



AMA TASMANIA POSITION STATEMENT: TASMANIAN MEDICAL SCHOOL

The name *Tasmanian Medical School* should be formally established and recognised as an identity within the existing University of Tasmania School of Medicine to encompass and enhance the current designation and function of the MBBS program. The *Tasmanian Medical School* should have appropriate governance structures, budget and resourcing to achieve its objective of sustaining a high-quality medical student education program in Tasmania that maintains effective vocational and stakeholder engagement.

The following are considered key features:

Governance

- 1) Establishing *Tasmanian Medical School* as the specific and authentic name for the MBBS program, one to which staff, students, the medical profession and the broader community can relate.
- 2) The *Tasmanian Medical School* could remain as a sub-school within a larger *School of Medicine* entity; however, clear budgetary, financial and HR delegations (with appropriate business support staff) are required.
- 3) The organisational substructure of the *Tasmanian Medical School* could comprise a four-component model: (Y1-3 plus the three Clinical Schools, each led by a Director) with an appropriately titled overall Head (a Dean of Medicine) who is specifically assigned to leadership and management of the *Tasmanian Medical School*.
- 4) The Dean of Medicine of the *Tasmanian Medical School* should have a clearly defined duty statement that reinforces a collaborative approach to staff management and curriculum planning/delivery that actively involves the four component Directors and Discipline Heads.
- 5) The key Pre-Clinical and Clinical Disciplines should each have readily identifiable and appropriate academic Heads who must have a state-wide role in building clinical engagement as well as supporting curriculum design, delivery and integration across the five years as well as the three geographic sites.

Budget and HR

- 1) The *Tasmanian Medical School* budget needs to be transparent and devolved, particularly around staffing and research.
- 2) The budget should reasonably reflect the true cost of MBBS delivery including covering staff entitlements and professional learning requirements.
- 3) Vacancies associated with any position essential to MBBS curriculum delivery and assessment should be filled as a matter of urgency.
- 4) Component Directors of the *Tasmanian Medical School* should have access to sufficient HR and business management support.
- 5) Efficiencies should be sought through strategically reducing casual budget expenditure by the appointment of appropriately contracted/tenured staff.

Curriculum and AMC accreditation

- 1) The commitment to the MBBS program should be reaffirmed by resourcing an immediate and full response to deal with all AMC conditions.
- 2) Pre-Clinical and Clinical Academic Disciplines Heads should be actively recruited and engaged in the life of the *Tasmanian Medical School*.
- 3) A sense of stability and consistency in approach to the delivering the MBBS should be projected to *Tasmanian Medical School* staff, students and clinical stakeholders so that all can focus their efforts and present a united team.

Research

- 1) Research should be nurtured, but it must be recognised that *Tasmanian Medical School* staff will contribute research activity through a variety of UTAS entities.
- 2) Care must be taken to prevent *Tasmanian Medical School* staff with heavy teaching and administrative responsibilities from being overloaded with unreasonable and competing research expectations.