



HEALTH ALERT

15 May 2017

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JUDGMENTS

Key Decisions

11 May 2017 - [Re: Application for a New Award for Patient Transport Officers \[2017\] NSWIRComm 1024](#)

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE – application for award in context of dispute – power to make award in resolution of dispute – award made APPLICATION FOR NEW AWARD – principles – fair and reasonable terms of employment – changes in work arrangements can render a fair award unfair in application – award may become unfair because it does not contemplate new situation arising from change WAGE FIXATION PRINCIPLES – Principle 8.3 - meaning of ‘substantial’ and ‘significant’ contribution CRIB BREAKS – important amenity – loss of amenity of crib break may attract compensation by way of allowance WAGES AND ALLOWANCES – allowance to compensate for loss of amenity.

The case before the Commission related to an application for an award. The applicant, the Health Services Union of NSW, sought an award which would provide an allowance to be paid to patient transport officers in circumstances where those officers are required to take their paid crib break, a paid meal break, away from their base station. The application arose following changes made by NSW Health to the employment classification of patient transport officers, which led to officers no longer automatically returning to their home station for their break, but could instead be directed to take their break away from their station.

The Commission granted the award. It held that it is fair and reasonable that where an amenity of the crib break is reduced the employee should be compensated for that disadvantage, in order to restore a balance between the entitlements afforded to employees and the interests of the employer. The Commission took into consideration that the change was implemented by the employer for the purpose of improving productivity, and led to the removal of an entitlement the employees previously had. It rejected the employer's submission that the difficulties arising from taking a break in an unfamiliar locations was merely transitional. Thus, it concluded that the variation to the award in this case was appropriate to maintain fair and reasonable conditions of employment.

5 May 2017 - [Inquest into the death of Heather Fotiades \[2017\] NTLC 012](#)

Medical practitioners prescribing high dose opioids for chronic non-cancer pain, addiction, failure of system to identify prescription shopping, failure to taper high doses to safer levels, failure of pain specialist to reduce dose despite unsafe levels and knowledge drugs ineffective in relieving pain, possibly increasing pain.

This Coroner's inquest was into the death of Heather Fotiades, who had suffered chronic pain for which she was prescribed opioids. She subsequently developed an addiction to opioids, and her medical practitioners' attempts to reduce her prescription levels were unsuccessful. She was receiving prescriptions from two practitioners at the same time, which went undetected by her doctors and the Drug Management System overseen by the Department of Health. She died of an unintentional overdose of her prescription medication.

The Coroner was critical of the lack of coordination between her specialists and general practitioners, that could have prevented her foreseeable death. He encouraged doctors to consider their obligations to their patients and how that might be improved by their engagement and collaboration. The Coroner recommended that Health Service Boards provide for collaboration between pain specialists and addiction medicine specialists with the view to ensuring safe use of addictive medications for the control of pain.

The Coroner also acknowledged the failures of the regulatory system in prescription overdose cases. In the Northern Territory, Schedule 8 drugs are recorded in the Drug Monitoring System, however, the system takes 14 days for information to be entered. The Coroner recommended that the Government implement real time monitoring of Schedule 8 drugs as soon as possible. He also emphasised the need for States and Territories to make significant improvements to their systems to ensure that high risk and inappropriate prescribing is quickly detected.

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

8 May 2017 - [Fit to Live Pty Ltd T/A Back In Motion Seville Grove \[2017\] FWCA 2517](#)

Application for approval of the Back In Motion Health Group - Back in Motion Seville Grove Enterprise Agreement 2017.

8 May 2017 - [Andrew Portelli v Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd T/A Baxter Healthcare \[2017\] FWC 2523](#)

Application for costs - Fair Work Act 2009 ss.400A and 611 - Whether application made vexatiously or without reasonable cause.

11 May 2017 - [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \[2017\] FWCA 2601](#)

Application for approval of the ANMF (Victorian Branch) (Staff and Council) Enterprise Agreement 2016-2020.

10 May 2017 - [Ramsay Health Care Australia Pty. Ltd. T/A Greenslopes Private Hospital \[2017\] FWCA 2564](#)

Application for approval of the Greenslopes Private Hospital, Nurses, Midwives and the Queensland Nurses' Union of Employees Enterprise Agreement 2016 - 2019.

