



**Fortnightly
eNews
AMATasmania
AUGUST 16**

Workers Compensation Reform Committee

Update for AMA Members

An AMA Delegation met with the (then) new WorkCover Minister, Mr Adam Brooks in early April 2016 to explain the origins of the AMA committee and provide a brief timeline of the committee's activities i.e. promotion of better understanding of the potential for negative health effects from compensation processes, recommend system and legislative improvements to the WorkCover Minister and Board and ongoing dialogue with insurance companies about issues of concern.

AMA initiatives/recommendations include:

1. Introduction of scheme health outcome measures
2. Proposals for alternative clinical pathways for GP-identified poor-prognosis cases i.e. "Complex Case Management"
3. Measures to enhance medical input into system design and oversight, independent medical examiner standards, impairment assessment procedures and medical dispute resolution
4. Ongoing direct dialogue with insurers through the AMA – Insurer Forum
5. Review of impairment assessment procedures following spinal surgery
6. Promoting the use of Medical Panels in dispute resolution

[READ MORE](#)

GP Update

Revised Application to Prescribe S8s

The AMA continues to work with the Pharmaceutical Services Branch on redesigning the application to prescribe S8s beyond two months. It is recognised by all that the management of chronic non-cancer pain is particularly challenging in Tasmania due to the limited referral services and the failure of any government service to put up its hand and take ownership of this neglected area of public health. Despite the lack of resources, the Pharmaceutical Services Branch is determined to reduce the prescribing of S8s for chronic non-cancer pain in Tasmania, and the AMA will continue to work with the Pharmaceutical Services Branch in developing a workable and best practice application process. It is strongly recommended that members read a recent report by coroner Stephen Carey that summarises the problems in this area particularly well and makes very thoughtful suggestions to address the issue of S8 prescribing in Tasmania.

[**READ MORE**](#)

Revised Transport Access Scheme Application Form

The AMA was disappointed to see the new Transport Access Scheme application form rolled out without consultation. The expectation that drivers medical can be done as part of filling this form out for those applicants who want to continue to hold their driver's licence is obviously not practical in General Practice. State Growth will be advised of this and in the interim the AMA advises members to ask applicants to rebook for the usual full medical if they also want to continue to hold a drivers licence.

Early Access to Defibrillation

The Tasmanian Ambulance Service continues to build its database of the location of defibrillators in Tasmania and medical practices with defibrillators that have not notified Tasmanian Ambulance Service of their defibrillator are encouraged to participate in this excellent initiative. Workers Compensation developments The AMA continues to work with the State Government and Insurance companies to try and redesign the worker's compensation process in Tasmania. An update for members is included in this newsletter.

Palliative Care Tasmania Representation to the Legislative Council

Provocative statements made by the CEO of Palliative Care Tasmania at a Legislative Council inquiry into Palliative Care in Tasmania will be followed up by the AMA at a formal level with the governing Council of Palliative Care Tasmania. It is anticipated the majority of the statements reported in the press (see attached) will be

withdrawn, and the AMA will be arguing for a formal apology to correct the public record.

[**FULL STORY**](#)

Working with Vulnerable People Registration - initially, affects those working with children (person <18yo)

The AMA has written confirmation from the Justice Department that doctors working in private practice do not require this registration. If however, a doctor works for another organisation although registration is optional the organisation can enforce the doctor to obtain this registration as part of their employment or contract requirements.

DETAILS ATTACHED

A GUIDE FOR WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING

Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce

The Taskforce is holding evening forums on August 30 (Launceston) and August 31 (Hobart) to seek input from health providers and members are encouraged to attend.

INVITATION NATIONAL REVIEW - HOBART

INVITATION NATIONAL REVIEW - LAUNCESTON

Important Reminder

AMA Tasmania would like to remind members of the good housekeeping practice of checking your payslips, each week, month or fortnight and in particular regarding excess time payments. Should any queries arise regarding your payslip and possible inaccuracies, please direct them to our office for assistance.

Tasmanian **Health** Conference

30 JULY 2016 Medical Sciences Precinct, University of Tasmania, HOBART

It's a wrap. 2016 Tasmanian Health Conference!

Over 175 health professionals, health advocates and members of government met in Hobart recently for the **2016 Tasmanian Health Conference** staged at the Menzies Research Institute.

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Launceston BMW

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The theme of this year's conference theme was Communities of health: It takes more than an apple a day. With the primary aim of bringing delegates up-to-date on recent developments in the health, aged and social care sectors while showcasing front line activities keeping people well and out of hospital.

Recently appointed AMA Tasmania President Dr Stuart Day opened the conference, thanking the speakers including keynote speaker Garry Egger, the organising committee and sponsors for bringing together Tasmania's health leaders to discuss the future of the state's health system and the health of our population. "If Tasmania is to achieve the state government's target of making Tasmania the healthiest state in Australia by 2025, it is going to take a collaborative effort between GPs, Hospitals, not-for-profit-groups and government.

A number of new and very successful initiatives were initiated to this years conference program by the Committee; including a facilitated closed door Face to Face Conversation between GP's and the Minister for Health Mr Michael Ferguson, after conference Nibbles and Networking and a complimentary bus (kindly donated for use by the Conference Major Sponsor BMW) and also very kindly driven by John Kirwan CEO of the Royal Flying Doctor Service from Launceston to Hobart and return.

Pictured here John Kirwan CEO Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania collecting the Renault Bus kindly donated by AMA Major Sponsors BMW Autohaus Launceston/Hobart for use to transport delegates from Launceston to Hobart to attend the 2016 Tasmanian Health Conference.



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News and Headlines

- [MORE RESEARCH NEEDED ON PALEO DIET FOR DIABETICS](#)
- [MEDICAL STUDENTS TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE](#)
- [INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES](#)
- [NAURU FILES' EXPOSE NEED FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH OF ASYLUM SEEKERS](#)

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