



Hon Jill Hennessy MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 9096 8561
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
DX: 210081

e4687941

Toni Riley
Chair
Victorian Pharmacy Authority
15-31 Pelham St
CARLTON VIC 3053

Dear Ms Riley

Toni

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS – VICTORIAN PHARMACY AUTHORITY

I am pleased to provide you with my Statement of Expectations for the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the Authority). This Statement of Expectations replaces the current Statement of Expectations that is in place for the Authority. It applies from the date of signature on this correspondence, until 30 June 2019, or until otherwise amended.

As Minister for Health, I am committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. My responsibilities include oversight of the Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010 (the Pharmacy Act), which provides for the regulation of pharmacy businesses, pharmacy departments in hospitals and health services, and pharmacy depots in Victoria. In administering the Pharmacy Act the Authority plays an important role in protecting the Victorian community by ensuring effective, efficient, proportionate and risk based regulation of these businesses and services.

Improving regulatory practice

Regulators must operate within a framework that enables them to maximise efficiency and effectiveness. Implementing outcomes and risk based regulation will assist regulators to do this. To this end I note that the *Statement of Expectations Framework for Regulators* guidance document focuses on risk-based strategies as one of three mandatory regulatory improvement areas across Government. One of the Authority's key improvements is to develop for introduction during 2018 a program of risk-based audits of pharmacy ownership and commercial arrangements (following costing and funding of options). I note this was a key recommendation of the 2017 Review of the Pharmacy Business Licensing Application and Renewal Processes in Victoria (the Licensing Review).

Publishing and reporting requirements

I expect the Authority to publish the attached Statement of Expectations performance improvements, and its response to these, on the Authority's website.

Reporting on the Authority's progress to achieve these performance improvements should be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the 2017–18 and the 2018–19 financial years on the Authority's website.

I look forward to the Authority's continuing efforts towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of the Pharmacy Act.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

19/10/2017

Encl.

Ministerial Statement of Expectations 2017–18 to 2018–19 – Improvements for the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the Authority)

This Statement of Expectations, which applies from the date of signature on this correspondence to 30 June 2019, or until otherwise amended, sets out my expectations in relation to the Victorian Pharmacy Authority's contribution to the Government's Regulation Reform Program. After consulting with the Authority, I have identified the following performance objectives and opportunities for the Authority to improve its regulatory performance.

Risk-based strategies

- Develop for introduction during 2018 a program of risk-based audits of pharmacy ownership and commercial arrangements (following costing and funding of options) as recommended in the 2017 Review of the Pharmacy Business Licensing Application and Renewal Processes in Victoria (the Licensing Review).

Timeliness

- Implement pharmacy licensing process improvements recommended by the Licensing Review (as adopted by the Authority), to ensure compliance with legislated pharmacy ownership requirements, while maintaining efficient and timely assessment of applications.

Compliance related assistance and advice

- Provide informative advice to stakeholders including regular communiques to assist in ensuring compliance with pharmacy ownership legislation, and review information where necessary based on feedback from stakeholders.

Transparency and accountability

- Building on the Performance Measurement Framework and Quarterly Performance Report developed by the Authority during 2017, develop and publish three to five key performance indicators against which the performance of the Authority can be measured. Report on progress in achieving published key performance indicators annually, on the Authority's website or through the annual reporting arrangements.
- Explore the experience, if any, of other pharmacy business/relevant regulators' efforts to detect and deal with undeclared ownership as recommended by the Licensing Review.

In developing actions to achieve these improvements and targets, the Authority is expected to consult with business and the broader community as appropriate.