



HEALTH ALERT

4 September 2017

Key Decisions	2
Judgments	2
Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission (FWC)	2
Commonwealth. Federal Court	3
New South Wales	4
Queensland	4
South Australia	4
Victoria	5
Western Australia	5
Legislation	5
Commonwealth	5
Northern Territory	5
Tasmania	5
Reports	6
Australia. Department of Health	6
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the boards	6
Australia. National Health And Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	6
Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme	7
Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	7
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	8
New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health	8
Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health	8
Queensland (QLD). Department of Health	9
South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing	9
Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services	9
Victoria. Department of Health	9
Western Australia (WA). Department of Health	10
New Zealand. Ministry of Health	10
Australian Medical Association (AuMA)	10
About us	12
More information	12

KEY DECISIONS

30 August 2017 - *Re Crown Employees (New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services) Residential Centre Support Services Staff Award 2015; Re Crown Employees Ageing, Disability and Homecare - NSW Department of Family and Community Services (Community Living Award) 2015* [2017] NSWIRComm 1058 - After the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the NSW Government announced that it would cease providing disability services directly. It intended to provide these services through non-government agencies. The Crown Employees Ageing, Disability and Homecare - New South Wales (NSW) Department of Family and Community Services (Community Living Award) 2015 (the **Community Living Award**) and the Crown Employees (New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services) Residential Centres Support Services Staff Award 2015 (the **Residential Centres Award**) regulate the employment of persons engaged in or in support of the delivery of disability services in larger supported living centres, community group homes and in home support. It is anticipated that staff working in such services will be transferred to non-government sector service providers from about 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2017. In response to these transfers, the Public Service Association and Professional Officers Association Amalgamated Union of NSW (**PSA**) sought to vary the two awards. The Court was satisfied that it is necessary to set fair and reasonable conditions to vary the Awards by inserting and/or varying:

- an increase in rates of pay and allowances of 2.5% with effect from 1 July 2017;
- a clause dealing with salary packaging arrangements;
- a clause providing for paid 'special sick leave';
- a clause providing for consultation arrangements;
- removal of the 'no extra claims' clauses in each award; and
- a 'Rostering Principles' clause.

The awards will take effect on and from 1 July 2017 and have a nominal term of 12 months.

30 August 2017 - *Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Medibank Private Limited* [2017] FCA 1006 - In this proceeding, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **applicant**) alleged that the respondent, Medibank Private Limited (**Medibank**) engaged in misleading and deceptive conduct, and acted unconscionably. The Commonwealth of Australia subsidises the cost of some medical expenses incurred in respect of certain professional services by the payment of Medicare benefits, including in-hospital pathology and radiology services (**diagnostic services**). Since about 2010, Medibank has met the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by some of its members in respect of in-hospital diagnostic services pursuant to agreements called 'Medical Purchaser Provider Agreements' (**MPPAs**). In mid to late 2013, Medibank commissioned a review of the economic feasibility of the MPPA arrangements. As a result of that review, Medibank decided to terminate most of the MPPAs as part of its overall efforts to constrain growth in costs in order to constrain premium increases. The applicant argues first, that Medibank represented that under the terms of its private health insurance policies, members would not incur any out-of-pocket expenses for 'in-hospital diagnostic services' (**the diagnostic cover representation**) and second, that Medibank had told its members and potential members that it would tell them in writing if it proposed to make any 'detrimental changes' to the benefits it offered, and that it failed to provide such notice (**the notice representation**). After careful consideration, the court held that the applicant had not established that either of the representations were made by Medibank. The Court also held that Medibank had not acted unconscionably. The applicant's case was dismissed with costs.

