



13 APRIL 2015

Judgments.....	2
Federal Court of Australia	2
New South Wales	3
Western Australia	2
United Kingdom	2
Legislation.....	3
Commonwealth	3
Tasmania.....	3
Reports	3
Australia. Department of Health	3
Australia. Department of Social Services.....	4
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards.....	4
Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council.....	5
Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration	5
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare	6
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	6
Australian National Audit Office.....	6
Australia. National Mental Health Commission	6
Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate	6
New South Wales. Ministry of Health.....	7
Northern Territory. Department of Health	7
Queensland. Department of Health	7
South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing.....	7
Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services	8
Victoria. Department of Health	9
Western Australia. Department of Health	9
New Zealand. Ministry of Health.....	10
United Kingdom. Department of Health.....	11
United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services	11
British Medical Association	11

JUDGMENTS

Western Australia

27 March 2015 - *AME Hospitals Pty Ltd v Dixon* [2015] WASCA 63

A decision of particular relevance to long-tail medical liability insurers.

The Court of Appeal has allowed a child with cerebral palsy to commence proceedings against the hospital at which she was born and the doctors who delivered her, more than 10 years later (a substantial period after the expiry of the relevant limitation period).

The plaintiff allegedly suffered hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy during birth in 2001 (a disease of the brain resulting from lack of oxygen). She now has cerebral palsy. Prior to the limitation period expiring in 2011, the plaintiff's father engaged lawyers to investigate whether there was a cause of action against the doctor who managed the plaintiff's birth and/or the hospital. The lawyers obtained an expert opinion on the management of the labour and delivery, which did not identify any injury to the plaintiff during that period and did not criticise the medical care provided. The father accordingly decided not to pursue the claim.

An opinion from another expert was obtained after the limitation period expired. The new expert concluded that the plaintiff's hypoxia *had* occurred during labour and delivery.

The Court granted an extension of time to sue the hospital/doctors, on the basis that a the plaintiff's father was not aware of the physical cause of the plaintiff's injury until he received the second report. This was upheld on appeal.

United Kingdom

31 March 2015 - *TRUST A v X* [2015] EWHC 922 (Fam)

'D' is a 15 year old child with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome and Tourette's Syndrome. In March 2012 he was referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services because of his challenging behaviours at home (including physical/verbal aggression). On 15 October 2013, D was admitted to 'Hospital B'. D remains at Hospital B to date, pursuant to his parents' consent.

The Hospital Trust submitted that D's parents could not consent to his placement at Hospital B because such a decision falls outside the 'zone of parental responsibility.'

The Court considered whether D's parents' consent to his placement at Hospital B come within the exercise of parental responsibility. In other words, are D's parents able to consent to what would otherwise amount to a deprivation of liberty? If not, should the court exercise its powers under the inherent jurisdiction to consider declaring that the deprivation of liberty of D at Hospital is lawful and in his best interests?

The Court was satisfied that the circumstances in which D is accommodated would amount to a deprivation of liberty but for his parents' consent to his placement there.

The Court considered that keeping D under constant supervision and control is the proper exercise of parental responsibility, and that there was no justification for the State interfering with the right of D's parents to make informed decisions about their son's care and living arrangements.

Federal Court of Australia

8 April 2015 - *Stanford v DePuy International Ltd (No 3)* 2015 FCA 325

Evidence – admissibility – paragraphs of affidavit analysing medical data – underlying data not provided – fairness to other parties – statutory prohibition on disclosure of certain information – exception where information does not identify, either expressly or by implication, a particular individual or individuals – meaning of 'individual'.

New South Wales (NSW)

30 March 2015 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Epstein \[2015\] NSWCATOD 21](#)

Administrative law – *Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013* (NSW) – Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. Where asserted practitioner is guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct in treating patients for whom anabolic steroids were prescribed – whether practitioner’s treatment in accordance with therapeutic standard and appropriate in circumstances. Where practitioner failed to keep adequate medical records – where practitioner failed to report to referring doctors – where practitioner did not carry out physical examinations of patients – where asserted practitioner prescribed for anabolic steroid abusers – where practitioner treated close relative. HELD Unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct established.

7 April 2015 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Chau \[2015\] NSWCATOD 25](#)

Pharmacist – Unprofessional Conduct, Professional Misconduct, Pseudoephedrine, Anabolic Steroids, Testosterone, Nandrolone, Non-Therapeutic Purposes, Mentoring Programme.

