



HEALTH ALERT

6 February 2017

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JUDGEMENTS

Commonwealth. Federal Court

31 January 2017 - *Polan v Goulburn Valley Health (No 2)* [2017] FCA 30

INDUSTRIAL LAW – application for relief under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) and the Workplace Relations Act 1996 (Cth) – alleged breaches of enterprise agreements – where the Court has found that the applicant receiving and making calls from doctors - and rearranging rosters at home while on-call constituted overtime work - where parties do not agree on how the applicant's entitlements should be calculated - sum of entitlements the applicant is entitled to - whether interest payable.

New South Wales (NSW)

27 January 2017 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Liu* [2017] NSWCATOD 18 - CHINESE MEDICINE; ULCERATIVE COLITIS; FASTING; LIQUID DIET.- The Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) has for the first time has brought proceedings against a Chinese medicine practitioner in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The respondent is a practitioner who developed a "Wellness 101 program" and who has gained prominence through treating Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. The allegations subject of the proceedings arose in relation to a patient suffering from chronic ulcerative colitis, for which the respondent prescribed a program of fasting, remedial massage and acupuncture.

Amongst other things, it was found that the respondent had failed to record an accurate or complete case history and acupuncture points in his records at the initial consultation with the patient. It was held that an essential element of treatment of a patient is that any person should be able to understand what treatment has been provided to a patient and be in a position to take over the treatment of the patient if required. This was not possible with the respondent's records as some of which were not decipherable and because treatment notes were separate from examination notes. It would not have been possible for someone to take over and know how to proceed in a case of an emergency. Accordingly, the Tribunal made a finding that the respondent was guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct.

30 January 2017 - *CNC v NSW Police Force* [2017] NSWCATAD 43 - PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – summons to produce – letter of instruction and attached medical reports – client legal privilege – whether legal advice privilege applies.

31 January 2017 - *AIN v Medical Council of New South Wales* [2017] NSWCATAP 23 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – application under Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 – use and disclosure of personal information – duration of disclosure contravention - nature and content of disclosure - whether use as well as disclosure – errors of fact and law.

31 January 2017 - *AIN v Medical Council of New South Wales* [2017] NSWCATAP 22 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – application under Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 – collection of personal information – meaning of lawful purpose – failure to exercise jurisdiction by not addressing Appellant's case on unlawfulness - disclosure of information – effect of non-publication order.

31 January 2017 - *AIN v Medical Council of New South Wales* [2017] NSWCATAP 2 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – application under Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 – access to personal information – scope of application – meaning of s 14 of PPIP Act – identification of matters relevant to liability and remedy.

Western Australia

31 January 2017 - *Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia v H* [2017] WASC 20 - Vexatious litigants - Vexatious Proceedings Restriction Act 2002 (WA) - Application for leave to seek order - Where applicant seeks orders prohibiting further proceedings against it and associated body - Where history of litigation - Whether respondent likely to institute further vexatious proceedings - Discretion to make orders sought.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) brought proceedings on behalf of itself and AHPRA in the Supreme Court of Western Australia. The case concerns a nurse who had been denied registration because of a mental impairment and who had subsequently brought a number of proceedings against

NMBA before the State Administrative Tribunal, the Supreme Court of Western Australia and also the Court of Appeal. NMBA submitted that the nurse should be prevented from bringing any further proceedings because she lacked insight into her mental impairment, meaning that the costly and vexatious proceedings would continue. The respondent nurse alleged, amongst other things, that she was a targeted individual and that AHPRA staff were corrupt.

It was found that the nurse's actions constituted vexatious proceedings, and that she had continued to bring fresh applications for registration despite the lack of any evidence as to improvement. The Court ordered that the respondent be restricted from bringing proceedings regarding her registration or refusal of registration as a nurse in the State Administrative Tribunal and any Court of Western Australia against NMBA and AHPRA. The scope of the order prevented the respondent from issuing proceedings, but, did not prohibit her from continuing to apply for registration as a nurse.

