Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

Factsheet – current as at September 2021

Purposes of the Act

The identified purposes of the Act play a crucial role in determining how the Act is to be interpreted and administered.

What are the purposes of the Act?

The three main purposes of the Act are:

- to ensure particular substances are made, sold, used and disposed of in an appropriate, effective and safe way;
- to ensure health risks arising from the use of the substances are appropriately managed; and
- to ensure persons who are authorised to carry out activities using the substances have the necessary competencies to carry out the activities safely.

How are the main purposes achieved?

The main purposes of the Act are achieved by:

- identifying particular activities and substances to be controlled; and
- authorising classes of persons to use the substances in controlled ways for particular purposes; and
- providing a scheme to authorise additional activities using the substances under approvals or licences; and
- requiring persons authorised to use the substances to have competencies and be accountable for the safe and effective use of the substances; and
- requiring particular things to be done to ensure the appropriate use, quality, safety and disposal of the substances at all stages, from manufacture to supply to the consumer and final disposal as waste; and
- providing for compliance with the Act to be monitored and enforced.

What are the regulations that accompany the Act?

The Act establishes the legal and policy framework. The Act allows for regulations to be made under the Act about certain matters. The regulations, which are a form of subordinate

legislation made by executive council, provide detail about administrative and technical matters, and how identified provisions of the Act are to be applied.

The following regulations are relevant:

- Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021;
- Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021; and
- Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021.

Associated guidance documents

- Overview of medicines framework - factsheet

Further information

For further information, contact the Healthcare Approvals and Regulation Unit:

- Email: HARU@health.qld.gov.au