Tasmanian Health Directory electronic referrals

Primary Health Tasmania’s Tasmanian Health Directory now enables you to quickly find out which specialists accept electronic referrals.

To do so, open the Tasmanian Health Directory and then the specialist search. Click on the type of specialist you require, and if they accept electronic referrals, their Health Link EDI address will be viewable in the far-right column.

The links below provide concise instructions on how to send an electronic referral:

Medical Director: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSnaubMhRrk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSnaubMhRrk)
Best Practice: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsD4rRuAASY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsD4rRuAASY)


For more information, contact Phil Evans on 6213 8200 or at pevans@primaryhealthtas.com.au

Health Care Homes: Shortlisted practices

The Australian Government has announced the shortlisted general practices and Aboriginal community-controlled health services under stage one of the Health Care Homes program.

The Government has also deferred commencement of the program until October this year. Twenty practices around the country will start the program in October, followed by a further 180 in December.

The 20 Tasmanian practices shortlisted (subject to a formal offer) are:

- Burnie General Practice
- Caledonian Medical Centre
- Claremont Medical Centre
- Clarence GP Super Clinic
- Deloraine Medical Centre
- Don Medical Clinic
- General Practice Plus – Cascade Road
- Gregory Street General Practice Plus
- Glenorchy Medical Centre
- Hobart District Nursing Service
- Hopkins Street Medical Clinic
- Kingborough Medical Centre
- Launceston Medical Centre
- Legana Medical Centre
- Newstead Medical
- Risdon Vale Medical Centre
- Rosny Park Family Practice
- St Helens General Practice
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (Aboriginal Health Service in Launceston)
- Devonport GP Superclinic (Wenvoe Street Clinic)


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Click on the links above to go directly to the sections.
Service commissioning update from Primary Health Tasmania

Mental health – people with mild mental illness
A tender for the delivery of services for people with, or at risk of, mild to moderate mental illness closed on 2 May.
Evaluation of submissions is now underway, and services are expected to commence as soon as possible before 1 July.

For more information visit www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/commissioning/menthal-health-services-commissioning

Aboriginal mental health
Primary Health Tasmania has been working with a number of Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to co-design mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Services will be funded until June 2018, with further contracts subject to ongoing Australian Government funding and proof that program objectives are being met.
Details of the new services will be available shortly.

Upcoming commissioning activity
We expect to approach the market in the third quarter of 2017 for the delivery of refugee health services, with the commissioned services to be in place by the end of the year.
Current contracts with providers of suicide prevention services and services for people with severe and complex mental illness have been extended to 30 June 2018. This will enable comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder consultation ahead of a tender process, with new services to be funded from July 2018.

More information about Primary Health Tasmania’s commissioning activity is available on our website at www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/commissioning

General practice involvement
General practices are encouraged to consider taking part in current and upcoming tenders.
This could be as part of a consortium – you could contact other service providers in your area to explore options for working together to deliver services designed specifically for your community’s needs.

Register on Primary Health Tasmania’s eTender portal at www.tenderlink.com/primaryhealthtas to receive tender notifications.
Primary Health Tasmania welcomes ongoing general practice input on issues, needs and priorities relating to Aboriginal health, rural health, mental health, refugee health, and alcohol and other drug services.
Please email info@primaryhealthtas.com.au or call 1300 653 169.

DVA Non-Liability Health Care program update
The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) administers the Non-Liability Health Care program, which provides treatment for certain mental health conditions for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and ex-members who experienced abuse during their service.
In response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the DVA has broadened the use of survivor statutory declarations as evidence to establish that an incident of sexual and/or physical abuse occurred. These changes ease the burden on claimants to produce evidence to support their claim.
Some survivors of abuse in the ADF may believe they are ineligible for compensation due to when and how long they served, however all individuals who have suffered abuse in the ADF are encouraged to contact the DVA to discuss support available to them.
Treatment is provided through a DVA Health Card – For specific conditions (White Card), which also allows the holder to access counselling services through the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. To contact this service, phone 1800 011 046.
Healthcare providers who would like to find out more about the program or confirm a White Card holder’s eligibility for treatment can call the DVA on 1800 555 254. To help a patient make an application, email NLHC@dva.gov.au or phone 1800 555 254.
For more information, visit www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health/non-liability-health-care
New Tasmanian HealthPathways available

