a permanent vaccination area, no further approvals are required from the TPA. If you have only received temporary approval in the past or need approval, please go to our [website](#) for further information on the lodgement of required forms.

### Timelines for Approval

The Authority meets monthly, on the first Wednesday of the month. If you need to lodge forms for approval, you must ensure you get forms to the Registrar by the Wednesday prior. If approved at the Meeting, you will be advised accordingly, in the ensuing weeks. Any forms lodged after the Wednesday prior to the Meeting, will be held over to the following month. It is vital that all forms are completed fully, accurately, and come with comprehensively, professionally drawn plans. There is a risk that your application will not be considered if your plans are not sufficient. Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 3 March, 2021** with items to be included closing **Wednesday 24 February**.