25 January 2017 - [Dental board of Australia and Dhillon](#) [2017] WASAT 20 - Penalty - Disqualification from applying for registration - Dishonesty - Failure to maintain clinical records.

Victoria

25 January 2017 - [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia v Sanchez \(Review and Regulation\)](#) [2017] VCAT 122 - Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998, s 82 - agreed statements of facts in two disciplinary proceedings concerning nursing practitioners likely but some conflict in evidence between respondents – whether proceedings should be heard and determined together.

24 January 2017 - [Medical Board of Australia v Cukier \(Review and Regulation\)](#) [2017] VCAT 109 - Medical practitioner – conduct in relation to two female patients – inappropriate physical conduct of a sexual nature – in the case of one patient findings of guilt in criminal proceedings and convictions on two counts of indecent assault – in the case of the other patient conduct repeated despite patient's request for it to stop – in the case of both patients misuse of position to access personal information to contact patient asking them not to report the conduct – professional misconduct – prescribing controlled medications without the necessary permit – unprofessional conduct – allegations admitted and facts agreed – whether conduct inconsistent with the practitioner being a fit and proper person to hold registration – appropriate determinations – Health Practitioner Registration (National Law) Act 2009 (Vic) - s 5, s 196(1)(b)(ii)-(iii).

30 January 2017 - [Inquest into the Death of Baby Emma Folwell Kuno](#) COR 2011 002845 - Inquest - death from Hypoxic-Ischaemic Encephalopathy in the setting of chronic placental insufficiency.

Queensland

27 January 2017 - [Pere v Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service](#) [2017] QDC 2 - TORTS – NEGLIGENCE – ASSAULT – ESSENTIALS OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE – STANDARD OF CARE – CAUSATION – Whether taking of blood and urine samples an assault or negligent– Whether psychiatric injury caused by breach of duty.

South Australia

1 February 2016 - [Inquest into the death of Briony Caitlin Klingberg](#) 24/2016 (0104/2015) - Inquest - death from multi-organ failure secondary to overwhelming herpes simplex infection - Recommendations made to the Chief Executive of SA Health and the Chief Executive Officer of the Women's and Children's Hospital.

LEGISLATION

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

2 February 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses\) Amendment Rules 2017 \(No. 1\)](#)

1 February 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2017 \(No. 1\)](#) F2017L00084

30 January 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Permissible Ingredients\) Determination No. 1 of 2017](#) F2017L00079.

Queensland

1 February 2017 - [Public Health \(Water Risk Management\) Amendment Bill 2016](#) Commenced.

Victoria

1 February 2017 - [Health Complaints Act 2016](#) Commenced.

Western Australia

30 January 2017 - [Medicines and Poisons Act 2014](#) the rest of the Act (other than section 14(2)).

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

02 February 2017 - [Kimberley Suicide Prevention Working Group meeting in Broome](#) - Today's meeting of key partners in the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial marks another important step to tackle the unacceptably high rate of Indigenous suicide in the Kimberley.

01 February 2017 - [Changes in WA home support aged care services](#) - A new arrangement for home and community care and specialist disability services in Western Australia will result in the creation of a truly national aged care system and more integrated disability services for people aged 65 and over.

1 February 2017 - [Making more cancer drugs affordable for all Australians](#) - From 1 February, Australians have subsidised access to new drugs for ovarian and lung cancer – which would otherwise cost more than \$100,000 per course of treatment – but are now available for just \$6.30 for concessional patients and \$38.80 for general patients.

31 January 2017 - [Access to Aged Care in Western Australia](#) - Older people in Western Australia will benefit from the Australian Government's decision to provide short-term funding for additional transition care places.

31 January 2017 - [Health Star Rating campaign to step up in Adelaide supermarkets this Sunday](#) - Adelaide shoppers will start to see marketing of the Health Star Rating (HSR) campaign step up a gear as they make their way around their local supermarket from Sunday.

