



HEALTH ALERT

23 FEBRUARY 2015

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JUDGMENTS

New South Wales

18 February 2015 - *White v Johnston* - [2015] NSWCA

The New South Wales Court of Appeal has held that where a medical practitioner performs a procedure that is solely motivated by an undisclosed non-therapeutic purpose, any patient consent to that treatment is invalid and the procedure constitutes assault and battery.

Ruth Johnston, a 78 year old woman, alleged that dental treatments performed by her former dentist, Jasmin White, were so ineffective and unnecessary that they constituted assault. Ms Johnston claimed that Ms White had fraudulently provided treatment in order to secure fees from the Department of Veteran's Affairs, which covered Ms Johnston's dental expenses.

At trial the judge held that Ms White had performed unnecessary procedures for the sole purpose of extracting money, which had invalidated Ms Johnston's consent. The trial judge awarded substantial damages, including \$150,000 in exemplary damages.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal on the basis that there was no evidence to support a finding that there was no therapeutic purpose for Ms Johnston's dental treatment. While the Court remitted the matter for a retrial, it considered the question of consent in detail.

The Court held that in order to invalidate consent, the procedure must have no therapeutic purpose, and that it is the patient who bears the onus of proving that the treatment does not have any therapeutic purpose.

Similarly, the Court held that where a patient alleges that a medical practitioner has fraudulently obtained consent, the patient bears the onus of establishing that fraud.

Victoria

12 February 2015 - *Inquest into the death of Mary Mulqueen*

The Victorian Coroner has recommended that the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons consider implementing a formal documentation process where practitioners allege evidence of aberrant surgeries.

Mrs Mulqueen, a 57 year old woman, died of small bowel ischaemia and distal gastrectomy at the Jessie McPherson Private Hospital in August 2009. Mrs Mulqueen had been receiving treatment for abdominal complaints since June 2008.

In the course of a laparotomy performed on the date of Mrs Mulqueen's death, a member of Mrs Mulqueen's surgical team observed that an earlier Roux-en-Y reconstruction performed on Mrs Mulqueen at Frankston Community Hospital on 20 August 2008 appeared to have been aberrant.

The Coroner found that there was no evidence to support a conclusion that the reconstruction would have caused Mrs Mulqueen's death.

While the Coroner found that there was no evidence to support a finding that Mrs Mulqueen's medical care or management caused or contributed to her death, the Coroner did recommend:

'That the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons consider implementing a process of documenting, by way of photographs or video, and/or independent secondary corroboration (by a relevantly qualified professional) of any alleged observations of evidence of aberrant surgical reconstructions.'

The Coroner also made a further recommendation that the Victorian Surgical Consultative Council provide additional education to surgical registrars and surgeons about the performance of Roux-en-Y procedures.

Australian Capital Territory

18 February 2015 - [Compass Group Healthcare Hospitality Service v Beaton](#) - [2015] ACTSC 18
Workers' compensation – mental injury arising out of or in the course of employment - where employer provides hospitality services at a hospital.

Queensland

18 February 2015 - [Geraldine Ord v Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#) [2014] QCAT 688
Health Care Professionals - Nurses - respondent took immediate action imposing conditions on the applicant's registration - applicant allegedly falsified records and misappropriated Schedule 8 drugs - whether the applicant's actions give rise to a belief that the imposed conditions were necessary for the protection of public health and safety.

United Kingdom

16 February 2015 - [Radwan Hamed v Dr Peter George Milles and Ors](#) - [2015] EWHC 298 (QB)
Negligence - whether cardiac arrest and consequent brain damage in 17 year old footballer caused by cardiologist engaged by the Tottenham Hotspur Football Club - whether the Football Club breached their duty of care.

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

20 February 2015 - [Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code — standard 1.4.2 — maximum residue limits amendment instrument No. APVMA 2, 2015](#).

South Australia

13 February 2015 - [Family Relationships \(Surrogacy\) Amendment Bill 2014](#) - As restored to the Notice Paper, 11 February 2015.