New South Wales

9 May 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Huber NSWCATOD 68](#)

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT – Medical Practitioner – Adequacy of practitioner's care and treatment of the patient for excessive use of alcohol and drugs – adequacy of prescribing practices in relation to Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 drugs – invitation to patient to move into his home – patient moves into home – social and sexual relationship – violation of professional boundaries – finding of professional misconduct – appropriate orders.

9 May 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Dr Safi \(No2\) \[2017\] NSWCATOD 69](#)

Medical practitioner-internal vaginal examination-held carried out in part constituting misconduct of a sexual nature-finding of professional misconduct-stood over for stage 2 hearing to determine protective orders.

10 May 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Paris-Browne \[2017\] NSWCATOD 70](#)

PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE – Medical Profession – Misconduct in antenatal care of patient with severe pre-eclampsia – Practitioner has now surrendered registration – Finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct – Reprimand – Fine.

Northern Territory

30 March 2017 - [Inquest into the death of Irene Magriplis \[2017\] NTLC 008](#)

High risk elective surgery, inadequate medical treatment, inadequate resources at Darwin Private Hospital, inadequate escalation procedure, no internal review, referral to Medical Board.

Tasmania

8 May 2017 - [Record of Investigation into Death \(With Inquest\) of Pamela McCall TASCD 173](#)

Prescription medication, overdose, Dr Stephen Bennett, prescribing, panadeine forte, mixed drug and alcohol toxicity, paracetamol, propranolol, mental health issue.

LEGISLATION

As a general rule, this bulletin tracks subsidiary legislation at Commonwealth, but not at state level

Commonwealth

- 11 May 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Data Provision\) Rules 2017](#) - F2017L00520 as made.
- 10 May 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Things that are Biologicals\) Specification 2017 \(No.1\)](#) - F2017L00511 as made.
- 10 May 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Manufacturing Principles\) Amendment Determination 2017 \(No. 1\)](#) - F2017L00509.
- 8 May 2017 - [Declaration of Quality Assurance Activity under section 124X of the Health Insurance Act 1973 – QAA 2/2017](#) - F2017L00508 as made.
- 5 May 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Health Insurance Business\) Rules 2017](#) - F2017L00504 as made.
- 5 May 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Risk Equalisation Levy\) Rules 2017](#) - F2017L00503 as made.
- 3 May 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Section 3C General Medical Services - Cataract\) Determination 2017](#) - F2017L00497 as made.
- 24 April 2017 - [Declaration of Quality Assurance Activity under section 124X of the Health Insurance Act 1973 – QAA 1/2017](#) - F2017L00491.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Consultation

8 May 2017 - [Development of the Aged Care Diversity Framework](#) - The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, has asked the Department of Health to co-design an Aged Care Diversity Framework (the Framework) by December 2017. To inform development of the Framework the Minister has established an Aged Care Sector Committee Diversity Sub-Group. Providing a response to the Framework is an opportunity to contribute to an area of aged care policy thinking. Closes 19 Jun 2017.

Media releases

12 May 2017 - [Celebrating the Contribution of Our Nurses and Midwives](#) - Between International Day of the Midwife on 5 May and International Nurses Day on 12 May we proudly celebrate the contribution that nurses and midwives make to our community and our health system.

11 May 2017 - [Appointment of Panel to review National Aged Care Quality Regulatory Processes](#) - The Federal Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, announced the two person team who will conduct the independent review on national aged care quality regulatory processes.

11 May 2017 - [Indigenous health programs boost in the Federal Budget](#) - The Australian Government has continued its commitment to provide better health services for Indigenous Australians with a funding boost in the Federal Budget.

11 May 2017 - [Services for older Australians given a boost in Federal Budget](#) - Older Australians will benefit from the Australian Government's 2017-18 Federal Budget with continued funding of \$5.5 billion to extend funding agreements for assistance for people to stay in their own homes.

9 May 2017 **Affix Label Here: Food Allergy Week** Federal Assistant Minister for Health, David Gillespie, encouraged food businesses in Australia to make sure they label their food correctly to minimise the harm and potential fatalities caused by allergic reactions to some ingredients.