30 January 2017 - [Government announces improvements to Australian General Practice Training as part of Health Workforce reforms](#) - The Australian Government has announced another important component of its significant health workforce reform agenda, handing the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program selection to the two General Practice Colleges.

30 January 2017 - [Innovating Technologies Supporting Aged Care](#) - A centre, showcasing the innovative use of technology for aged care, is now servicing regional NSW and Queensland.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

[PHI 04/17 Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2017 \(No. 1\)](#)

Medical Benefits Schedule

[The 1 February 2017 XML file is now available to download](#)

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

2 February - [Dental practitioner disqualified by tribunal for professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct](#) - A dental practitioner has been disqualified for two years and six months and ordered to pay the Dental Board of Australia's (the Board) costs fixed at \$90,000 after a tribunal found him guilty of professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct.

2 February 2017 - [Pharmacist's registration cancelled for professional misconduct](#) - A registered pharmacist has had his registration cancelled and been disqualified for reapplying for three years for behaving in a way that constitutes professional misconduct.

1 February 2017 - [Honour for AHPRA Agency Management Committee member](#) - A member of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Management Committee has been recognised in the Australia Day honours.

31 January 2017 - [Tribunal reprimands and suspends dental practitioner](#) - The Western Australian State Administrative Tribunal (the tribunal) has reprimanded Miss Natasha Abel and suspended her dental registration for professional misconduct.

31 January 2017 - [Medical Board of Australia Board member named in Australia Day Honours](#) - Medical Board of Australia Board member, Associate Professor Stephen Bradshaw, has been recognised with a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours.

1 January 2017 - [Public consultation is now open for revised endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard and related guidelines](#) - The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) has released a consultation paper on the review of the *Endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard* and *Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines*.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council

30 January 2017 - [Seeking involvement of industry experts in NHMRC peer review](#) - NHMRC invites individuals with industry experience related to health and medical research commercialisation to participate in peer review of the Development Grants scheme.

The Development Grants scheme supports the commercial development of a product, process, procedure or service to improve health and medical outcomes. Further information is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

27 January 2017 - [NHMRC Research Tracker—27 January 2017](#)

Australia. Productivity Commission

1 February 2017 - [Report on Government Services 2017 - Volume E - Health](#)

The Health volume E includes performance reporting for Primary and community health, Ambulance services, Public hospitals and Mental health management.

It also includes a sector overview for Health.

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

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

27 January 2017 - [Post-market Review of Ezetimibe – Draft Report Public Consultation](#) - Public consultation on the draft Report to the PBAC of the Post-market Review of Ezetimibe is now open.

27 January 2017 - [Post-market Review of Ezetimibe – Targeted Stakeholder Forum](#) - At the request of the Reference Group of the Post-market Review of Ezetimibe, a targeted Stakeholder Forum was held in Canberra on Friday 11 November 2016.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration

3 February 2017 [Consultation: Further proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard - Joint ACCS and ACMS meeting, and ACCS meeting, March 2017](#) The TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on the proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard. Closing date: 3 March 2017.

2 February 2017 [Scheduling delegates' interim decisions and invitation for further comment: ACCS/ACMS, November 2016](#) Interim decisions and invitation for further comment. Closing date: 16 February 2017.

2 February 2017 - [Public submissions on scheduling matters referred to the ACMS#19, November 2016](#) - Public submissions on scheduling matters referred to the ACMS#19, November 2016 (pre-meeting) are now available.

2 February 2017 - [Public submissions on scheduling matters referred to the ACCS#18, November 2016](#) - Public submissions on scheduling matters referred to the ACCS#18, November 2016 (pre-meeting) are now available.

2 February 2017 - [Public submissions on scheduling matters referred to the Joint ACCS & ACMS #14 November 2016](#) - Public submissions on scheduling matters referred to the Joint ACCS/ACMS #14, November 2016 (pre-meeting) are now available.

