



Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Health
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David McConville
Chair
Victorian Pharmacy Authority
Level 2, 15-31 Pelham Street
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Dear Mr McConville

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS: 1 JULY 2019 to 30 JUNE 2021 –
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 is for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021.

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 Act), which provides for the regulation of pharmacy businesses, pharmacy departments in hospitals and health services, and pharmacy depots in Victoria. In administering the 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. The Statement of Expectations Framework for Regulators includes three mandatory criteria of good regulatory practice being timeliness, risk-based strategies and compliance related assistance and advice.

Therefore, the Authority's performance improvements include identifying further improvements to application processes and enhancing its existing risk-based pharmacy premises inspection and pharmacy business ownership audit programs.

Publishing and reporting requirements

I expect that the Authority will respond to this Statement of Expectations, outlining how it intends to achieve the performance improvements and targets set in this Statement of Expectations. This response should include details of the specific activities that will be undertaken by the Authority.

The Authority is required to publish the attached Statement of Expectations performance improvements, and the Authority's response to these on the Authority's website.

Reporting on the Authority's progress to achieve these Statement of Expectations performance improvement must be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years on the Authority's website.

I look forward to the Authority working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of pharmacy regulation.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Mikakos MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

28/6/2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS: 1 JULY 2019 to 30 JUNE 2021.

Victorian Pharmacy Authority

This Statement of Expectations applies from the date of signature on this correspondence to 30 June 2021, or until otherwise amended. It sets out my expectations in relation to the Authority. I have identified the following performance objectives and opportunities to improve the Authority's regulatory performance.

Timeliness

- Continue to implement recommendations of the *PharmConsult* Review of pharmacy business licence application and renewal processes including a program of risk-based audits of pharmacy business ownership and commercial arrangements¹.
- Identify further improvements to application processes to improve efficiency of regulatory practice and reduce regulatory burden for regulated entities.

Risk-based strategies

- Enhance the Authority's existing pharmacy premises inspection and pharmacy business ownership audit programs to ensure these continue to be risk-based and outcome-focussed and better enable the Authority to target regulatory intervention to improve compliance.

Compliance related assistance and advice

- Revise existing compliance related assistance to aid compliance with pharmacy legislation and guidelines by licensees and other pharmacists.

¹ PharmConsult reviewed the Authority's licence application processes in 2017. Its recommendations included the introduction of a program of risk-based audits of pharmacy businesses which the Authority commenced in 2018. The program includes an ownership audit undertaken by officers of the Authority and, in selected cases, a financial review undertaken by a leading accounting firm on behalf of the Authority to ensure compliance with the Act.