6 May 2017 - **Budget to support establishment of world-leading proton beam therapy facility** - The Turnbull Government will provide \$68 million to support the establishment of Australia's first Proton Beam Therapy facility at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute in Adelaide.

5 May 2017 - **Communique: Darwin Roundtable – Suicide Prevention** - A high-level Roundtable discussion, held on May 3 on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide in Darwin, Northern Territory, chaired by Federal Minister for Indigenous Health and Federal Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, emphasised the need for local, Indigenous controlled responses to the escalating rates of suicide in the community.

Private Health insurance Circulars

3 May 2017 - **PHI 20/17 Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Amendment Rules 2017 (No. 3) - update**

28 April 2017 - **PHI 19/17 Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Amendment Rules 2017 (No. 3)**

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards (AHPRA)

12 May 2017 - **Recognising nurses as leading the health of communities** - Today the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia acknowledged International Nurses Day and thanked the nurses of Australia for their contribution to the health of their communities.

10 May 2017 - **Update on outcomes based assessment for internationally qualified nurses and midwives** - The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia today provided an update on the development of an outcomes based assessment for internationally qualified nurses and midwives.

11 May 2017 - **Repeat offender fined** - A man in Western Australia has been convicted of holding himself out as a registered optometrist while not being registered under the National Law for a second time.

11 May 2017 - **AHPRA and Medical Board note Senate report** - Senate Standing Committee on Community affairs report into complaints management.

11 May 2017 - **Update on the investigations into chemotherapy under dosing in South Australia** - A number of investigations have concluded about registered health practitioners in South Australia relating to chemotherapy under dosing.

11 May 2017 - **Communiqué from the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia**

10 May 2017 - **Update on outcomes based assessment for internationally qualified nurses and midwives** - The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia today provided an update on the development of an outcomes based assessment for internationally qualified nurses and midwives.

9 May 2017 - **Communiqué - meeting with the Australian Medical Association on notifications** - Leaders of the Medical Board, AHPRA and the Australian Medical Association met to discuss how notifications are managed in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. See report.

8 May 2017 - **Communiqué from the Chiropractic Board of Australia**

8 May 2017 - **Communiqué from the Podiatry Board of Australia**

5 May 2017 - **Communiqué from the Dental Board of Australia**

5 May 2017 - [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia thanks midwives on International Day of the Midwife](#) - Today the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia acknowledged the International Day of the Midwife and thanked the midwives of Australia for their contribution to the safe care of people and their babies.

5 May 2017 - [Communiqué from the Psychology Board of Australia](#)

5 May 2017 - [Update: Review of Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice](#) - Documents such as registration standards, codes and guidelines are subject to regular review with the review periods advised within the documents. The Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice are due for review.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

11 May 2017 - [Extension to Targeted Call for Research \(TCR\) into Dementia in Indigenous Australians](#) - The opening period for the TCR into Dementia in Indigenous Australians has been extended. Please be advised of the revised dates below (applicable for this call only):

Minimum data due in RGMS – 5:00pm AEST 28 June 2017

Closing date for applications – 5:00pm AEST 12 July 2017

10 May 2017 - [Budget 2017: NHMRC welcomes the first round of expenditure from the Medical Research Future Fund](#) The Australian Government announced the first round of investments from the [Medical Research Future Fund \(MRFF\) in the 2017 Budget \(link is external\)](#). This MRFF funding is in addition to the Australian Government's funding of around \$800m per year to NHMRC for health and medical research.

3 May 2017 - [Report on promoting social and emotional development and wellbeing of infants in pregnancy and the first year of life released today](#) - The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) today released the *Report on the Evidence: promoting social and emotional development and wellbeing of infants in pregnancy and the first year of life* ([Report on the Evidence](#)). It summarises the findings of 51 systematic literature reviews and analyses the types of interventions aimed at promoting infants' and children's social and emotional wellbeing.

