



HEALTH ALERT

23 November 2015

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JUDGMENTS

Commonwealth. Federal Court

17 November 2015 - [Burnett v Eastern Health \[2015\] FCA 1247](#)

The Federal Court of Australia has made orders for an injunction to restrain Eastern Health (the Respondent) from terminating the employment of Melissah Burnett (the Applicant). The Court also restrained the Respondent from taking any disciplinary action against the Applicant based on its prior investigations into her conduct.

The Applicant, a Nurse Unit Manager at Box Hill Hospital, applied for injunctive relief pending the hearing and determination of two claims against her employer for its alleged breach of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) (the Act).

The Applicant's first claim is that the Respondent contravened the Act by failing to follow the procedure set out in an applicable enterprise agreement when conducting its investigations into her conduct. The Applicant took particular issue with the quality of particulars provided by the Respondent to support allegations of her misconduct.

The Applicant's second claim is that the Respondent contravened the Act by taking adverse action against her after she lodged complaints to the Victorian Health Incident Management System.

To determine whether to grant the application, the Court assessed the strength of the Applicant's claim in relation to the Respondent's alleged failure to follow investigative procedures set out in the enterprise agreement. On the evidence, the Court concluded that there is a "strongly arguable case" that the Respondent did indeed fall short of the requirements under the enterprise agreement. The Court noted it's view that the Respondent needed to provide the Applicant with sufficient particulars of each allegation in order to comply its obligations.

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

13 November 2015 - [Wilson \[2015\] FWC 7835](#)

The Fair Work Commission has dismissed two applications for scope orders in relation to a proposed enterprise agreement covering medical practitioners employed by the ACT Public Service. The ACT was represented in this matter by ACT Health and Calvary Health Care Pty Ltd (the Respondents).

The applications were lodged separately by two bargaining representatives, John Wilson and Jennifer Wyborn (the Applicants), for 7 radiation oncologists and 48 senior medical practitioners (SMPs) respectively. The Applicants each sought to exclude their respective groups from the scope of the proposed enterprise agreement which otherwise proposes to cover all medical practitioners employed in the ACT Public Service.

Both Applicants argued that clear differences exist between the operation and organisation of their respective groups compared to other practitioners employed by the Respondents. On this point, ACT Health responded that the distinction between SMPs and other senior medical officers is simply one of qualifications, experience and prestige rather than "any characteristic that is relevant to their operational or organisational role".

Among the reasons cited for dismissing the applications, the Tribunal concluded that radiation oncologists and SMPs are not geographically, operationally or organisationally distinct from their colleagues under the agreement. The Tribunal also gave significant weight to the fact that neither the Australian Salaried Medical Officer's Federation ACT, nor the Australian Medical Association ACT, currently support a separate agreement for either radiation oncologists or SMPs. The Tribunal concluded that it was not satisfied that it was reasonable in the circumstances to make the scope orders sought.

18 November 2015 - [Shane Van Styn v Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation \[2015\] FWC 7870](#) - termination of employment - extension of time

18 November 2015 - [Kelly Harder v CareWest Ltd \[2015\] FWC 7810](#) - application for unfair dismissal

Commonwealth. Federal Circuit Court

17 November 2015 - [Kubat v Northern Health \[2015\] FCCA 3050](#)

INDUSTRIAL LAW – Adverse action – whether dismissal for reasons including the applicant’s mental disability, being depression – whether dismissal for reason that applicant was unable to meet the inherent requirements of her position – belittling – unreasonable disciplinary action – pressure to resign – reasonable adjustments

New South Wales

19 November 2015 - [Tanious v South Eastern Sydney Local Health District \[2015\] NSWCA 356](#)

APPEAL – amended notice of appeal filed pursuant to grant of leave to appeal – self-represented appellant – the form of the notice of appeal irregular – notice of motion to strike out the amended notice of appeal – whether motion should be granted NEGLIGENCE – proceedings brought by son alleging harm suffered as a result of a negligent medical treatment of his father PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – negligence proceedings – amended statement of claim struck out and proceedings summarily dismissed – decision upheld on review – amended statement of claim properly struck out – whether proceedings properly dismissed – whether plaintiff should have been given an opportunity to replead – whether plaintiff able to articulate an available cause of action – whether other reasons to refuse leave to replead

