

# Changes to Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority administrative functions

The Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority (TPA) was formed as an independent statutory authority in 2011 to administer the *Pharmacy Control Act 2001*. The primary functions of the TPA are to administer a scheme of pharmacy business premises registration and ownership approval, and to ensure the services that are provided from those premises are of the highest possible professional standard. Tasmanian

The TPA has experienced sustainability challenges for several years related to insufficient fee revenue affecting resourcing of day-to-day administrative and regulatory activities.

Exceptional grant funding received from the Department of Health (DoH) over the last two years has supported maintaining the TPA's inspection program, ensuring that all pharmacies in Tasmania have been inspected within the expected three-year cycle. However, this is not a sustainable approach to support ongoing Authority operations.

At the request of the TPA, the Associate Secretary for DoH has approved the TPA's day-to-day Registrar, licensing and inspection duties be transitioned into Public Health Services within the DoH, subject to the recruitment of appropriately qualified personnel. The TPA is now working with the DoH to ensure a seamless transition.

The transition of these day-to-day administrative duties to within the DoH will support the ongoing sustainability of the TPA and provide efficiencies in the regulatory functions of both the TPA and the DoH through:

- amalgamation of some compliance activities pertaining to the *Pharmacy Control Act 2001* and the *Poisons Act 1971*
- reduced utilisation of external contractors
- reduced single-person dependence and resultant risks to operational continuity
- access to broader expertise within the DoH to support upkeep of the legislation and associated fees framework
- consolidation of compliance records into a single resource.

Pharmacy owners and staff will benefit from having a single point of day-to-day contact for the *Pharmacy Control Act 2001* and *Poisons Act 1971*, and a reduction in the duplication of compliance audits when inspections are amalgamated. Beyond this, pharmacies are expected to see little change. The TPA will retain overall responsibility for the regulation of pharmacy business ownership, the registration of pharmacy business premises.

During the transition period, contact details for the TPA will remain unchanged as follows:

Registrar phone: 0417752346

Registrar email: [registrar@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au](mailto:registrar@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au)

Any future changes to these contact details will be circulated as they occur.

A FAQ document accompanies this announcement.