8 April 2015 - [Rahman v Medical Board of Australia - \[2015\] NSWCATOD 26](#)

Medical Practitioner- continual failure to pass examination required for continuation of limited registration- HELD appeal against refusal to renew limited registration allowed.

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

9 April 2015 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical Benefits\) \(Conditions of approval for approved pharmacists\) Amendment Determination 2015 \(PB 24 of 2015\)](#).

9 April 2015 - [National Health \(Medication chart prescription trial hospital\) Declaration 2015 \(PB 22 of 2015\)](#).

1 April 2015 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program for hospitals\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2015 \(PB 30 of 2015\)](#).

1 April 2015 - [Health Insurance \(IncobotulinumtoxinA\) Determination 2015](#).

Tasmania

26 March 2015 - [Public Health \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2015](#).

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

2 April 2015 - [Mental Health funding confirmed](#) - Mental health services will have their funding renewed in a move to give them certainty, Minister for Health Sussan Ley has announced.

2 April 2015 - [Support for women leaders in sport](#) - More than 700 women from 31 different sports will be supported to reach their leadership potential through the Federal Government’s Women Leaders in Sport (WLIS) programme.

1 April 2015 - [\\$75 million for new medicine subsidies](#) - The Australian Government has announced a further \$75 million commitment to list three new drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

1 April 2015 - [AFL Anti-Doping Tribunal](#) - Australia is a proud sporting nation. With that comes high expectations athletes will not only compete, but compete fairly.

1 April 2015 - [Appointment of new ICT provider for Health](#) - The Department has signed a five-year deal with Datacom to provide ICT infrastructure and support services.

1 April 2015 - [Re-Establishment of Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Service in Moree](#) - The Australian Government is supporting much-needed drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in Moree.

31 March 2015 - [Alcohol and drug treatment funding extended](#) - Alcohol and drug treatment organisations which receive funding from the Australian Government will have their funding extended until 30 June 2016.

29 March 2015 - [Update on Australian Assistance to Vanuatu](#) - The Australian Government will continue to consult with the Government of Vanuatu on their ongoing needs in the wake of tropical Cyclone Pam.

28 March 2015 - [International recognition for Australian health centres](#) - Four Australian health centres have been recognised as being among the best in the world for improving patient care through medical research.

Private Health insurance (PHI) Circulars

30 March 2015 - [PHI 19/15 New Private Same-Day Hospital Information](#)

27 March 2015 - [PHI 18/15 New Version \(version 1.11.0.4\) of Check-IT 2 Released](#)

[Australia. Department of Social Services](#)

7 April 2015 - [Latest update on the Processing of 2013-14 NRAS Incentive Claims](#) - The Department is providing regular updates on the progress of processing 2013-14 NRAS incentive claims.

2 April 2015 - [Major milestone for My Aged Care](#) - On 2 April 2015, the Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator Mitch Fifield, announced the tender results for home support assessment providers.

1 April 2015 - [Information for Family Day Care services applying for the Community Support Programme \(CSP\)](#) - Family Day Care services can apply for CSP funding for next financial year (2015-16) from 1 April 2015.

31 March 2015 - [Analysis of Dementia Programmes](#) - The Australian Government has engaged KPMG to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of current dementia programmes administered by the Department of Social Services.

[Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(AHPRA\) and the boards](#)

30 March 2015 - The Medical Radiation Practice Board invites applications from experienced medical radiation practitioners interested in appointment as a content writer for the National Examination Committee (the Committee). [Read full article](#)

27 March 2015 - [Improving monitoring of conditions on practitioner registration](#) AHPRA has welcomed calls for stringent monitoring and swift detection of breaches in compliance by registered health practitioners with restrictions on their registration. [Read full article](#)

16 March 2015 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué. [Read full article](#)

9 April 2015 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué. [Read full article](#)

17 March 2015 - [Communique from the Board](#) - The Chiropractic Board of Australia releases its latest communique. [Read full article](#)

17 March 2015 - [Communique](#) - The Dental Board of Australia releases its latest communique. [Read full article](#)

27 March 2015 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Medical Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter. [Read full article](#)

24 March 2015 - [Board commissions research on revalidation](#) - The Medical Board of Australia has commissioned international research into revalidation, or ways to make sure doctors keep their skills up to date throughout their professional lives. [Read full article](#)

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

28 March 2015 - **New centres foster better health through research translation** - Four Australian health centres have been recognised as being amongst the world's best for using medical research to improve patient care. The Minister for Health, Sussan Ley today announced all four as the first ever National Health and Medical Research Council Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres, following assessment by an international panel of experts. The Centres include hospitals, universities and medical research institutes collaborating together to foster research translation. 'Research translation involves taking the findings of the thousands of experiments, reviews and articles published every day, and applying that knowledge to improve patient treatment as quickly as possible,' NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson said.

