



HEALTH ALERT

30 November 2015

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JUDGMENTS

Queensland

9 October 2015 - [Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd v Medical Board of Australia & Bird \[2015\] QCAT 422](#)

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has ordered the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) and Dr Phillip Bird (together the respondents) to file redacted versions of materials filed in the proceedings between them. The Tribunal also ordered that the original versions of the materials are not to be inspected without an order by the Tribunal.

The Tribunal made the orders in response to a successful application by Queensland Newspaper Pty Ltd (the applicant) seeking to revise previous orders prohibiting the publication of the filed material in its entirety.

Both respondents opposed the application on the basis that redaction of the material would impose a significant cost and time impost on the parties, deposing that the number of documents contained in relevant medical records and reports ran over numerous folders.

The Board further submitted that the public interest served by open justice was of reduced utility in this matter because the filed material would require significant or even complete redaction. The Tribunal rejected this submission. It concluded that redaction of the material would ensure that the public interest was served, as best it could be, by open justice while also protecting confidentiality and patients' physical and mental health and safety.

Victoria

12 November 2015 - [Wolstencroft v Zola \(Human Rights\) \[2015\] VCAT 1790](#)

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has declared that a psychologist (the respondent) cannot rely on section 95(3) of the *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic) (the Act) to refuse the complainants access to their deceased son's health records.

The complainants requested access to the records in their capacity as their son's legal representative. The respondent sought to rely on section 95(3) to deny the request, stating it would be contrary to the deceased's expressed wishes to provide the access.

Section 95(2) confers a deceased person's rights under the Act to their legal representative. Section 95(3) limits those rights in relation to providing 'consent', stipulating that such consent is void if given with the knowledge or belief that the consent does not accord with the deceased's expressed wishes.

The complainants submitted, and the Tribunal agreed, that the limitation provided in section 95(3) does not apply in the current circumstances because the complainants have not sought to 'consent' to the release or disclosure of the records to a third party, but rather wish to exercise their right to 'access' the records.

Submissions made on behalf of the Australian Psychological Society expressed their concern for the implications of this conclusion, affirming:

"Release of [health records] without any consideration of the wishes of a deceased patient or client, is against the spirit of the [Act]."

The respondent further warned that individuals might be less inclined to share sensitive information with their psychologist if concerned that the information may be disclosed after their death to persons to whom the individual does not want them disclosed.

16 November 2015 - [Inquest into the Death of Leanne Margaret Patterson](#)

Findings - Inquest into the Death of Leanne Margaret Patterson

Northern Territory

25 November 2015 - [Inquest into the Death of Angus Jimija Dixon \[2015\] NTMC 024](#)

Findings - Inquest into the Death of Angus Dixon

United Kingdom

24 November 2015 - [Rich v Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust \[2015\] EWHC 3395 \(QB\)](#)

NEGLIGENCE - breach of duty -failing to consider the prescription of maternal corticosteroids

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

26 November 2015 - [Health Legislation Amendment \(eHealth\) Bill 2015](#) - C2015B00163 - Assent

25 November 2015 - [Aged Care Amendment \(Red Tape Reduction in Places Management\) Bill 2015](#) - C2015B00200

25 November 2015 - [Health Insurance \(Diabetes Testing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Sites\) Determination 2015](#) - F2015L01837 - as made

25 November 2015 - [National Health \(Weighted average disclosed price – October 2015 reduction day\) Determination 2015 \(No. PB 53 of 2015\)](#) - F2015C00941 - PB 53 of 2015 as amended

25 November 2015 - [National Health \(Immunisation Program — Designated Vaccines\) Determination 2014 \(No. 1\)](#) - F2015C00939 - as amended - current

25 November 2015 - [National Health \(Immunisation Program — Designated Vaccines\) Determination 2014 \(No. 1\)](#) - F2015C00938 - as amended - superseded

25 November 2015 - [National Health \(Remote Aboriginal Health Services Program\) Special Arrangements Instrument 2010 \(No. PB 65 of 2010\)](#) - F2015C00937 - PB 65 of 2010 as amended

25 November 2015 - [Health Insurance \(Allied Health Services\) Determination 2014](#) - F2015C00936 - as amended

25 November 2015 - [Health Insurance \(Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation\) Instrument 2010](#) - F2015C00935 - as amended