5 May 2017 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)

8 May 2017 - [Launch of pilot for data collection of life insurance claims](#) - APRA and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) have today begun the pilot phase of a project to improve public reporting of life insurance claims performance across the industry. This joint APRA and ASIC initiative aims to collect and publish life insurance claims data on a per insurer basis, and include data on claims handling timeframes and dispute levels that will allow for meaningful comparisons of insurer performance and more effectively inform consumers.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

11 May 2017 - [Medtronic SynchroMed II implantable infusion pump](#) - Hazard alert – risk of sudden loss of therapy due to reduced battery performance.

11 May 2017 - [TGA presentations: ARCS Webinar, 26 April 2017](#) - Sessions MMDR Consultation - Strengthening monitoring of medicines in Australia Provisional approval pathway for prescription medicines.

11 May 2017 - [Presentation: MMDR Consultation - Strengthening monitoring of medicines in Australia](#) - This presentation provides an overview of several reform initiatives relevant to the monitoring of medicines in Australia.

11 May 2017 - [Presentation: Provisional approval pathway for prescription medicines](#) - This presentation provides an overview of several reform initiatives relevant to prescription medicines

11 May 2017 - [TGA presentations: CMA Complementary Medicines Regulatory Obligations Seminar, 11 April 2017](#) - TGA presentations given at the Complementary Medicines Australia seminar on the subject of complementary medicines regulation.

11 May 2017 - [TGA presentation: Medicinal Cannabis Health Symposium, 23 March 2017](#) - TGA presentation on approval pathways given at Medicinal Cannabis Health Symposium - March 2017.

10 May 2017 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia](#) - Added registered new chemical entity for May 2017.

10 May 2017 - [Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines](#) - Added registration of new or extended uses of registered medicines.

10 May 2017 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines](#) - Added Deoxycholic acid (Belkyra).

10 May 2017 - [Specifications](#) - Added Therapeutic Goods (Things that are Biologicals) Specification 2017 (No.1).

9 May 2017 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Obeticholic Acid.

8 May 2017 - [Changes to advertising for medicines containing codeine](#) - From 1 February 2018, medicines containing codeine can no longer be advertised to the public.

Australian Digital Health Agency

10 May 2017 - [Budget 2017 - My Health Record](#) - The Australian Government announced that as part of their support for Medicare and medicines, that there will be a continuation and expansion of My Health Record – which will allow individuals to access and control their own medical history and treatments such as medical tests and vaccinations.

2 May 2017 - [New blog post! Innovation is a team sport](#) - In the latest Digital Health Space blog post, David O'Driscoll discusses how consumers are fast shifting towards 'digital first' to manage both their professional and personal lives and how organisations can meet the challenge.

28 April 2017 - [The Clinical Terminology v20170430 April 2017 Release is now available for download](#)

23 April 2017 - [Great health and wellbeing outcomes for Australian children made possible through patient-centred and clinician-friendly digital technologies](#) - New South Wales will lead a new national collaboration to define initiatives of benefit to children's health using digital technologies and platforms. Accessing and sharing information about their children's health is important for all parents.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

5 May 2017 - [New data provides first picture of the use of restraint in mental health facilities](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

8 May 2017 - On the Radar Issue 320 ([PDF 502KB](#)) ([Word 257KB](#))

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

11 May 2017 - [MAYDAYS for Eating Disorders – Answer the Call campaign](#) - The National Mental Health Commission supports the MAYDAYS for Eating Disorders campaign. The national month-long campaign to raise awareness and advocate for improved treatment and support services for eating disorders aims to increase community understanding of the risk factors and impact of eating disorders. The media has a powerful role in increasing community understanding of the risk factors and impact of eating disorders. However, the illnesses can be difficult to accurately and sensitively portray. Certain types of reporting can potentially lead to harmful impacts on those living with or at risk of an eating disorder. MAYDAYS for Eating Disorders encourages the media who may be covering the campaign, or focusing stories on issues related to eating disorders.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

12 May 2017 - **Nominations open for top nurses and midwives** - Outstanding nurses and midwives will be recognised for their tireless work with nominations now open for the fifth annual Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

11 May 2017 - **Cannabis trial for chemotherapy expanded** - The NSW Government is expanding the medicinal cannabis trial for chemotherapy patients to seven more hospitals across NSW.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard announced today that patients at Campbelltown, Concord, Royal North Shore, Calvary Mater Newcastle, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie Base and Wollongong hospitals will be able to take part in the world-first trial for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting using new generation anti-nausea products alongside cannabis products.

