



HEALTH ALERT

6 JULY 2015

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JUDGMENTS

New South Wales (NSW)

1 July 2015 - *Health Administration Corporation v C JL Haulage Pty Ltd* [2015] NSWSC 858

The New South Wales Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal against a decision that an ambulance driver negligently caused a collision between an ambulance and a truck.

At the time of the collision, the ambulance driver was driving the vehicle on the wrong side of the road in order to avoid traffic on the way to attend a 'Class One' incident. The ambulance struck the truck as the truck was turning right, causing serious injury and damage. The trial centred around questions of fact relating to whether the ambulance lights and sirens were activated at the time of the collision. The Magistrate found that the siren had not been activated, and that the ambulance driver had been negligent in driving at 80 km/h on the wrong side of the road.

The Court rejected arguments that the Magistrate had failed to determine pleaded issues, had not applied the proper test to determine negligence, and had failed to provide proper reasons. The Court noted that the Magistrate's decision was 'unorthodox' in that it said 'virtually nothing about the elements of the tort of negligence' and focused mainly on whether the parties had breached the *Road Rules 2008* (NSW). However, it found that each party had accepted it was appropriate for the Magistrate to decide negligence by reference to the rules. The Court noted that while the Magistrate's finding that the siren was not operating at the time of the collision was 'surprising', this conclusion was open to her Honour in the circumstances.

3 July 2015 - *Scrivener v Raffles Medical Group Limited* [2015] NSWSC 874

Practice and procedure – claim in negligence and breach of contract against defendant in Singapore – whether statement of claim should be set aside – whether Supreme Court of New South Wales is a clearly inappropriate forum for determination of the dispute – whether proceedings fall within schedule 6 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005 (NSW).

29 June 2015 - *Bailey v Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Area Health District* [2015] NSWSC 842

Professional negligence – medical negligence – three separate proceedings brought and maintained by plaintiff – application for relief – entry of judgment sought on issue of breach of duty – issues of breach of duty and causation – matter for consideration by trial Judge.

2 July 2015 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Chowdhury* [2015] NSWCATOD 65

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law - Professional misconduct - failure to comply with conditions on registration - tribunal to hear further submissions on appropriate disciplinary order.

29 June 2015 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Vega* [2015] NSWCATOD 62

Professional misconduct - serious breach of trust - inappropriate touching of elderly patient - attempt to influence colleague's evidence in hospital investigation.

Victoria

26 June 2015 - *Northern Health v Kuipers* [2015] VSCA 172

The Victorian Supreme Court has allowed an appeal against a County Court order prohibiting the defendant hospital in a medical negligence claim from relying on an expert report served six weeks prior to trial, in violation of timetabling orders made by the Court.

The hospital appealed the order on the basis that it was unreasonable or plainly unjust, and that the judge below had erred in his understanding of the timetabling order. It submitted that it had genuinely believed that the timetabling order permitted service of further expert reports up to 28 days before the trial.

The Court held that the order was unreasonable and/or unjust. It held that the judge had failed to consider relevant provisions of the *Civil Procedure Act* in exercising his discretion to make the order, and did not

take into account the potential prejudice to the parties. It found that there was real prejudice to the hospital if it was prevented from relying on the report. The Court found that hospital had breached the timetabling order, but that this breach did not affect the outcome of the application.

The Court emphasised that the outcome of the case reflected its 'special circumstances'. The Court noted that parties in future matters should not assume they will be granted leave to appeal against the sanctions imposed on them for not complying with case management orders. The Court rejected an argument that the proceedings in the County Court should be heard by a different judge.

1 July 2015 - Inquest into the death of Robert Peter Ferrier

Where death occurred in ambulance en route to Alfred Hospital - no adverse findings made against Ambulance Victoria - no recommendations made.

19 June 2015 - *Hanes v Psychology Board of Australia* [2015] VCAT 886

General registration as a psychologist – role and status of registration standards, guidelines and policies - application for registration by a person previously registered – whether sufficient recency of practice to be eligible – where last registered in 1996 for a short period – relevance of work in the intervening years as counsellor and psychotherapist and other roles including drug and alcohol counselling - whether applicant eligible under the Psychology Board of Australia General Registration Standard - whether applicant has met the requirements of the Board's Recency of Practice Registration Standard – whether remedial action required for applicant to be eligible – whether applicant has complied with the terms of an agreement reached with the Board in 2010 in settlement of a previous review application.