1 February 2017 - [Homeopathic teething products](#) - Update – TGA investigation complete.

1 February 2017 - [Compositional guidelines](#) - A new compositional guideline for 'Alginate-konjac-xanthan polysaccharide complex' permitted for use in listed medicines has been published.

1 February 2017 - [Suggestions in some media that the TGA does not adequately test sunscreens are incorrect](#) - Recent media reports have expressed concern with the safety and efficacy of various sunscreen products and the testing process carried out by TGA on sunscreens available on the market.

1 February 2017 - [The Poisons Standard \(the SUSMP\)](#) - The latest version of the Poisons Standard (SUSMP 16) has now been published and is in effect as of 1 February 2017.

31 January 2017 - [Scheduling delegate's final decisions, 31 January 2017](#) - Amendment to delegate-only final decisions not referred to an expert advisory committee.

31 January 2017 - [Advisory Committee on Medicines \(ACM\)](#) - Membership for Advisory Committee on Medicines announced.

31 January 2017 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia, 2016](#) - Prescription medicines and biologicals: annual summary 2016.

30 January 2017 - [Updated list of 'permissible ingredients' for use in listed medicines](#) - An updated version of the Permissible Ingredients List for use in listed medicines has been published.

Australian Digital Health Agency

31 January 2017 - [Clinical Professor Meredith Makeham talks to Western Life News](#) - The Agency's Chief Medical Adviser Clinical Professor Meredith Makeham spoke to Western Life News in Queensland on Friday 27 January 2017 about Australia's national digital health strategy and what rural consumers and clinicians want from a modern healthcare system.

31 January 2017 - [The Clinical Terminology January v20170131 Release is now available for download](#) - The Clinical Terminology January v20170131 release is now available for download from the National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) website.

24 January 2017 - [Advance notice: Plan to call for Expressions of Interest for secure messaging proof of concept projects](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency (Agency) is providing advance notice to jurisdictions, industry and the healthcare sector that it plans to call for Expressions of Interest as part of its secure messaging program.

19 January 2017 - [National Medicines Safety Program Established](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency is pleased to announce the establishment of a new national Medicines Safety Program.

The Agency's Executive General Manager Clinical and Consumer Engagement and Clinical Governance, and Chief Clinical Information Officer Dr Monica Trujillo said the program will work with consumers and healthcare providers to explore how digital health can improve the safety and quality of medicines usage in Australia.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

3 February 2017 - [More cancer cases diagnosed, but overall rates falling and survival rates improving](#) - The latest cancer report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows that while cancer is a major cause of ill health in Australia, and more cases are being diagnosed, death rates have continued to fall since the 1980s, and incidence rates have also decreased in recent years.

The report, *Cancer in Australia 2017*, estimates that over 134,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Australia in 2017-an average of 367 diagnoses each day and 2.8 times as high as in 1982.

2 February 2017 - [Spending on mental health services exceeds \\$8.5 billion](#) - Expenditure on mental health-related services in Australia continues to increase, according to new data released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The information, available on the AIHW's *Mental Health Services in Australia* website, shows that over \$8.5 billion was spent nationally on mental health services in 2014-15-\$911 million more than in 2010-11.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

On the Radar – 30 January 2017 – Issue 308 ([PDF 176KB](#)) ([Word 138KB](#))

Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate

01 Feb 2017 - [Tips to Beat the Heat](#) - Stay safe and comfortable during this summer's hot weather by taking some simple precautions.

01 February 2017 - [ACT records best emergency response times in Australia](#) - The ACT has recorded the best response times in the country for ambulance and firefighting personnel despite demand for these essential services continuing to increase. Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman, applauded the efforts of Canberra's paramedics and fire fighters in delivering such a great result for the ACT community, highlighted in the latest Report on Government Services.