27 March 2015 - **Public consultation opens on draft Principles and guidelines for the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes** - The National Health and Medical Research Council has today opened public consultation on the draft *Principles and guidelines for the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes*. The document provides advice on best practice for the care and use of non-human primates and is intended to be read in conjunction with the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (8th edition, 2013). NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson said the document plays an important role in ensuring that high standards are applied to all aspects of the care and use of non-human primates in research. 'Non-human primates are our closest genetic relatives. Consequently, they can have a valuable role to play in scientific research, but for the same reason, their use requires especially rigorous scrutiny by animal ethics committees and regulators,' Professor Anderson said.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

8 April 2015 - **TGA reforms: A blueprint for TGA's future: Progress report as at 31 December 2014** - The fifth six monthly progress report on reforms to the TGA to ensure that it remains adaptable to community and industry expectations.

8 April 2015 - **Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medical Devices (ACSMD)** - Four new members appointed to ACSMD.

7 April 2015 - **Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs)** - The non-proprietary name for efralotocog alfa has changed to efmoroctocog afla. Added Bevacizumab (Avastin), Tofacitinib (as citrate) (Xeljanz).

7 April 2015 - **Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs** - Added Chlormethine (Valchlor).

7 April 2015 - **Submissions and TGA response: Menaquinone 7: Draft compositional guideline** - The proposed revision of the compositional guideline for Menaquinone 7 will no longer proceed.

2 April 2015 - **Gold Viagra tablets (packaged as 'Kangaroo Sexually Invigorating Essence')** - Safety advisory.

2 April 2015 - **Gold Viagra capsules** - Safety advisory.

2 April 2015 - **Enhanced Vegetal Vigra capsules** - Safety advisory.

2 April 2015 - **Guidance 15: Biopharmaceutic studies** - Minor text update.

2 April 2015 - **Compositional guideline: Squid oil** - Current compositional guideline for squid oil.

2 April 2015 - **Submissions and TGA response: Squid oil: Draft compositional guideline** - Summary of the submission received and TGA response.

2 April 2015 - **Consultation: Invitation for public comment - ACMS meeting, July 2015** - The Invitation for public comment - Public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard (Medicines), April 2015 is now available. Closing date: 7 May 2015

1 April 2015 - **Medicines Safety Update, Volume 6, Number 2, April 2015** - In this issue: 2015 seasonal influenza vaccines; Agomelatine (Valdoxan) - monitoring of liver function; Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and diclofenac reviews.

31 March 2015 - [Half-yearly performance reports - July to December 2014](#) - Statistical report on TGA's performance in pre- and post-market activities between July to December 2014.

31 March 2015 - [TGA presentations given at the ARCS RMP workshop, 12 March 2015](#) - These presentations provided an update on the Risk Management Plans and pharmacovigilance.

31 March 2015 - [LCS Complete RPS Knee System \(used in knee replacements\)](#) - Safety alert - higher than expected revision rate when used without patella resurfacing.

27 March 2015 - [Reasons for the scheduling delegate's final decisions, March 2015 \(Chemicals\)](#) - Reasons for decisions by the Delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Health for amendments to the Poisons Standard.

27 March 2015 - [Medical devices and IVDs: Cancellations from the ARTG](#) - Details of products cancelled from the ARTG.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

9 April 2015 - [National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data \(NOPSAD\) collection 2014–15 web release](#).

