

Dear Member,

The Minister for Health and Ageing, David Davis, has now approved the *Nurses with Scheduled Medicines Project* in Victoria, with a list of poisons and a list of health services in which the poison or class of poisons may be used, sold or supplied.

This means that, in the absence of a doctor or nurse practitioner who is able to provide a prescription or medication order, the endorsed nurse may administer or supply medicines approved by the Minister for Health, according to the health management protocols contained in the Primary Clinical Care Manual (PCCM) in specified rural services and when authorised by their employer.

The VHA has been advocating for the increase scope of practice for rural nurses, particularly for urgent situations as outlined in the Rural Emergency Services Position Paper. The VHA congratulates the Minister of Health and Ageing for acting on this important issue of approving the scheduled medicines that endorsed nurses can use and supply in line with the Collaborative Practice Model.

The Department has developed a policy framework for rural health services to establish the requirements for implementation and clinical risk management of the endorsement function. It is accompanied by a toolkit that is designed to provide practical assistance for approved health services to implement the function.

The VHA will continue to advocate for the increased access to attaining the endorsement for rural and isolated registered nurses.

If you would like to discuss any issues regarding this bulletin please contact Jane Sheats on 9094 7777 or jane.sheats@vha.org.au

Kind regards,



Trevor Carr
Chief Executive