



# ENEWS

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## THC 2017 - SUCCESS

# Tasmanian Health Conference

**29 JULY 2017** Medical Sciences Precinct, University of Tasmania, HOBART

### WHERE TO FROM HERE THOUGH?

The organising committee was overwhelmed with the success of the recent THC Conference, emphasised by record attendance numbers and committed health sector personnel and politicians remaining firmly in situ for the duration of this one-day event. With the theme of this year's conference #one team - working together to keep Tasmanians hospital thoroughly explored across the key topics and expert keynote speakers; hospital avoidance, a team-based approach with the ultimate goal to improve person-centred care, transitional/streamlined care in particular highlighting, and in some cases unique to Tasmania, the key indicators of a rapidly aging population, mental health, disability, end-of-life care, chronic conditions, heart disease and oral health.

This year the committee, as in previous years, looked to introduce new aspects to the event to enhance the delegates outcomes, and support the theme. They included art in therapy, GP Face to Face with the State's Health Minister, #hellomynameis name badges, and a conference app, all receiving very positive feedback.

However, as a committee, we continue to look to the future, questioning whether we have reached a plateau in our attendance and perhaps a rethink is needed on the day of the week we stage the conference or even the opposite end of the State?

What was evident however was keeping people out of hospital will not change the dollars, health economics is driven by endless demand, with oral health a primary driver of these avoidable hospital admissions? On the reverse side, it was revealed that Tasmania has approximately 84,000 carers, primarily women, and it is these unsung heroes of the health sector that will help keep people out of the hospital, however with the tremendously successful hospice@HOME program now without funding leaving everyone asking why?



## SALARY MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AGREEMENT 2017

### DOCTORS PAY DEAL AND TRIAL NW RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Hodgman Liberal Government has finalised negotiations with our doctors as part of the Salaried Medical Practitioners Agreement. Under the Agreement, doctors will receive a 2 per cent pay increase per annum effective from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2019, which is in line with our wages policy. It follows on with our successful negotiations with our nurses, paramedics and other health professionals over the past three years.

While we have been successful in recruiting, it is no secret that the North West has always struggled to attract health specialists. In a move to further address this, the Hodgman Government has also negotiated the provision of a new recruitment and

retention allowance of 25 per cent for a two-year trial period for specialists that will be located in the North West region.

The fixed-term trial is aimed specifically at testing the effectiveness of such an allowance in meeting the health needs of the North West by attracting and retaining specialists to the region, as well as helping to decrease the overall health costs by reducing the use of locums. To increase our ability to both recruit and retain our medical workforce in the North West, the allowance would be offered to both new and existing medical specialists.

## CODEINE

### [AMA BACKS TGA ON CODEINE](#)

The AMA has reiterated its support for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) decision to make codeine a 'prescription only' medicine from 1 February 2018. AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today that the AMA fully supports the independence of the TGA in making decisions about medicines scheduling, including for codeine. "There is compelling evidence to support the decision to make codeine prescription only," Dr Gannon said. "Deaths and illness from codeine use have increased in Australia.

[READ MORE](#)



## SAVE THE ROYAL

### [SAVE THE ROYAL CAMPAIGN - CHANGE.ORG PETITION](#)

In the very short time since rolling out the Save the Royal Change.org petition, there are now close to 700 signatures and comments. It is not too late to add your support or encourage the support of your patients.

Please use this link to sign the Save the Royal petition by adding your signature and encouraging the public to add theirs to the [Change.org Petition for the Save the Royal Campaign](#).

Please circulate widely to any non-AMA colleagues, family and friends who may also wish to also support the RHH by signing.

**OTHER LOBBYING OPTIONS EMAIL THE MINISTER DIRECTLY WITH THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE**

*"Waiting extended periods for health care leads to poor health outcomes. Without enough beds and enough nurses and doctors to staff them, Tasmanians who need health care at the Royal Hobart Hospital face the risk of long and possibly dangerous delays in treatment. Tell the Minister for Health that Tasmanians deserve a well-resourced health system":* [michael.ferguson@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:michael.ferguson@parliament.tas.gov.au)

By encouraging your patients to lobby Minister Ferguson, we can together drive the Save the Royal Campaign. Other options for lobbying include - liking and following the [Save the Royal Campaign Facebook page](#).