There are now 14 Tasmanian HealthPathways for available for urology, including acute urinary retention, erectile dysfunction, haematuria, prostate cancer, renal colic and renal stones. Tasmanian HealthPathways has over 400 pathways available in areas including cardiology, diabetes, gastroenterology, dermatology, burns, wound care, immunisation, respiratory disease, neurological/neurodegenerative, palliative care, ear, nose and throat, orthopaedic musculoskeletal conditions, gastroenterology, allergy, and child health.

Clinical work groups

Expressions of interest are open for clinicians to join clinical work groups to develop and review pathways over the next six months in areas such as infectious diseases. Clinical work groups comprise clinicians across primary and hospital sectors who work together to identify, agree and implement opportunities to standardise and improve patient management, and tailor pathways to Tasmanian needs.

If you are interested in contributing, email healthpathways@primaryhealthtas.com.au and tell us your area of interest.

To access Tasmanian HealthPathways, visit tasmania.healthpathways.org.au

For more information, contact Catherine Spiller on 6213 8200 or at cspiller@primaryhealthtas.com.au

Pneumonia Awareness Week

Pneumonia Awareness Week (7 – 13 May) is an opportunity to remind patients, particularly those in high risk groups, about the seriousness of pneumococcal pneumonia and the steps they can take to protect themselves.

These steps include:

- pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination
- hand and home hygiene
- quitting smoking.

In Australia, the pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination is funded under the Australian Government’s National Immunisation Program for:

- anyone aged 65 and above
- Indigenous Australians
- infants under 12 months.

For more information and resources, visit www.lungfoundation.com.au/pneumonia or phone 1800 654 301.

Statins in Reducing Events in the Elderly (STaREE) study

The University of Tasmania, in conjunction with the Menzies Institute for Medical Research and Monash University, are seeking GP co-investigators for a statin placebo-controlled study based in general practice.

STaREE is a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled primary prevention trial designed to assess whether daily active treatment of 40mg of atorvastatin prolongs overall survival and delays the need for permanent residential care in people aged 70 and over. The majority of the work will be conducted by STaREE research staff. GPs are only required for 10-minute patient eligibility screening.

The study is funded by the NHMRC, with no pharmaceutical company endorsement. Practice reimbursement and CPD points are available for participation.

If you have any questions or want to join, contact STaREE on 1800 770 664 or at staree@monash.edu

For more information visit www.staree.org.au
Antimicrobial prescribing for GPs
Launceston
23 May 6pm – 9pm
Primary Health Tasmania is hosting an education event for GPs on antimicrobial prescribing.

Management of skin and soft tissue infections and respiratory, ear, nose and throat infections will be included, as well as feedback and learnings from community antimicrobial prescribing audits. Avoiding antibiotic prescribing and managing patient expectations will also be covered.

Application has been made to the RACGP for four Category 2 CPD points for this activity.

A similar event is planned for the south. Details to come when available.

For more information and to register, visit www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/events or contact Angela Baker on 6213 8200 or at abaker@primaryhealthtas.com.au

Mental health lecture series: Gender dysphoria
Hobart
24 May 1pm – 2pm
The Clarence and Eastern Districts team within Statewide Mental Health Services is hosting a presentation by psychiatrist Dr Jason Westwater on the diagnosis of and terminology associated with gender dysphoria, gender development, treatment, overarching principles and recent research.

This event is part of a year-long mental health lecture series. Lectures are on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The next session on 21 June will focus on mental health and older people.

