



# HEALTH ALERT

22 January 2018

<b>Judgments</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Key Decisions</b> .....	2
<b>Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission</b> .....	2
<b>Commonwealth. Federal Court</b> .....	3
<b>New South Wales</b> .....	4
<b>Queensland</b> .....	5
<b>Victoria</b> .....	5
<b>Legislation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Commonwealth</b> .....	5
<b>South Australia</b> .....	5
<b>Reports</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Australia. Department of Health</b> .....	5
<b>Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the boards</b> .....	7
<b>Australia. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)</b> .....	7
<b>Australia. Pharmaceutical benefits Scheme</b> .....	7
<b>Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)</b> .....	8
<b>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</b> .....	9
<b>Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate</b> .....	10
<b>New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health</b> .....	10
<b>Northern Territory. Department of Health</b> .....	11
<b>Queensland. Department of Health</b> .....	11
<b>South Australia (SA). Department for Health &amp; Ageing</b> .....	12
<b>Tasmania. Department of Health &amp; Human Services</b> .....	14
<b>Victoria. Department of Health</b> .....	14
<b>Western Australia. Department of Health</b> .....	15
<b>New Zealand. Ministry of Health</b> .....	16
<b>Australian Medical Association (AuMA)</b> .....	16
<b>About us</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>More information</b> .....	<b>18</b>

## JUDGMENTS

### Key Decisions

20 December 2017 - *Naidoo v Brisbane Waters Administration Pty Ltd trading as Brisbane Waters Private Hospital* [2017] NSWDC 372 TORT – medical negligence – liability of hospital – liability of psychiatrist – whether patient ought to have been discharged and permitted to drive her motor vehicle whilst suffering from tiredness and sedation. OBVIOUS RISK – DUTY OF PROFESSIONAL – whether duty of care breached – whether a professional acted in a manner that was widely accepted by peer professional opinion as competent professional practice. EVIDENCE – business records – reliability of witnesses.

The plaintiff was a patient at the first defendant, Brisbane Waters Private Hospital (**Hospital**), and was managed at the direction of the second defendant, her psychiatrist (**Psychiatrist**). At the time of her discharge, the plaintiff was suffering from tiredness, drowsiness and sedation but had been permitted to drive home. During her journey the plaintiff fell asleep resulting in a collision which caused her injuries.

The plaintiff claims damages against the Hospital and Psychiatrist, alleging she should not have been permitted her to drive home. The Hospital and Psychiatrist argued contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff, as she ought to have known she would be affected by the medication.

The court decided in favour of the plaintiff, and held both the Hospital and the Psychiatrist had breached their duty of care to the plaintiff. Liability was apportioned one third to the Hospital and two thirds to the Psychiatrist. The Court stated that the Psychiatrist, who allowed the plaintiff to drive notwithstanding her medications and her known general fatigue, ought to have either examined the plaintiff or enquired into her condition on the day of discharge. Additionally, it ought to have been obvious to the Hospital staff that it was unsafe for the plaintiff to drive home. The Court also concluded that the plaintiff had not contributed to her injuries as she was entitled to rely on the assessment of her carers who were experienced in making decisions of this type.

15 December 2017 - *Roy Hoppenbrouwer v Aurrum Pty Ltd T/A Aurrum Norah Head* [2017] FWC 6747 - Application for an unfair dismissal remedy – breaches of medication management policy – valid reason for dismissal – inconsistent treatment – summary dismissal disproportionate to misconduct – dismissal harsh and unreasonable – compensation ordered.

The applicant was employed as a registered nurse by the respondent until his summary dismissal. The applicant filed an application for unfair dismissal because his dismissal was harsh, unjust and unreasonable.

The respondent denied the allegations. To support its argument that it had valid reasons for the dismissal it relied on the plaintiff's conduct in which he breached its Medication Management Policy.

The Commission held the respondent did have a valid reason for the plaintiff's dismissal however, the dismissal was harsh and unreasonable. It considered the plaintiff's decision to withhold insulin from a resident without contacting the resident's treating doctor and without making a progress note, as serious in nature and constituted a valid reason for his dismissal. Nonetheless, the Commission gave consideration to the differential treatment afforded to the plaintiff and the harshness of his summary dismissal. The plaintiff was afforded differential treatment because other registered nurses had also withheld insulin from the resident without contacting his doctor, but had not been investigated or subjected to any disciplinary action. Further, it held that the dismissal was harsh because plaintiff was using his clinical judgment, which had not previously been questioned, to do his best to avoid an adverse outcome. The Commission noted that the fault in his conduct was not the clinical judgment but the failure to complying with policy. The plaintiff was awarded compensation in the sum of \$25,195.99, as reinstatement was not an appropriate remedy.

### Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

4 January 2018 - *Aerocare Flight Support Pty Ltd t/a Aerocare Flight Support v Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union; Transport Workers' Union of Australia* [2018] FWCFB

59 - Appeal against decision [2017] FWC 4311 of Commissioner Wilson at Melbourne on 31 August 2017 in matter number AG2017/1424.

22 December 2017 - *Aged Care Services Australia Group Pty Ltd [2017] FWCA 7046* - Application for approval of the Aged Care Services Australia Group Pty Ltd South Australian Aged Care Employees Enterprise Agreement 2017.

17 January 2018 - *Russell Fernando v Australian HomeCare Services Pty Ltd [2018] FWC 337* - Application for an unfair dismissal remedy - extension of time.

17 January 2018 - *Ms Jacquelyn Hardy v Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (Queensland Section) Limited [2018] FWC 334* - Application for an unfair dismissal remedy – Extension of Time – No exceptional circumstances – Application refused – Application for unfair dismissal remedy dismissed.

12 January 2018 - *Calvary Health Care Tasmania Limited [2018] FWCA 264* - Application for approval of the Calvary Health Care Tasmania (St Luke's and St Vincent's Campuses) Nursing Staff Enterprise Agreement 2017.

9 January 2018 - *Mr Robert Fox v Uniting T/A Carroona Aged Care, Uniting [2018] FWC 138* - Alleged dispute about any matters arising under the enterprise agreement and the NES.

9 January 2018 - *Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association [2018] FWC 143* - Single interest employer authorisation - doctors in training.

9 January 2018 - *Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association [2018] FWC 144* - Single interest employer authorisation - medical specialists.