JUDGMENTS

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission (FWC)

31 August 2017 - *The Sisters of Our Lady of China Health Care (2) Pty. Ltd. T/A Ruby Manor* [2017] FWCA 4531 - Application for approval of The Sisters of Our Lady of China Healthcare (2) P/L trading as Ruby Manor, NSWMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

31 August 2017 - [The Sisters of Our Lady of China Health Care Pty Ltd T/A Pembroke Lodge \[2017\] FWCA 453](#) - Application for approval of the The Sisters of Our Lady of China T/as Pembroke Lodge, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

31 August 2017 - [Halenvy Pty Ltd atf Laurieton Lakeside Unit Trust T/A Laurieton Lakeside Aged Care Residence & Weeroona Aged Care Residence \[2017\] FWCA 4534](#) - Application for approval of the Halenvy Pty Ltd atf Laurieton Lakeside Unit Trust, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

31 August 2017 - [The Sisters of Our Lady of China Health Care Pty. Ltd. T/A Alkira Gardens \[2017\] FWCA 4538](#) - Application for approval of The Sisters of Our Lady of China Healthcare P/L Trading as Alkira Gardens, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

31 August 2017 - [Paston Pty Ltd T/A Meredith Aged Care Facility \[2017\] FWCA 4520](#) - Application for approval of the Meredith House Aged Care, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

31 August 2017 - [Fresh Fields Aged Care \(NSW\) No 1 Pty Ltd T/A Hall & Prior Health and Aged Care Group \[2017\] FWCA 4521](#) - Application for approval of the Fresh Fields Aged Care (NSW) No. 1 Pty Ltd, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

31 August 2017 - [Trustee of The Sisters of Our lady of China T/A Peakhurst Nursing Home \[2017\] FWCA 4522](#) - Application for approval of The Sisters of Our Lady of China Peakhurst Nursing Home, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

30 August 2017 - [Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation \[2017\] FWCA 4495](#) - Application for approval of the Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation Enterprise Agreement 2017.

30 August 2017 - [Trutron Pty Ltd T/A Miranda Aged Care \[2017\] FWCA 4512](#) - Application for approval of the Trutron Pty Ltd, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

30 August 2017 - [Columbia Aged Care Group T/A Columbia Nursing Services Pty Ltd \[2017\] FWCA 4513](#) - Application for approval of the Columbia Aged Care Group, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

29 August 2017 - [Ferngrove Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd v Chuan Wei Ji \[2017\] FWCFB 3901](#) - Permission to appeal against decision [2017] FWC 2999 of Deputy President Sams at Sydney on 8 June 2017 in matter number U2016/15442.

29 August 2017 - [Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association \[2017\] FWC 4471](#) - Single interest employer authorisation.

29 August 2017 - [Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged Society \[2017\] FWCA 4488](#)- Application for approval of the Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged Administration Staff Enterprise Agreement 2017.

29 August 2017 - [Indigo North Health Inc.; Australian Education Union \[2017\] FWCA 4461](#) - Application for variation of Clause 17.5 of the Indigo North Health Early Childhood Teachers and Educators Agreement 2016.

28 August 2017 - [Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association \[2017\] FWCA 4445](#) - Application for approval of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health Services Enterprise Agreement 2016-2020.

25 August 2017 - [Clinpath Laboratories Pty Ltd T/A Clinpath Laboratories \[2017\] FWCA 4421](#) - Application for termination of The Clinpath Laboratories Nursing Employees Enterprise Agreement 2013.

Commonwealth. Federal Court

30 August 2017 - [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Medibank Private Limited \[2017\] FCA 1006](#) - CONSUMER LAW – private health insurance – contract for the provision of insurance in respect of in-hospital pathology and radiology services – where insurer met the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by policyholders in respect of in-hospital pathology and radiology services through direct payment

arrangements with providers of those services – where insurer decided to terminate certain of those payment arrangements and, upon termination of those arrangements, to pay a reduced proportion of the provider's actual charges – whether conduct misleading or deceptive in contravention of ss 18, 29(1)(g), 29(1)(m) or 34 in Sch 2 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) ('Australian Consumer Law') – whether conduct unconscionable in contravention of s 21 of the Australian Consumer Law.