25 March 2015 - [Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease—Australian facts: risk factors](#).

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

7 April 2015 - On the Radar – Issue 217.

30 March 2015 - On the Radar – Issue 216.

Australian National Audit Office

10 March 2015 - [Electronic Health Records for Defence Personnel](#).

5 March 2015 - [Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement](#).

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

31 March 2015 - [Mindframe initiative vital in supporting responsible reporting of mental illness and suicide](#) - The National Mental Health Commission reiterates its support for the Mindframe National Media Initiative and its role in supporting the responsible reporting of mental illness and suicide in Australia. Mindframe provides access to up-to-date, evidence-based information to support the reporting, portrayal and communication about suicide and mental illness.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

7 April 2015 - [Free Whooping Cough vaccination program to protect newborn babies](#) - All pregnant women in their third trimester in the ACT will have access to a free antenatal pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination, Minister for Health Simon Corbell announced today. The introduction of the ACT Government funded program follows an update to the 10th Edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook on 27 March 2015 that recommended pertussis vaccination in the third trimester of pregnancy. The vaccination should be administered at 28 weeks of pregnancy, or as soon as possible after, up until delivery. 'It is important for mothers to have the vaccine in every pregnancy to ensure maximum protection to every infant, even if pregnancies are closely spaced,' Mr Corbell said. 'The vaccination of pregnant women is shown to be effective in preventing pertussis disease, commonly known as whooping cough, in newborn infants via the transfer of protection from mother to the unborn child.'

2 April 2015 - [Community action to drive family violence law reforms](#) - The ACT Government will embark on a major family violence legislative reform program that will address the recommendations from the Australia Law Reform Commission's Family Violence – A National Legal Response, Attorney-General Simon Corbell announced today. Proposed legislation later this year to introduce strangulation as an offence and also allow prosecutors to use victims' initial statements to police as evidence will complement reforms already implemented and others being considered for early next year. Mr Corbell, who will address the Domestic Violence Prevention Council extraordinary meeting today, said the government and the community were united in the fight against domestic and family violence, including sexual assault.

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Policy Directives & Guidelines

30 March 2015 - [Pension Based Scale of Fees - Charging Arrangements and Scale of Fees](#).

Information Bulletins

1 April 2015 - [Notification of Obsolete Policy Directive - PD2005_593 \(NSW Health Privacy Manual\)](#).

Northern Territory. Department of Health

7 April 2015 - [New \\$5 million health training facility for Alice Springs](#) - The Northern Territory Government will this year construct a \$5 million training and teaching facility in Alice Springs, Minister for Health John Elferink said today.

1 April 2015 - [Telehealth helping connect remote patients to quality healthcare services](#) - More than 380 remote patients have accessed specialist medical services while also avoiding long distance travel under the Northern Territory Government's Telehealth pilot project, since it began mid-last year.

Queensland. Department of Health

9 April 2015 - [Statement on 2015 influenza vaccine availability](#) - The Department of Health distributes the influenza vaccine as part of the nationally-funded Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program. Generally the program commences 15 March each year. However, the 2015 program is scheduled to begin on 20 April 2015. The main reason for the later start in 2015 is because there are two strain changes from the 2014 vaccine in this year's southern hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine.

7 April 2015 - [World Health Day 2015 - food safety first](#) - In Australia there are at least 4.1 million cases of gastro each year, with thousands of Queenslanders suffering from foodborne illness caused by contaminated food. Health Protection Unit Executive Director Sophie Dwyer says with figures like this, it's no surprise that this year's World health Day is focussed on food safety. 'Food safety is clearly a worldwide concern—over 200 diseases are caused by unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, parasites, viruses or chemical substances,' Ms Dwyer said. 'On average, there are more than 230,000 cases of Campylobacter and 55,000 cases of Salmonella in Australia each year.'

4 April 2015 - [Whooping cough vaccine not running out in Queensland](#) - Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said today there is no shortage of vaccines for the state's pertussis (whooping cough) immunisation programs for children and pregnant women. Following today's media reports of a shortage in Queensland, Dr Young moved quickly to reassure people that there was no danger of running out of vaccines. 'Although there is a worldwide shortage of the vaccine, our immunisation programs for children and pregnant women are not experiencing shortfalls,' Dr Young said. 'Queensland uses a different brand of the vaccine for the pregnancy program to the one in short supply, so there is no issue at all for the state's pregnant women and their babies.'

27 March 2015 - [New PalAssist helpline picks up 24/7](#) - A Queensland palliative care helpline is now available to patients, families and carers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Queensland Health has funded the Cancer Council Queensland to provide the helpline over the next three years. Queensland's palliative care helpline, now PalAssist, has extended its service hours from the previously offered 9am to 5pm, five days a week. The extended service will provide empathetic and accurate information, referral, advice and psychological support for people with a life limiting or terminal illness or condition and their families and carers.

