Tasmania’s new Primary Health Network

Supporting general practice will be a priority for Tasmania’s new Primary Health Network, according to Tasmania Medicare Local (TML) CEO Phil Edmondson.

He says the Primary Health Network (PHN) will build on the work of TML and the divisions of general practice that came before it, taking into account feedback from general practice, in providing a targeted range of practice support services including education events, resources, quality improvement activities, and assistance in making the best use of new technology.

“A priority for the PHN will be to work in partnership with key general practice organisations to reinforce and strengthen its connections with general practice around processes for strategy and policy decision-making,” Mr Edmondson says.

The PHN will also further develop TML’s existing connections and relationships with the allied health workforce as well as the hospital, aged care and community sectors.

The Australian Government announced on 11 April that TML’s application had been selected as the basis for establishment of Tasmania’s new PHN.

At the time this newsletter was published, the Government was yet to provide detail on the scope and nature of the work it will fund the PHNs to deliver. It has said networks will be asked to “pay extra attention to mental health, Indigenous health, population health, the health workforce, eHealth and aged care”.

Commencing on 1 July, the PHN will be charged with:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

The Tasmanian Faculty of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has congratulated TML on its successful tender.

Chair Dr David Knowles says: “The decision is the correct decision for Tasmania and its health system and will allow TML to build on the work it has already done. The RACGP emphasises the need for a well-resourced and funded primary care system with general practice at the core, to improve the health outcomes for all Tasmanians.”

TML Chair and GP Dr Judith Watson says the decision gives the best chance of a smooth transition from TML to the new primary health coordinating body. “It means that programs and services currently delivered by TML which the Government decides to keep funding will be able to transfer to the new body with minimal disruption to service providers, patients and clients,” she says.

Dr Watson says the closure of Medicare Locals around Australia and the establishment of PHNs will mean significant changes for programs, partnerships and outcomes, and TML’s Board and staff recognise and accept this challenge. “We embrace the challenge to do things differently with our provider community as we work towards our shared goal of improving the health of Tasmanians,” she says.

More information about the PHNs is available on the TML website at www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/about-us/primary-health-networks, or contact TML CEO Phil Edmondson on 1300 653 169 or pedmondson@tasmedicarelocal.com.au
2015 seasonal influenza vaccination program

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) Influenza Program for 2015 commenced on 20 April 2015. This is later than usual because the World Health Organization and the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee have agreed that, for the 2015 southern hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine, two out of three strains will be different from the 2014 vaccine. The NIP uses the trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV). TIV components for the Australian 2015 influenza season contain the following:

- A (H1N1): an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, 15 µg HA per dose
- A (H3N2): an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus, 15 µg HA per dose
- B: a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus, 15 µg HA per dose.

This double-strain change, which is an unusual occurrence, has caused manufacturing delays due to the time it takes to develop, test and distribute the reagents needed to make the vaccine. The decision was made to delay the program until sufficient supplies of influenza vaccine were available from at least two suppliers in order to mitigate the risk of administration of bioCSL’s Fluvax® to children under five years of age. The delay will not affect vaccine supply volumes, and no vaccine shortages are anticipated.

A quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) will also be available through the private market. The QIV is expected to be at least as effective as TIV, and may offer additional benefit through protection against an additional influenza B strain. However, there is currently little information on the extent that this will translate into additional clinical benefit for patients. It is anticipated that TIV will offer good protection against the 2015 influenza season strains.

Annual influenza vaccination is provided free through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to groups who are at an increased risk of influenza complications, including:

- people aged 65 years and over
- pregnant women
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged six months to less than five years
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
- anyone aged six months and over who has a chronic condition placing them at increased risk of complications from influenza.

Any further queries may be directed to Margaret Clarke (south), Rebekah Sheahen (north west) or Annie McCaughey (north) on 1300 653 169.

Crisis accommodation vaccine initiative

For the third consecutive year, TML is undertaking a project to provide influenza vaccines to people 18 years and over who are living in crisis accommodation or at risk of homelessness across Tasmania, and who may not qualify for funding under the National Immunisation Program. The collaborative relationships between TML, nurse immunisers, crisis accommodation and support service providers have been maintained since 2013. Some of the services involved include those operated by Anglicare, City Mission, St Vincent’s and Common Ground, as well as men’s and women’s shelters.