New South Wales (NSW)

30 August 2017 - *Re Crown Employees (New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services) Residential Centre Support Services Staff Award 2015; Re Crown Employees Ageing, Disability and Homecare - NSW Department of Family and Community Services (Community Living Award) 2015* [2017] NSWIRComm 1058 - Awards - applications for variation – wage fixing principles – special case – fair and reasonable conditions of employment – unilateral transfer of employment – public sector employees transferred to non-government sector – preservation of entitlements – non-award benefits - no extra claims clause – rostering principles – paid special sick leave – consultation clause.

30 August 2017 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Cain* [2017] NSWCATOD 131 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES - health practitioner - whether practitioner guilty of unsatisfactory conduct - whether practitioner guilty of professional misconduct.

29 August 2017 - *Health Services Union New South Wales and Ambulance Service of New South Wales* [2017] NSWIRComm 1057 - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE - application for interpretation pursuant to s175 of Industrial Relations Act 1996 - interpretation of industrial instrument - relevant principles of interpretation of awards and industrial instruments - recommendation made for settlement of industrial dispute.

1 September 2017 - *Australian Medico-Legal Group Ptd Ltd v Claireleigh Mosman Pty Ltd* [2017] NSWCA 218 - IMITATION OF ACTIONS — Postponement of the bar — Confirmation — whether the primary judge erred in determining the identity of the creditor — whether the acknowledgment of loans in the respondent's financial statements amounted to sufficient confirmation of the debt – whether acknowledgement of the debt was made to the appropriate party.

CIVIL PROCEDURE — Court of Appeal — Costs orders — Application for leave to appeal from costs order — no error in exercise of discretion — no question of principle — leave refused.'

24 August 2017 - *Miller v Jones* [2017] NSWSC 1096 - PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – Where the defendant was a medical practitioner practicing in France – Where the plaintiff brought proceedings for damages against the defendant arising from alleged negligence in performing surgery – Where surgery was undertaken in France – Consequent necessity to apply French law – Where the plaintiff and the entirety of the witnesses he proposed to call were in Australia – Limited documentary evidence located in France – Defendant a French national who was fluent in English – Plaintiff a resident of NSW who was not fluent in French – Where the defendant sought a stay of proceedings on the basis that the Supreme Court of NSW was a clearly inappropriate forum – Where defendant failed to discharge the onus – Notice of Motion dismissed.

Queensland

25 August 2017 - *WorkPac Healthcare Pty Ltd v Rovic & Ors (No 4)* [2017] QDC 218 - 'COSTS – Whether the defendants should have to pay the costs of the plaintiff with regard to striking out application. Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999 (Q) rr 171, 667, 681 *Mio Art Limited v Macequest Pty Ltd (No. 2)* [2013] QSC 271.'

South Australia

25 August 2017 - *Finding of inquest into death of Garry Robert Warne* 08/2017 (2193/2014) - Garry Robert Warne died at Royal Adelaide Hospital as a result of pneumonia on a background of adenocarcinoma of the lung stage 4, ischaemic heart disease and chronic emphysema. That was found to have been the cause of Mr Warne's death. Mr Warne's medical treatment was at all times satisfactory and his death from natural causes could not have been prevented.

25 August 2017 - [Finding of inquest into death of William Thomas Kelbin](#) 19/2015 (2152/2012) - William Thomas Kelbin died at Whyalla Hospital and Health Services as a result of gastrointestinal haemorrhage and multi-organ failure on a background of severe dementia. He died of natural causes. His custodial circumstances did not contribute to his death.

25 August 2017 - [Finding of inquest into death of Geoffrey Neil Allen](#) 40/2016 (1643/2014) - Geoffrey Neil Allen died at the Monreith Aged Care Facility as a result of multi-organ failure due to general inanition due to end-stage dementia. Mr Allen's custodial circumstances had no bearing on his death. There was no deficiency in the care and attention afforded to Mr Allen while detained in the Monreith Aged Care facility.

