Hon Jill Hennessy MP

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Kym Peake
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
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Dear Secretary

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS - DRUGS AND POISONS REGULATION UNIT

I am pleased to provide you with my Statement of Expectations for the Department of Health and Human Services' Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit. The Statement of Expectations applies for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, or until otherwise amended.

As Minister for Health, I am committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. My responsibilities include administering the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* - designed to protect the Victorian community from the risks and harms associated with certain drugs and poisons. Effective, efficient and proportionate regulation can be an important tool to achieve the objectives of this Act.

Improving the Administration of Regulation

This Statement of Expectations sets out my expectations in relation to the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit's contribution to the Victorian Government's Regulation Reform Program.

As Minister for Health, I expect the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit to consult with key stakeholders when considering any new policy or designing new regulation, to ensure unnecessary regulatory burden can be minimised, in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the Act.

After consulting with the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit, I have identified specific opportunities for the Unit to improve its regulatory performance. These improvements are enclosed.

Reporting Requirements for the Ministerial Statement and the Unit's Response

I expect that the attached Statement of Expectations performance improvements, and the Unit's proposed response to these, will be incorporated into the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit's work plan and published on the department's website.

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Reporting on your progress to achieve these Statement of Expectations performance targets should be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the 2016-17 financial year, on the department's website.

I look forward to the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of regulation.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
23/6/2016

Encl. Ministerial Statement of Expectations: Improvements for the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit

Ministerial Statement of Expectations - Improvements for the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit

This Statement of Expectations for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 sets out my expectations in relation to the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit's contribution to the Government's Regulation Reform Program. After consulting with the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Unit, I have identified the below opportunities for the Unit to improve its regulatory performance.

In relation to risk based improvements:

- Reduce regulatory burden on medical prescribers[1] and improve risk management by extending treatment permits for Schedule 8 drugs, most of which are used to treat chronic pain (such as morphine, oxycodone and fentanyl) from one year to two years, for patients who are stable in treatment, where the medical prescriber considers it clinically appropriate and safe to do so.

- Reduce regulatory burden and improve risk management through the completion of the Drugs and Poisons Information System upgrade project. The upgrade of the Drugs and Poisons Information System will eliminate the current need for manual data entry, enabling for example:
    - licenses and permits to be issued more quickly
    - a reduction in the time required to verify applicants' information due to electronic forms being easier to read than hand written forms
    - reduced risk of data processing errors.

In relation to small business focussed improvements:

- Reduce regulatory burden on psychiatrists by extending the length of treatment permits for psychostimulants to treat conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, from three years to on-going, where the treating psychiatrist considers it clinically appropriate and safe to do so.

- Reduce regulatory burden by enabling the reporting of lost and stolen scheduled medications, drugs and poisons through SmartForms, instead of the current hand-written forms. This will benefit manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters and prescribers, who are required (under the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006*) to report these lost or stolen scheduled medications, drugs and poisons to the department.

These initiatives will enable the department to issue permits more expeditiously for Schedule 8 drugs, which will assist to reduce the risk of doctor shopping and reduce the administrative burden on health services and prescribing professionals.

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

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[1] A medical prescriber is a professional who is authorised under the Act to prescribe scheduled drugs. This includes nurse practitioners, medical practitioners, and psychiatrists.