19 November 2015 - [Macquarie International Health Clinic Pty Ltd v Sydney Local Health District; Sydney Local Health District v Macquarie Health Corporation Ltd \(No 7\) \[2015\] NSWSC 1733](#)

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – Whether Supreme Court has power to transfer Land and Environment Court proceedings to Supreme Court – Civil Procedure Act 2005 (NSW), s 149B

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

18 November 2015 - [CASA EX187/15 - Exemption — carriage of children suffering from a serious medical condition \(Virgin Australia\)](#) - F2015L01813 - CASA EX187/15 as made

16 November 2015 - [Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses\) Amendment Rules 2015 \(No. 4\)](#) - F2015L01803 - as made

13 November 2015 - [Aged Care Amendment \(Independent Complaints Arrangements\) Commencement Proclamation 2015](#) - F2015L01792 - as made

13 November 2015 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Medical Devices\) Amendment \(In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices\) Regulation 2015](#) - F2015L01791 - SLI 2015 No. 188 as made

13 November 2015 - [Private Health Insurance \(Complaints Levy\) Amendment Rules 2015](#) - F2015L01789 - as made

13 November 2015 - [Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code 2015](#) - F2015L01787 - as made

Australian Capital Territory

19 November 2015 - [Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#) - Introduced

Queensland

6 November 2015 - [Public Health \(Childcare Vaccination\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#) - Assented - Commences 1 January 2016

Victoria

12 November 2015 - [Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment \(Child Safe Standards\) Bill 2015](#) - Council Second Reading - Passed Assembly

12 November 2015 - [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(Safe Access Zones\) Bill 2015](#) - Council Second Reading - Passed Assembly

Western Australia

18 November 2015 - [Mental Health Amendment Bill 2015](#) Legislative Assembly Third Read

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

20 November 2015 - [Release of Final Report of Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation](#) - The second, and final, report from the Independent Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation has been released.

17 November 2015 - [Australia signs new health cooperation agreements with China](#) - Australia has signed agreements with China, refreshing the framework for technical cooperation between the two countries on health issues, including communicable disease control, preventative health, and medicines policy.

16 November 2015 - [National day announced to honour organ and tissue donors and their families](#) - Minister for Rural Health, Fiona Nash has asked Australians to reflect on the gift of organ donation this week ahead of DonateLife Thank You Day on Sunday 22 November 2015.

15 November 2015 - [Health Minister to visit China and Indonesia](#) - Minister for Health, Sussan Ley, will visit China and Indonesia next week (16-20 November) for talks with senior Ministers and to enhance health, sports and aged care partnerships.

[The 1 December 2015 MBS XML file is now available](#)

Private Health insurance Circulars

18 November 2015 - [PHI 78/15 Prostheses List – Applications For 2016](#)

18 November 2015 - [PHI 77/15 New Version \(version 1.12.0.1\) of Check-IT 2 Released](#)

17 November 2015 - [PHI 76/15 Private Hospital Information](#)

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

20 November 2015 - [Health practitioners reminded to renew registration by 30 November](#) - Time is running out for health practitioners across 12 professions to renew registration with their National Board before it expires.

20 November 2015 - [Tribunal reprimands doctor, orders conditions on registration](#) - The State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia (SAT) has reprimanded, fined and ordered conditions to be imposed on the registration of Dr Ross Jose a general practitioner.

19 November 2015 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

19 November 2015 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Optometry Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

18 November 2015 - [Newsletter - Registrant Update](#) - The Physiotherapy Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

18 November 2015 - [National drug screening protocol](#) - There are health practitioners with a history of substance misuse who have restrictions placed on their registration. These restrictions are generally designed to keep the public safe while the practitioner remains in practice.

18 November 2015 - [Tribunal finds doctor engaged in professional misconduct](#) - The State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia (Tribunal) has found Dr Premanandan Vayal Veetil, who works in general practice, guilty of unsatisfactory professional performance and professional misconduct.

18 November 2015 - [Tribunal suspends doctor, limits practice](#) - A tribunal has suspended a doctor's registration for six months, ordered him to never again see female patients and found that he engaged in both professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct.