Victoria

28 August 2017 - [Finding without inquest into the death of Linda Christine Stanton](#) - Death in care - complications of pulmonary fibrosis and bronchiectasis in a woman with cerebral palsy. Medical care and management was reasonable and appropriate.

Western Australia

25 August 2017 - [Finding of inquest into death of Gladys Maud Ramm](#) 28/2015 (0633/2013) - Gladys Maud Ramm died at the Gleneagles Aged Care Facility as a result of heart failure secondary to aortic stenosis, anaemia, atrial fibrillation and ischaemic heart disease. There is no suggestion other than that Mrs Ramm received appropriate care at all material times.

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

31 August 2017 - [National Health \(Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 8\) \(PB 67 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01120 PB 67 of 2017 as made.

31 August 2017 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 7\) \(PB 66 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01117 PB 66 of 2017 as made.

31 August 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods Information \(Medical Devices\) Specification 2017](#) F2017L01114 as made.

30 August 2017 - [National Health \(Price and Special Patient Contribution\) Amendment Determination 2017 \(No. 6\) \(PB 63 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01111 PB 63 of 2017 as made.

30 August 2017 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2017 \(No. 7\) \(PB 68 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01110 PB 68 of 2017 as made.

30 August 2017 - [National Health Determination under paragraph 98C\(1\)\(b\) Amendment 2017 \(No. 5\) \(PB 64 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01109 PB 64 of 2017 as made.

30 August 2017 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical benefits – early supply\) Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 6\) \(PB 65 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01105 PB 65 of 2017 as made.

30 August 2017 - [National Health \(Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 7\) \(PB 62 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01098 PB 62 of 2017 as made.

28 August 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses\) Rules 2017 \(No. 2\)](#) F2017L01094 as made.

25 August 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Allied Health Services\) Amendment \(Health Care Homes\) Determination 2017](#) F2017L01092 as made.

Northern Territory

1 September 2017 - [Alcohol Harm Reduction Act 2017](#) - Commenced.

Tasmania

1 September 2017 - [Public Health Amendment \(Healthy Tasmania\) Bill 2017](#) - Second Reading in Council.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

1 September 2017 - [Australians Asked to Gear Up For Organ Donation on Jersey Day](#) - On Friday 1 September, Australians are urged to show their team spirit by wearing their favourite sporting club's jersey in support of Jersey Day 2017, established to honour the memory of 13-year-old organ donor Nathan Gremmo.

31 August 2017 - [Coalition formalises local medical places in full and on time](#) - The Australian Government has formalised its commitment to provide 50 Commonwealth Supported Places for local medical students at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital from 2019.

30 August 2017 - [Making more life-changing medicines available to all Australians](#) - The Australian Government is listing almost half a billion dollars' worth of new medicines, providing sufferers of both common and rare diseases access to life-changing drugs for as little as \$6.30 per script.

28 August 2017 - [Increased youth focus as Minister co-chairs suicide prevention committee](#) - Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt AM will co-chair a new steering committee working directly with local Aboriginal communities, as the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial begins detailed planning and delivery of potentially lifesaving initiatives across the region.

Private Health insurance Circulars

28 August 2017 - [PHI 42/17 2018 Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses Rules\) 2017 No.2 PHI 41/17 2018 Private Health Insurance Premium Round Applications](#)

Consultations

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

1 September 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Chiropractic Board has released its quarterly registration data.

1 September 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Board has released its quarterly registration data.

31 August 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

31 August 2017 - [Connections Issue 20 released](#) - The Psychology Board releases Issue 20 of Connections newsletter.

30 August 2017 - [Predatory chiropractor will never practise again](#) - The Chiropractic Board and AHPRA have succeeded in permanently cancelling a chiropractor's registration after they brought disciplinary proceedings to the South Australian tribunal.