16 January 2018 - *Sigma Company Limited T/A Sigma Healthcare [2018] FWC 299* - Application for approval of the Sigma (Berrinba) Enterprise Agreement 2017 – Whether employees covered by the Agreement were fairly chosen – Whether Agreement was genuinely agreed – Whether Agreement passes the Better off Overall Test – Finding that requirements for approval of the Agreement are met with the exception of an outstanding BOOT issue – Applicant provided with opportunity to address BOOT issue.

16 January 2018 - *Illawarra Diggers Aged & Community Care Limited T/A Illawarra Diggers Aged & Community Care [2018] FWCA 303* - Application for approval of the Illawarra Diggers, NSWNMA and HSU NSW Enterprise Agreement 2017 - 2020.

16 January 2018 - *Bushland Health Group Limited [2018] FWCA 310* - Application for approval of the Bushland Health Group Limited, NSWNMA and HSU NSW Enterprise Agreement 2017 - 2020.

16 January 2018 - *The Harbison Memorial Retirement Village T/A Harbison Care [2018] FWCA 309* - Application for approval of The Harbison Memorial Retirement Village, NSWNMA and HSU NSW Enterprise Agreement 2017-2020.

15 January 2018 - *Central Healthcare Services Pty Ltd and Linton Street Pty Ltd trading as SWAPS [2018] FWCA 291* - Application for approval of the Central Healthcare Services Pty Ltd and SWAPS (WA) Enterprise Agreement 2017.

12 January 2018 - *Health Services Union v Australian Red Cross Blood Service [2018] FWC 259* - Proposed protected action ballot of employees of Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

22 December 2017 - *Thompson Healthcare Pty Ltd T/A Thompson Health Care v Mrs Angelika Adamopoulos [2017] FWCFB 6922* - Appeal against decision [2017] FWC 3505 and Order PR594566 of Deputy President Sams at Sydney on 28 July 2017 in matter number U2017/1706; appeal upheld; decision quashed; rehearing; reinstatement not appropriate.

### Commonwealth. Federal Court

8 January 2018 - *GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd v Reckitt Benckiser (Australia) Pty Limited (No 2) [2018] FCA 1* - CONSUMER LAW – whether the manufacturer of Nurofen engaged in conduct which was misleading or deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive or made false representations by conducting a comparative advertising campaign in which it claimed that Nurofen provided faster and more effective relief from the pain caused by common headaches than does Panadol in circumstances where:(a) Only one

clinical trial suggested that it did provide faster and more effective pain relief for common headaches than does Panadol; (b) Two other studies conducted subsequently did not replicate the results of the one positive clinical trial; and (c) The authors of three meta-analyses concluded that no authoritative comparison was possible in the present state of scientific knowledge.

## New South Wales

4 January 2018 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Keegan* [2018] NSWCATOD 3 - Unsatisfactory professional conduct – improper and unethical conduct - Viewing and sending a sexually explicit photograph - Professional Boundaries. Whether conduct amounted to professional misconduct. Where practitioner does not attend the hearing.

3 January 2018 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Noore* [2018] NSWCATOD 1 - Costs - unsatisfactory professional conduct - necessity to consider evidence.

3 January 2018 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Kesserwani (No. 2)* [2018] NSWCATOD 2

5 January 2018 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Ake* [2018] NSWCATOD 7 - Nursing, Observations, Rapid Response Team, CPR, Communication Skills, Determination of Protection Orders, Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct.

15 January 2018 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Cakan* [2018] NSWCATOD 5 - Medical practitioner, abuse of addictive drugs, breach of conditions of registration and misleading medical council-professional misconduct –registration cancelled.

5 January 2018 - *Medical Council of NSW v Ghannoum* [2018] NSWCATOD 6 - Medical Practitioner – Disciplinary Proceedings – Breach of Critical Compliance Condition of Registration – registration cancelled.

20 December 2017 - *HCCC v Sadek* [2017] NSWCATOD 181 - Pharmacy – multiple improprieties in recording and dispensing of Schedule 8 medications – failure to report unaccounted for Schedule 8 medication – failure to report suspect and tampered Schedule 8 scripts – dispensing very large quantities of high strength OxyContin with no directions for use – dispensing very large quantities of high strength OxyContin to person who was not the script holder and not authorised by patients to collect on their behalf.

20 December 2017 - *Karimi v Medical Council of New South Wales* [2017] NSWCATOD 180 - OCCUPATIONS – medical practitioners – suspension of registration under s 150 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law – external appeal under s 159 – nature of external appeal – allegations of professional misconduct, illegal prescribing, dispensing and storing of medication, inappropriate clinical record keeping, doctoring certificate and practising whilst unregistered – whether it is appropriate to terminate, vary or confirm period of suspension – period of suspension confirmed. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION – whether s 159C of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law permits the Tribunal to terminate period of suspension and impose or vary conditions on registration – whether “or” is cumulative or disjunctive – whether “the conditions” includes conditions imposed by a body other than the Medical Council of New South Wales – Tribunal does not have power to terminate a suspension and impose or vary conditions on a practitioner’s registration not imposed by the Council.

12 January 2018 - *Health Services Union NSW v Hunter New England Local Health District* [2018] NSWIRComm 1000 - Industrial dispute - higher grade duties claimed by two ward clerks - small claims applications made – award interpretation-relevant principles considered – award provision examined – no ambiguity found-applications and dispute proceedings dismissed.

22 December 2017 - *HCCC v Sundarajah* [2017] NSWCATOD 182 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES — health practitioner — whether contravention of a condition of a health practitioner’s registration amounts to professional misconduct.

22 December 2017 - *A v Local Health District* [2017] NSWIRComm 1079 - DISMISSAL- misconduct-pseudonym order made-breach of policies and professional standards- misconduct established-dismissal not harsh, unreasonable or unjust –application dismissed.

15 January 2018 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Cheung* [2018] NSWCATOD 10 - TRADES AND PROFESSION — Pharmacy — Health Practitioner Regulation National Law — where practitioner convicted of administering poison (etc.) with the intention of causing distress or pain.

## Queensland

21 December 2017 - [Medical Board of Australia v XY \[2017\] QCAT 443](#) - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT – GENERALLY – where the practitioner self-prescribed and self-administered controlled drugs – where the practitioner made false entries into the record book of controlled drugs – where the practitioner inappropriately stored a controlled drug – where the practitioner sought to exert improper influence over an employee to not report a discrepancy in the controlled drugs register to investigators – where the practitioner failed to comply with conditions imposed on the practitioner’s registration – where the practitioner provided false or misleading information to investigators – whether the practitioner has behaved in a way that constitutes professional misconduct.