17 November 2015 - [Perth forum invitation for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese Medicine](#) - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia invites practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine to attend an information forum being held at The University of Western Australia - Claremont Campus on Monday 23 November 2015.

16 November 2015 - [Final-year students urged to apply for registration now](#) - AHPRA is now calling for online applications for registration from students who are in their final year of an approved program of study.

16 November 2015 - [Tribunal orders costs against enrolled nurse for obtaining registration improperly](#) - A tribunal has found an enrolled nurse provided false and misleading information to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to gain registration in Australia.

16 November 2015 - [Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice published today](#) - New *Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice* have been published for all Chinese medicine practitioners today.

13 November 2015 - [Tribunal reprimands former psychologist, finds professional misconduct](#) - The Qld Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded former psychologist Steven Spring for professional misconduct, and precluded him from applying for registration for two and a half years.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

20 November 2015 - [NHMRC Health Tracker - November](#) - NHMRC has released a discussion paper "Better informed health care through better clinical guidelines" which addresses the key challenges facing guideline development in Australia, and includes the NHMRC's draft 2015 Standards for Guidelines.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

20 November 2015 - [Botox: beware of "home based" beauty services](#) - You should always see a qualified health professional for cosmetic anti-wrinkle injections. Make sure the service is provided in a safe and sterile environment.

20 November 2015 - [Expert review of medicines and medical devices regulation - second report released](#) - Stage two report for the Review of Medicines and Medical Devices has been released.

19 November 2015 - [Final decisions and reasons of decisions by a delegate \(Chemicals\) of the Secretary to the Department of Health - November 2015](#) - Reasons for decisions by the Delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Health for amendments to the Poisons Standard.

19 November 2015 - [TGA presentations given at the ARCS-TGA workshop, 11 November 2015](#) - Presentations given by the TGA on approaches to designing risk minimisation programmes that form part of risk management plans for medicines.

19 November 2015 - [Final decisions and reasons of decisions by a delegate \(Medicines\) of the Secretary to the Department of Health - November 2015](#) - Reasons for decisions by the Delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Health for amendments to the Poisons Standard.

18 November 2015 - [Evidence of GMP compliance for prescription medicines](#) - Guidance for sponsors and applicants preparing applications and requests involving steps in the manufacture of medicines regulated as prescription medicines.

18 November 2015 - [InSync III cardiac resynchronisation therapy pacemakers](#) - Hazard alert - potential battery issues.

18 November 2015 - [Information sessions: CTN scheme transition and how to use TGA Business Services](#) - Representatives from hospitals and universities conducting clinical trials are invited to attend an information session.

17 November 2015 - [Essential principles - consent for noncompliance](#) - Updated email address on form: Application for consent to import, supply or export a medical device that does not comply with the essential principles.

17 November 2015 - **26BB Legislative Instrument: Frequently asked questions** - On 1 January 2016, a new legislative instrument under section 26BB of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* will commence.

16 November 2015 - **Submissions and TGA response: Review of cardiovascular safety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and Safety review of diclofenac** - The reviews covered eight non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs: diclofenac, naproxen, ibuprofen, celecoxib, etoricoxib, indomethacin, meloxicam and piroxicam.

16 November 2015 - **TGA presentation given at the Biotherapeutics Association of Australia Annual Conference, 22 October 2015** - This presentation provides an update on biologicals requirements and overview of the process for variations.

16 November 2015 - **OTC business process improvements** - A number of agreed business process improvements for registered over the counter medicines are now nearly concluded and will be implemented shortly, consistent with timeframes previously agreed with industry.

16 November 2015 - **Amendments to the regulatory framework for in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs)** - Amendments have now taken effect and a summary is provided.

16 November 2015 - **Target evaluation times for OTC medicine applications** - The TGA aims to complete the OTC medicine evaluation process within a specified target time.

16 November 2015 - **Documents released under Section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982** - Added FOI 322-1415 and FOI 026-1516 documents.

13 November 2015 - **Optisure dual coil defibrillation leads** - Hazard alert - potential for loss of therapy due to lead insulation damage.