29 August 2017 - [Brisbane forum for registered Chinese medicine practitioners](#) - Invitation to attend the Chinese Medicine Board Forum being held at Brisbane.

28 August 2017 - [Sydney forum for registered Chinese medicine practitioners](#) - Invitation to attend the Chinese Medicine Board Forum being held at Sydney.

28 August 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Chiropractic Board of Australia releases its July communiqué.

28 August 2017 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Medical Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

Australia. National Health And Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

28 August 2017 - [Early notification of RFT for new NHMRC Health Evidence Panel](#) - In October, NHMRC plans to advertise an Request for Tender (RFT) for an open tender process to create a new Health Evidence and Methods Panel. NHMRC has hosted a panel since 2009, and is now scoping

requirements for a new panel that will replace the current Health Evidence Panel when it expires in May 2018. These panels form an essential element of NHMRC's health advice development processes, supporting the translation of research into policy and practice. For more information go to [Information for Guideline Developers](#).

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

1 September 2017 - [PBS Website Update](#) - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 September 2017 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

31 August 2017 - [Consultation: Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code](#) - Consultation: Changes to Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code and Schedule 3 medicines advertising. Closing date: 13 October 2017.

31 August 2017 - [Exposure drafts: Therapeutic Goods Amendment \(2017 Measures No. 1\) Bill 2017 and Therapeutic Goods \(Charges\) Amendment Bill 2017](#) - Consultation on exposure draft Bills amending the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 and the Therapeutic Goods (Charges) Act 1989. Closing date: 9am, 5 September 2017.

30 August 2017 - [Designation notices](#) - Now available: designation notices for prescription medicines.

30 August 2017 - [Seasonal influenza vaccines - quality module](#) - Explanatory guide on the quality modules to be submitted for influenza vaccine registration.

30 August 2017 - [Essure contraceptive device](#) - Hazard alert - labelling update relating to potential risks.

30 August 2017 - [TGA presentations: 2017 ARCS Annual Conference, 22-24 August 2017](#) - Presentations from the TGA on a variety of topics.

30 August 2017 - [Bactroban \(mupirocin\) 20 mg/g ointment tube](#) - Update - registered product now available.

29 August 2017 - [TGA presentations: Industry information and consultation sessions on medicinal cannabis - Adelaide and Brisbane - July 2017](#) - Presentations given at Industry information and consultation sessions on medicinal cannabis - Adelaide and Brisbane - July 2017.

29 August 2017 - [Access to medicinal cannabis products](#) - New information on review of clinical evidence for medicinal cannabis and cannabis products.

29 August 2017 - [Epilepsy - randomised controlled trials and other studies](#) - Bibliography of major studies used in developing reviews of clinical evidence for medicinal cannabis and cannabis products.

29 August 2017 - [Multiple sclerosis - randomised controlled trials and other studies](#) - Bibliography of major studies used in developing reviews of clinical evidence for medicinal cannabis and cannabis products.

29 August 2017 - [Nausea and vomiting - randomised controlled trials and other studies](#) - Bibliography of major studies used in developing reviews of clinical evidence for medicinal cannabis and cannabis products.

28 August 2017 - [Metformin extended release tablets](#) - Update - registered products now available.

28 August 2017 - [Medicines and medical devices regulation review](#) - Update on progress of projects and planning of reforms.

28 August 2017 - [Rhino 9 capsules](#) - Rhino 9 capsules pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken.

25 August 2017 - [Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines](#) - We have just published newly-registered extended uses of already-registered medicines

25 August 2017 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia](#) - Newly-registered new chemical entities added.

25 August 2017 - **M Distribution - male herbal supplements** - Recall - Oh Baby!, JO LMax Extra and RUFF Natural Formula.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

1 September 2017 - **Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Clinical Care Standard – Draft Consultation Documents**

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

1 September 2017 - **Spring into action with Asthma first aid skills** - Health experts are using National Asthma Week (September 1-7) to warn those with the condition to plan ahead for unexpected weather changes that may impact on their health.