25 November 2015 - [Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Rules 2011](#) - F2015C00934 - as amended

Victoria

27 November 2015 - [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(Safe Access Zones\) Bill 2015](#) - Passed both Houses

25 November 2015 - [Assisted Reproductive Treatment Amendment Bill 2015](#) - Second Reading

Western Australia

24 November 2015 - [Public Health \(Consequential Provisions\) Bill 2014](#) - Legislative Assembly Third Reading

23 November 2015 - [Mental Health Amendment Bill 2015](#) - assented

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

26 November 2015 - [A new blueprint for mental health services](#) - Today the Turnbull Government releases its response to the National Mental Health Commission's Review of Mental Health Programme and Services.

26 November 2015 - [Dial one phone number for mental health HELP](#) - Australians suffering mental health issues will only have to dial one dedicated phone number to immediately access the help they need under a bold new Turnbull Government reform plan to be announced today.

26 November 2015 - **Mental health moves towards individualised care packages** - For the first time, Australians with a severe and complex mental illness will have access to an integrated care package tailored to their individual needs, as part of broad, bold reforms to be unveiled by the Turnbull Government today.

25 November 2015 - **Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual Dinner- Great Hall, Parliament House** - The Minister for Health, Sussan Ley addressed the Pharmacy Guild of Australia at the Annual Dinner- Great Hall, Parliament House

24 November 2015 - **Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation** - The Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, tonight announced the membership of the Expert Panel for the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation (the Review), together with its Terms of Reference.

20 November 2015 - **Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation Communiqué** - Communiqué of outcomes from the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation meeting held on 20 November 2015 in Canberra.

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

27 November 2015 - **New information for pharmacy students and graduates** - From today, pharmacy students and graduates have a new way of finding out about becoming a registered pharmacist.

26 November 2015 - **Newsletter from the Medical Radiation Practice Board** - The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia releases its November newsletter.

26 November 2015 - **National Board to waive 2015 renewal late fee** - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who apply to renew their registration in December will not be charged a late fee.

25 November 2015 - **The Board has released its quarterly registration data** - The Pharmacy Board has released its quarterly registration data.

25 November 2015 - **Quarterly registration data released** - The Medical Board has released its quarterly registration data.

25 November 2015 - **QCAT disqualifies former nurse from registration for 10 years** - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has found a former registered nurse engaged in professional misconduct and banned her from applying for registration for 10 years.

24 November 2015 - **National Boards and AHPRA publish health profession agreements** - The National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have published the health profession agreements (HPAs) for 2015/16

24 November 2015 - **Tribunal reprimands doctor, orders counselling** - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) has reprimanded Dr Andrew Alfred George Leggett, a psychiatrist and ordered him to undertake counselling, for having a personal and sexual relationship with a former patient.

24 November 2015 - **Quarterly registration data released** - The National Chiropractic Board has released its quarterly registration data.

24 November 2015 - **Tribunal reprimands surgeon for unprofessional conduct** - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) has reprimanded Dr Chitrakanti Kapadia, a specialist surgeon for unprofessional conduct, for failing to disclose information to the Medical Board of Australia (Board) when applying to renew his medical registration.

23 November 2015 - **Connections Issue 15 released** - The Psychology Board releases Issue 15 of Connections newsletter.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

27 November 2015 - **Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs)** - Added Certolizumab pegol (rbe) (Cimzia), Regorafenib (Stivarga), Apremilast (Otezla) and Apixaban (Eliquis).

25 November 2015 - [TGA presentation given at ASMI Annual Conference, 11 November 2015](#) - Presentation: Regulatory Reform - Are we heading in the right direction?

25 November 2015 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Sebelipase Alfa.

23 November 2015 - [Submissions and TGA response: cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine and ranitidine: corrected advisory statement for medicines](#) - The TGA would like to thank the respondents who have submitted written comments or made submissions in response to the Consultation: cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine and ranitidine: corrected advisory statement for medicines.

