

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2024

Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority welcomes a new pharmacist member

Kate Jamrozik was appointed to the Authority in January of this year.

Kate is a registered pharmacist with experience working in and managing several community pharmacies in the Hobart area. More recently, Kate has been working predominantly in aged care, performing Residential Medication Management Reviews for facilities in the south of the state. She looks forward to making a positive contribution, through the Authority, to ensure a high quality of community pharmacy service delivery in Tasmania.

Change in the Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority contact details

The Authority will no longer have a post office box so cannot accept physical mail.

Contact details are:

Registrar (acting)- Christine Timms

Email : registrar@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au

Phone: 0417 752 348

Professional Officer -Jane Stephens

Email: professionallofficer@pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au

Opioid Replacement Therapy accreditation documentation requirements

The Authority reminds pharmacy owners of pharmacies that supply opioid replacement therapy (ORT) they must have available at an inspection:

- evidence the pharmacist(s) they employ have **Tasmanian** accreditation to supply oral ORT and
- if the pharmacy administers Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine(LAIB) the pharmacist(s) accreditation to administer LAIB.

Accreditation to supply ORT or documentation is available from Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Services at adspharmacy@ths.tas.gov.au

Annual Renewal preparation

The annual renewal of Eligibility Certificate Holders and Premises Registration will commence in May 2024.

To assist your planning please note the following renewal requirements:

- Each individual pharmacist will be required to provide an up-to-date copy of their General Registration Certificate from Ahpra (www.ahpra.gov.au)
- If you are a director/shareholder of a Body Corporate a copy of the company extract from ASIC, not older than 3 months, showing up-to-date details of all company office holders and shareholders <https://connectonline ASIC.gov.au>
- Should you, or the company hold shares in trust and or unit holdings a separate declaration form will be sent for completion. Each and every beneficiary of a trust **MUST** be named.
A copy of the executed trust deed with any deed of variation/s is required to accompany this document.

Requirement for all trustees to hold an Eligibility Certificate

The Authority has recently identified an issue where some beneficiaries of trusts within Tasmanian pharmacy business structures are not presently entitled to hold an interest in a pharmacy business under the provisions of the Pharmacy Control Act 2001 (the 'Act'). This has arisen in respect of structures where:

- Entity A (being a pharmacist or a company) directly owns a pharmacy business, either alone or in partnership with others;
- Entity A holds their interest in the business on trust (the 'primary trust');
- Entity B (being a pharmacist, a close relative of a pharmacist or a trustee company) is a beneficiary/unit holder in the primary trust;
- Entity B also holds their beneficial interest/unit on trust (the 'secondary trust');
- Entity B does not hold an eligibility certificate, instead relying on being exempt under s61D(b) of the Act due to Entity A holding an eligibility certificate; and
- at least one beneficiary of the secondary trust:
 - (a) does not (and potentially cannot) hold an eligibility certificate themselves;
 - (b) is not a member of a company that holds an eligibility certificate in respect of that pharmacy business, and consequently is not exempt under s61D(a) of the Act; and
 - (c) is not exempt under s61D(b) of the Act, as Entity B does not hold an eligibility certificate.

To ensure compliance with the Act, all trustees of these secondary trusts must hold an eligibility certificate or the pharmacy ownership structure must be changed to a compliant structure. All affected trustees will be contacted by the Authority directly with more detail.

Approval requirements for premises works/alterations

If you are considering ALTERATIONS to your pharmacy, RELOCATION of your pharmacy, or setting up a NEW pharmacy, you must complete and submit to The Authority ONE of the below forms:

- [PA - Application for Alterations to a Pharmacy Premises](#)
- [PNR- Application New or Relocation of Pharmacy Premises](#)

The Professional Officer will review your application and request any further information if necessary before it is considered at the next available Authority meeting.

You **must not** commence any works on the pharmacy premises, externally or internally, until in-principle approval has been provided in writing to you by the Authority. Failure to comply with this requirement may attract fines of up to \$3900.

Authority Activities December 2023 to March 2024

The Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority has conducted twenty-seven inspections and evaluated ten applications for either alterations, assessment of a vaccination area or new/relocating pharmacy premises. Several inspection reports have been forwarded to relevant authorities for their assessment.

The key issues consistently identified at an inspection include:

- **Non-compliance to the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – strive for 5 and QCPP 2020 Cold Chain Management** : including inadequate maintenance of pharmacy dispensary refrigerator(s), incorrect recording of dispensary refrigerator(s) temperature and not recording all cold-chain breaches. Please note non-compliance can result in a report to the Communicable Disease Prevention Unit for assessment.
- **Inability to provide evidence of required Immunisation program documentation on the day of inspection.**
- **Unavailability of ALL the current versions of the Pharmacy Board of Australia essential references.**
- **Inability to provide evidence compounding scales are professionally calibrated every two years at a minimum**
- **Non-compliance with the storage of scheduled medicines (*Poisons Regulations 2018*):** including Dose

Administration Aids containing Schedule 8 medication being stored outside of the safe whilst waiting to be reviewed, inappropriate use of day-safes, and incorrect placement of pharmacy medicines within the pharmacy. If appropriate inspection reports are sent to the Pharmaceutical Services Branch for assessment.

Pharmacies scheduled for inspection, relocating, moving into new premises or as a regular annual check are encouraged to take advantage of the Self- Inspection Form available at <https://www.pharmacyauthority.tas.gov.au/forms/>

Expression of Interest: Inspectors

The Authority is looking to expand its team of inspectors, particularly for the North and North-west of the state.

If you or a colleague are interested in applying, please submit a cover letter and your resume to

registrar@pharmacyauthority.com.au