13 February 2015 - [Health Care \(Administration\) Amendment Bill 2015](#) - As laid on the table and read a first time, 11 February 2015.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

18 February 2015 - [Action on Hepatitis A](#) - Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash has moved to outline actions being taken following the importation and distribution of berries which appear to have carried Hepatitis A.

18 February 2015 - [Media Update - Hepatitis A in Frozen Berries](#) - This page provides a Media Update - Hepatitis A in Frozen Berries as at 18 February 2015 - 1pm.

17 February 2015 - [Life-saving drug for young Pompe patients](#) - Minister for Health Sussan Ley has approved a life-saving drug that will ensure young Australian Pompe patients receive treatment they previously may not have been able to access.

17 February 2015 - [Minister welcomes new Australian Sports Commission \(ASC\) Deputy Chair](#) - Minister for Sport Sussan Ley has welcomed former Olympic and Commonwealth Games swimming medallist and businessman Mark Stockwell to the position of Australian Sports Commission (ASC) Deputy Chair.

14 February 2015 - [International cricket community arrives in Australia](#) - The Minister for Sport Sussan Ley today welcomed the international cricket community to Australia for the 2015 ICC World Cup. The tournament, which begins today, will be held across 14 venues in Australia and New Zealand.

13 February 2015 - **Minister consults on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Pharmacy Agreement** - The Abbott Government has given pharmacists, consumers, doctors and medicines manufacturers the opportunity to present their views about the next multi-billion Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA).

Private Health insurance (PHI) Circulars

12 February 2015 - **PHI 10/15 Declaration status change.**

12 February 2015 - **PHI 09/15 Private hospital information.**

Australia. Department of Social Services

16 February 2015 - **\$200 Million boost for pensioners** - More than 770,000 Australian part-pensioners and allowance recipients will be given a \$200 million boost to their payments with the lowering of the social security deeming rates today.

16 February 2015 - **The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council Communiqué** - All governments reaffirmed their commitment to ensure the transition to the full scheme roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is achieved, consistent with the timeframes and funding arrangements set out in the Heads of Agreements already signed between the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments.

16 February 2015 - **New framework to protect vulnerable people with disability in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** - Governments across Australia are working together to ensure the NDIS delivers the best possible support for people with disability.

16 February 2015 - **Statement regarding allegations at Bundaberg aged care facility** - The allegations made about the Kepnock Grove Retirement Centre aged care facility in Bundaberg are deeply concerning to the Government.

13 February 2015 - **Sector briefings for the 2015 aged care changes** - Commencing 3 March 2015, the Department will be holding a series of briefings around the country regarding the 1 July 2015 changes.

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

16 February 2015 - **AHPRA strengthens national drug screening** - AHPRA to introduce hair testing for all practitioners with substance related impairment. Mandatory hair testing will be routine for all registered health practitioners with substance-related impairment, under a screening protocol to be introduced by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards. Under the protocol, all health practitioners who have restrictions on their registration linked to past substance abuse will have routine hair testing in addition to urine testing. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time - of a wide range of drugs.

13 February 2015 - **Tribunal reprimands practitioner for professional misconduct** - Sanjai Gupta - conditions imposed on registration as a nurse. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded Mr Sanjai Gupta for professional misconduct and placed conditions on his registration as a nurse in Australia. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia referred the matter to the tribunal in September 2013, alleging that Mr Gupta had breached conditions on his registration that were under review by the tribunal at the time. A panel had imposed conditions on his registration in June 2012 after finding his professional performance was unsatisfactory. The conditions included requiring him to practise under supervision, and to not engage in casual, agency or night shift work for 12 months.