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Media Releases

31 January 2017 - [Update: Second M chimaera case confirmed in NSW](#) - A second heart surgery patient in NSW has been confirmed with Mycobacterium chimaera infection following exposure to the rare bacteria from open heart surgery equipment, linked to an international issue.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

2 February 2017 - [Significant Legal Matters and Management of Legal Services](#) PD2017_003.

New South Wales. Health Care Complaints Commission

2 Feb 2017 - [RNs Haridavan Pandya and Sumintra Prasad – Unsatisfactory professional conduct](#) - RNs Haridavan Pandya and Sumintra Prasad – Unsatisfactory professional conduct.

2 Feb 2017 - [Dr Shuquan Liu – Unsatisfactory professional conduct](#)

Northern Territory. Department of Health

2 February 2017 - [Health Heads Meet to Talk Funding](#) - A meeting of the National Health Funding Pool (NHFP) being held in Darwin today will decide how state and Territory public hospitals are funded.

Queensland. Department of Health

1 February 2017 - [Emerald GP SuperClinic to save with solar](#) - The Emerald GP SuperClinic is hoping to slash its energy costs by up to a third through a solar-powered trial designed to reduce electricity costs while contributing to a cleaner energy future.

1 February 2017 - [Bento boxes: How to pack a healthy lunchbox for adults](#) - If you've ever wandered past your local sushi place at lunch, you're probably familiar with the concept of bento boxes. For those who aren't, they're single-portion take-away or brought-from-home lunches that usually combine rice, meat or fish, and vegetables into a single convenient and tasty package.

31 January 2017 - [Health system in surplus delivering for Queenslanders](#) - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick has welcomed the tabling of the Auditor-General's report Hospital and Health Services: 2015-16 results of financial reports.

31 January 2017 - [Queensland's most dangerous creatures: avoiding and responding to attacks](#) - With its spectacular beaches and lush tropical rainforests, Queensland is a natural mecca for visitors worldwide. But with its natural beauty comes dangerous (and sometimes deadly) creatures that also call it home. Although many are predators, they are also an important part of the state's ecosystem, and some are endangered species. Knowing how to avoid them and treat attacks if they occur will not only give you peace of mind, it might save a life.

30 January 2017 - **Smoking laws changing for Queensland's national parks** - Laws in Queensland include smoking bans for indoor and outdoor public places, as well as tough restrictions on the retail advertising, display and promotion of tobacco products. From February 1, 2017, Queensland's national parks will see legislation changes. Smoking in national parks will be banned within 10 metres of in-use campsites and any public facilities.

29 January 2017 - **Better maternity services for Gold Coast** - The Palaszczuk Government has today announced a four point plan to ensure continued safety in maternity services on the Gold Coast.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

3 February 2017 - **New plan to train nurses in detection of early stage bowel cancer** - Nurses will be trained to provide low-risk colonoscopies as part of a new plan to improve the detection of early stage bowel cancer in South Australians.

3 February 2017 - **SA cancer rates amongst lowest in nation** - South Australia has some of the lowest rates of cancer in the country, according to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report published today.

SA Health's Director of Epidemiology, Dr Katina D'Onise said the *Cancer in Australia 2017* report data showed that South Australia was below the national average rate for incidence and mortality of all cancers combined.

1 Feb 2017 - **SA leads nation for number of public hospital beds** - South Australia employs the largest workforce of full-time doctors and nurses, and has the most public hospital beds per capita, according to a national report published today.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

2 February 2017 - **Government responding to RHH demand** - The THS has advised me that due to persistent demand, both emergency and admissions are exceeding capacity at the Royal Hobart Hospital. The Government is concerned that this high level of demand has persisted beyond the normal busy Christmas period.

I can confirm that the Government and the THS have been working on a significant new package of measures to address this increased demand. I expect this to be finalised in coming weeks. In the meantime, Tasmanians can be assured that our Patients First measures announced last year, and the highly professional staff at the RHH, are working to ensure the best possible care for patients.

Victoria. Department of Health

1 February 2017 - **Hospitals Rise To The Challenge Under Record Demand** - Victorian hospitals have experienced unprecedented demand with 443,084 patients presenting at emergency departments across the state over the summer months, the latest health performance data shows.