Australia. Federal Court

30 June 2015 - *Clare v Australian Community Pharmacy Authority* [2015] FCA 653

Health law – pharmacists – requirements for approval to relocate pharmacy – construction of the National Health (Australian Community Pharmacy Authority Rules) Determination 2011 – whether proposed premises are in the same town as the existing premises – consideration of the meaning of 'same town' – consideration of construction of item 312(b)(ii) of Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the Rules – consideration of the general purpose of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

United Kingdom (UK)

26 June 2015 - *St George's Healthcare NHS Trust v P* [2015] EWCOP 42

Application to discontinue life sustaining treatment to patient with profound and prolonged disorder of consciousness - presumption that it is in the patient's best interest to stay alive - nothing to rebut presumption - order that treatment continue.

LEGISLATION

1 July 2015 - ***National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Act 2015*** - C2015A00089 - Act No. 89 of 2015 as made - Date of assent - 26 June 2015

1 July 2015 - ***Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Seniors Supplement Cessation) Act 2015*** - C2015A00091 - Act No. 91 of 2015 as made - Date of assent - 26 June 2015

30 June 2015 - ***Private Health Insurance (Prudential Supervision) (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 2015*** - C2015A00087 - Act No. 87 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - ***Private Health Insurance (Collapsed Insurer Levy) Amendment Act 2015*** - C2015A00086 - Act No. 86 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - ***Private Health Insurance (Prudential Supervision) Act 2015*** - C2015A00085 - Act No. 85 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - ***Private Health Insurance (Risk Equalisation Levy) Amendment Act 2015*** - C2015A00084 - Act No. 84 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **Private Health Insurance Supervisory Levy Imposition Act 2015** - C2015A00083 - Act No. 83 of 2015 as made

26 June 2015 - **Private Health Insurance (National Joint Replacement Register Levy) Amendment Act 2015** - C2015A00075 - Act No. 75 of 2015 as made

3 July 2015 - **National Health (Medication chart prescription trial hospital) Amendment Declaration 2015 (PB 54 of 2015)** - F2015L01087 - PB 54 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **Commonwealth price (Pharmaceutical benefits supplied by approved pharmacists) Determination 2015 (PB 64 of 2015)** - F2015L01077 - PB 64 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 7) (PB 58 of 2015)** - F2015L01073 - PB 58 off 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health Act 1953 – Determination under subsection 99(4) Amendment Determination 2015 (No. 1) (PB 67 of 2015)** - F2015L01066 - PB 67 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health (Pharmaceutical benefits supplied by private hospitals) Amendment Determination 2015 (No. 1) (No. PB 66 of 2015)** - F2015L01064 - PB 66 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health Determination under paragraph 98C(1)(b) Amendment 2015 (No. 6) (PB 56 of 2015)** - F2015L01065 - PB 56 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health (Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Program) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2015 (No.1) (PB 62 of 2015)** - F2015L01068 - PB 62 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health (Subsection 84C(7)) Amendment Determination 2015 (No. 1) (PB 63 of 2015)** - F2015L01063 - PB 63 of 2015 as made

1 July 2015 - **National Health (Listed drugs on F1 or F2) Amendment Determination 2015 (No. 5) (PB 61 of 2015)** - F2015L01081 - PB 61 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits - Early Supply) Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 5) - specification under subsection 84AAA(2) (PB 57 of 2015)** - F2015L01062 - PB 57 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **National Health (Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 6) (PB 59 of 2015)** - F2015L01060 - PB 59 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Instrument 2015 (No. 6) (PB 55 of 2015)** - F2015L01058 - PB 55 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **Private Health Insurance (Levy Administration) Rules 2015** - F2015L01056 - as made

30 June 2015 - **Financial Sector (Collection of Data) (reporting standard) determination No. 34 of 2015 - HRS 604.0 - Medical Speciality Block Grouping Information** - F2015L01055 - No. 34 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **Private Health Insurance (Health Benefits Fund Policy) Rules 2015** - F2015L01054 - as made

30 June 2015 - **Private Health Insurance (Risk Equalisation Policy) Rules 2015** - F2015L01051 - as made

30 June 2015 - **Health Insurance (prudential standard) determination No. 4 of 2015 - HPS 231 - Outsourcing** - F2015L01048 - No. 4 of 2015 as made

30 June 2015 - **Health Insurance (prudential standard) determination No. 3 of 2015 - HPS 110 - Capital Adequacy** - F2015L01046 - No. 3 of 2015 as made

New South Wales (NSW)

Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2015 - Assent date: 30 June 2015 (2015 No 16)

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

1 July 2015 - [New breast & lung cancer drugs available from today](#)

Breast and Lung Cancer patients will have affordable access to life-changing medicines that normally cost up to \$80,000 for treatment from 1 July.