Thunderstorm asthma will be a key issue of the 2017 awareness week which comes nearly a year after Melbourne's deadly asthma outbreak.

1 September 2017 - **NSW Health renews gastro warning following outbreaks** - NSW Health is renewing calls to people suffering from gastroenteritis to stay home and follow medical advice after a spate of outbreaks in aged care facilities and childcare centres. There were 39 outbreaks of gastroenteritis in institutions from 20-26 August, including 10 in aged care facilities, 22 in child care centres, five in hospitals and two in schools, affecting at least 348 people. This is 120 per cent higher, more than double, than the previous five year weekly average number of outbreaks for August.

1 September 2017 - **Flu peak has passed but season not over yet** - The worst of the flu season has passed but NSW Health is urging people to remain alert to symptoms as the risk is expected to stay high through early spring.

28 August 2017 - **Review into Mental Health Review Tribunal begins** - Minister for Mental Health Tanya Davies and Attorney General Mark Speakman today announced the opening of public submissions for the Review into the operation of the Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT).

Publications

28 August 2017 - **Round 2 AOD Innovation Grant Scheme**

28 August 2017 - **Round 2 NGO Evaluation Grant Scheme**

Guidelines, Policy Directives and Information Bulletins

31 August 2017 - **Right to access medical records by legal representatives - Mental Health Review Tribunal hearings** - Document number: IB2017_027.

29 August 2017 - **Notification of Obsolete Guideline: Hot or Cold Packs Application (GL2005_015)** - Document number: IB2017_026.

28 August 2017 - **Non-Admitted Patient Data Collection: Classification and Code Standards from 1 July 2017** - Document number: IB2017_025.

28 August 2017 - **Non-admitted Patient Reporting Rules** - Document number: GL2017_017.

Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

30 August 2017 - **Strong interest in health at the Central Australia Careers Expo's** - Central Australia Health Service (CAHS) staff members were swamped with enquiries from eager high school students during the NT Skills, Employment & Careers Expo in both Alice Springs and Tennant Creek last week.

1 September 2017 - **Making Our Community Safer –1262 people on the BDR** - More than 1,200 people are now banned from buying takeaway alcohol today as the Territory Labor Government's Banned Drinker Register (BDR) returns across the NT. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said the BDR will make our community safer by blocking problem drinkers from purchasing take away alcohol.

29 August 2017 - **New Fleet for St John Ambulance** - The Territory's Minister for Health Natasha Fyles has officially launched a new fleet of emergency vehicles for St John Ambulance in Darwin. Minister Fyles

said Territorians want and deserve to live in safe and vibrant communities and having access to high quality emergency services is critical to that.

Queensland (QLD). Department of Health

29 August 2017 - **Qld health know-how and Chinese tourism focus for trade missions** - Showcasing Queensland's health innovation know-how and inbound tourism from China will be the focus of Ministerial trade missions to India and China this week.

29 August 2017 - **Hunt called to act on medical school places or stay in Canberra** - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick has called on Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt to cancel his planned visit to the Sunshine Coast this week unless he can deliver a medical school for the region.

29 August 2017 - **Hospital laundry awash with new high-tech equipment** - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick has welcomed a \$2 million upgrade to the Baillie Henderson Hospital Laundry.

29 August 2017 - **Patients welcomed to hospital by the 'Sign Guy'** - A stay in hospital can be stressful enough without the added difficulty of interpreting multiple medical terms in another language.

29 August 2017 - **Funding injection for LGBTIQ mental health ahead of marriage equality vote** - Queensland Health is supporting a 'no-harm' campaign to protect the mental health of LGBTIQ community members during the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

28 August 2017 - **What to do if you or your child has been poisoned** - How do you identify potential poisons around your home? What steps should you take to make your home safe for you and your family? And what should you do if you, or someone else, have been poisoned?