12 November 2015 - **GMP clearance application process improvements** - While extended timelines continue to be experienced, TGA has made significant improvements in processing times for MRA GMP Clearance applications.

11 November 2015 - **Consultation: Proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard - ACMS meeting, March 2016** - The TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard. Closing date: 10 December 2015

11 November 2015 - **Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels No. 3** - An updated edition of the Medicines Advisory Statements Specification is proposed to be registered on or shortly after 12 December 2015.

10 November 2015 - **Notification of a new proprietary ingredient** - Updated Notification of a new proprietary ingredient form.

10 November 2015 - **Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs)** - Added Sevelamer hydrochloride.

10 November 2015 - **ACPM meeting statement, Meeting 306, 2 October 2015** - Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines, Meeting 306 statement.

9 November 2015 - **Conference participation by the TGA** - Added November 2015 conferences.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

19 November 2015 - **Emergency department care 2014–15: Australian hospital statistics**

19 November 2015 - **Media release: Most emergency department patients seen on time**

18 November 2015 - **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2014 report: South Australia**

16 November 2015 - **Australian hospital peer groups**

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

16 November - [World Antibiotic Awareness Week: Act now to address a global health issue](#) - Antibiotics must be used at the right time, in the right dose, for the right length of time, and for the right reason. These are among the important messages in Antibiotic Awareness Week 2015.

16 November - [Increasing awareness of appropriate use of antibiotics in Australia: health and agriculture join together for Antibiotic Awareness Week](#) - World Antibiotic Awareness Week (16-22 November 2015) aims to increase awareness of the growing problem of global antibiotic resistance, and encourage best practice across the health, veterinary and agriculture sectors in using antibiotics responsibly.

16 November 2015 - On the Radar - Issue 249 ([PDF 140KB](#)) & ([Word 208KB](#))

Australian Prudential Health Authority (APRA)

17 November 2015 - [APRA has released seven quarterly statistical publications for the private health insurance industry](#)

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

18 November 2015 - [Mental Health Advisory Council members expression of interest](#) - Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons interested in becoming a member of the Mental Health Advisory Council Mental Health Advisory Council members expression of interest.

19 November 2015 - [New legal protection for life-saving Good Samaritans](#) - People administering life-saving Naloxone in emergency situations will be legally protected by legislation introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Minister for Health Simon Corbell today.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

19 November 2015 - [NSW leads nation in timely, quality emergency department care](#) - Health Minister Jillian Skinner today welcomed a report showing NSW is ranked number one in the nation for delivering timely emergency department care.

19 November 2015 - [Next generation of medical innovators](#) - Health Minister Jillian Skinner tonight congratulated 12 outstanding medical researchers as they graduated from the 2015 Medical Device Commercialisation Training Program.

17 November 2015 - [Annual Report 2014-15](#)

Policy Directives & Guidelines

16 November 2015 - [Provision of Private Midwifery Services by Eligible Midwives in NSW Public Hospitals GL2015_014](#)

Publications

12 November 2015 - [Dignity, Respect and Choice: Advance Care Planning for End of Life for People with Mental Illness - A Comprehensive Guide](#)

12 November 2015 - [Dignity, Respect and Choice: Advance Care Planning for End of Life for People with Mental Illness - An Introductory Guide](#)

Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

18 November 2015 - [Katherine cancer services boosted](#) - The burden on cancer patients from Katherine and the Big Rivers region will be significantly reduced, with a new Day Stay Unit now operational at the Katherine Hospital. Minister for Health John Elferink said there are more than 20 people in the region with a cancer diagnosis and six people are currently receiving low-risk chemotherapy in the unit.

Queensland. Department of Health

18 November 2015 - **\$5 million to boost cardiac rehabilitation participation** - The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$5 million this financial year to get more patients into cardiac rehabilitation after a heart attack, reducing their chance of another cardiac event.