The vaccines will be rolled out from early to mid May across the state.

Any queries about the initiative can be directed to Jon Gill or Margaret Clarke (south), Rebekah Sheahen (north west) or Annie McCaughey (north) on 1300 653 169.

Changes to recommendations on the use of the pertussis vaccine

The pertussis chapter of The Australian Immunisation Handbook has recently been updated. It contains two changes to previous recommendations on the use of pertussis vaccines:

- a DTPa booster dose is now recommended at 18 months of age
- pertussis vaccination (with dTpa) is now recommended for pregnant women in the third trimester of each pregnancy.

These changes to the recommendations are not funded.

Further details and evidence to support these recommendations can be found in the March 2015 version of the chapter now available on the Immunise Australia webpage in HTML format (www.immunise.health.gov.au). Other minor changes to the chapter have been made in line with the updated recommendations.

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance has also updated its fact sheet on Pertussis Vaccines for Australians to reflect these changed recommendations. The fact sheet is available at www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/fact-sheets/pertussis-fact-sheet.pdf
Mental health service review

The government Adult Community Mental Health Service (ACMHS) in southern Tasmania, encompassing the Crisis Assessment and Treatment (CAT) service and the Helpline, is currently being reviewed.

The review intends to deliver an enhanced model of care and service structure, as well as further strengthening the partnership with GPs and other primary healthcare providers, in enhancing the sector’s capacity to deliver greater effective care for people with mental illness.

As valuable partners in this journey GPs are invited to provide any ideas and views on strengthening this partnership and on the future ACMHS model of care and service structure. Of particular interest to the review team is:

- the details of current GP engagement with ACMHS, including efficiencies and barriers to engagement
- the components of ACMHS that are beneficial and those that are least beneficial to consumers
- what processes for referral, consultation and engagement with ACMHS are effective and which are not
- if ACMHS was to be restructured, are there any aspects that GPs would like changed?

GP feedback is greatly appreciated and can be directed to project manager Deb Zwolsman at deb.zwolsman@dhhs.tas.gov.au by 18 May.

Help for patients living with viral hepatitis

Living with a chronic illness can be isolating and stressful. Living with a chronic illness as stigmatised as viral hepatitis adds an extra burden. Many people remain undiagnosed and those who do know their status often have fears about approaching medical professionals to ask about treatment or have their health monitored.

The experience of or fear of discrimination is a very real one for people living with hepatitis. A significant number of people will avoid contact with the health system because of past experiences of discrimination or information from other people. A recent stakeholder report from Hepatitis Victoria backs up this information. Nearly 70% of stakeholders felt that they did not receive adequate support to manage their hepatitis. The most common area in which discrimination was experienced was from health professionals.

How many people in Tasmania are living with hepatitis?

It is estimated that 5100 Tasmanians are currently living with chronic hepatitis C and more than 3500 with hepatitis B. Many people with hepatitis C will have contracted the virus 20-30 years ago and will now be feeling the effects of deteriorating liver health.

While treatments are available at the Royal Hobart Hospital, there is a waiting list and priority is given to people with seriously damaged livers. Hepatitis B can also be effectively managed.

How we can help:

Anglicare’s Hepatitis Prevention Program offers free training for community services and for affected communities. It also offers support for people on treatment, newly diagnosed and waiting for treatment.

Recognising that GPs are busy, the program staff can ease this burden by talking to patients about living with hepatitis, disease progression, treatment and about referrals to other services where appropriate.

The Hepatitis Prevention Program operates from the basement of Anglicare at 18 Watchorn Street, Hobart. Phone support for patients is available statewide.

For more information please call Anglicare’s service centre on 1800 243 232, or go to www.anglicare-tas.org.au

Study volunteers needed

Reducing risk of coronary artery disease in families

The Menzies Institute for Medical Research is conducting a study on prevention of coronary artery disease in people who have a family history of this illness. Menzies is seeking volunteers who are:

- between 35-70 years of age, and
- have a close family member (parent, sibling, aunt, uncle) who has had a heart attack, stent or heart surgery under the age of 60, and
- are not currently taking a statin drug.