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

8 April 2015 - [Second round of payments as outreach recovery centres go live](#) - Families and individuals whose homes and properties were damaged in the Sampson Flat bushfire will soon receive donations as part of the second round of State Emergency Relief Fund distributions.

2 April 2015 - [EPAS update](#) - The stabilisation phase for SA Health's EPAS (Enterprise Patient Administration System) program has been completed and plans to implement EPAS at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital are being developed. EPAS provides doctors, nurses and allied health staff with real-time access to comprehensive patient information at the bedside and other points of care. SA Health's

Chief Executive, David Swan, said the EPAS Program has successfully completed a period of stabilisation, which had involved reviewing and resolving a number of key issues.

1 April 2015 - **Rural GP agreement improvements** - Country Health SA has today announced improvements to the Standard Rural GP agreement. Country Health SA Chief Executive Officer Maree Geraghty said the improved Rural GP Agreement has been endorsed by the Australian Medical Association, SA Branch. 'The Standard Rural GP agreement is key to ensuring high quality health care in the 64 country hospitals located across our state,' Maree Geraghty said. 'Since announcing the new agreement in late 2014 we have received important feedback from rural GPs about how the contract can better meet their needs. 'One of the key changes we will be making as a result of this feedback is the introduction of a three per cent fee increase when doctors provide a number of emergency and after hours' services.'

1 April 2015 - **Fight falls this April** - South Australians are encouraged to become a 'spotter' to help prevent elderly friends and relatives from being injured in a fall, as part of Falls Awareness Month this April. SA's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paddy Phillips said a 'spotter' plays an important role in looking out for signs of falling and risk factors and assisting their loved one to seek further help. 'Last year more than 17,000 people were admitted to a public hospital because they were injured after a fall.' This figure is more than ten times the number of people admitted to hospital for motor vehicle injuries.

31 March 2015 - **4 more rural communities to receive child care services** - A successful child care program that supports South Australian families living in rural communities will be rolled out to four new locations this month.

30 March 2015 - **Greater protection for people with an intellectual disability or cognitive impairment** - People living with cognitive impairment will be better protected from sexual exploitation under new laws that come into effect today.

30 March 2015 - **Teething gel warning after poison notifications nearly triple in five years** - Parents are being reminded to take care when using teething gel on young children, following an increase in the number of cases of accidental misuse over the last five years. Acting Health Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said the Poisons Information Centre responded to 51 calls from South Australian parents about teething gels in 2014, compared to 19 in 2009. 'Teething gels are commonly used by parents to provide relief to their child from teething pain, but it's important to make sure they are being used correctly,' Mr Hamilton-Smith said. "Some teething gels contain a local anaesthetic called lignocaine, which while not harmful in small doses, can cause serious side effects such as seizures, respiratory complications and cardiac arrest if too much is ingested.

29 March 2015 - **New dental clinic at Peterborough Hospital** - A new private clinic has opened at Peterborough Hospital providing the mid-north with much needed access to oral services and care.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

8 April 2015 - **National Ice Action Strategy** - Michael Ferguson welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to develop a National Ice Action Strategy in consultation with states and territories.

2 April 2015 - **Leadership changes in the health system** - Mr Matthew Daly has announced that he will leave his position as acting CEO of THO South at the end of this month

1 April 2015 - **New Hope for Young North-West Mums** - A generous act of philanthropy is offering hope for homeless and at-risk young mothers in North-West Tasmania

1 April 2015 - **LGH to play a vital role in rebuilding the health system** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to fixing our broken health system. The draft White Paper outlines a proposed system redesign

31 March 2015 - **Labor leader at odds with his party over health reform** - The Labor Party needs to clarify where they stand on health reform. Are they behind their health spokesperson,

30 March 2015 - **Exposure Draft of the White Paper** - The Exposure Draft of the White Paper outlines a series of proposals that taken together will help to deliver better health outcomes to the Tasmanian community that will deliver improved safety and quality of services, greater efficiency and improved patient

support to enable better access to services. Redesign of the health system will ensure that we spend the existing health dollar more efficiently.

Victoria. Department of Health

10 April 2015 - **Infectious Disease Treatment Improved For Prisoners** - The number of prisoners assessed and treated for hepatitis C will soar under a new \$2.2 million health program funded by the Andrews Labor Government. A statewide network of hepatitis clinics will be established at every Victorian prison to ensure up to 280 prisoners are treated.