1 July 2015 - [New figures reveal percentage of women proactively screening for breast cancer falling](#)

Australian women aged between 50 and 74 are urged to ensure they are up-to-date with their breast screens following new national figures released that revealed the percentage of women who were screened in 2013/14 had fallen.

28 June 2015 - [New drug listing Keytruda to treat melanoma](#)

The Commonwealth Government will invest \$57 million to list breakthrough melanoma drug Keytruda® on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

29 June 2015 - [PHI 41/15 Amendment to February 2015 Protheses List](#)

29 June 2015 - [PHI 40/15 Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2015 \(No. 2\) and the Private Health Insurance \(Complying Product\) Amendment Rules 2015 \(No. 2\)](#)

26 June 2015 - [PHI 39/15 Changes to Second Tier Eligible Hospitals](#)

Australia. Department of Social Services

30 June 2015 - [Quarterly Indexation June](#)

24 June 2015 - [Support for providers transitioning into the Commonwealth Home Support Programme \(CHSP\)](#)

24 June 2015 - [Notification of support for home care package providers transitioning to consumer direct care \(CDC\)](#)

24 June 2015 - [Update on proposed changes to financial reporting for providers of residential aged care and home care](#)

22 June 2015 - [Update for service providers – Commonwealth Home Support Programme](#)

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

3 July 2015 - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its latest [communiqués](#) .

3 July 2015 - The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia releases its latest [communiqué](#). [Read full article](#).

2 July 2015 - The Chiropractic Board of Australia releases its June [communiqué](#). [Read full article](#).

2 July 2015 - The Optometry Board of Australia releases its latest [communiqué](#). [Read full article](#).

2 July 2015 - The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest [communiqué](#). [Read full article](#).

2 July 2015 - Australia's health regulators are working in partnership to enforce infection control standards in dental practice and take action to manage risk to patients. [Read more](#).

1 July 2015 - Revised English language and criminal history standards take effect from today. [Read more](#).

30 June 2015 - End of grand parenting arrangements allowing some practitioners to become registered. Effective 1 July 2015, arrangements that allowed some practitioners to become registered as their professions joined the National Scheme have expired. [Read more](#).

29 June 2015 - Call for applications to the Occupational Therapy Board Threshold. Competency Standards Advisory Panel The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia has agreed to commence a project to develop a new set of threshold competencies for occupational therapy practice. [Read more](#).

Australia. National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA)

30 June 2015 - [The Australian Medicines Terminology \(AMT\) v3 Model - Release Note v20150630](#) is now available for download.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

26 June 2015 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

26 June 2015 - [NHMRC Health Tracker - June 2015](#)

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

29 June 2015 - [Regulatory compliance for IVD medical devices](#) - From 1 July 2015 commercial IVD medical devices will be monitored under the Regulatory Compliance Framework.

29 June 2015 - [ACPM meeting statement, Meeting 304, 5 June 2015](#) - The Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM) meeting statement 304 for June 5, 2015 is now available.

29 June 2015 - [Overview of the selection process](#) - Recruitment information has been updated.

29 June 2015 - [TGA Industry Working Group \(IWG\)](#) - Two one-day workshops were held with IWG members on 29 April and 11 June 2015.

25 June 2015 - [Global crackdown against counterfeit and illegal medicines](#) - Between 24 May and 16 June, the ACBPS, TGA and APVMA took part in an international crackdown on fake and illegal medicines.

25 June 2015 - [Cancel unnecessary Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods \(ARTG\) entries before 30 June 2015](#) - Cancel unnecessary ARTG entries before 5pm 30 June 2015 to avoid incurring an annual charge for 2015-16.

25 June 2015 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Umeclidinium bromide and Vilanterol trifenate (Anoro Ellipta).

