



AMA

TASMANIA

MEDIA RELEASE - 30th MARCH 2009

DR. PAUL MCGINITY OF SCOTTSDALE – SUSPENSION BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF TASMANIA

Dr. Paul McGinity has been a member of the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Medical Association for 28 years.

Dr. McGinity is a senior, experienced, hard-working, and well-regarded general practitioner who has provided unstinting service to the people of North East Tasmania for very many years, at all hours of the day and night. He is very popular with his patients who are showing great loyalty and concern over his summary suspension from medical practice on 27th March by the Medical Council of Tasmania.

The principal aim of the Medical Council of Tasmania is to ensure that the people of Tasmania receive the highest possible standard of medical care through the *fair and effective* administration of the Medical Practitioners Registration Act 1996.

www.medicalcounciltas.com.au

One of the roles of the Medical Council of Tasmania is to protect the public in respect of medical standards of care. If the Council has reason to suspect that there is risk to public safety then it has the power to immediately suspend a medical practitioner's registration pending further investigation. The fact that the Council has taken this action against Dr. McGinity should not be interpreted as a finding of guilt, or any wrongdoing or inappropriate practice. It is entirely possible that Dr. McGinity will be exonerated after the Council's investigation and be able to return to work.

AMA Tasmania is very concerned that any doctor would be suspended without prior notice and without any opportunity to immediately answer to any complaints that may have been made. AMA Tasmania greatly regrets that the Medical Council considered that it was necessary to take summary action against a practitioner of Dr. McGinity's standing, effectively preventing Dr. McGinity from being able to earn a living.

AMA Tasmania also considers the other side of the public safety equation. This is that a doctor with a very large rural practice has without notice been prevented from attending to his patients, all of whom will need to make urgent alternative arrangements in a rural and remote area knowing that doctors in Tasmania are in short supply. Dr. McGinity's patients hopefully will not suffer from lack of timely care from a doctor knowledgeable about their particular case.

AMA Tasmania considers that this matter should have the highest and most immediate priority with the Medical Council. Dr. McGinity has been suspended without pay, and his practice and professional reputation seriously damaged.

The nature of all of the charges and allegations against Dr. McGinity must be disclosed to him at the earliest possible opportunity and the investigation initiated without delay so that this matter can be resolved and concluded as soon as possible.

AMA Tasmanian also calls on the Department of Health & Human Services to immediately provide every assistance in securing locum services for Dr. McGinity's patients.

Dr. Chris Middleton

President

AMA Tasmania

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