18 November 2015 - **Schoolies urged to be vigilant, check vaccination status** - With most year 12 graduates heading to schoolies today, Queensland Health is urging teenagers to make sure their vaccinations are up-to-date. In particular, schoolies heading overseas should check their vaccination status prior to travelling, particularly for measles and Hepatitis A, Dr Sonya Bennett Executive Director of the Communicable Diseases Branch said. "Anyone visiting Bali or other Asian countries such as Thailand should be aware of the dangers of being infected with the deadly rabies virus, particularly if planning to visit monkey forests," she said. Rabies is known to be in domestic and native animals in these countries and travellers should not allow any type of contact with animals, particularly dogs and monkeys.

17 November 2015 - **More premmie babies treated faster with new retrieval service** - More of Queensland's tiniest patients have been given a helping hand to access lifesaving treatment thanks to a centrally-coordinated neonatal retrieval service, officially launched by the Palaszczuk Government today on World Prematurity Day.

17 November 2015 - **Sunshine Coast interns praise award-winning emergency medicine director** - Sunshine Coast's Director of Emergency Medicine has been awarded Queensland 2015 CPMEC Clinical Educator of the Year. Dr Michael Natale was nominated for the prestigious award by the 2015 intern group who attend his weekly Department of Emergency Medicine education sessions at both Nambour General Hospital and Caloundra Emergency Department.

13 November 2015 - **Food safety myths busted** - While thousands of Queenslanders are struck down each year with foodborne illness caused by contaminated food, many of us are still unclear how to prevent food poisoning. Health Protection Branch Executive Director Sophie Dwyer said the focus of this year's Australian Food Safety Week was to educate people on how to prepare and handle food and bust any myths. "A common misconception is that food poisoning is caused the last meal someone ate, however some forms of food poisoning can take days or even weeks to eventuate," Ms Dwyer said.

Queensland (QLD). Office of the Health Ombudsman

13 November 2015 - **October performance data – Office of the Health Ombudsman** - Figures released for October show the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) has continued to receive consistently high numbers of complaints, with almost three-quarters of these coming from health consumers. Health Ombudsman Leon Atkinson-MacEwen said it was important for Queenslanders to know what their options are if something isn't right in the healthcare they receive. "These figures show many people are taking the quality of health service provision very seriously and contacting the OHO when they are unsatisfied with the level of patient-care received by them, a family member or someone in their care," said Mr Atkinson-MacEwen.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

18 November 2015 - **Expressions of interest open for Repat** - Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open to determine the future use of the Repatriation General Hospital site. Health Minister Jack Snelling said following the relocation of current clinical services to other SA Health sites, the intention is that the Repat site will be sold, with the strict condition that it is used for health, aged-care, education or community related purposes.

17 November 2015 - **Public health warning as SA heats up** - As the state gets set to swelter over the coming days, health authorities are reminding all South Australians to take simple measures to stay safe in the sun. Health Minister Jack Snelling said while many South Australians will be keen to spend time outdoors over the coming days, sunburn, dehydration and heat exhaustion can be a real risk if proper precautions aren't taken.

14 November 2015 - **SA Health Awards winners announced** - The past year of outstanding staff achievements, projects and innovations in health was celebrated last night at the seventh annual SA

Health Awards ceremony. Health Minister Jack Snelling said the awards were an opportunity to highlight those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to improve health services for South Australians.

Tasmania (TAS). Department of Health & Human Services

20 November 2015 - **Better Mental Health and Wellbeing – A Long-Term Plan for Mental Health in Tasmania 2015-25** - As part of its election commitment A long-term plan for mental health, the Minister for Health has launched Rethink Mental Health Better Mental Health and Wellbeing – A Long-Term Plan for Mental Health in Tasmania 2015-25. The Long-Term Plan delivers on the Government's commitment to developing an integrated mental health system that provides support in the right place, at the right time and with clear signposts about where and how to get help.

18 November 2015 - **Nurse Shifts** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is improving the way our health system operates so that patients get the care they need and deserve. Unlike previous Governments, we have spoken openly with the public about the many serious problems in the health system – problems that Labor tried to keep secret. The long-standing issue of double shifts is a serious concern for our hospitals and the Double Shift Working Group, which includes representation from the THS and the ANMF, has investigated the issue closely and developed strategies to reduce the number of double shifts occurring in our hospitals.

