

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Cecily Rosol MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

I understand from constituents in Bass that a number of pharmacy technician 12-month contracts at Launceston General Hospital will finish at the end of August and not be renewed. This is a cut, despite the need for pharmacy technicians, made worse by a number of the technicians being part way through a 15-month traineeship with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. Pharmacy technicians will not be able to complete their training, the Department's investment in training will be wasted, and the Tasmanian Health Service will lose the important contribution of these people to the pharmacy workforce with all their skill and potential. Minister, can you confirm these positions are being cut and explain why their training is being wasted? Will you reverse this decision and renew the pharmacy technician contracts to enable the completion of their traineeships, and to ensure their training will not be wasted, but help build the health sector?

ANSWER:

I am advised that the Pharmacy Technician workforce at Launceston General Hospital (LGH) is permanently filled to 95.4 per cent of establishment (23.44FTE of 24.55FTE).

In August 2025, three Pharmacy Technician Trainees were appointed to 12-month contracts at LGH, which were available due to temporary changes in work-patterns from permanent staff members.

The Pharmacy Technician Trainees have been successfully working as part of the LGH Pharmacy team as they progress through their Certificate III training program and continue to be supported to complete their qualification while receiving a higher wage.

Statewide Hospital Pharmacy has worked to identify potential ongoing temporary vacancies beyond August 2026. A total of 3.85 FTE temporary Pharmacy Technician positions were identified, with durations up to February 2027. Recruitment to fill these temporary vacancies via a Tasmanian State Service Expression of Interest was recently undertaken.

I am further advised that, to ensure continuity of service while the merit-based recruitment process occurs, temporary contract extensions through to October 2026 have been issued to the Pharmacy Technician Trainees.

The most recent Health and Human Services (Tasmanian State Service) Award enables the establishment of 'broad banding', which Statewide Hospital Pharmacy is actively working on implementing for this work group. This would enable Pharmacy Technician Trainees to be reclassified as Pharmacy Technicians once they meet the eligibility criteria of the promotional position.



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