20 December 2017 - [Health Ombudsman v Dalziel \[2017\] QCAT 442](#) - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – MISCONDUCT IN A PROFESSIONAL RESPECT – where the pharmacist admitted to unlawfully supplying Schedule 4 restricted drugs to two customers over a two year period – where the pharmacist admitted to professional misconduct – where the parties had made joint submissions on the categorisation of conduct and sanction – whether the sanction agreed is outside the permissible range.

## Victoria

22 December 2017 - [Wahid v Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia \(Review and Regulation\) \[2017\] VCAT 2112](#) - Health Practitioner Regulation National Law – ss 178, 179, 199 and 202 – review of decision by the respondent to impose education condition on registration.

22 December 2017 - [Dr Pathmanathan v Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(Review and Regulation\) \[2017\] VCAT 2166](#)

## LEGISLATION

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

### Commonwealth

12 January 2018 - [National Health \(Weighted average disclosed price – April 2018 reduction day\) Determination 2018 \(PB 9 of 2018\)](#) - F2018L00042 - PB 9 of 2018 as made.

20 December 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Medical Devices\) Amendment \(Implantable Medical Devices\) Regulations 2017](#) - F2017L01692 - as made.

### South Australia

19 December 2017 - [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(South Australia\) \(Amendment of Law\) Regulations 2017](#) - under section 4 of the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(South Australia\) Act 2010](#) - Gazette notification.

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

18 January 2018 - [Continuing rollout of Local Drug Action Teams across Australia](#) - The Australian Government is continuing to take action to combat the scourge of ice and other illicit drugs with more Local Drug Action Teams set to rollout across Australia.

18 January 2018 - [More support for Australia’s world-class medical researchers](#) - The Turnbull Government is announcing new grant funding of almost \$12 million to provide further support for Australia’s world-class medical researchers.

12 January 2018 - **Low dose codeine ineffective for most pain relief** - The best medical advice and research shows that codeine is no better for pain than other over the counter medicines, Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, said today.

11 January 2018 - **Grants and workshops to develop Women Leaders in Sport** - The Australian Government will provide more than \$210,000 in grants as well as expanded workshop opportunities to develop hundreds of female sporting leaders in 2018.

8 January 2018 - **\$110 million additional investment in child and youth mental health** - The Australian Government is continuing to build on record levels of investment in mental health services with an additional \$110 million to extend and expand mental health programs for young Australians.

5 January 2018 - **Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program to support local job creation in the National Disability Insurance Scheme** - The Turnbull Government's \$33 million Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program has taken a major step forward, with the appointment of a consortium led by Ernst & Young (EY), including not-for-profit organisations and an employment service, to implement the job-creating initiative.

5 January 2018 - **We're set to sizzle – so take care** - With parts of the country set to experience record hot temperatures, the Minister for Rural Health, Senator Bridget McKenzie, is urging people to stay safe in the sun and the water.

4 January 2018 - **Australian Government to allow medicinal cannabis exports** - In an important step for the development of the medicinal cannabis sector and to secure long-term supplies for Australian patients, the Federal Government will permit the export of medicinal cannabis products.

2 January 2018 - **Expert committee to consider out-of-pocket medical costs** - The Australian Government will work with the medical profession to address the large and sometimes unanticipated out-of-pocket medical fees some patients face.

2 January 2018 - **Make Giving the Gift of Life Your New Year's Resolution.**

1 January 2018 - **\$3 million to save lives in the water** - The Turnbull Government will provide an additional \$3 million to life saving clubs and other water safety organisations around Australia to help reduce drowning deaths and near-deaths.

30 December 2017 - **Interview with Alex Hart Weekend Sunrise** - Transcript of Minister for Health, Greg Hunt's interview with Alex Hart Weekend Sunrise.

30 December 2017 - **Interview with Charles Croucher Weekend Today** - Transcript of Minister for Health, Greg Hunt's interview with Charles Croucher Weekend Today.

30 December 2017 - **More than \$300 million for life-changing medicines** - Around 800 Australians each year suffering from lung cancer and relapsed refractory multiple myeloma will benefit from affordable access to new medicines from 1 January 2018.

23 December 2017 - **Christmas gifts to keep everyone physically active** - Rushing to find the perfect Christmas gift this weekend?

22 December 2017 - **Hearing Services Review Aims to Improve Client Care** - The Minister responsible for hearing services, Ken Wyatt AM, released the findings of the Review of Services and Technology Supply under the Government's Hearing Services Program (HSP).

22 December 2017 - **New comprehensive guidance on medicinal cannabis** - For the first time, Australian prescribers of medicinal cannabis will have access to up-to-date information to help inform their decision-making about patient treatment options for a number of conditions.

21 December 2017 - **My Life My Lead Report: Tackling Social Determinants and Strengthening Culture Key to Improving Indigenous Health** - The Australian Government has released results of national consultations that highlight the importance of culture and tackling the social determinants of health, to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

19 December 2017 - [\\$3 Million Lift For Rural and Remote Aged Care Services](#) - The Australian Government's commitment to aged care services for senior Australians living in rural and remote areas has been boosted by more than \$3 million.

19 December 2017 - [\\$8 million boost for cancer research projects](#) - The Australian Government has announced more support for cancer research with \$8 million in grants.

19 December 2017 - [Federal Coalition Government expands junior doctor training in the regions](#) - The Australian Government is delivering on its commitment to significantly increase the number of rural-based doctors in training, by expanding opportunities to work in primary care settings.

19 December 2017 - [New administrator announced for the National Rural Health Student Network](#) - The Australian Government has appointed a new administrator for the National Rural Health Student Network.

18 December 2017 - [Ensuring quality and safety for after-hours care](#) - The Australian Government is taking steps to ensure that patients needing an after-hours doctor receive the best quality care under Medicare.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

[PHI 04/18 Hospital Declaration](#)

[PHI 03/18 Hospital Declaration Information](#)

[PHI 02/18 Hospital Declaration Information](#)

[PHI 01/18 Recent amendment to Private Health Insurance legislation](#)

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

12 January 2018 - [Call for applications - national boards](#) - Call for applications for appointment to the National Boards regulating health professions across Australia.

12 January 2018 - [Research framework for the National Scheme published](#) - National Boards and the AHPRA have published a research framework to help transform health practitioner regulation to improve patient safety.

8 January 2018 - [Call for applications](#) - Call for applications to the Northern Territory/South Australia/Western Australia Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia.