13 February 2015 - **Tribunal reprimands and suspends practitioner, imposes conditions on registration** - Ms Ah Choo Teo - registration as a Chinese medicine practitioner suspended for three months. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded Chinese medicine practitioner Ms Ah Choo Teo and suspended her registration for three months from 19 January 2015 to 21 April 2015. The tribunal has also imposed a condition on Ms Teo's registration, which will take effect upon Ms Teo resuming her Chinese medicine practice and requires her practice to be subject to periodic auditing. Ms Teo admitted to three allegations of professional misconduct relating to communicating the likely outcome and benefits of treatment, deficient patient records and failing to protect patient privacy. She also admitted to two allegations of unprofessional conduct relating to poor communication and failures in labeling and dispensing herbs properly.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

19 February 2015 - [ACMD meeting statement, Meeting 18, 9 February 2015](#) - Advisory Committee on the Medical Devices meeting statement.

19 February 2015 - [ACSMD meeting statement, Meeting 7, 22 August 2014](#) - Role of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medical Devices (ACSMD) in the TGA's regulatory decision making process.

19 February 2015 - [Maxman Domina Tu Pareja tablets](#) - safety advisory.

18 February 2015 - [Riata and Riata ST Silicone cardiac leads - increased wear](#) - safety advisory.

18 February 2015 - [Documents released under Section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) - Added FOI 063-1415 and FOI 014-1415 documents.

18 February 2015 - [Australian eye and tissue sector: Funding arrangements extended to 31 March 2016](#) - current funding arrangements have been extended to 31 March 2016.

18 February 2015 - [Donor screening tests: information requirements](#) - Updated section on 'Changing donor screening tests.'

18 February 2015 - [Australian Government funding for biologicals](#) - The original transition period to provide support to the Australian eye and tissue sector has been extended from 31 May 2014 to 31 March 2016.

17 February 2015 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Para-aminosalicylic acid (PASER).

16 February 2015 - [Warfarin review](#) - safety advisory.

16 February 2015 - [ACSOM meeting statement, Meeting 22, 9 May 2014](#) - Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines meeting statement.

16 February 2015 - [Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines \(ACPM\)](#) - Updated ACPM members.

13 February 2015 - [AHMAC - Scheduling policy framework for medicines and chemicals](#) - The Scheduling Policy Framework (SPF) is a key feature of the revised arrangements for scheduling of medicines and chemicals.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

16 February 2015 - On the Radar – Issue 210 ([PDF 141KB](#)) ([Word 137KB](#)).

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

16 February 2015 - [Mental health leaders graduate from mentoring and development programme](#) - The National Mental Commission is pleased to announce that the 11 participants in the National Future Leaders in Mental Health Project have today graduated from the leadership and development programme. This project aims to support the further development of consumer and carer mental health leaders and advocates, and find and develop the next generation of leaders. It is an initiative of the National Mental Health Commission in collaboration with Mental Health Australia, and with the support of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

17 February 2015 - [Measles case notified in Canberra 17.02.15](#) - Dr Paul Kelly (CHO) has advised Canberrans to be aware of measles symptoms after a case was notified to ACT Health.

16 February 2015 - [ACT Asbestos Health Study](#) - The ACT Government in partnership with the ANU will conduct an ACT Asbestos Health Study over the next two years.

15 February 2015 - [Using Health Services in the ACT](#) - This new handbook helps Canberra's multicultural community understand the ACT health system.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

19 February 2015 - **NSW healthy town challenge participants share expertise at peak NSW fitness forum** - Representatives from five country communities vying to be named the fittest in the state gathered in Sydney recently to share their expertise as part of a major NSW fitness forum. As part of the annual FitNSW forum, held in Parliament House, representatives of from each of the communities selected to take part in the inaugural 'NSW Healthy Town Challenge' met to discuss how they were tackling the community weight loss challenge. Assistant Minister for Health Jai Rowell welcomed those representing Bomaderry, Cooma, Tottenham/Tullamore, Wellington and Yamba to the forum, saying he was pleased to see how each community had progressed in the competition so far.