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

31 August 2017 - **CHSALHN - Media release: Upgrades on track at Millicent Hospital**

August 27, 2017 - **Robotic pharmacy revolution at new RAH** - Patient medication supply is going high-tech at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) with the use of one of the largest Automated Pharmacy Distribution Systems in the Southern Hemisphere.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

30 August 2017 - **New dental clinic a lot to smile about** - Central Coast children have a lot to smile about with the recent rebuilding of the Ulverstone Dental Clinic. Based on the grounds of Ulverstone High School, the new clinic will provide a universal dental service for children and young people aged from birth to 17 years from Central Coast. The new two-surgery, \$700,000 clinic replaces an old, outdated clinic that was demolished.

The Children's Dental Service provides a range of dental services including relief of pain, restorative and preventative services, and maintenance of dental health, with all services bulk billed to Medicare so there are no out-of-pocket costs to families.

26 August 2017 - **Building Your Future through shorter elective surgery waiting lists** - Improving Tasmania's health system is important to us because we know it's something Tasmanians worry about.

Carol Cunningham is someone who has experienced first-hand what it's like having to wait for elective surgery.

Mrs Cunningham has had two cataract surgeries. She waited two years for her first under the former Labor-Green government. Like thousands of others, she had waited longer than clinically recommended. Her second surgery was after the Hodgman Liberal Government came to office – and occurred within months.

Victoria. Department of Health

1 September 2017 - **Protecting Victorians During Thunderstorm Asthma** - The Andrews Labor Government has launched a new public health information and education campaign to prepare Victorians for the possibility of thunderstorm asthma during the upcoming pollen season.

30 August 2017 - [Next Steps Forward For Grampians Rehab Facility](#) - Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery has been named as the service provider for the Andrews Labor Government's new Grampians alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation facility. The new facility will offer 20 rehabilitation beds to give people the support they need to help end their drug addiction and rebuild their lives.

29 August 2017 - [Refurb For Victoria's Most Remote Health Service](#) - Victoria's most rural health service is celebrating the completion of its long-awaited revamp. Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing today officially opened the \$185,000 refurbishment of the Gelantipy Bush Nursing Centre in mountainous far-east Gippsland, which has delivered a new back-up generator and roof.

29 August 2017 - [More Broadmeadows Patients To Get Surgery Sooner](#) - More patients in Melbourne's growing northern suburbs will get the elective surgery they need faster with the completion of the Andrews Labor Government's state-of-the-art expansion of Broadmeadows Hospital. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today joined Member for Broadmeadows Frank McGuire to officially open the \$17.3 million redevelopment that includes a first class and bigger elective surgery centre.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

30 August 2017 - [Have your say on WA cancer plan](#) - Feedback is being sought from health professionals, members of the public and other interested stakeholders about the WA Cancer Plan 2018-2023.

1 September 2017 - [Survey still on State's pulse after 15 years](#) - It is one of the longest running population health studies in the nation and after 15 years of continuous monitoring, the Department of Health's Health and Wellbeing Surveillance System (HWSS) still has its finger firmly on Western Australia's pulse.

31 August 2017 - [Two new cases of meningococcal disease in infants](#) - The Department of Health today reported that two infants are currently recovering in hospital after being diagnosed with different types of meningococcal disease.

30 August 2017 - [New measles cases prompt vaccination plea](#) - Western Australians are being alerted to a spike in the number of measles cases in Perth, caused by local transmission.

Reports

1 September 2017 - [Population surveys](#)

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

30 August 2017 - [Faiva Ora 2016–2021 National Pasifika Disability Plan](#) - Faiva Ora 2016–2021 sets out priority outcomes and actions to support and improve the lives of Pacific disabled people of all ages and their families.

29 August 2017 - [HISO 10023.1:2017 PRIMHD Data Process Standard](#) - The PRIMHD process defines the collection of minimally required core data elements for an integrated mental health and addiction services national collection.