23 November 2015 - [Conference participation by the TGA](#) - Added ARCS Melbourne Scientific meeting.

23 November 2015 - [Updating medicine ingredient names](#) - Some medicine ingredient names are changing.

23 November 2015 - [Regulation impact statement: International harmonisation of ingredient names](#) - Documents the decision to update the Australian approved names of ingredients used in medicines to better align with international standards.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

27 November 2015 - [The health of Australia's prisoners 2015](#) - The report explores the conditions and diseases experienced by prisoners; compares, where possible, the health of prisoners to the general Australian community and provides valuable insight into the use of prison health services. Media release: [Prisoners report some improvements to health and health behaviours during incarceration](#)

26 November 2015 - [Medical practitioner workforce 2014](#) - Media release: [More women training as specialists in Australia's medical workforce](#)

26 November 2015 - [Workforce data](#) - Dynamic data display: Australia's registered health workforce by location

25 November 2015 - [Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease—Australian facts: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) - Media release: [Indigenous Australians more likely to be at risk for, and die from, CVD, diabetes and kidney disease](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

26 November 2015 - [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care launches first Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation](#) - The Honourable Sussan Ley, Australian Minister for Health, launches the first national healthcare 'atlas', illuminating variation in health care provision across Australia. The Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation presents a clear picture of substantial variation in healthcare use across Australia, across areas such as antibiotic prescribing, surgical, mental health and diagnostic services.

On the Radar - 23 November 2015 - Issue 250 ([PDF 108KB](#)) ([Word 138KB](#))

NSQHS Standards Guide for Dental Practices and Services, November 2015 ([PDF 2MB](#))

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

26 November 2015 - [Giant steps towards building the mental wealth of the nation](#) - The National Mental Health Commission today welcomed the Federal Government's announcement on mental health reform as "a major step forward in enabling people to lead more contributing lives and for Australia to grow thriving communities."

23 November 2015 - [Commissioner Dudgeon shortlisted for the prestigious Human Rights Medal](#) - Commissioner Professor Pat Dudgeon's unparalleled leadership in working to promote and enhance the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has seen her recognised on the shortlist for the 2015 Human Rights Medal

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

26 November 2015 - **ACT Mobile Dental Clinic scoops major healthcare award** - Leadership and innovation in quality of care was rewarded last night (November 25) at the 14th annual ACT Quality in Healthcare Awards.

25 November 2015 - **Elective surgery blitz to tackle long waits in the ACT** - An elective surgery blitz with a target to perform 1000 extra surgeries in six months will greatly reduce the number of long-wait patients in the ACT.

24 November 2015 - **University of Canberra Public Hospital Project Update** - Brookfield Multiplex has been chosen as the Head Contractor for \$139 million University of Canberra Public Hospital project.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

27 November 2015 - **\$10 million for cutting-edge medical technologies** - The NSW Government has granted \$10 million through the Medical Devices Fund (MDF) to a record seven companies to bring innovative medical technologies to market.

23 November 2015 - **Long Jetty dialysis unit opened** - The NSW Government has granted \$10 million through the Medical Devices Fund (MDF) to a record seven companies to bring innovative medical technologies to market.

Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

20 November 2015 - **Wildlife hunters beware** - The NT Centre of Disease Control has issued an alert to warn wildlife hunters of the risk of leptospirosis and brucellosis, both diseases from wild animals can be acquired while hunting, butchering or skinning animals. "If you become ill with a fever within two weeks of hunting then it is important to seek medical advice for diagnosis and treatment and tell the doctor of your hunting and outdoor activities." Leptospirosis is acquired in swampy areas in the Top End, most recently near Harrison's Dam on the Adelaide River flood plain. "Lepto", as it is called, can be acquired through the skin or mouth. The initial symptoms are fever, headache, muscle pain and red eyes. Sometimes people develop a cough or jaundice (yellow eyes). Brucellosis, is associated with feral pigs and is likely acquired when skinning and gutting the animals. The symptoms are fever, sweating, headache, muscle and joint pain.

Queensland (QLD). Department of Health

23 November 2015 - **Local disability staff appointed for NDIS early launch** - The launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in North Queensland has moved a step closer with the temporary appointment of 10 local area coordinators today.

