



Media Release

Medical Board refers practitioner to Tribunal

21 September 2010

A national registration and accreditation scheme for health practitioners began on 1 July 2010. The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) (the National Law) took effect on 1 July 2010, replacing the former *Medical Practitioners Registration Act 1996* for medical practitioners in Tasmania. At the same time, the Medical Board of Australia replaced the former Medical Council of Tasmania. The role of the Board is to protect the public.

In the transition to the national scheme, complaints that were being investigated by the Medical Council of Tasmania under the previous legislation continue to be dealt with under the previous law.

In the scheme, registration and notification decisions about individual medical practitioners are made by the Tasmanian Board of the Medical Board of Australia. The Tasmanian office of the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) supports the Board in its role of protecting the public, including by managing investigation and registration processes.

The Medical Council of Tasmania has previously confirmed it was investigating the clinical care provided by Dr Paul McGinity, who now holds general registration as a medical practitioner under the National Law.

The Tasmanian Board of the Medical Board of Australia has resolved to refer a number of matters relating to Dr McGinity's clinical care to the Health Practitioners Tribunal of Tasmania for formal inquiry into his professional conduct.

The Health Practitioners Tribunal is an external body, chaired by a Magistrate, which has powers to hear evidence about a health professional and to make findings about their conduct. Both the Board and the practitioner are entitled to legal representation before the Tribunal.

The Board is not able to comment further at this time, to protect the integrity of the legal process.

Media enquiries

(03) 8708 9200