22 December 2018 - [South Australia adopts legislative amendments](#) - The AHPRA and National Boards welcome further progress in the adoption of amendments to the National Law this week in South Australia.

#### **Australia. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)**

8 January 2018 - [Chalmers Oration 2017 presentation: 'Crisis or opportunity? A new era for medical research funding'](#) - Presentation titled '[Crisis or opportunity? A new era for medical research funding in Australia](#)' by Professor Anne Kelso AO, NHMRC CEO. Presentation made as the 2017 John Chalmers Oration, Flinders University, 7 September 2017.

15 January 2018 - [NHMRC Tracker](#)

#### **Australia. Pharmaceutical benefits Scheme**

18 January 2018 - [Draft report for the post-market review of the use of biologics in the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis](#) - The draft report for the post-market review of the use of biologics in the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis is available for public comment.

12 January 2018 - [Price Disclosure 2018 April Cycle Outcomes Summary](#) - The summary of price disclosure price reductions for the 2018 April Cycle (Fourth Remove Originator cycle) has now been published.

1 January 2018 - [PBS Website Update - 1 January 2018](#) - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 January 2018 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

20 December 2017 - [PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Report 2016-17](#) - The PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions Report 2016-17 is now available on the PBS website.

20 December 2017 - [Agenda for the March 2018 PBAC meeting](#) - The agenda for the March 2018 PBAC meeting is now available. Your comments are welcome.

20 December 2017 - [Post-Market Review of Ezetimibe - Final Report](#)

The final Report for the Post-market Review of Ezetimibe and Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) Recommendations for the Post-market Review of Ezetimibe.

### **Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)**

19 January 2018 - [Codeine information hub](#) - Codeine factsheet for nurses and midwives now available on the codeine information hub.

19 January 2018 - [Nurse and midwife fact sheet: Talking to people about the changes in codeine access](#) - From 1 February 2018, medicines containing codeine will no longer be available without a prescription.

19 January 2018 - [Consultation: Prescription strong \(Schedule 8\) opioid use and misuse in Australia – options for a regulatory response](#) - The TGA is seeking comments on options for a regulatory response to the potential misuse of prescribed Schedule 8 opioids in Australia.

18 January 2018 - [Scheduling news](#) - What's new following the 2017 Scheduling Policy Framework review.

18 January 2018 - [AHMAC - Scheduling policy framework for medicines and chemicals](#) - Revised scheduling policy framework.

18 January 2018 - [Scheduling handbook: Guidance for amending the Poisons Standard](#) - Guidance on how the Poisons Standard is amended and details of the processes that underpin the scheduling policy.

17 January 2018 - [TGA actions after review into urogynaecological surgical mesh implants](#) - Update - Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI) mid-urethral slings.

16 January 2018 - [Presentations: Codeine up-scheduling workshops, Melbourne, 28 November 2017](#) - Video of presentations from the Melbourne Codeine up-scheduling workshop added.

16 January 2018 - [Yunnan Feng Shi Ling capsules – counterfeit](#) - Yunnan Feng Shi Ling capsules contain the undeclared substance paracetamol.

16 January 2018 - [Reformatting Product Information: Frequently asked questions](#) - Reformatting Product Information updated with new and revised FAQs

15 January 2018 - [Prescription medicine registration form](#) - Updated application forms for prescription medicines registration applications have been published.

15 January 2018 - [Medical Devices Safety Update, Volume 6, Number 1, January 2018](#) - Inappropriate use of scalpel removers; ransomware named as 2018's 'top hazard'; joint registry data; recent safety alerts.

12 January 2018 - [Implementation of the NEW Uniform Recall Procedure for Therapeutic Goods \(URPTG\)](#) - Reminder: the new URPTG takes effect on Monday 15 January.

12 January 2018 - [Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines](#) - We have just published newly-registered extended uses of already-registered medicines.

12 January 2018 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia](#) - Newly-registered new chemical entities added.

12 January 2018 - [Medical devices and IVDs: Cancellations of certain devices within an entry](#) - Cancellation of Restorelle DirectFix (Anterior & Posterior), Uphold (TM) Lite w/Capio SLIM and Solyx SIS System from the ARTG.

12 January 2018 - [Medical devices and IVDs: Cancellations from the ARTG](#) - Cancellation of Altis Single Incision Sling from the ARTG.



11 January 2018 - [Black Triangle Scheme: Information for sponsors](#) - Information for sponsors of products included in the scheme is now available.

9 January 2018 - [Special Access Scheme](#) - Updates to SAS forms to reflect changes to the Therapeutic Goods Regulations.

5 January 2018 - [Special Access Scheme: Guidance for health practitioners and sponsors](#) - The Special Access Scheme guidance has been updated to reflect recent changes to the Therapeutic Goods Regulations.

4 January 2018 - [Presentations: Codeine up-scheduling workshops, Perth, 30 November 2017](#) - The TGA held a series of workshops on the up-scheduling of codeine in November 2017.

4 January 2018 - [Section 19A: Guidance for industry](#) - The reference to the Quarantine Act 1908 in the Section 19A Guidance document has been replaced with reference to the Biosecurity Act 2015.

3 January 2018 - [Presentations: Codeine up-scheduling workshop, Wagga Wagga, 14 December 2017](#).

The TGA held a series of workshops on the up-scheduling of codeine.

3 January 2018 - [Cost recovery implementation statement](#) - The cost recovery implementation statement has been updated.

3 January 2018 - [ACSS public statement, 2-3 June 2017](#) - ACSS Consortium Generic Medicines Working Group public statement for Ottawa meeting, June 2017.

3 January 2018 - [Approval of form in which information sufficient for determination of applications in the eCTD format made under section 23 of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 for the registration of therapeutic goods must be delivered](#).

Added new approval for section 23 of the Act.

2 January 2018 - [Implementation of the PIC/S guide to GMP PE009-13](#) - On 1 January 2018 the TGA adopted new manufacturing principles to be observed by manufacturers of medicines and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

2 January 2018 - [Codeine stock management for wholesalers, sponsors and retail pharmacies](#)

Codeine stock management for wholesalers, sponsors and retail pharmacies' factsheet update.

2 January 2018 - [List of evaluated registered complementary medicines](#) - Six new products have been added to the list of evaluated Registered Complementary Medicines.

2 January 2018 - [Priority review designations medical devices \(including IVDs\)](#)

New guidance available for Priority Review Designations (Medical Devices).