18 February 2015 - **State-of-the-art Breastscreen fleet to serve women across NSW** - Health Minister Jillian Skinner today unveiled the first of 12 new mobile breast screening vans which will be rolled out across NSW in coming months. Mrs Skinner was joined by NSW Chief Cancer Officer Professor David Currow as she inspected the van at an industrial site at Minto, in Sydney's south-west, where final fit-out is nearing completion. Member for Campbelltown Bryan Doyle and Pat Farmer, the Liberal candidate for Macquarie Fields, were on hand to tour the van. The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government invested \$8.8 million in the new, state-of-the-art fleet, with \$4.4 million contributed by the Federal Government.

18 February 2015 - **NSW Government strengthens clinician engagement** - In a first for NSW, Health Minister Jillian Skinner has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Medical Association NSW (AMA) and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation NSW (ASMOF) to strengthen engagement with clinicians in the development of health policy. Mrs Skinner was joined by AMA (NSW) President Dr Saxon Smith and ASMOF (NSW) President Dr Tony Sara to sign the MOU at an event at AMA House. "The NSW Government is committed to putting patients first, which is why we have strived for improved engagement with clinicians to deliver enhanced patient outcomes," Mrs Skinner said.

17 February 2015 - **NSW Health renews warning of hepatitis A risk** - NSW Health is warning people to watch for symptoms of hepatitis following reports of at least nine cases of hepatitis A in Australia linked to Nanna's frozen mixed berries. Dr Vicky Sheppard, Director of NSW Health's Communicable Diseases Branch, urged consumers to take heed of the recall of several lines of frozen berries sold under the brand names 'Nanna's' and 'Creative Gourmet'. 'The NSW Food Authority advises consumers to return these products to the place of purchase for a full refund, or discard them,' Dr Sheppard said. 'Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver that can be passed from person to person, or come from food or water contaminated with the virus.' 'Each year 40 to 80 cases are reported in NSW, however the infection is almost always acquired overseas as hepatitis A is common in most developing countries.'

15 February 2015 - **Watch for hepatitis symptoms, NSW Health warns** - NSW Health is warning people to watch for symptoms of hepatitis following reports of two cases of hepatitis A in NSW linked to Nanna's frozen mixed berries. This follows the identification last week of three cases in Victoria linked to the same product. Dr Vicky Sheppard, Director of NSW Health's Communicable Diseases Branch, urged consumers to take heed of the NSW Food Authority's warning not to consume Nanna's Mixed Berries, frozen in one kilogram plastic bags, with 'best before' dates up to and including 22/11/16.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

16 February 2015 - **Pharmaceuticals - Preparation in NSW Public Health Facility Pharmacy Services.**

Information Bulletins

16 February 2015 - **NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association Annual Conference and Professional Day 2015.**

Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

18 February 2015 - **A more stable and permanent home for the Territory's vulnerable children** - The Parliament today passed legislation to establish a new permanent care option which will allow for a more stable upbringing for children in care.

18 February 2015 - **Fighting for the NT Firefighters** - The process of claiming workers compensation will be made easier for firefighters, as today the Northern Territory Government announced a change in the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation.

18 February 2015 - **Stay out of Pipes and Drains campaign builds awareness** - The Territory Government's Stay out of Pipes and Drains campaign has resulted in increased awareness on the water safety issue with the public response overwhelming.

18 February 2015 - **Creating a better detention system to rehabilitate offending youths** - Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink will today release the Review of the Northern Territory Youth Detention System Report and announce that all 16 recommendations will be implemented in full.

18 February 2015 - **Harvesting the Seafood Industry** - The Northern Territory Seafood Council and NT WorkSafe have collaborated to create a practical safety guide for the professional seafood industry

Queensland. Department of Health

19 February 2015 - **Tropical Cyclone Marcia: Consider your health and medication needs** - with some severe weather expected to hit much of the state this week, Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young is reminding Queenslanders to consider their health and medication needs over the next few days. 'While most Queenslanders are familiar with what to do to stay safe and healthy during severe weather, it is important that people with ongoing or chronic health issues and those with young children take special precautions,' Dr Young said. 'If you take regular medication, make sure you have sufficient stock to last for up to a week, just in case you are unable to leave your home or you have to be evacuated.'