Victoria (VIC). Department of Health

19 November 2015 - **Victoria's world-class public health services honoured** - Victoria's public health services were last night celebrated at a gala awards ceremony at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Now in their 11th year, the 2015 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards recognise quality, innovation and excellence by government-funded healthcare providers and organisations delivering public health research and/or programs.

19 November 2015 - **Hospitals ordered to develop fairer car parking policies** - All Victorian public hospitals will be required to review their car parking fees and publish and publicise formal policies that will reduce the burden on vulnerable patients, in particular those who frequently attend hospital. The Andrews Labor Government has delivered on its election commitment to review hospital parking fees at Victoria's public hospitals. Car parking fees are set by each individual health service, with revenue raised spent on providing services to patients. However, an independent review commissioned by the Government found there is significant variance between health services' car parking arrangements.

16 November 2015 - **New Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services appointed** - Ms Kym Peake has today been appointed the new Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms Peake has served as Acting Secretary of the Department since the end of September, and brings a wealth of experience to this role. Ms Peake was previously Deputy Secretary, Governance Policy and Coordination at the Department of Premier and Cabinet. She has also held senior positions at the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, and the former Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

13 November 2015 - **Minister raises Victoria's concerns at disability meeting** - Today the Disability Reform Council (DRC), made up of State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers for Disability, met in Melbourne to further the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Minister for Disability Martin Foley said he welcomes the progress made toward the NDIS full scheme roll-out following the Bilateral Agreement between Victoria and the Commonwealth, signed in September. The Andrews Labor Government looks forward getting started this year on arrangements for innovative housing trials in Barwon. Victoria is the only state ready to begin trials.

16 November 2015 - **Car Parking Fees review** - 05/2015 - Public Health Services & Hospitals - This circular relates to the implementation of the Victorian Government election commitment to reduce burden of car parking fees for vulnerable patients who frequently attend the health services.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

19 November 2015 - [Minister for Health: Making life easier for expectant mums](#) - Expectant mothers in Western Australia have saved an estimated 20,000 hours a year on GP appointments thanks to an initiative to allow midwives to administer whooping cough and flu vaccinations.

19 November 2015 - [Minister for Health: Minister recommends changes to cancer service](#) - Health Minister Kim Hames today outlined the findings of the independent WA Cancer Taskforce's report into the provision of adult cancer services in Western Australia, saying it was an important step in understanding the delivery of cancer treatment and support services in WA.

19 November 2015 - [Mobile site gives school leavers instant access to STI testing](#) - WA Health is encouraging school leavers to play it safe during their festivities this year, and if they're having sex wear a condom. And if they have had sex without a condom take a free online STI test.

18 November 2015 - [Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Police: New psychoactive substances laws start today](#) - New laws take effect today banning psychoactive substances with proclamation of the Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2015.

17 November 2015 - [New Midland hospital opens 24 November](#) - At 7am on Tuesday 24 November, the new St John of God Midland Public Hospital opens and Swan District Hospital closes.

Operational Directives (OD)

18 November 2015 - [OD 0632/15 - Mandatory Testing of a Suspected Transferor for an Infectious Disease](#) - To provide health care workers employed by WA Health with guidelines for the management of disease test authorisations and disease test orders presented by WA Police.

Reports

19 November 2015 - [WA Cancer Taskforce – Program Implementation Plan 2015](#) - This report outlines 14 priority actions to help strengthen and streamline cancer services across the State, and identifies resource and system areas of importance in the short, medium and longer terms.

17 November 2015 - [Elective Surgery Wait List reports](#) - The purpose of these monthly reports is to provide information on elective surgery wait lists for Western Australian public hospitals. The report shows current activity and trends pertaining to the elective surgery wait lists.

New Zealand (NZ). Ministry of Health

18 November 2015 - [The Regulation of Natural Health Products consultation](#) - The Government is developing a new regulatory scheme for low-risk natural health products, and is interested in public feedback on the proposals outlined in the consultation document and the draft papers

13 November 2015 - [Mortality and Demographic Data 2012](#) - This annual statistical publication collates and analyses information on the underlying causes of all deaths registered in New Zealand.

13 November 2015 - [Interim Evaluation of the Sore Throat Management Component of the New Zealand Rheumatic Fever Prevention Programme](#) - This evaluation report assesses the sore throat management component of the Rheumatic Fever Prevention Programme up to June 2015.