2 January 2018 - [Comparable overseas regulators \(CORs\) for prescription medicines](#)

Guidance on the TGA's use of assessments from Comparable Overseas Regulators.

### **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

21 December 2017 - [Waiting times for elective surgery slightly up](#) - Nationally, waiting times for elective surgery have slightly risen, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). However, results vary across the states and territories, and between individual hospitals.

19 December 2017 - [More Australians using pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes](#) - The number of Australians who misuse pharmaceuticals is rising, with the number of deaths caused by these drugs responsible for more deaths than illegal drugs, according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report, *Non-medical use of pharmaceuticals: trends, harms and treatment: 2006–07 to 2015–16*, looks at two main types of prescription drugs: opioid analgesics (which are prescribed to treat pain and addiction

to heroin and other opioids, and include morphine, codeine and tramadol), and benzodiazepines (prescribed to improve sleep and treat stress).

'Over the past decade, there has been a substantial rise in the number of deaths involving a prescription drug, with drug-induced deaths more likely to be due to prescription drugs than illegal drugs,' said AIHW spokesperson Matthew James.

'In 2016 there were 1,808 drug-induced deaths in Australia with benzodiazepines the most common single drug type, identified in 663 drug-induced deaths. This is followed by 550 deaths from other opioids (including prescription painkillers such as oxycodone, morphine, and codeine).

### **Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate**

11 January 2018 - [Access to over-the-counter medicines containing codeine](#) - From 1 February 2018, over-the-counter medicines containing codeine (such as some pain and cold and flu medicines) will be available by prescription only.

9 January 2018 - [Transvaginal Mesh](#) - There has been a great deal of interest and comment recently about the use of mesh as part of the surgical treatment of vaginal prolapse and urinary incontinence. There is currently a Senate Inquiry into the [Number of women in Australia who have had transvaginal mesh implants and related matters](#) which is due to report its findings by 14 February 2018.

19 December 2017 - [Temporary closure of O'Connor Pathology Collection Centre](#) - The O'Connor ACT Pathology Collection Centre is transitioning to new management and will be temporarily closed from 23 December 2017.

11 January 2018 - [New-look hospital ward designed for elderly patients](#) - Elderly patients who require specialised care at The Canberra Hospital have moved into a newly renovated ward today which has been designed specifically to meet their needs.

The Acute Care for the Elderly Unit (Ward 11A) provides individual care, based on a patient's clinical and social needs. The environment is safe, secure and promotes independence.

4 January 2018 - [Free public Wi-Fi now available at Calvary Public Hospital & Clare Holland House](#) - Calvary Public Hospital and Clare Holland House have joined Canberra Hospital and other ACT Community Health Centres in providing free public Wi-Fi for patients and visitors.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris said expanding ACT Health's free Wi-Fi service to Calvary Public Hospital and Clare Holland House will ensure that patient and consumer services are consistent across all public health facilities in the ACT.

'The ACT Government has been investing in free public Wi-Fi across the city, and it's great that the service is now available at Calvary Public Hospital and Clare Holland House,' Minister Fitzharris said.

### **New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health**

#### **Media Releases**

13 January 2018 - [NSW suicide prevention trial an Australian first](#) - For the first time in Australia pulse monitoring devices will be trialled as a suicide prevention tool in a mental health unit, following a \$300,314 investment by the NSW Government.

Minister for Mental Health Tanya Davies today announced the trial will begin early this year, led by the Black Dog Institute and Hunter New England Local Health District.

'This trial is an important step in the search for better ways to support people in NSW living with mental illness, particularly when they are in hospital and need the most support,' Mrs Davies.

20 December 2017 - [Cytogenetic lab processing error identified by NSW Health](#) - A human error in processing at the cytogenetic laboratory of the Children's Hospital at Westmead has resulted in four families receiving incorrect genetic test results.

NSW Health confirmed the nature of the error on December 13, after testing on a newborn baby did not match earlier prenatal test results.

Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said NSW Health has met with three of the four affected patients (the fourth has not been contactable so far) to advise of the error. Clinical counselling and support tailored to the circumstances of each patient will be provided, and we have established an external review.

#### Publications

19 January 2018 - [Communicable Diseases Weekly Report \(CDWR\)](#)

19 January 2018 - [Surveillance and monitoring weekly reports season 2017-18](#)

#### Information Bulletins, Policy Directives and Guidelines

19 December 2017 - [Fees Payable to Lecturers in Respect of In-Service Courses](#) - Document number: IB2017\_052.

19 December 2017 - [Community Sharps Management](#) - Document number: GL2017\_023.

19 December 2017 - [NSW Needle and Syringe Program](#) - Document number: GL2017\_024.

18 December 2017 - [Pharmaceutical Charges for Hospital Outpatients and Safety Net Thresholds](#) - Document number: IB2017\_051.

18 December 2017 - [Interpreters – Standard Procedures for Working with Health Care Interpreters](#) - Document number: PD2017\_044.

#### Northern Territory. Department of Health

17 January 2018 - [2018 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners Scholarships](#) - Applications open for the 2018 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners Scholarships.

20 December 2017 - [Improving health services: \\$3 Million to support Territorians living with mental illness](#) - The Territory Labor Government has announced not-for-profit provider Anglicare will administer a \$3 million housing initiative to support Territorians with ongoing mental illness. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said Territorians deserve safe, vibrant and inclusive communities and the Housing Accommodation Support Initiative (NT HASI grant) helps to deliver that.

#### Queensland. Department of Health

16 January 2017 - [LNP yet to apologise for drug and alcohol service cuts](#) - The LNP are yet to apologise for cuts to drug and alcohol services during the Newman Government, Acting Health Minister Shanon Fentiman said today.

15 January 2018 - [Queensland welcomes 749 new doctors](#) - More than 740 new doctors today began their careers caring for Queenslanders at public hospitals across the state.

9 January 2018 [Queenslanders urged to stay safe in the heat](#) - Queenslanders are being urged to be vigilant during this week's warm weather and keep an eye on children and the elderly with temperatures forecast to remain in the 30's.

5 January 2018 - [New health sector watchdog appointed](#) - An experienced leader in the Queensland public service has been appointed the new Health Ombudsman.

2 January 2018 - [Record flu season hits system hard](#) - Australia's 2017 flu surge had a huge impact on emergency department performance, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services Steven Miles has confirmed.

22 December 2018 - [Queensland paramedics to become among the country's best paid](#) - Queensland's hard-working paramedics have long been regarded as among the most professional and highly-skilled in the country and a new wage agreement ensures they will now be among the best paid.