1 February 2017 - **New Funding For Pollen Monitoring And Thunderstorm Asthma Research** - The Andrews Labor Government will fund new research to better understand and predict the phenomenon of thunderstorm asthma, as well as a new and expanded pollen monitoring network as part of a \$1 million package. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today released the preliminary report from the Inspector-General for Emergency Management into the unprecedented thunderstorm asthma event of 21 and 22 November 2016.

1 February 2017 - **New Complaints Watchdog On The Job To Protect Patients** - A new watchdog with greater powers to protect patients and crack down on dodgy unregistered health service providers and practitioners has started work. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy announced the appointment of Karen Cusack as the inaugural Health Complaints Commissioner, with the Health Complaints Act 2016 coming into effect today.

January 30 2017 - **Premier's Charity Event To Support Children's Hospital And Bourke Street Victims** - Proceeds from this year's Premier's Cup charity golf event will be shared between the Good Friday Appeal and the Bourke Street Fund. Premier Daniel Andrews visited the Royal Children's Hospital today to inspect vital equipment last year's tournament helped secure.

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health: Basketball program helps young people to be Drug Aware** - Basketball coaching from professional players will be the drawcard for getting young people in the Armadale area involved in after-school activities, while learning about the positive impacts of avoiding drug use.

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health: Builder chosen for new mental health area** - The State Government today announced that building company ADCO had been chosen to build a new \$7.1 million mental health observation area at Joondalup Health Campus.

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Building set to begin at hospitals** - Upgrades to the Boddington, Goomalling, Kununoppin and Wyalkatchem-Koorda health services are progressing, with building contracts awarded for all sites.

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1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health: Healthway sponsorship helps Crab Fest visitors LiveLighter** - Healthy food choices will be the easy choice for visitors to Mandurah's popular annual Crab Fest this year, with new State Government support through a \$240,000 Healthway sponsorship for festival organisers, the City of Mandurah.

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: New Cunderdin Health Centre design revealed** - Final plans for the new Cunderdin Health Centre have been revealed, promising a new era for local health care.

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: New system to support better care for rural WA** - Community health care in rural Western Australia received a major boost today, with the announcement of a \$10 million Community Health Information System to better target personal health care.

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Seven new projects benefit regional aged care** - A \$7 million grant program will help seven care organisations provide more accommodation for older regional residents, assisting them to remain independent and continue as active community members.

1 February 2017 - **Minister for Health: Sponsorships foster health and creativity** - Young people living in some of the most remote communities in Western Australia will benefit from two new Healthway sponsorships announced today by Health and Culture and the Arts Minister John Day.

31 January 2017 - **New case of meningococcal disease in a child (case 2 for 2017)** - The Department of Health today reported that a child had been diagnosed with meningococcal disease (serogroup W), and is currently recovering in hospital. Meningococcal disease is an uncommon, life-threatening illness caused by a bacterial infection of the blood and/or the membranes that line the spinal cord and brain, and occasionally of other sites, such as large joints.

31 January 2017 - **Minister for Health: New WA medicines regulations promote safety** - New regulations for the sale, supply and manufacture of medicines and poisons came into effect yesterday (January 30), reducing business compliance costs and promoting the safe dispensing of controlled drugs.

31 January 2017 - **Minister for Health: Strategy on track to free up Perth hospital beds** - The Liberal National Government strategy to significantly increase metropolitan hospital bed availability and efficiency ahead of the busy winter season is on track, following a new State-Commonwealth agreement on extra aged care Transition Care Program places.

31 January 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Health care boost for growing coastal communities** - The success of the Liberal National Government's Southern Inland

Health Initiative will be extended, with a \$22.46 million investment in the growing coastal areas of Jurien Bay, Lancelin and Dongara.

31 January 2017 - [Minister for Health: WA leads with State-wide meningococcal program](#) - A vaccination to protect against meningococcal strains A, C, W and Y will be offered to 15-19 year olds in an Australian-first, State-wide program to start in school Term 2.