29 August 2017 - [HISO 10023.2:2017 PRIMHD Data Set Standard](#) - This document defines the data to be provided in the national integrated mental health and addiction data set (PRIMHD).

29 August 2017 - [HISO 10023.3:2017 PRIMHD Code Set Standard](#) - This document defines the common set of codes to be used for each data element of the Integrated Mental Health Collection (PRIMHD) data set that requires coding.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

31 August 2017 - [New medical school – good intention undermined by bad policy](#) - The AuMA is pleased that the impasse over medical school places on the Sunshine Coast has been resolved, with a commitment to 50 Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) announced today, but good intention has been undermined by bad policy.

AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said that the AuMA has supported the establishment of the new medical school, provided total national medical student numbers do not increase.

31 August 2017 - **AuMA rejects need for big security overhaul on access to Medicare card numbers** - The Government, in responding to media reports of an isolated security breach, commissioned a review of health professionals' access to Medicare card numbers via the Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) system and the telephone channel.

The AuMA has made a submission to this review indicating that while a response from the government is required, no moves should be made that will reduce patients' access to medical care or increase the red tape burden faced by medical practices.

31 August 2017 - **Determining the right fees for your practice** - The AuMA encourages medical practitioners to determine fair and reasonable fees for their services based on their own cost experience. For guidance on determining fees and to assist those considering moving from bulk billing to patient billing, the AuMA provides members with tools and resources, which are available [here](#).

These include The AuMA List of Medical Services and Fees, the Fees Calculator, a checklist for members revising their billing model, a template letter to patients, and testimonials from other healthcare professionals who have successfully made the transition.

31 August 2017 - **Medicinal cannabis** - The legalisation of medicinal cannabis has created confusion and uncertainty for some patients. There are frequent media reports about medicinal cannabis, which have fueled patients asking their GPs to prescribe medicinal cannabis.

While the federal government has legalised medicinal cannabis, there are still many relevant state and territory legislation and administrative processes to navigate before the substance can be prescribed by GPs. Rigorous testing and development of clinical guidelines is still occurring and there is uncertainty amongst the healthcare community about eligibility in patients for medicinal cannabis.

31 August 2017 - **Shared decision making: assistance from patient decision aids** - Recently, a website launched which aims to assist doctors to access patient decision aids (PtDAs) by providing the best resources and evidence summaries. PtDAs can include booklets, videos and web-based tools which ease decision making between patients and doctors for treatment and screening options.

31 August 2017 - **Hepatitis B vaccine shortage** - The AuMA has been advised, through membership with the GP Roundtable, that there is currently a shortage of the adult formulation of hepatitis B vaccines in Australia. The supply for the National Immunisation Program has been unaffected at this stage, so GPs do not need to modify their administration of the vaccine to eligible individuals. The private market supply however has been impacted.

ABOUT US

Dr Gerry Bean



Gerry is a Corporate Partner and provides corporate and commercial advice to the health sector and the not for profit sector. He has over 20 years' experience as a partner. He acts for hospitals, primary healthcare networks, aged care and retirement villages, charities and health insurers. Gerry has acted on several mergers in the health and non-for profit sectors including the merger which created cohealth. Gerry is an active contributor to our pro-bono practice. Gerry is also a director of the Law Institute of Victoria and a director of DLA Piper's International Board.

Contact Details

T +61 3 9274 5661

gerry.bean@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

MELBOURNE

Level 21, 140 William Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

T +61 3 9274 5000

F +61 3 9274 5111

melbourne@dlapiper.com

PERTH

Level 31, Central Park

152–158 St Georges Terrace

Perth WA 6000

T +61 8 6467 6000

F +61 8 6467 6001

perth@dlapiper.com

SYDNEY

Level 22, No.1 Martin Place

Sydney NSW 2000

T +61 2 9286 8000

F +61 2 9286 8007

sydney@dlapiper.com

www.dlapiper.com

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

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

Copyright © 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.

1203951310