23 November 2015 - **International Asbestos Conference emphasis individual vigilance** - Homeowners thinking about pre-Christmas home renovations are being warned to arm themselves with information about the risks of inadvertently disturbing asbestos as part of a push to raise community awareness this November.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

24 November 2015 - **Shine SA achieves rainbow tick** - SHine SA has become the first South Australian organisation to be awarded a Rainbow Tick for its commitment to inclusivity and diversity. SHine SA Chief Executive Officer, Jill Davidson, said the Rainbow Tick accreditation is an important stamp of approval for the South Australian Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) community. "A Rainbow Tick is not just a first for SHine SA, but a first for South Australia so we are extremely proud of this achievement," Ms Davidson said. "For many people who identify as GLBTI, attending a health service can be a daunting experience due to the prospect of discrimination or stigma. "As a result GLBTI people may choose to avoid or delay accessing health care, leading to poorer health outcomes, late diagnoses and an increase in preventable diseases.

22 November 2015 - **Paying tribute to those who gave the gift of life** - South Australia's Health Minister Jack Snelling has today paid tribute to organ and tissue donors and their families who have agreed to

donation as part of DonateLife Thank You Day. "Organ donation can be the only treatment option for patients with damaged organs who would otherwise die," Mr Snelling said. "At any one time more than 1600 Australians are waiting for a transplant, so there are always more people that need a transplant than those willing to become an organ donor. "Last year, 36 South Australians gave the ultimate gift of life, donating their organs and giving multiple recipients a second chance at life. "118 became corneal donors and so far this year there have been 13 live donor kidney transplants in our state," he said.

Tasmania (TAS). Department of Health & Human Services

26 November 2015 - **Small children big winners in health awards** - The Hodgman Liberal Government has a goal for Tasmania to have the healthiest population in the nation by 2025. Making every day healthy choices at an early age will help us achieve this important target. Today I was very pleased to present the Gordon Square Early Learning Centre at George Town with a highly prized award for its efforts in helping set its young children on the path to long-term health and wellbeing by making healthy choices normal. The Move Well Eat Well Early Childhood program promotes healthy eating and physical activity. It is vital we develop lifelong healthy habits among Tasmania's young children to help avoid overweight and obesity. Helping children develop healthy eating and physical habits from an early age means they are more likely to avoid the many illnesses plaguing so many of our adults.

26 November 2015 - **National rethink on mental health** - The Hodgman Liberal Government welcomes the Commonwealth's response to the Mental Health Commission's review of mental health care and services. Mental ill-health and suicide are significant issues in Tasmania and across the nation. The Commonwealth's response complements our own Rethink Mental Health strategy, which was launched earlier this year. Rethink is a roadmap for improved mental health services and support over the next decade. The Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments agree that the one-size-fits-all model does not work best in mental health. Our Rethink strategy is committed to providing the right care and support at the right time and in the right place. It focuses on individual tailored support and early intervention. Rethink also recognises that people need to know where and how to get help and that it should be easy to access the support they need at the time they need it.

21 November 2015 - **East coast wild shellfish update** - Public health authorities are reminding Tasmanians of the wild shellfish warning in place for Tasmania's east coast. Acting Director of Public Health Dr Mark Veitch warned Tasmanians and visitors to the state that the risk of poisoning from eating wild harvested shellfish remained. "Four people have now experienced brief but unpleasant illness from paralytic shellfish poisoning after eating wild harvested shellfish from Tasmania's east coast," Dr Veitch said.

20 November 2015 - **Low THC hemp in food** - The legalisation of low-THC hemp as a food is a step closer today after agreement at a meeting of Australian and New Zealand health ministers. Health Minister Michael Ferguson said he was pleased his counterparts had agreed with a Tasmanian Liberal Government plan to accelerate work on the lifting of the prohibition of hemp food product. The Hodgman Government has been a long-time advocate for the use of low-THC hemp in food, which will present an enormous opportunity for our farmers. The forum noted that while most of the work underway to address information gaps in relation to low-THC hemp food was on track, completion of clinical human consumption trials had been delayed from March 2016 to later in the year.

Victoria. Department of Health

27 November 2015 - **Safe Access Zones To Protect Women's Right To Medical Privacy And Dignity** - Victorian women will now be able to access lawful medical services free from harassment and intimidation following the passage of legislation to establish safe access zones around abortion providers. The Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Safe Access Zone) Bill 2015 today formally passed the Victorian Legislative Council without amendment.