30 January 2017 - [Free meningococcal vaccines for teenagers](#) - A vaccination to protect against meningococcal strains A, C, W and Y will be offered to 15-19 year olds in an Australian-first, statewide program to start in school Term 2.

United Kingdom. Department of Health

30 January 2017 - [Plans for fixed cap on legal costs for medical negligence cases](#) - The government intends to impose a new, fixed cap on all clinical negligence cases up to £25,000 to prevent rising litigation costs within the NHS. There are numerous examples of lawyers who profit from the NHS by charging more than 80 times the amount awarded to the victims in minor claims.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

2 February 2017 - [Government follows AuMA policy prescription with changes to GP training arrangements](#) - AuMA calls for greater professional control over GP training arrangements has played a significant role in the announcement this week that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine will now administer the selection of medical graduates for their training programs.

2 February 2017 - [Productivity Commission Reports Highlights Work of General Practice](#) - The recently released Productivity Commission Report on Government Services 2017 has highlighted the value of general practice to the Australian health care system, with GPs providing high quality and accessible services for patients.

The number of GP services has increased from around 5.9 services per head of population in 2011/12 to 6.4 services per head of population in 2015/16. This reflects the growing burden of complex and chronic disease as well improved access to GP services. GP workforce numbers have increased from 82.9 Full-Time Service Equivalent (FSE) per 100,000 population in 2011/12 to 96.8 FSE per 100,000 population in 2015/16.

2 February 2017 - [AuMA Caring for Doctors Health – www.dr4drs.com.au](#) - Doctors and medical students across Australia can now access an expanded network of doctors' health advisory and referral services. The AuMA strongly advocated for years for improved access to doctors' health services across the country, and has been central to the arrangements that deliver this.

2 February 2017 - [Meningococcal W \(Men W\) – now not so rare](#) - A rise in the number of meningococcal cases attributed to the W strain in WA from 4 in 2015 to 14 in 2016 has led that state to implement a free meningococcal vaccination program for teenagers aged 15 – 19 years. The program will be rolled out across West Australia from Term Two (late April), 2017. The AuMA understands that a working group recently established by the Australian Chief Health Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, will be examining the current epidemiology and co-ordinating responses to meningococcal, including the W strain, at the national level.

2 February 2017 - [Identify yourself as an AuMA Family Doctor](#) - To enhance the concept with patients of the Family Doctor, the AuMA has made available a logo for GP members to use in identifying and promoting themselves as a Family Doctor. The use of the 2017 AuMA Family Doctor Logo is a sign to the community and your medical and health professional colleagues that you provide patient-centred, holistic, and longitudinal medical care.

American Medical Association

30 January 2017 - [Hypertension in 2017—What Is the Right Target?](#) - In this Viewpoint, Chobanian proposes blood pressure goals for treatment of hypertension in light of data from the ACCORD, SPRINT, and HOPE-3 trials, which tested differences in patient outcomes by treatment targets.

30 January 2017 - [Van Halen helps physician rethink older patients' physical exam](#) - During its touring heyday, the rock band Van Halen looked for brown M&M's in the dressing room as a clue that venue officials might have missed something bigger in preparing for the group's electricity-draining, pyrotechnic-laden concert performances. Similarly, there are small details in the presentation of older patients with multiple conditions that should alert physicians to deeper problems lurking beneath the surface, says geriatrician Andrea Wershof Schwartz, MD, MPH.

31 January 2017 - [Physicians praise online diabetes prevention program: "Finally"](#) - A Utah health system is piloting an online intensive behavior counseling program for patients with prediabetes. Early returns show 5 percent weight loss.

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.

Contact Details

T +61 3 9274 5437

michael.regos@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

CANBERRA

Level 3, 55 Wentworth Avenue
Kingston ACT 2604
T +61 2 6201 8787
F +61 2 6230 7848
canberra@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

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