To RSVP, email education.centre@ths.tas.gov.au

For more information, contact Julie Porter at julie.porter@ths.tas.gov.au

Primary Health Tasmania’s events calendar is available online at www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/events

Understanding dementia online course
Online
25 July – 26 September
The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre at the University of Tasmania offers a free online 5-week course, the Understanding Dementia MOOC*.

Drawing on the latest scientific evidence, the course brings together the expertise of leading global dementia researchers to the foremost issues surrounding dementia.

The course provides information to improve quality of life across the trajectory of dementia for people with the condition, their families and carers. It is divided into three units – the brain, the diseases and the person.

This course is highly suited to health professionals and those with a personal interest in brain health or dementia risk reduction. A certificate of completion is available.

Enrolment opens 15 June and the course begins 25 July.

For more information, to express your interest or enrol, visit www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia

* MOOC is a ‘massive open online course’.
2017 influenza guide for GPs

The Immunisation Coalition has released a guide for GPs on the 2017 influenza season. The infographic guide includes information on:

- doctors’ influence on decisions to be vaccinated
- who should be vaccinated
- which vaccines will be available in 2017
- influenza and pregnancy
- influenza and heart attacks
- influenza and children
- timing of vaccination of elderly patients.

This document can be downloaded from www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/resources/influenza

Influenza and pregnancy guide for doctors and midwives

A recent study confirmed that among pregnant women with confirmed influenza, the risk of fetal death is nearly doubled. The Immunisation Coalition’s resource on influenza and pregnancy includes information on:

- risks of influenza during pregnancy
- who should be vaccinated
- benefits of vaccinating pregnant women
- influenza vaccination and pregnancy.

This document can be downloaded from www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/resources/influenza-pregnancy/

Resource on end-of-life discussions

Palliative Care Australia, in partnership with the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives, Indigenous Allied Health Australia and the Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association have developed a new resource to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples start discussions on end-of-life care. The resource includes a culturally appropriate step-by-step guide to make difficult conversations about death a bit easier, and a set of cards that can be used as a tool to start conversations.

The Dying to Talk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Discussion Starter can be accessed at dyingtotalk.org.au/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-discussion-starter/

Referral templates

The following templates are new or have been updated and are now available at www.primaryhealthtas.com.au/templates/new

- THO-NW – Public Direct Access Endoscopy Referral Form
- Diabetes Tasmania Referral Form
- Tasmanian Lung Service Burnie and Devonport – Easy Airway Testing Form

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.

In the south

New service: Dietitian at Sorell Doctors Surgery

Snehal Joshi, accredited practising dietitian, is now available for nutritional consultations at the Sorell Doctors Surgery. Snehal is available for consultations regarding obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, malnutrition, food allergies/intolerance and healthy eating.

Appointments can be made under the Enhanced Primary Care Program or through private referrals. Referral forms can be downloaded at daa.asn.au/what-dietitans-do/information-for-healthcare-professionals/

For more information, call the Sorell Doctors Surgery on 6165 1595.
General practice vacancies
In the past, Primary Health Tasmania has maintained a list of general practice vacancies on its website. Health Recruitment PLUS (HR+) provides a tailored general practice recruitment service, which includes a searchable list of vacancies via its website. To avoid duplication, Primary Health Tasmania will refer all future requests to list general practice vacancies to HR+.
HR+ can be contacted direct via recruitment@healthrecruitmentplus.com.au

Feedback? Suggestions?
If you would like to comment on any aspect of the General Practice Matters newsletter, or to submit an article, email comms@primaryhealthtas.com.au or call 1300 653 169.

Disclaimer: While the Australian Government helped fund this document, it has not reviewed the content and is not responsible for any injury, loss or damage however arising from the use of or reliance on the information provided herein. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this newsletter is accurate, however Primary Health Tasmania will not accept liability for any injury, loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from any use of or reliance on this information, which comes from a range of sources.

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