8 April 2015 - **Premier Welcomes National Ice Taskforce** - Ice is ruining Australian lives and the time to act is now. Recently, I released Victoria's Ice Action Plan – our landmark, \$45.5 million effort to reduce the supply, demand and harm of a drug that hurts users, workers and families alike.

8 April 2015 - **Independent Expert Appointed To Work With Costerfield** - The Andrews Labor Government has appointed an expert independent facilitator to consult with Costerfield residents over antimony health concerns, and prepare a report on the local environment. Minister for Energy and Resources, Lily D'Ambrosio, and Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, today visited Costerfield to introduce Mr Nigel McGuckian to residents.

8 April 2015 - **Plans Start On New Warrnambool Mental Health Service** - Minister for Mental Health, Martin Foley, today announced that Bamford Architects has been appointed to plan a new short-stay service to support people with a mental illness in Warrnambool. The capital consultants have been engaged to plan, design and oversee construction of South West Healthcare's \$4.3 million new Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) facility.

7 April 2015 - **Victoria Serves Up Food Safety Tips For World Health Day** - Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy and Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford today marked World Health Day at the Collingwood Children's Farm, reminding Victorian families about the importance of food safety. This year's World Health Day theme is 'From farm to plate, make food safe'.

2 April 2015 - **Issues Paper To Assist Royal Commission Submissions** - Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson, has welcomed the release of an issues paper from the Royal Commission into Family Violence, which will assist individuals and organisations to lodge written submissions.

1 April 2015 - **Travis Review Interim Report Released** - The Premier and Minister for Health today joined surgeon and former AMA Victoria President Dr Doug Travis, as he released the Interim Report into his review of Victoria's public hospitals. Despite promising 800 new hospital beds, the former Liberal Government failed to deliver.

31 March 2015 - **New Asbestos Guidelines To Protect Workers** - The Andrews Labor Government welcomes WorkSafe's release of new guidelines to assist workers who are removing or replacing asbestos-cement pipes. The new guidelines are clear – any asbestos waste created by pipeline removal or replacement must be disposed of in accordance with occupational health and safety regulations.

Significant Facility Refurbishment & Better Business, Better Care Initiatives March 2015 – Applications now open

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

9 April 2015 - **Retinal research earns Siobhan public health honour** - WA health researcher and Data Linkage Branch team member Siobhan Manners has been awarded the Department of Health Prize for Honours Dissertation in Public Health.

9 April 2015 - **Healthcare workers urged to keep a clean pair of hands** - Healthcare workers in Western Australia are being urged to maintain their excellent hand hygiene performance and push for even higher levels in the coming years.

9 April 2015 - **Have your say on mosquito control in online survey** - WA Health is conducting an online survey to give residents living along Perth's Swan and Canning Rivers an opportunity to have their say on a proposal to use helicopters to control mosquito breeding in local wetlands.

8 April 2015 - **New midwifery service for expectant mothers in Armadale** - Expectant mothers in the Armadale and surrounding areas have a new public midwifery service offering them great continuity of care.

3 April 2015 - **Australian Bureau of Statistics takes snapshot of nation's diet** - The Australian Health Survey is the most comprehensive health survey ever conducted in Australia and shows what Australians are eating and in what quantities.

2 April 2015 - **Shellfish health warning for the Murray River, Pinjarra and Peel-Harvey Estuary** - The Department of Health is reminding people not to eat shellfish collected from the wild – within the Murray River, near Pinjarra and the Peel-Harvey Estuary (south of Mandurah).

31 March 2015 - **Australian first as WA Health launches new online complaints service** - A new website for collecting and collating complaints has been unveiled by the Acting Director General.

30 March 2015 - **Minister for Health: New midwifery service launched in Armadale** - A new midwifery service, giving expectant mothers a choice to be cared for by the same midwife throughout their pregnancy and postnatal care, will be launched in Armadale today.

28 March 2015 - **Minister for Health: Higher and higher – awards finalists announced** - Western Australia's nurses and midwives will be honoured in May at the 2015 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards, marking the eleventh year the awards have been held.

Operational Directives

2 April 2015 - **IC 0219/15** - Public Service and Government Officers General Agreement 2014 - Variation - PSGOGA - Variation to a number of minor typographical errors.

New Zealand (NZ). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

2 April 2015 - **First shipment of flu vaccines being rolled out** - The first shipment of this year's funded influenza vaccine has arrived and is being distributed to general practices this week, says Dr Don Mackie, Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health

Publications

2 April 2015 - **Hospital visits in advanced age: Findings from LiLACS NZ** - This is a short report about hospital visits among people in advanced age using findings from the Life and Living in Advanced Age Cohort Study (LiLACS NZ).