19 December 2017 - [More heart help on the way with second cardiac catheter lab for Cairns](#) - The Cairns Hospital will be able to see up to 1400 extra cardiac patients by this time next year thanks to a second \$2.8 million dollar cardiac catheterisation laboratory.

19 December 2017 - [Commonwealth confirms billion dollar Christmas health cut](#) - The Turnbull Government has failed to use the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) to fix a health funding back hole.

15 January 2018 - [What it's like to visit someone in ICU](#) - Receiving a call that someone you know is in the Intensive Care Unit can be shocking. Visiting them can be even more so. We spoke to the staff of Ipswich Hospital's ICU to find out what visitors can expect when coming to the ward.

16 January 2018 - [5 steps for making your mental health a priority in 2018 \(and beyond\)](#) - Follow these steps to invest in your mental wellbeing in 2018.

18 January 2018 - [How a telehealth technology program won a state-wide award](#) - An innovative program designed to save renal patients hundreds of hours in travel time has been recognised at the 2017 Health Excellence Awards. Reduce MILES - Spread SMILES from Renal Services, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS), saves rural and remote renal patient's unnecessary travel through the use of telehealth technology.

17 January 2018 - [Codeine changes - what you need to know](#) - You might have heard that the Therapeutic Goods Administration have decided to change the way people can access medicines containing low-dose codeine in Australia. This might affect you if you are currently taking a medicine that contains codeine, care for someone who is taking medicine that contains codeine, or require a medicine that contains codeine in the future.

Below we've explained the reasons for the change, and where you can get more information.

10 January 2018 - [A day in the life of a palliative care nurse](#) - We spent some time with palliative care nurse Louise at Redland Hospital, to find out what a day in the life of a palliative care nurse entails.

9 January 2018 - [What to do when your child has growing pains](#) - Growing pains are a mysterious but common complaint in young children, usually affecting boys and girls aged 3-5 and 8-11. Some children continue to experience growing pains during adolescence.

8 January 2018 - [10 things to know if you're planning to start exercising](#) - If you haven't exercised much before, or it's been awhile, it can be daunting to know how to start. We've put together this guide to getting active, to help you develop a healthier, happier lifestyle in 2018 and beyond.

### **South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing**

10 January 2018 - [New website for alcohol and other drug treatment and support](#) - A new website providing South Australians with a one-stop online portal to access information about alcohol and other drug treatment and support services goes live today.

9 January 2018 - [Smokers encouraged to keep trying to 'butt out' in 2018](#) - South Australians who have already broken their New Year's resolutions to stop smoking in 2018 shouldn't lose heart – just because you've had a cigarette doesn't mean it's the end of your quit attempt.

8 January 2018 - [First post-traumatic stress research centre in Australia to launch in SA](#) - In an Australian first, post-traumatic stress research and clinical care will be co-located together at the new \$15 million Jamie Larcombe Centre, with the new Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) Research Centre opening its doors today.

5 January 2018 - [Improved access to stroke services in country SA](#) - Country patients who suffer a stroke will now be able to receive specialised treatment closer to home at any time of day or night at the State's three regional stroke services.

3 January 2018 - [More support for South Australian families dealing with drug addiction](#) - The State Government is investing more than half a million dollars to significantly expand assistance for families supporting a loved one with a substance abuse problem.

18 January 2018 - [The future of health care](#) - More than 700 fresh faces will start work with SA Health this year, as part of the 2018 graduate intake program.

The first of 461 registered nurses, 57 registered midwives and 255 graduate doctors have started this week across the state's network of public hospitals.

18 January 2018 - **Meningococcal case** - A case of invasive meningococcal disease has been notified in a 32-year-old male from metropolitan Adelaide, who has been admitted to hospital in a critical condition. The strain has been identified as serogroup B.

12 January 2018 - **Mamee Monster recall** - South Australian distributor ABC Sales and Marketing is recalling Mamee Monster vegetable rice sticks because of the presence of gluten in the products, which are labelled gluten-free.

12 January 2018 - **National recall of Golden North products** - South Australian ice cream maker Golden North is undertaking a national recall of a number of products it manufactures, following a consumer complaint about metal fragments in a product.

SA Health's Director Food and Controlled Drugs, Dr Fay Jenkins, said the recall was precautionary and there had been no reports of harm or injury.

12 January 2018 - **New beat for heart health care** - An innovative new research project coordinated from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital could radically change the way patients undergoing elective coronary stenting are treated across South Australia.

A recently awarded National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership grant aims to identify the clinical factors that are responsible for ongoing chest pain after elective stenting.

11 January 2018 - **Nurses given new skills to save lives** - The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has become the first in the State where specialist nurses are being trained to join the fight against bowel cancer.

A year-long trial of using highly skilled nurses to perform colonoscopies has reached the halfway mark, with 175 procedures completed so far.

2 January 2018 - **Gawler South bakery salmonella update** - There have now been 35 confirmed cases of salmonella linked to the Gawler South Bakery.

SA Health's Director of Public Health Dr Kevin Buckett said of those confirmed cases, nine people had been hospitalised, including two children.

27 December 2017 - **Statewide rollout of telerehab improving access for all** - Three times as many patients are accessing rehabilitation at or closer to their homes as a result of the statewide expansion of a video-based service offered by South Australia's public hospitals.

24 December 2017 - **First project under new mental health plan to focus on dads** - The South Australian Mental Health Strategic Plan 2017-2022 sets a state-wide strategic direction to build a more resilient, compassionate and connected community over the next five years.

21 December 2017 - **Doctors and nurses get ready to care for the State's tiniest battlers** - In a first of its kind for South Australia, a new simulation clinical unit designed to replicate the inside of a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit will be unveiled at Flinders Medical Centre today.

22 December 2017 - **Replacement Nasal Cannulas for patients** - The Women's and Children's Hospital is issuing replacement nasal cannulas for 103 infant home oxygen patients following concerns raised about the flexibility of the tubing.

Dr James Martin, Acting Head of Respiratory Medicine at the Women's and Children's Hospital said the hospital had recently been alerted to a change in the flexibility of the infant and intermediate sized Salter Nasal Cannulas, and are today contacting families who are using the product to offer a replacement.

18 December 2017 - **Hepatitis A outbreak** - People at high risk of hepatitis A are urged to ensure they are vaccinated and practice good hand hygiene following an outbreak of the virus, with another six cases in a week.