Interested parties are welcomed to call or contact Kristyn for further information on phone 6226 4235 (please leave details) or email Menzies.CAUGHT@utas.edu.au
Rural Medicine Australia 2015 - call for abstracts

22 to 24 October, Adelaide

Submissions are now being sought for oral and poster presentations relating to one of six topics:

- Determinants of health in rural and remote communities
- Clinical practice in the rural and remote context
- Indigenous health
- Innovation and emerging technologies for rural and remote health
- Training and sustaining skilled health workforces for rural and remote communities
- International advances in rural and remote medicine.

Accepted insights and findings on rural and remote medicine will reach a national audience of rural doctors and key stakeholders.

For those new to submitting abstracts for presentation, there is additional support available from A/Prof Louise Young and Dr Lachlan McIver at www.ruralmedicineaustralia.com.au/submit-your-abstract-1

Please lodge abstracts online by 15 June through the link at http://tinyurl.com/RMA15-Call-for-Abstracts

Syphilis - increasing Tasmanian trends

The Communicable Disease Prevention Unit (CDPU) within DHHS has detected an increase in laboratory notifications of syphilis this year. There have been 14 confirmed cases of syphilis diagnosed to date, compared with an average of five cases over the past five years.

If a patient tests positive for syphilis, the CDPU will send you a data collection form to obtain further information about your patient. This includes whether they are Aboriginal, their country of birth, past history of infection or laboratory investigations, the reason for testing, clinical features on presentation, likely place of acquisition, sexual exposure and other risk factor details.

The timely return of the completed data collection form is essential for the CDPU to confirm the case of syphilis and, importantly, to detect and describe clusters and outbreaks of syphilis. This information will inform the public health response to prevent ongoing transmission of syphilis in the population (for example, through targeting key prevention messages to populations at risk).

For guidance on management of people with syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), refer to the Australian STI Management Guidelines at www.sti.guidelines.org.au

These guidelines also provide useful information to assist with taking a sexual history and contact tracing.

Contact the CDPU on 1800 671 738 for further information.

Updated Australian Asthma Handbook released

The National Asthma Council Australia (NACA) has released the updated Australian Asthma Handbook (version 1.1), the national guidelines for asthma management in primary care. The Handbook is published as a unique website, with a full list of amendments, at www.asthmahandbook.org.au

Highlights of the updated handbook:

1. Evidence-based advice regarding role and use of the newly available combination therapy Breo Ellipta, emphasising that the medication is a treatment option only for the few adults whose asthma remains inadequately controlled on low-dose combination therapy.
2. Detailed rationale for long-term use of low-dose inhaled corticosteroids in adults highlighting aims of treatment and risks of cessation.
3. Clarification of stepped management approaches for stepping up, stepping down and stepping off preventers in adults, adolescents and children.
4. Modification of acute management protocols to accommodate a wider range of clinical settings and treatment scenarios.
5. Clarified status of risk factors for developing asthma identified in population studies, emphasising that these cannot be used as interventions as they have not been shown to prevent asthma.
6. New website features and enhanced functionality including availability of printable and tablet-friendly versions, plus interactive flowchart figures.

The NACA has also updated the Asthma and COPD Medications Wall Chart, which shows the main medications available in Australia. The updated version reflects the recent developments in respiratory medicine, with almost one-third of the included medications having come onto the market within the past two years. A PDF copy of the wall chart is available at www.nationalasthma.org.au/health-professionals/primary-care-resources/asthma-copd-medications-chart

A Quick Reference Guide and the wall chart can also be ordered directly from the NACA.

For more information on asthma, visit the National Asthma Council Australia website at www.nationalasthma.org.au

Queries or comments are welcome to editor@apna.asn.au
Hepatitis B project

La Trobe University is undertaking a project around the testing and diagnosis experiences of people with hepatitis B in Australia. The research team is seeking practice nurses and GPs to participate in short interviews about their procedures and experiences. Interviews can be conducted on the phone and participants receive $120 as a thank you.