31 March 2015 - **The Concise New Zealand Food Composition Tables, 11th edition** - The Concise Tables contain data for 34 nutrients and around 1013 commonly consumed foods from the New Zealand Food Composition Database.

30 March 2015 - **Medication use and perceptions of GP care in advanced age: Findings from LiLACS NZ** - Medication use and perceptions of GP care in advanced age: Findings from LiLACS NZ presents key findings about the use of prescribed medications, medication aids, and the perception of GP services for Māori (aged 80 to 90 years) and non-Māori (aged 85 years)

27 March 2015 - **Rural Agricultural Drinking-water Supply Guideline** - Submissions on the Ministry of Health's draft Rural Agricultural Drinking-water Supply Guideline closed in late September 2013. The release of this document represents the final version of the Rural Agricultural Drinking-water Supply Guideline.

27 March 2015 - **Partner Abuse Assessment and Response Flowchart** - A flowchart showing the process for assessing patients for partner abuse.

United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health (DH)

- 9 April 2015 - [Leaflet and poster on National Health Service \(NHS\) dental services.](#)
- 28 March 2015 - [GP evening and weekend appointments to increase.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [DH workforce information: 2015.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [Services for women and girls with FGM.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [Safeguarding women and girls at risk of FGM.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [Safer care for patients.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [Flu plan: winter 2015 to 2016.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [Flu immunisation for primary school children: advice for headteachers.](#)
- 27 March 2015 - [Government response to HSC report on NHS complaints.](#)

United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- 2 April 2015 - [Online tools and resources available to help states use health IT to improve health care quality and lower cost.](#)
- 31 March 2015 - [HHS contracts to develop new Ebola drug.](#)

British Medical Association (BMA)

- 9 April 2015 - [Rise in delays to patients leaving hospital.](#)
- 9 April 2015 - [Number of GPs falls.](#)
- 9 April 2015 - [GP practices 'close to breaking point'.](#)
- 9 April 2015 - [BMA seeks to explore the future of end-of-life care.](#)
- 7 April 2015 - [Minimum unit price 'victory'.](#)
- 1 April 2015 - [NHS surcharge angers visa doctors.](#)
- 31 March 2015 - [Mentor numbers soar after BMA action.](#)

ABOUT US

Caroline Atkins



Caroline Atkins is the Office Managing Partner for the Canberra office of DLA Piper and has worked extensively in the health sector for Australian Government agencies. Her experience includes the conduct of major technology projects for the health sector, such as in the e-health and aged care sectors, and in advising the Commonwealth on the implementation of policy programs in contractual arrangements (including for medical indemnity insurance and for CSO arrangements for PBS funding). She has also advised the National Blood Authority on major Commonwealth contracts for the supply of blood products including with the Red Cross and CSL. Caroline's commercial experience extends over 30 years and also includes significant experience in ICT outsourcing, whole-of-government technology procurements, intellectual property rights licensing, contract management, procurement strategy and dispute resolution.

Contact Details

T +61 2 6201 8789

caroline.atkins@dlapiper.com

MORE INFORMATION

Contact your nearest DLA Piper office:

BRISBANE

Level 29, Waterfront Place
1 Eagle Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
T +61 7 3246 4000
F +61 7 3229 4077
brisbane@dlapiper.com

CANBERRA

Level 3, 55 Wentworth Avenue
Kingston ACT 2604
T +61 2 6201 8787
F +61 2 6230 7848
canberra@dlapiper.com

MELBOURNE

Level 21, 140 William Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T +61 3 9274 5000
F +61 3 9274 5111
melbourne@dlapiper.com

PERTH

Level 31, Central Park
152–158 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
T +61 8 6467 6000
F +61 8 6467 6001
perth@dlapiper.com

SYDNEY

Level 22, No.1 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
T +61 2 9286 8000
F +61 2 9286 8007
sydney@dlapiper.com

www.dlapiper.com

DLA Piper is a global law firm operating through various separate and distinct legal entities.

For further information, please refer to www.dlapiper.com

Copyright © 2015 DLA Piper. All rights reserved.

If you would like to reproduce any of this publication, please contact Michael Regos on +61 3 9274 5437 or michael.regos@dlapiper.com.

[Doc ID]