18 February 2015 - **New Central Queensland doctors and nurses just a click away** - Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service is using a new recruitment tool to attract doctors and nurses. Chief Executive Len Richards said it was difficult to recruit experienced, qualified clinical staff to regional areas, and today's technology made it easier to spread the word about the great benefits of living and working outside a major city.

17 February 2015 - **Five Queensland hepatitis A cases linked to frozen berries** - A popular brand of frozen mixed berries has been linked with five cases of hepatitis A in Queensland following a product recall. Queensland Health Communicable Diseases Unit Senior Director Dr Sonya Bennett said all four cases were linked with the Nanna's Mixed Berries brand purchased from Coles, Woolworths, IGA and other independent supermarkets. "While there is no specific treatment for hepatitis A, most cases fully recover and there are usually no long term effects as a direct result of infection," Dr Bennett said. "Symptoms of hepatitis A include abdominal pain, nausea, fever and chills, tiredness and lethargy, and yellow skin or eyes." Dr Bennett said these symptoms usually show up between 28-30 days after infection, but they can take up to 50 days.

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

17 February 2015 - **Hepatitis A advice** - SA Health is asking people to be on the lookout for symptoms of hepatitis A following multiple cases reported interstate, linked to frozen mixed berries. To date there have not been any reported cases of hepatitis A in South Australia linked to the frozen berry products. Professor Paddy Phillips, SA Health's Chief Medical Officer, said people should be aware of the symptoms of hepatitis A and seek medical attention if they develop.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

17 February 2015 - **Frozen Raspberries Recalled** - The existing frozen mixed berry recall has now been extended to Nanna's 1 kilogram (frozen) Raspberries with best before dates up to and including 15 September 2016. Acting Director of Public Health Dr Mark Veitch has warned Tasmanians not to eat these frozen raspberries but to throw them away or return them to where they bought them for a refund.

16 February 2015 - **Tasmanian Health Service - Governing Council Recruitment** - Expressions of interest are being called for the Governing Council for the new Tasmanian Health Service. From 1 July 2015 the three existing Tasmanian Health Organisations (THOs) will merge to become a single Tasmanian Health Service (THS). The new Governing Council will replace the existing governing councils of the three THOs.

Victoria. Department of Health

17 February 2015 - [New and Improved Frankston Hospital Now Open](#) - Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today officially opened the Stage 3 redevelopment of Frankston Hospital, including its new and larger emergency department. Double the original floor size, the new emergency department features a Short Stay Unit with a bariatric bed, a fast track area with paediatric and family spaces, medical imaging facilities.

14 February 2015 - [Victorian hospitals directed to discard food product](#) - The Department of Health and Human Services has instructed a number of Victorian hospitals to discard a dessert product that has been found to contain listeria. The hospitals have also been directed by the Department to follow up with all patients who may have consumed the product. 'Listeria has been detected in a chocolate mousse and tests are pending on a second mousse product,' Victoria's Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester said. The products are not supplied to the general public.

14 February 2015 - [Warning on imported frozen berry product](#) - Consumers have been warned to avoid an imported frozen mixed berry product which may be contaminated with Hepatitis A. Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Rosemary Lester, said today anyone with the 1 kg packets of Nanna's Frozen Mixed Berry in their freezer should dispose of them immediately. The warning follows notifications of Hepatitis A in four adults - three in Victoria and one in New South Wales. Hepatitis A virus can take between 15 to 50 days to develop and the onset of the illness ranges from early January to mid-February. The product is made from four berries - strawberries, raspberries, blackberries from China, and blueberries from Chile – and is packed in China and distributed in Australia by Patties, based in Bairnsdale.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

18 February 2015 - [WA Health reports first case of hepatitis A linked to recalled berries](#) - WA has reported its first case of hepatitis A, linked to the recently recalled Nanna's and Creative Gourmet brands of frozen mixed berries.