8 May 2017 - **Online support to close eating disorder gap** - Minister for Mental Health, Tanya Davies, has today launched two vital online resources, one for people living with or at risk of developing an eating disorder, and a second for their families, friends and carers. Navigating Your Way to Health and Navigating Their Way to Health both include tips on how to access help throughout the eating disorder treatment process, navigate treatment options, and assist carers and friends with information on how to best support their loved one and understand the recovery journey.

Publications

4 May 2017 - **Community Older Peoples' Mental Health Services**

New South Wales Health Care Complaints Commission

12 May 2017 - **Dr Peter Mayne - Unsatisfactory professional conduct**

12 May 2017 - **Dr Miodrag Huber - Professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct**

11 May 2017 - **Ms Nadeja Ovchinnikov - Unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct**

11 May 2017 - **RNs Abraham Thomas and Donna Hayden, and Ms Julie Rumble - Unsatisfactory professional conduct**

4 May 2017 - **Mr Sean Kirsten - Prohibition order imposed**

4 May 2017 - **Dr Samson Sing Hon Chan - Professional misconduct**

13 April 2017 - **Dr Elvin Suet Pang Cheng - Professional misconduct**

10 April 2017 - **Mr Harald (Harry) Mayr - Professional misconduct**

7 April 2017 - **Dr Aamer Sultan - Unsatisfactory professional conduct**

Northern Territory. Department of Health

5 May 2017 - **Celebrating Territory Midwives** - The Territory Labor Government is pleased to announce the finalists for this year's Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles says it is especially wonderful to make the announcement on the International Day of the Midwife.

Queensland. Department of Health

12 May 2017 - **Celebrating International Nurses Day** - The Palaszczuk Government has welcomed International Nurses Day as an opportunity for all Queenslanders to acknowledge and celebrate the profession of nursing.

10 May 2017 - **Turnbull Govt mixes up its geography with new medical school** - Malcolm Turnbull's budget has abandoned a Sunshine Coast-based medical school, funding an entirely new medical school on the NSW Central Coast while continuing to ignore Queensland's request for 15 Commonwealth-supported medical places on the Sunshine Coast.

10 May 2017 - **Queenslanders to wait longer for health treatment in forgotten Budget** - Queenslanders will wait longer for treatment at public hospital emergency departments thanks to last night's Federal Budget which forgot Queensland and failed to deliver the state its fair share of health funding.

10 May 2017 - **Four tools to help you take control of your depression or anxiety** - In Australia, depression and anxiety are common mental illnesses. One in five Australians will experience depression in their lifetime, but statistics also show that it can take months or years before they'll search out help for their condition.

9 May 2017 - **Mareeba residents to cast a wary eye on Canberra tonight** - Mareeba residents will tonight cast a wary eye on Canberra in the hope that Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison restores the \$2.1M funding the Turnbull Government has ripped out of Mareeba Hospital's budget.

9 May 2017 - **Queenslanders cast a wary eye on Canberra tonight** - Queenslanders will tonight cast a wary eye on Canberra as they wait to see if Treasurer Scott Morrison takes another axe to vital health services as part of his plan to balance the books.

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

10 May 2017 - **Royal Adelaide Hospital volunteers take first look at new home** - The Royal Adelaide Hospital's much loved volunteer group have had their first look at their new home today, taking a tour of the state-of-the-art new hospital with Minister for Health Jack Snelling.

5 May 2017 - **Minister unveils Noarlunga upgrade** - The Labor State Government's \$12 million upgrade of Noarlunga Hospital is officially complete, with Southern residents of all ages to benefit from the improvement.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

11 May 2017 - **Tasmanian tradition of generosity abounds at Royal Hobart Hospital** - National Volunteer Week is a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the significant contribution of volunteers towards the care and comfort of patients, staff and visitors at the Royal Hobart Hospital, The Hodgman Liberal Government thanks the team at the Royal Hobart Hospital Volunteer Service. It's one of the proudest and strongest workforces in Tasmania and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

10 May 2017 - **Midwives and nurses recognised** - Today I joined midwives and nurses to recognise the International Day of the Midwife (May 5) and International Nurses Day (May 12).