Pall Care Tasmania's Premier event for 2017  
The Building Compassionate Communities Forum  
and  
Inaugural Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards  
13th and 16th October

go to [www.tas.palliativecare.org.au](http://www.tas.palliativecare.org.au) for information about Abstracts, Award Nominations and Sponsorship Opportunities

## EVENTS



## AMA TASMANIA INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP - REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

AMA Tasmania is hosting a series of Interview Skills workshops across Tasmania for medical students, doctors in training and those looking for new roles. Free for members.

- If you have been overlooked for a job interview, then this workshop is for you.
- If you have stumbled over what to include in your CV, this workshop is for you.
- If addressing selection criteria is confronting, this workshop is for you.
- And, if you appreciate what a big deal getting your CV noticed and performing well at interview is, this workshop is for you.

The AMA established its career advice service in response to an expressed need from doctors in training for advice and assistance with preparing for their future medical career options.

The Career Adviser, Christine Brill, states openly that her role is to assist AMA members get the edge when it comes to applying for a job or College training program. Christine is coming to Tasmania to run a workshop in both Hobart and Launceston on building CV, preparing cover letter, addressing selection criteria and how to prepare for and perform that interview.

### WORKSHOP DETAILS

EVENT: HOBART

DATE: Tuesday 29th August 2017

TIME: 6pm - 8pm

VENUE: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

EVENT: LAUNCESTON

DATE: Wednesday 30th August 2017 TIME: 5pm - 7pm

VENUE: Grand Chancellor Launceston

These career-focused workshop will be presented only once in 2017 so register to secure your place. Face to face opportunities are also being offered in both venues and are available via appointment only.

[Register Now](#)



### [AMA RETIRED MEMBERS LUNCHEON - SAVE THE DATE](#)

AMA Tasmania at the suggestion of some of our more senior members is staging two get together luncheons for our retired members. One in Hobart on 6th October 2017 and one in the north in Launceston on 2nd March 2018.

AMA recognises that while your working life may no longer be as busy, it is vital for you to continue to contribute and interact with your peers (plus have a little bit of fun). Friends made through work can last a lifetime, but all too often retirement can unexpectedly bring an end to workplace friendships. Keeping in touch with work colleagues is a good way to keep a diverse circle of social contacts during retirement.

More details, including costings and timings to follow.

SAVE THE DATE - Friday 6th October 2017 and Friday 2nd March 2018.

[Register Now](#)

## LEADING BLOOD CANCER EXPERTS SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE

September 9, Victoria's Annual Blood Cancer Education Conference will take place at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre. A comprehensive and educational event that brings together leading expert clinicians and researchers to provide a current overview of treatment regimes, known side effects, late effects, research developments and survivorship insights into each of the blood cancer streams to those living with blood cancers and blood related disorders. This year's program covers a wide range of disease specific sessions, with each disease covered by two different speakers. Delegates are invited to the free full day event to understand about treatment and research of different blood cancers and disorders.

With an expectance of 700 in attendance and with over 200 delegates already signed up, registrations are fast filling. Be sure to sign up to this free and informative conference by visiting booking page at [trybooking.com/299492](http://trybooking.com/299492). For any further information about the conference please contact 1800 620 420.



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- [MANDATORY REPORTING AGREEMENT WELCOME: TIME FOR ACTION – AMA](#)
- [AMSA concerned by high prevalence of sexual harassment and assault at Australian universities](#)
- [TREAT DEPENDENCE AND ADDICTION AS CHRONIC BRAIN DISEASE – AMA](#)
- [SUPPORT NEEDED FOR NON-BREASTFEEDING PARENTS](#)

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## August 2017

- 18 & 19 August – AMA Federal Council in Canberra
- 24 August - Thursday Northern Division Meeting - 7 pm for a meal and 7.30pm start - 3rd Floor Meeting Room at the Launceston General Hospital
- 26 August – Saturday AMA Branch Council in Campbell Town

AMATAS e-newsletter is compiled and distributed on a fortnightly basis to all AMA Tasmania members. We welcome contributions from members and others to make this newsletter lively, informative and successful. Contributions can be emailed to [comms@amatas.com.au](mailto:comms@amatas.com.au). All submissions require the authors name and contact details.

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