Further information can be found at www.latrobe.edu.au/arcs/shs/surveys/better-testing. To find out more or to arrange an interview, please call Dr Lizzie Smith on (03) 9479 8732 or email e.smith3@latrobe.edu.au

RACGP Standards for general practice under review

The RACGP has commenced the process of developing the next edition of the RACGP Standards for general practice. There are a number of ways to be involved in this process, such as sending a submission, responding to a questionnaire, providing verbal feedback, using social media and/or attending a workshop. These are described in further detail at www.racgp.org.au/standardsdevelopment

If you have any questions about this process, email Andrew Donnison at andrew.donnison@racgp.org.au or call (03) 8699 0475.

Care Assess accepting exercise physiology referrals

Care Assess has exercise physiologists working in the south, north and north west. Accredited exercise physiologists are allied health professionals who specialise in clinical exercise interventions for people with existing chronic and complex medical conditions and injuries or at high risk of developing them. Referral for exercise physiology services can be beneficial for a wide range of health conditions. See www.exerciseismedicine.org.au for more information.

All Medicare and DVA referrals will be bulk billed. Patients can be seen at home if requested by the referrer.

For more information phone 1300 364 876, fax 1300 657 728 or email matthew.chapman@careassess.com.au

Managing alcohol-dependent patients: Is it safe to detox?

6.30pm to 8.00pm, Thursday 14 May
Hotel Grand Chancellor (Chancellor Room 6), Hobart

The Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS), DHHS, invites GPs to this Hobart GP session. Dr Ian Guinan will discuss the management of alcohol dependency, the AUDIT tool and relapse prevention strategies.

GPs are encouraged to bring along any complex cases for discussion and feedback with the ADS Clinical Director, Dr Adrian Reynolds, and medical officers.

Please RSVP, with any dietary requirements, by Friday 8 May to ads-southernareamanager@dhhs.tas.gov.au, phone 6166 0792 or fax 6230 7037.

Future Hobart GP sessions are scheduled for:

16 July Improving the patient experience for substance users seeking treatment
3 September Update on treatments for hepatitis B and C: Harm minimisation
12 November Community prescribing
14 January 2016 Old and new drugs: New trends in Tasmania, including prescription drugs
17 March 2016 Managing pain in addictive patients

For further information, queries or to register for future sessions, email ads-southernareamanager@dhhs.tas.gov.au or phone 6166 0792.
Younger Onset Dementia Forum (Devonport)

4.30pm to 7.00pm, Monday 11 May
Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centenary Room

Offered by Alzheimer’s Australia Tasmania in collaboration with Dementia Training Study Centres, this free forum is for health professionals, community care workers and interested members of the public who seek to enable better outcomes for people under 65 living with younger onset dementia.

Speakers include:
Dr Andrew Churchyard, neurologist: Young Onset Dementia: Syndromes, genetics and management.
Dr Luke Smith, neuropsychologist: Differences between younger and older onset dementia: Disease prevalence, neuropsychological symptoms and psychosocial outcomes.
Mr Graham Wright. Living with younger onset dementia.

RSVPs are essential to tas.education@alzheimers.org.au or by phone to 6279 1100.

ThinkGP online education for GPs and nurses

Whooping cough
This education discusses the diagnosis and management of whooping cough in general practice. The clinical features and laboratory testing are described and the treatment options outlined. The role of antibiotics is described, both in terms of treatment and prophylaxis. The role of immunisation in the prevention of the spread of whooping cough is highlighted.

Diagnosis, management and assessment of major depressive disorder (MDD)
Consider your initial discussion with patients presenting with symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder. In this interview, GP Dr Simon Cowap outlines strategies for establishing a thorough history and diagnosis for these patients, to optimise their ongoing management and support recovery.

Tip: ThinkGP is for health professionals.
You must be logged in to view the content.