27 November 2015 - **Victoria's 10-Year Mental Health Plan Launched** - The Andrews Labor Government today delivered on its election commitment to launch a 10 Year Mental Health Plan in its first year of office. Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley released the plan, which outlines the government's goals. The plan will help ensure that future investment is made in a coordinated, integrated way so that Victorians can access mental health services in the right place and at the right time.

26 November 2015 - **Government Expands Role Of Pharmacies In Health Care** - The Andrews Labor Government is supporting community pharmacies to offer a greater range of health services and more support to individuals and families. Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, today announced tenders to deliver the Government's Super Pharmacies Initiative are now open, which will see the delivery of five, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week pharmacies by June 2016.

25 November 2015 - **New Board Appointed To Ambulance Victoria** - On the first day of coming to office, the Andrews Labor Government declared an end to the war on paramedics and referred the issue of paramedics' pay to the independent umpire. The Ambulance Victoria Board was replaced and a new Acting Chief Executive Officer was appointed

25 November 2015 - **Progress Made In Implementing 2014 Hazelwood Inquiry Recommendations** - The Andrews Labor Government welcomes the first Progress Report on the implementation of recommendations made by the 2014 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry, which was tabled in Parliament today. The Hazelwood Mine Fire lasted for 45 days, and exposed the town of Morwell to high levels of smoke and ash.

22 November 2015 - **Thank You To Victoria's Organ And Tissue Donors** - Today is DonateLife Thank You Day, an opportunity to say 'thanks' to the hundreds of Victorians who donated their organs and tissues after their deaths. Victorians are the most generous in the country for donating their organs. Last year, 117 Victorians donated 369 organs – 202 kidneys, 64 livers, 53 lungs, 31 hearts, 13 pancreases, 1 heart-lung and 5 pancreas islets. These donations helped 352 Australians to receive a life-changing organ transplant last year, an increase of 23 per cent on 2013.

21 November 2015 - **Pilot Programs To Give Women More Maternity Choices** - New programs enabling private midwives to provide birthing services in public hospitals will commence next year, giving Victorian women more choices when it comes to their maternity care. As promised prior to the election, two pilot sites – at Monash Health and at Northern Health – will be established to enable women to give birth in a public hospital as a private patient of an eligible midwife.

20 November 2015 - **Mental Health, Drugs Reform Left Vulnerable In The Cold** - The number of people able to access mental health and drug-and-alcohol services fell by 20 per cent following botched changes by the former Coalition Government, an independent review has found. The review, commissioned by the Minister for Mental Health and led by Aspex Consulting, was set up to identify problems

29 October 2015 - **Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED)** - The Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED) provides a comprehensive dataset of the causes, effects and nature of illness, and the use of health services in Victoria. It supports health service planning, policy formulation, epidemiological research and public hospital funding under the casemix system. All Victorian public and private hospitals, including rehabilitation centres, extended care facilities and day procedure centres, report a minimum set of data for each admitted patient episode.

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

26 November 2015 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Milestone reached with Gnowangerup Hospital** - The completion of improvement works at Gnowangerup Hospital marks another important milestone for the Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI), a \$500 million transformation project investing in country health across much of Western Australia's southern inland region, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

25 November 2015 - **Minister for Health: Eastern suburbs to have own health service** - Recognising the continued growth and development taking place in Perth's eastern suburbs, the State Government today announced the restructure of health services from July 1, 2016.

24 November 2015 - **Minister for Health: Midland hospital patients transfer a success** - Health Minister Kim Hames has congratulated the teams involved in the successful transfer of 83 inpatients from Swan District Hospital and Swan Mental Health to the new 307-bed St John of God Midland Public Hospital which opened at 7am this morning.

20 November 2015 - [Report details patterns of ADHD treatment in WA](#) - The number of patients prescribed stimulant medication for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) increased in 2014, according to the latest report from the Western Australian Stimulant Regulatory Scheme. There were 18,656 Western Australians receiving stimulants for the treatment of ADHD in 2014, up from 17,599 in 2013. In 2014, these patients filled 152,279 prescriptions for stimulant medication. WA Health Chief Pharmacist Neil Keen said the Stimulant Regulatory Scheme had set the policy for prescribing and dispensing of stimulant medication in WA since 2003.