United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health

19 November 2015 - [Viral haemorrhagic fever: ACDP algorithm and guidance on management of patients](#) - Guidance

19 November 2015 - [European reference networks: approval of UK healthcare providers](#) - Guidance

18 November 2015 - [JCVI statement on HPV vaccination of men who have sex with men](#) - Guidance

18 November 2015 - [JCVI interim statement on adult pneumococcal vaccination](#) - Guidance

18 November 2015 - [Measures to improve the GDC's processes on fitness to practise](#) - Consultation outcome

- 17 November 2015 - [Children, families and maternity e-bulletin](#) - Correspondence
- 17 November 2015 - [India and the UK establish a strategic partnership in healthcare](#) - News story
- 16 November 2015 - [\\$200 million investment brings best of British healthcare to Dubai](#) - News story
- 16 November 2015 - [Setting the mandate to NHS England for 2016 to 2017](#) - Open consultation
- 16 November 2015 - [Nutritional and health claims legislation bulletins 2015](#) - Guidance
- 13 November 2015 - [The end of Ebola in Sierra Leone](#) - News story
- 13 November 2015 - [New ambition to halve rate of stillbirths and infant deaths](#) - News story

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

19 November 2015 - [AuMA encourages careful and responsible prescribing and use of antibiotics](#) - The AuMA is using Antibiotics Awareness Week to heighten public awareness that the over-prescribing of antibiotics is a threat to the wellbeing of Australians. Antibiotic Awareness Week, which is endorsed by the World Health Organisation and coordinated locally by NPS MedicineWise, is aimed at getting all Australians to play a part in addressing the threat of antimicrobial resistance. AuMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said today that when antibiotics are taken unnecessarily or incorrectly, it encourages the development of dangerous antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

19 November 2015 - [City dwellers hold up bulk billing rate](#) - The bulk billing rate is continuing to climb despite the Federal Government's four-year Medicare rebate freeze, underlining concerns about the increasing financial pressure on the nation's GPs. Eighty-three per cent of standard GP visits were bulk billed last financial year, up from 82.2 per cent in 2013-14, and 10 percentage points higher than a decade before. Sydneysiders were the most likely to be bulk billed – more than 96 per cent of GP visits in western and south-west Sydney were covered entirely by the Medicare rebate, compared with around 84 per cent in Melbourne, 83 per cent in Adelaide, about 80 per cent in Brisbane, 76 per cent in Perth, and just 57 per cent in Canberra – the nation's lowest reading.

American Medical Association (AMA)

19 November 2015 - [AMA Applauds FDA for Approving New Naloxone Product to Prevent Fatal Opioid Overdoses](#) - "The American Medical Association (AMA) applauds the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approving the nasal spray version of naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose by restoring breathing and preventing death."

17 November 2015 - [AMA Bolsters Efforts to Ensure Consumer Access to Health Care Amid Proposed Insurance Mergers](#) - In light of the recently proposed mergers among four of the nation's largest health insurance companies, the American Medical Association (AMA) today adopted policy aimed at strengthening its efforts to ensure consumers maintain access to quality, affordable health care in the insurance marketplace.

17 November 2015 - [AMA Adopts New Policies to Improve Health of Nation on Day Two of Interim Meeting](#) - The American Medical Association (AMA), the premier national physician organization, gathered physician and medical student leaders representing all aspects of medicine during its Interim Meeting and today voted to adopt new policies on emerging health care topics.

17 November 2015 - [AMA Calls for Ban on Direct to Consumer Advertising of Prescription Drugs and Medical Devices](#) - Responding to the billions of advertising dollars being spent to promote prescription products, physicians at the Interim Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) today adopted new policy aimed at driving solutions to make prescription drugs more affordable.

ABOUT US

Michael Regos



Michael is the head of the DLA Piper health litigation group.

He practises in the areas of health law, insurance law, medical negligence and coronial enquiries. He represents Victorian public hospitals and their insurers, the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and is the solicitor of choice for Australia's second-largest private health operator.

Michael regularly presents to medical groups and hospitals on medico-legal issues.

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