8 May 2017 **Jane Holden** The Government welcomes the court's decision today regarding legal action taken by Jane Holden. This is a good outcome for taxpayers, noting that Ms Holden has also been ordered to pay the Government's costs.

Victoria. Department of Health

12 May 2017 - **Monash Telehealth Links Top Kids Surgeons To Gippsland** - Doctors treating the sickest children in Gippsland will now have a direct video link to world leading experts in paediatric care thanks to Victorian-first telehealth technology at the newly opened Monash Children's Hospital.

8 May 2017 - **More Mental Health And Drug Support For Ballarat** - More mental health and alcohol and other drugs support will be available in Ballarat with two additional services set to roll out. The existing Community Care Unit in Stawell St will become a new 18-20 drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility to service the Grampians region.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

10 May 2017 - **Better support for families with new child health program** - WA Health is changing its child health program to better meet the needs of Western Australian children and their families.

9 May 2017 - **WA's Patient Blood Management Program attracts worldwide attention** - A Western Australia study shows a world-first, systemwide patient blood management program was associated with improved patient survival.

8 May 2017 - **Graylands nurse wins WA's top nursing honour** - A nurse dedicated to holistically improving the health of inpatients at Graylands Hospital has been awarded Western Australia's 2017 Nurse/Midwife of the Year.

Publications

1 May 2017 - **Healthview**

New Zealand (NZ). Ministry of Health

12 May 2017 - **National Radiation Oncology Plan 2017 to 2021** - The plan sets out a range of actions to improve radiation oncology services from 2017 to 2021.

10 May 2017 - **Dementia: Supplementary Findings from LiLACS NZ for Section Five, 'Service Use and Common Health Conditions' in the report 'Health, Independence and Caregiving in Advanced Age'** - This report aims to establish how the presence of dementia affects Māori and non-Māori, and the services they use when the dementia patients also have cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease and diabetes mellitus.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

9 May 2017 - **Farewell Freeze - Government Wins Back Goodwill With Positive Health Measures** - AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said tonight that the Government has begun to win back much of the goodwill it lost with the disastrous 2014 Health Budget with the announcement of a number of positive health measures, most notably an early lifting of the freeze on Medicare patient rebates.

The Medicare rebate freeze will be lifted from bulk billing incentives for GP consultations from 1 July 2017, from standard GP consultations and other specialist consultations from 1 July 2018, from procedures from 1 July 2019, and targeted diagnostic imaging services from 1 July 2020. The lifting of the freeze on Medicare rebates will cost the Government around \$1 billion.

10 May 2017 - **AuMA outraged that doctors left out of maternity plan** - The AuMA is appalled that the opportunity for Australian governments to articulate a national vision to guide the future of public sector maternity services has been wasted. The draft National Maternity Services Framework, was developed without genuine consultation with the medical profession, and is so lacking in substance that it provides no 'framework' at all.

10 May 2017 - **Check Shared Health Summaries (SHS) uploads** - General practices registered for the eHealth Incentive may want to check that the SHS they have uploaded are in the My Health Record system. It has been brought to the AuMA's attention that some practices participating in the eHealth Incentive under the Practice Incentives Program were until recently unaware that their SHS had not actually made it to the My Health Record system. In one case only a fraction of the SHS to be uploaded actually made it through at any one time, in another, software incompatibility issues prevented any from being uploaded.

10 May 2017 - **International Harmonisation of Ingredient Names - PBS changes** - Some active ingredient names used in Australia differ from those used internationally. The TGA has updated over 200 active ingredient names used in Australia as part of their International Harmonisation of Ingredient Names (IHIN) reform. A full list is now available on the **TGA website**. Around 90 of these changes affect medicines listed on the PBS. These new names will be incorporated within the PBS during 2017.