20 November 2015 - [Premier and Minister for Health: New hospital part of Midland's revitalisation](#) - Midland's first new public hospital in more than 60 years will open on Tuesday, providing Perth's north-eastern corridor and Wheatbelt residents with high level, contemporary health services.

Operational Directives

26 November 2015 - [OD 0636/15](#) - Nutrition Standards for Adult Inpatients in WA Hospitals - The 'Nutrition Standards for adult inpatients in WA hospitals' guides all those providing patient meals and designing and planning patient menus and recipes to: meet the nutritional needs of adult inpatients; and provide adult inpatients with suitable menu choices.

26 November 2015 - [OD 0635/15](#) - Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist - The purpose of the Policy for Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist is to inform mental health and other health staff of the statutory requirement to report notifiable incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist MHA 2014 section (s) 526(2).

25 November 2015 - [OD 0634/15](#) - WA Health Substantive Equality Policy - The WA Health Substantive Equality Policy has been revised to reflect the expanded scope of the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality and to reaffirm WA Health's ongoing commitment and responsibilities.

25 November 2015 - [OD 0633/15](#) - Department of Health Open Data Strategy - The Department of Health Open Data Strategy (Strategy) outlines a plan of action for the Department to achieve the Western Australian Government's commitment to Open Data and recommendation for agency-level policy. Accordingly, the Strategy outlines the Department's approach to evaluating data for release, with all data classified as 'Public' considered to be in scope for public release (refer to Information Classification Policy OD 0537/14). The Strategy also considers the Open Data policy principles that apply to the Department and outlines actions to achieve policy objectives.

25 November 2015 - [IC 0235/15](#) - Dental Technician (Advanced Level) Classification Progression – Dental Technicians Industrial Agreement 2015 - Notification of requirements for progression to Dental Technician Advanced Level 1 and Level 2 as prescribed by the Dental Technicians Industrial Agreement 2015

New Zealand (NZ). Ministry of Health

26 November 2015 - [Suicide Facts: 2013 data](#) - This page provides high level suicide information for 2013 ahead of the annual Suicide Facts 2013 publication.

United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health

26 November 2015 - [Jimmy Savile NHS investigations: response to lessons learnt report](#) - Policy paper

24 November 2015 - [PM announces funding for UK's first Dementia Research Institute](#) - Press release

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

25 November 2015 - [HIPAA Settlement Reinforces Lessons for Users of Medical Devices](#) - Lahey Hospital and Medical Center (Lahey) has agreed to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

27 November 2015 - **AuMA warns school leavers to protect their health and reputation during schoolies week** - AuMA Vice President, Dr Stephen Parnis, urged school leavers celebrating Schoolies Week around the country to ensure their celebrations are memorable for all the right reasons.

26 November 2015 - **Mental health framework well-intentioned but lacks detail on new funding and service delivery** - The AuMA welcomed the overall intent of the Government's new mental health framework, but questions remain over new funding, on-the-ground service delivery, and the ongoing role of the Federal Government in the mental health sector.

26 November 2015 - **Healthcare Atlas a useful first step in understanding health service distribution** - The AuMA commended the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care on the production of the Atlas of Healthcare Variation, the first study of its kind in Australia.

25 November 2015 - **Stop violence against women** - On White Ribbon Day 2015, the AuMA reiterated its strong support for measures that stop violence against women.

25 November 2015 - **Time to set a national target for closing the gap in the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment** - The AuMA called on all Australian governments to commit to setting a target for closing the gap in the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment.

British Medical Association (BMA)

24 November 2015 - **Juniors on the brink of industrial action** - Tens of thousands of junior doctors in England are preparing to take industrial action next week after BMA attempts to avert it were ignored. The Government had yet to respond to the association's offer of conciliation talks via Acas, which was made as the ballot result was announced last week. More than 28,000 junior doctors in England responded to the ballot, a 76 per cent turnout, with more than 99 per cent voting in favour of industrial action short of a strike, and 98 per cent for full strike action.

ABOUT US

Caroline Atkins



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

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