Tasmanian Nurses’ Conference

21 and 22 May, Hobart

This two-day nurses’ conference, presented by Ausmed Education, offers the latest professional thinking on a range of topics relevant to all RNs and ENs working in Tasmania. Led by experts in their field, subjects include clinical assessment, risk management, modern infection control, palliative care, addiction, forensic nursing, medication safety and recent developments in the areas of diabetes, stroke management and mental health.

The program enhances nurses’ awareness of current best practice relating to a broad range of clinical and mental health topics. It aims to fill knowledge gaps in certain general as well as specialist areas of care and will provide nurses with insights that are immediately relevant and transferable to their practice.

For more information (including program overview) and to register, go to [www.ausmed.com.au/course/tasmanian-nurses-conference](http://www.ausmed.com.au/course/tasmanian-nurses-conference)
Understanding fibromyalgia

Arthritis and Osteoporosis Victoria webinar
7.00pm to 8.00pm, Wednesday 20 May

Fibromyalgia affects 3-5% of the population and is the most common cause of widespread pain. It has a high impact on both the affected individual and society as a whole, yet remains poorly understood by many health workers and other service providers. Recent advances in pain neuroscience have defined many of the mechanisms causing fibromyalgia and allowed for better management.

Significant improvement in clinical outcomes is now possible. The signs, symptoms, diagnostic criteria, mechanisms and management of this condition will be reviewed in this webinar presented by Dr Geoffrey Littlejohn.

For further information and to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/noqs333

Working with people who hoard workshops

9.00am to 4.30pm, Monday 11 May, Inveresk Tramsheds (Room 28), Launceston
9.00am to 4.30pm, Wednesday 13 May, ‘The Point’ West Park Oval, 10 Bass Highway, Parklands, Burnie
9.00am to 4.30pm, Tuesday 19 May, Blundstone Arena (Century Room), Bellerive, Hobart

These one-day workshops, presented by Partners in Recovery, Creating Order from Chaos and Skeletons in the Closet, are aimed at service providers. Information covered will include common risks, effective approaches and when they are appropriate to use, templates and assessment tools, a comprehensive workbook and networking opportunities.

For more information and details on registering, email Maria Belfrage at m.belfrage@anglicare-tas.org.au

Practical Leadership Series

27 May and 26 August 2015, 26 February and 27 May 2016
Country Club Tasmania, Launceston

The Royal Australiasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA) welcomes doctors and senior managers to its continuing professional development program for 2015 and 2016.

There are two distinct pathways to choose from and content is suitable for medical staff wanting to increase leadership and management skills at any level.

The Quality Improvement Pathway supports development of practice skills necessary to successfully deliver a quality improvement project specific to the needs of practice organisations.

The Clinician to Manager Pathway enables building on foundational skills required to be successful in this transition.

Further information including program and registration details is available at www.racmapracticalleadershipseries.com.au

Medication-overuse headache (Launceston)

Vivo Academy invites GPs to an RACGP and ACRRM accredited active learning module on the prevention, diagnosis and management of medication-overuse headache in the primary clinical setting.

This free activity blends online courses, a face-to-face meeting and back-at-practice application.

To register, visit www.motivate.org.au, click on ‘Registration’ and type in MOHCPDFREE as the access key.

After setting up your password and choosing the Launceston meeting date and venue, GPs may immediately complete the ‘Predisposing Activity’ and ‘Module 1: The fundamentals of medication-overuse headache.’

The face-to-face component, ‘Module 2: Medication-overuse headache: a case-study approach’ will be held on Thursday 21 May at the Quill and Cane Restaurant (QC Brasserie), Quality Hotel Colonial Launceston, 31 Elizabeth Street, starting at 6.15pm and facilitated by neurologist Dr Christina Sun-Edelstein.

For more information, please contact Monica Kurniawan on (02) 8332 2000 or info@motivate.org.au
GPs guide to Parkinson’s disease

Parkinson’s Australia and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) has announced the reaccreditation of the ‘General Practitioners Guide to Parkinson’s Disease’ module on Rural and Remote Medical Education Online. This six hour online educational course is designed to help GPs address the issues of most concern when confronted with a patient who may have Parkinson’s. It will prepare GPs to assess, diagnose, treat and manage the care of patients with this illness. The course is accredited with RACGP (Category One, 40 CPD points) and ACRRM (30 PRPD/Extended Skills points) for the current triennium (2014-16).