10 May 2017 - **Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) Insight** A number of articles now available online at *MJA Insight* will be of interest to GPs this week. One a new **Narrative Review published in the MJA** looks at **the thinking that drives low value care** highlighting the hard-to-shift cognitive biases that drive suboptimal clinical decision making. Professor Richard Murray discusses 'flipped' training programs that allow doctors to complete their specialist training in regional areas, with a city 'rotation' if required in the quest for **how to create a practising rural doctor**. While Dr Lesley Russell examines the **economics of rural health care – what works?**

4 May 2017 - **Prime Minister to address AuMA National Conference** - The 2017 AuMA National Conference at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, from 26-28 May, will feature an impressive line-up of influential political and health leaders, speakers and panellists, led by Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

The high priority of health policy in the current political debate is underlined by the attendance also of Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten; Health Minister, Greg Hunt; Minister for Indigenous Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM; Shadow Health Minister, Catherine King; and Greens Leader, Senator Richard Di Natale, at the AuMA's annual premier event.

4 May 2017 - **My Health Record Evaluation recommends opt-out** - The AuMA this week welcomed the release of the Final Report of the Evaluation of the Participation Trials for the My Health Record and its recommendation that the Government proceed to an opt-out approach. The AuMA has long advocated for participation in the My Health Record to be on an opt-out basis.

4 May 2017 - **AuMA secures guarantees on prescribing changes** - Recently there was high level reporting that a change was going to be made to generic and biosimilar policy in the forthcoming Federal budget – potentially part of an agreement struck with the pharmaceutical sector. That reporting included speculation not just that prescribing software would 'default' to the generic medication, but that there could be mandatory prescribing included as part of the change – potentially even of biosimilars.

4 May 2017 - **No Jab, No Pay changes** - In a move to strengthen its No Jab No Pay policy, the Federal Government has announced that from 1 July 2018, the Family Tax Benefit Part A fortnightly payment will be reduced by \$28 for each child who does not meet the immunisation requirements. AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said the scheme has helped to boost immunisation rates, with 210,000 additional children now protected since the policy's introduction.

4 May 2017 - **It's important to have an asthma plan** - The spotlight is on asthma management this week following the release of the report on the Victorian thunderstorm asthma event of November 2016, and the marking of World Asthma Day on Tuesday this week. Key recommendations of the report include education to assist communities to prepare for and respond to thunderstorm asthma and ensuring good patient and carer knowledge of how to deal with respiratory issues, using an effective asthma action plan.

4 May 2017 - **AuMA takes part in global health talks** - International medical leaders debated topics ranging from medicinal cannabis, boxing safety, and workplace bullying during the 206th World Medical Association Council meeting in Zambia. AuMA President, Doctor Michael Gannon, was among 200 delegates who participated in this month's discussions, which involved more than 30 national medical associations.

4 May 2017 - **Interim cervical screening Medicare Benefits Schedule rebates and other arrangements** - Doctors are being urged to encourage women to continue with their scheduled cervical cancer screening under the current National Cervical Screening Program.

4 May 2017 - **AuMA List of Medical Services and Fees – 1 May 2017 changes** - The 1 November 2016 AuMA List of Medical Services and Fees has been updated to reflect the Medicare Benefits Schedule 1 May 2017 changes.

4 May 2017 - **For the cost of a coffee you can help an Indigenous medical student realise their dream** - The AuMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study medicine, and achieve their dream of becoming doctors.

Canadian Medical Association

8 May 2017 - [New national prescribing guideline for opioids now available](#)

ABOUT US

Nicholas Tyacke



Nicholas is the Head of DLA Piper's Life Sciences practice across the Asia-Pacific and leads DLA Piper's Life Sciences Intellectual Property and Regulatory practices in Australia.

Nicholas offers a level of experience unique to the Australian market, being both a US attorney and an Australian solicitor, and having spent his career advising and acting for many of the world's leading life sciences companies in those jurisdictions. Nicholas' experience includes acting in Hatch-Waxman patent disputes in the United States and in the Australian component of equivalent complex multi-jurisdictional patent disputes, including in patent disputes before trial courts, intermediate appeal courts (the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Full Federal Court of Australia) and final appeal courts (the Supreme Court of the United States and the High Court of Australia) in both jurisdictions. Nicholas' experience also includes advising life sciences companies in relation to regulatory issues in Australia, including in relation to clinical trials, and managing and coordinating work for DLA Piper's life sciences clients across the Asia-Pacific.

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