SA Health's Acting Director Communicable Disease Control Branch Dr Louise Flood said the notification of additional cases is concerning.

## Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

13 January 2018 - **Private clinic closure** - Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health, 'I am aware of the sudden closure of a private abortion clinic and can advise that the Department is investigating alternative options'.

5 January 2018 - **Labor priorities wrong on Health – must prioritise public patients** - Improving the health system for public patients is our top priority – however it's clearly not the case for Labor.

22 December 2017 - **Progress on strengthening hospital decision making** - have today written to major stakeholders within our health system to provide an update on immediate action being taken to strengthen local leadership and decision making within Tasmania's public hospitals.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will ensure that hospital leaders are further empowered to get on with the job and make day to day decisions necessary to support patient care.

21 December 2017 - **New appointment breaks endocrinology drought** - The Hodgman Liberal Government has secured the first full-time Endocrinologist at the Launceston General Hospital in more than 10 years.

21 December 2017 - **Legislative Council sub-committee report** - The Hodgman Liberal Government has engaged constructively and in good faith with the Legislative Council sub-committee, unlike in 2012 when the former Labor-Green Government boycotted a similar inquiry.

21 December 2017 - **Tasmania leading nation on number of elective surgeries** - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's latest report on elective surgery (2016-17) has revealed that Tasmania has the highest per capita rate of elective surgery of any state or territory (37 admissions for every 1000 Tasmanians). More Tasmanians than ever before are directly benefiting from the Hodgman Liberal Government's record investment in health.

## Victoria. Department of Health

17 January 2018 - **Victorian Medicinal Cannabis Industry Powers Ahead** - The Andrews Labor Government is expanding Victoria's medicinal cannabis sector and positioning our state as the leader in exports of medicinal cannabis, while creating jobs and providing life-changing treatment.

16 January 2018 - **Victorian Parents Reminded To Update Kids' Jabs** - Victorian parents returning from summer holidays are being urged to ensure their children are fully immunised before returning to childcare and school. Visiting Strathmore Children's Centre today, Minister for Health and Acting Minister for Families and Children Jill Hennessy reminded parents of the Andrews Labor Government's tough No Jab, No Play law.

16 January 2018 - **Barwon Health North Takes Shape** - People in Geelong's northern suburbs will soon have access to additional health services through the \$33 million Barwon Health North project, which is starting to take shape, with extra child and family support confirmed today as part of the project.

11 January 2018 - **Chemotherapy Slashed Under Turnbull's Health Cuts** - Victorian cancer patients stand to miss out on more than 100,000 chemotherapy procedures because the Federal Liberal Government is refusing to pay more than \$100 million in funding it owes to.

7 January 2018 - **\$7 Million Research Boost To Fight Cancer** - Leading Victorian researchers will share in \$7 million of grants to continue the fight against cancer, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government. Acting Minister for Health Martin Foley today announced the 14 successful recipients to be supported through the latest Victorian Cancer Agency funding round.

29 December 2017 - **Blood Donors Urged To Keep Up Generous Flow** - Generous Victorians intending to give the precious gift of life saving blood have been urged to keep their appointments this week during the high demand season and end of year festivities.

19 December 2017 - **Transvaginal Mesh Support For Victorian Women** - Victorian women experiencing complications from transvaginal mesh will now have additional support with an information helpline established, adding to the specialist hospital programs available in Victoria.

17 December 2017 - **Getting It Done: Building The Victorian Heart Hospital** - Australia's first specialist stand-alone heart hospital will become a reality with the Andrews Labor Government investing an additional \$320 million to build the Victorian Heart Hospital. Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Health Jill Hennessy visited Monash University to announce the \$543 million project, with contributions from partners Monash University and Monash Health.

### **Western Australia. Department of Health**

21 December 2017 - **Remote nurse saves his own life – with the help of Emergency Telehealth Service** - Coral Bay nurse Ryan Franks treated his own heart attack last week – and survived.

19 January 2018 - **Minister for Health: Funding to expand education program for Aboriginal young people** - The State Government, through Healthway, has granted \$514,654 towards a sexual health and life skills program for Aboriginal young people aged 10-14 years.

13 January 2018 - **Minister for Health: Independent review of assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy legislation** - The McGowan Government today announced an independent review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 (HRT) and the Surrogacy Act 2008.

13 January 2018 - **Minister for Health: State Government funding to help Western Australians stay sun safe** - Health Minister Roger Cook today announced Healthway grants totalling \$899,956 towards the education and promotion of sun safety to reduce the incidence of skin cancer.

### Publications

9 January 2018 - **Healthview**

### Policy Frameworks

17 January 2018 - **Medication Chart Policy** - MP 0078/18 - Minor amendment to original version before publication, revised version MP 0078/18 v.1.1. The WA Medication Chart Policy mandates the implementation of a suite of standardised medication charts for prescribing and administration of medications for inpatient care. Use of standardised medication charts leads to improved consistency and safety of documentation for prescribing and administering medication. The medication charts required to be implemented include:

The Adult WA Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme Hospital Medication Chart (abbreviated to the WA Hospital Medication Chart, or WA HMC) - 'Short Stay' version and 'Long Stay' version.

The WA Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (NIMC) - 'Short Stay' version and 'Long Stay' version.

The WA Adult Anticoagulation Medication Chart.

For adult mental health patients, where required:

WA Adult Clozapine Initiation and Titration Chart;

Agitation and Arousal 'PRN' Chart (PRN, or pro re nata - when required); and

Intramuscular Long-Acting Injection Chart (Depot Antipsychotic)

The Intramuscular Long-Acting Inject Chart (Depot Antipsychotic) is to be implemented in public mental health outpatient facilities.

The WA Hospital Medication Chart (WA HMC) and WA Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (WA Paediatric NIMC) templates have been adapted from of the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) Prescription Benefits Scheme Hospital Medication Chart (PBS HMC) and Paediatric National Inpatient Medication Chart (Paediatric NIMC) respectively with additional WA specific requirements.

Policy framework: **Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework**

10 January 2018 - **Statewide Medicines Formulary Policy** - MP 0077/18 - The purpose of the Statewide Medicines Formulary (SMF) Policy (the policy) is to assist the delivery of optimal patient outcomes in an equitable manner through a single list of approved medicines. The rationale for the SMF is underpinned by

the Australian National Medicines Policy which aims to improve positive health outcomes focusing on patient's access to, and wise use of, medicines. The SMF will support efficiencies in medicines cost, use and governance, will improve uniformity and transparency, promote the safe and quality use of medicines and provide opportunities for future quality and safety improvement initiatives related to medicines.