13 February 2015 - [Lung cancer still WA's biggest cancer killer](#) - Lung cancer remains the most deadly type of cancer in Western Australia, while prostate and breast cancers are the most common, according to a new report released today.

Operational Directives (OD)

19 February 2015 - [OD 0590/15](#) - Recording and reporting of clinical care commencement date and time in the emergency department. The policy for recording and reporting of clinical care commencement date and time in the emergency department ensures that waiting times for emergency department care are more accurately reported and enables Western Australia to meet its National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) obligations.

18 February 2015 - [IC 0216/15](#) - Government Advertising and Communications Policy - Please find attached Premiers Circular 2014 dated 10 November 2014 regarding Government Advertising and Communications Policy.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

19 February 2015 - [Better Public Services progress on immunisation and rheumatic fever](#) - Latest Better Public Services results show record immunisation coverage and a significant reduction in rheumatic fever.

United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health

19 February 2015 - [Heath visitor and 0-5 commissioning transfer](#) - Guidance.

19 February 2015 - [Suicide prevention: second annual report](#) - Policy paper.

18 February 2015 - [Advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections: annual reports](#) - Guidance.

18 February 2015 - [Evidence for pay review bodies of healthcare professionals](#) - Policy paper.

- 18 February 2015 - [Updates about legislation on food for specific groups: 2015.](#)
- 18 February 2015 - [Nutritional and health claims legislation bulletins 2015.](#)
- 18 February 2015 - [Adults' personal social services: grant allocations 2015 to 2016.](#)
- 17 February 2015 - [Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund: phase 2 open for bids.](#)
- 17 February 2015 - [Healthcare worker with potential exposure to Ebola transported to UK for precautionary monitoring.](#)
- 17 February 2015 - [Standardised packaging of tobacco products: draft regulations.](#)
- 16 February 2015 - [New rules to improve overseas visitors' contributions to the National Health Service \(NHS\) care.](#)
- 16 February 2015 - [Changes to the overseas visitors hospital charging regulations.](#)

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

- 19 February 2015 - [HHS awards \\$386 million to support families through the home visiting program.](#)
- 19 February 2015 - [2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee submits report.](#)

British Medical Association

- 19 February 2015 - [Alarm at resignation of emergency care team](#) - The resignation of an entire consultant team in the emergency department at a Worcestershire hospital is 'alarming' for the specialty.
- 19 February 2015 - [Health board downgrades maternity unit](#) - Senior doctors were not consulted when a North Wales health board decided to downgrade a maternity unit.
- 19 February 2015 - [Ebola: call for a rapid response team](#) - The UK needs a rapid response team of doctors to deploy overseas in the fight against infectious disease.
- 18 February 2015 - [Ban on smoking in cars carrying children](#) - A ban on people smoking in cars carrying children will be introduced later this year.
- 17 February 2015 - [Postgraduate training concerns will be heard](#) - Doctors and medical students will be able to influence proposed changes to their postgraduate training.
- 16 February 2015 - [Strain of exit block persists in emergency departments](#) - The problem of exit block in emergency departments is affecting patient safety.

Canadian Medical Association (CMA)

- 19 February 2015 - [CMA offers accredited course on care of the elderly.](#)
- 17 February 2015 - [CMA's centennial president dies.](#)
- 12 February 2015 - [Reporting of drug shortages to be made mandatory.](#)

American Medical Association

- 19 February 2015 - [Schools reconsidering how med school applicants are evaluated](#) - The medical education overhaul continues—and not just with undergraduate med ed. Changes being launched now in medical schools are touching graduate medical education and pre-medical education, seeking to better prepare doctors for a health care system that is constantly changing.
- 19 February 2015 - [What to consider when planning a practice exit strategy](#) - There are many different stages of a physician's career, and after years of caring for patients, you'll want to think about how to move into retirement. Learn what you should keep in mind as you plan to transition out of your medical practice.
- 18 February 2015 - [How medical specialties vary by gender](#) - While many factors influence what specialty medical students and residents choose, recent data show gender may stimulate what and where future physicians practice.

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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