GPs have three options available for accessing information:
• Frequently asked questions: important and practice information for immediate problems.
• Realistic cases that allow GPs to collaborate with peers and apply clinical skills.
• A cohesive course integrating cases and answers to frequently asked questions.

Online Moderator, Dr Elizabeth Pepper, will be dropping into the online module each week to comment on participants’ responses to questions posed. She will also be available in the discussion forums to discuss general questions and comments on topics relevant to Parkinson’s disease. Dr Pepper has worked as a staff specialist in neurology at John Hunter Hospital and Calvary Mater Hospital in Newcastle since 2009. She has an interest in the management of Parkinson’s disease and participates in a team which supports a large number of patients at all stages of Parkinson’s and related diseases, including those treated with deep brain stimulation and duodopa.

For more information and to access the course go to www.rrmeo.com.au/parkaus
All queries are welcome to rrmeo@acrrm.org.au

De-prescribing resource and workshops

TML is working with Consultant Pharmacy Services (CPS) in the development and implementation of a project that aims to develop and deliver information relating to de-prescribing, with the intent of increasing the uptake of de-prescribing principles and increasing appropriate prescribing in older patients in Tasmania.

The project is headed by CPS’s Peter Tenni in consultation with geriatrician, Dr David Dunbabin. A working group has been established with representation from general practice, pharmacy and aged care nursing.

The project will include the following steps:
• Common drugs and drug groups will be investigated and evidence researched and collated.
• For each medication or group, an objective estimate of the benefit and of the harm will be clarified. Case studies will be collected that demonstrate some of the dilemmas and key principles. Recommendations for de-prescribing will be developed.
• A resource will be developed and disseminated.
• Once the resource is developed a series of presentations will be held around the state.

To include the voice of consumers in this process, TML will be organising consumer input to capture their perspective, current knowledge and involvement in their own medication management. In addition, consumers will be asked about the resources that could be developed to support their involvement in the de-prescribing process.

De-prescribing presentations will be run in Launceston (10 June), Devonport (11 June) and Hobart (18 June). Invitations will be sent out in May but if you do not receive one and would like to attend, or for further information, please contact Jenny Langley at jlangley@tasmedicarelocal.com.au or phone 6213 8200.

Suicide prevention forum

The Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network will hold its annual forum on Tuesday 12 May at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart. The forum provides an opportunity for members of the community to listen to leading speakers on suicide prevention and participate in workshops. Attendees are invited from all sectors including the community, clinical, government, and private business, as well as people with lived experience.

Tickets are available at http://stks.be/tspcnforum2015
For more information, contact Kate Taylor on 6279 5058 or email katet@reltas.com.au
Paediatric food allergies

Presenter: Dr Wun Yee Lau (clinical immunologist and allergist)
6.30pm to 8.30pm, Wednesday 3 June
The Old Woolstore, 1 Macquarie Street, Hobart

Nutricia Advanced Medical Nutrition is sponsoring this presentation for GPs and paediatricians.

The presentation will provide an overview of paediatric food allergies both IgE mediated and non IgE mediated, including food protein enterocolitis syndrome (FPIES), food protein induced proctitis/prococolitis, eosinophilic oesophagitis, food allergies and atopic dermatitis.

For further information and to RSVP (by 25 May), please email Winnie Woo at winnie.woo@nutricia.com or phone 0417 204 858.

Surgical workshops in Western Australia

The Clinical Training and Evaluation Centre (CTEC) at the University of Western Australia provides a number of specialised surgical workshops throughout 2015.

Information about the workshops and how to register is available online at www.ctec.uwa.edu.au/index.php/category/courses

Sex and disability: a new guide for GPs

GPs have access to a new tool to support patients with intellectual disability in making decisions about sex and reproduction.

Family Planning NSW has developed the free resource to ensure people with intellectual disability receive appropriate support to make their own decisions on these issues.