All eligible prescribers working at health service providers are required to initiate medicines according to the restrictions and requirements stated by the SMF.

Policy framework: [Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework](#)

10 January 2018 - [Cardiotocography Monitoring Policy](#) - MP 0076/18 - The Cardiotocography Monitoring Policy mandates state-wide minimum requirements for cardiotocography (CTG) monitoring practices and staff education for Western Australian publicly funded maternity services.

Antenatal and intrapartum fetal surveillance are integral components of contemporary maternity care.

The focus of the Policy and Standard is the use of CTG recordings of the fetal heart rate and uterine activity, hereafter referred to as CTG monitoring. The primary purpose of CTG monitoring is to assess fetal well-being and identify signs of suspected fetal compromise in order to initiate management that may reduce or prevent fetal morbidity and mortality.

The aim of the Policy and Standard is to standardise key aspects related to this practise and as a result reduce the risk of adverse events associated with CTG monitoring practices within these services thus improving perinatal outcomes.

The Policy and Standard do not address all aspects of CTG monitoring or fetal monitoring required for best practice, instead focussing on standardising key aspects and areas of variation within WA publicly-funded maternity services. The aim is not to replace site specific guidelines already in existence as these will accommodate local considerations.

Policy framework: [Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework](#)

### **New Zealand. Ministry of Health**

21 December 2017 - [The Management of Asbestos in the Non-Occupational Environment](#) - These guidelines are directed at non-workplace exposure to asbestos in the air and to help public health units of district health boards address public concerns and give sensible advice.

21 December 2017 - [Removing Asbestos from your Home](#) - Information on steps and care you should take if your home has asbestos-containing material, and advice about protective gear.

21 December 2017 - [All about Asbestos: Protecting your health at home](#) - Information on identifying asbestos-containing material in your home, health risks of asbestos, and what you can do about it.

### **Australian Medical Association (AuMA)**

14 January 2018 - [National Overarching Mental Health Plan Needed](#) - The AuMA is calling for a national, overarching mental health 'architecture', and proper investment in both prevention and treatment of mental illnesses.

Almost one in two Australian adults will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime, yet mental health and psychiatric care are grossly underfunded when compared to physical health, AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today.

Releasing the AuMA *Position Statement on Mental Health 2018*, Dr Gannon said that strategic leadership is needed to integrate all components of mental health prevention and care.

'Many Australians will experience a mental illness at some time in their lives, and almost every Australian will experience the effects of mental illness in a family member, friend, or work colleague,' Dr Gannon said.

10 January 2018 - [Three Weeks left to Apply for 2018 AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship](#) - Indigenous medical students have three weeks left to apply for the 2018 AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship.



Applications close on 31 January for the Scholarship, a program that has supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study medicine since 1994. The successful applicant will receive \$10,000 each year for the duration of their course.

9 January 2018 - **Five-Point Plan to Build Rural Medical Workforce** - At least one-third of all new medical students should be from rural backgrounds, and more medical students should be required to do at least one year of training in a rural area to encourage graduates to live and work in regional Australia, the AuMA says.

7 January 2018 - **Ban marketing of junk food to children** - Eating habits are established in early childhood, and children should be protected from marketing and advertising of junk food and sugary drinks to give them the best chance of developing healthy attitudes to food, the AMA says in a new Position Statement.

5 January 2018 - **Organ donation can transform lives** - The AuMA has released its updated Position Statement on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation, with new sections on waiting lists and umbilical cord blood banks.

4 January 2018 - **Tougher penalties needed for using mobile phones while driving** -The AuMA is calling for tougher penalties for drivers who text or use mobile phones while driving, including the loss of licence for up to a year for P-plate and L-plate drivers.

Releasing the AuMA *Position Statement on Road Safety 2018*, AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said that the AuMA is committed to advocating for improvements in the way Australians drive, the cars they drive, and the roads they drive on.

3 January 2018 - **AuMA Formally Adopts Updated WMA Pledge** - The AuMA has formally adopted the World Medical Association's updated pledge, the Declaration of Geneva, which recognises for the first time the need for doctors to look after their own health and wellbeing.

'The Declaration is referred to as the *Physician's Pledge*, and is considered a modern successor to the Hippocratic Oath', AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today.

2 January 2018 - **Stay Sun-Safe This Summer to Avoid Skin Cancer** - AuMA President Dr Michael Gannon warns sunburn is dangerous. Wearing clothing that protects you from the sun is the best form of protection, in conjunction with using approved sunscreen.

29 December 2017 - **Make Advance Care Planning Your Resolution For 2018** - AuMA President Dr Gannon says it is important to have a conversation with family about your wishes for options at end of life. An advance care plan can help support your family during a difficult time.

19 December 2017 - **Doctors Call for Action to Prevent Suicide in the Medical Profession** - The Final Report of the *National Forum on Reducing Risk of Suicide in the Medical Profession* – jointly convened by the AMA and Doctors' Health Services Pty Ltd (DrHS) in September – was released today.

The Report records the considerations and recommendations of 82 doctors – nominated by key medical stakeholder organisations – from a forum that examined the individual, organisational, and environmental issues that impact negatively on the emotional health and wellbeing of doctors.

18 December 2017 - **After-hours Reforms Will Better Target Services for Patients** - AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today that the Government's much-needed reforms to after-hours primary care should ensure that after-hours GP services are better targeted towards patients with genuine clinical need.

Dr Gannon said the changes to Medicare funding for after-hours GP services, provided through approved medical deputising services (AMDSs), include a commitment from the Government to reinvest savings into improving services and to continue to work with the AMA on longer-term after-hours care reforms.

## 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.

#### Contact Details

T +61 2 9286 8502

[nicholas.tyacke@dlapiper.com](mailto:nicholas.tyacke@dlapiper.com)

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact your nearest DLA Piper office:

### BRISBANE

Level 9, 480 Queen Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
T +61 7 3246 4000  
F +61 7 3229 4077  
[brisbane@dlapiper.com](mailto:brisbane@dlapiper.com)

### MELBOURNE

Level 21, 140 William Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
T +61 3 9274 5000  
F +61 3 9274 5111  
[melbourne@dlapiper.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sydney@dlapiper.com)

[www.dlapiper.com](http://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](http://www.dlapiper.com)

Copyright © 2017 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](mailto:michael.regos@dlapiper.com).

[1216814518]