

A Protocol for the Involvement of General Practitioners in Statewide Initiatives and Specific Projects

Preamble

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Tasmanian General Practice Divisions and the Regional Divisions of General Practice have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, *Collaborating for Improved Health Outcomes*. The development of this MOU demonstrates that the parties involved understand the importance of working in partnership with other key stakeholders and that general practice and general practitioners are recognised as a significant and integral component of the health and human service system. This protocol has been developed as a supporting document to the MOU to ensure that mechanisms for collaboration between the Department and general practitioners (through the Tasmanian General Practice Divisions and the Regional Divisions of General Practice) are formalised and appropriate.

Purpose of the Protocol

The Department, the TGPD and the regional Division of General Practice are currently collaborating in a number of projects. These projects may be one-off or ongoing initiatives and some may have involved general practitioners on an ad-hoc basis. There is not currently a mechanism for monitoring and regulating GP involvement in issues that impact on general practice. This protocol has been developed to address this issue.

The purpose of the protocol is to:

- ensure that general practitioners are appropriately involved in various statewide, regional and/or local initiatives to ensure improved health service planning and integration
- enable appropriate general practitioner representation and involvement
- provide greater efficiency in the manner in which general practitioner involvement is sought by forwarding all formal DHHS requests for general practitioner involvement through the Tasmanian General Practice Divisions and the relevant regional Division of General Practice
- consolidate the clearinghouse role of the TGPD through the development and maintenance of a register GP participation in statewide, regional and local initiatives.

The protocol is not intended to preclude or obstruct the involvement of general practitioners at a local level. Involvement of GPs in local level service planning and delivery is encouraged by the MoU partners. This protocol should (when applied in

conjunction with the MOU Workplan) clarify the priority projects and initiatives that general practitioners should be involved in and remunerated for. The Monitoring Group will act as a forum to resolve any issues regarding general practitioner involvement.

Mechanism/Process

1. Any requests from within the Department for the involvement of general practitioners in statewide projects/initiatives should be written and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the TGPD. Any requests from within the Department for the involvement of general practitioners in regional or local projects/initiatives should be written and addressed to the appropriate regional GP Division.
(Written requests should include relevant project/initiative details (eg brief description, contact officer, whether one-off/ongoing, availability of funds, implications ie local/regional or statewide, etc)
2. The TGPD/regional GP Division (in conjunction with other relevant GP bodies if necessary) will arrange appropriate representation
3. The TGPD/regional GP Division will respond to the DHHS with details of the nominee or provide reason/s for non-participation.
4. To enable the TGPD to compile and maintain a register of general practitioners involved in projects/initiatives the regional GP Divisions will communicate relevant information regarding GP participation in regional and local projects.

Review

The protocol will be reviewed by the Workplan Monitoring Group.