It provides clinicians with easy-to-use guidelines for supporting the patient around six common reproductive and sexual health decisions:

- whether to have sexual intercourse
- whether to have a testing for a sexually transmitted infection
- what type of contraception to use
- whether to have a Pap test
- whether to become a mother
- what to do about an unintended pregnancy.

The ‘Supporting decision making in reproductive and sexual health for people with disability’ tool is available at www.fpnsw.org.au/supportingdecisionmaking

Patient resource: Multiple Birth Association

The Tasmania Multiple Birth Association (TasMBA) is an affiliated association of the Australian Multiple Birth Association. The organisation meets in the north west, north and south of Tasmania.

TasMBA is a not-for-profit organisation operating in a volunteer capacity to:

- enhance the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian multiple birth children and their families
- offer friendship, resources, strategies and support to new and existing members
- education and support families using the first-hand knowledge and experience of other families
- provide positive opportunities for all multiple birth children and their families to come together.

Services available are:

- hospital liaison, bereavement, special needs, higher order multiple officers
- playgroups
- pram walks
- highly functional social media and website.

For more information go to www.tasmba.org.au, email enquiries@tasmba.org.au or call 0420 588 805.
Updated referral templates

The following referral templates are new or have been updated, and are now available at [www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/templates/new](http://www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/templates/new)

They include:

Pelvic Floor Clinic Referral (south)
Asthma Council - Asthma Action Plan
Bellerive Quay Health Hub (south) - updated

Remember to save the templates from the website by right-clicking only, and MD users remember to shrink the margins when you import the template.


If you need any assistance with templates, please call Ian McKnight at TML on 6213 8200 or email imcknight@tasmedicarelocal.com.au

General practice vacancies


Educational events

Event information is available online at [www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/events](http://www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/events)

Tasmanian Health Organisation
General Practice Liaison Officers (GPLOs)

Dr Annette Barratt
THO South
Royal Hobart Hospital
Email gplo.south@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 0418 138 383

Dr Liz Webber
THO South
Royal Hobart Hospital
Email gplo.south@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 0418 528 192

Dr Beth Mulligan
THO North
Launceston General Hospital
Email beth.mulligan@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 0419 321 240

Dr Keith McArthur
THO North West
North West Regional Hospital
Email keith.mcarthur@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 6430 6990

Tasmania Medicare Local offices

SOUTH / CENTRAL
Level 4, 172 Collins Street
Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 1827
Hobart TAS 7001
t 6213 8200
f 6213 8260

NORTH
Level 5, 11 High Street
Launceston TAS 7250
PO Box 2086
Launceston TAS 7250
t 6341 8700
f 6341 8760

NORTH WEST
Level 1, 11 Alexandra Road
Ulverstone TAS 7315
PO Box 358
Ulverstone TAS 7315
t 6425 8500
f 6425 8580

info@tasmedicarelocal.com.au
1300 653 169

Tasmania Medicare Local acknowledges the financial and other support of the Australian Government Department of Health

Updated referral templates

The following referral templates are new or have been updated, and are now available at [www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/templates/new](http://www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/templates/new)

They include:

Pelvic Floor Clinic Referral (south)
Asthma Council - Asthma Action Plan
Bellerive Quay Health Hub (south) - updated

Remember to save the templates from the website by right-clicking only, and MD users remember to shrink the margins when you import the template.


If you need any assistance with templates, please call Ian McKnight at TML on 6213 8200 or email imcknight@tasmedicarelocal.com.au

General practice vacancies


Educational events

Event information is available online at [www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/events](http://www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/events)

Tasmanian Health Organisation
General Practice Liaison Officers (GPLOs)

Dr Annette Barratt
THO South
Royal Hobart Hospital
Email gplo.south@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 0418 138 383

Dr Liz Webber
THO South
Royal Hobart Hospital
Email gplo.south@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 0418 528 192

Dr Beth Mulligan
THO North
Launceston General Hospital
Email beth.mulligan@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 0419 321 240

Dr Keith McArthur
THO North West
North West Regional Hospital
Email keith.mcarthur@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Phone 6430 6990

Disclaimer
While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this newsletter is accurate, Tasmania Medicare Local will not accept liability, any injury, loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from any use of or reliance on this information.