25 June 2015 - [Changes to clone and Extension of Indications \(no data\) application](#) - From 1 July 2015, new guidance and forms for Additional trade names and Extensions of Indications applications will be available.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

23 June 2015 - [Hospitals spending tops \\$55 billion a year](#).

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

29 June 2015 – On the Radar – Issue 229 ([PDF 103KB](#)) ([Word 134KB](#)).

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

26 June 2015 - [Changes to certain s100 programs](#) - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been prepared that outline changes to certain Section 100 programmes under the PBS. Changes to some s100 programmes, including the introduction of community access arrangements for Highly Specialised Drugs, have been recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

26 June 2015 - [PBS Access and Sustainability Package including the 6CPA - Fact Sheets](#) - Additional Fact Sheets on the PBS Access & Sustainability Measures have been added to the PBS website.

Private Health Insurance Ombudsman (PHIO)

26 Jun 2015 - [Health Insurance Insider Issue 7](#) - In the latest consumer bulletin, find out more about planning a family and private health insurance. This issue also includes information about PHIO's transfer to the Commonwealth Ombudsman from 1 July 2015.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

01 July 2015 - [Women encouraged to get life-saving breast and cervical screening.](#)

1 July 2015 - [Increased renal dialysis services for Canberra.](#)

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

3 July 2015 - [Community pharmacists now vaccinating against influenza.](#)

3 July 2015 - [It's time to Make Healthy Normal.](#)

2 July 2015 - [Green light for construction to start on Northern Beaches Hospital.](#)

29 June 2015 - [\\$6.7 million Shellharbour Ambulatory Care Unit officially open.](#)

29 June 2015 - [Wollongong Hospital car park making patients' lives easier.](#)

Policy Directives & Guidelines

30 June 2015 - [Same Gender Accommodation.](#)

26 May 2015 - [Allied Health Professionals' Right of Private Practice in NSW Health Facilities.](#)

Information Bulletins

30 June 2015 - [NSW Health Labour Agreement.](#)

Publications

26 June 2015 - [NSW Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative: Evaluation Findings.](#)

26 June 2015 - [Cultural Health Communities Activity Challenge: Evaluation Findings.](#)

New South Wales (NSW). Health Care Complaints Commission

26 Jun 2015 - [Mr Andreas Kirbach - prohibited from providing any health services for five years](#) - The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission concluded its investigation into the professional conduct of Mr Andreas Kirbach, a social worker.

26 Jun 2015 - [Dr Jawahar Thomas - Professional Misconduct found by the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal](#) - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Jawahar Thomas, a general practitioner, before the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The complaint alleged unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct concerning Dr Thomas's prescribing of drugs of addiction and restricted substances, as well as his clinical record keeping, in relation to seven patients several of whom were drug dependent. Dr Thomas was in practice as a general practitioner operating and working at four medical centres at Windsor, The Ponds, Annangrove and Galston, NSW.

25 Jun 2015 - [Updated media release - Mr Hung Thanh Vu – application for reinstatement dismissed](#) - The Commission recently prosecuted Mr Hung Thanh Vu before the Physiotherapy Tribunal of NSW.

23 Jun 2015 - [Dr Mohammad Rahman Shinwari – Finding of Professional Misconduct and interim conditions imposed](#) - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Mohammad Rahman Shinwari in relation to his care and treatment of two patients at the Psych n Soul Clinic in Ultimo in September 2010. Both patients were drug dependant and were admitted to the Clinic to undergo Rapid Opioid Detoxification (ROD). Dr Shinwari was the sole medical practitioner on shift at the Clinic and was responsible for assessing each of the patients and administering the ROD treatment.

22 Jun 2015 - [Dr Liviu Paul Lefter - Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct found - reprimand and mentoring](#) - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Liviu Lefter, a surgeon, concerning his conduct while working at Campbelltown Public Hospital in 2012. The complaint was heard by a Medical Professional Standards Committee on 19 and 20 March 2015.

18 Jun 2015 - [Dr Syed Adil Zafar – Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct – reprimand and conditions](#) - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Syed Adil Zafar, a general practitioner,

concerning his care of four patients at Bellambi Medical Centre. The complaint was heard by a Medical Professional Standards Committee on 12 and 13 May 2015.

18 Jun 2015 - **Dr Naswrin Moin – Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct proved - reprimand and conditions** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Naswrin Moin, an endocrinologist, concerning her care of a patient at the Psych n Soul Clinic (the clinic) in 2010. The Complaint was heard by a Medical Professional Standards Committee on 24 and 25 March 2015.

15 Jun 2015 - **Updated media release - Mr Ross Colquhoun - Appeal dismissed** - On 5th December 2012 the Psychologists Tribunal handed down its determination following a prosecution of Mr Ross Colquhoun by the Health Care Complaints Commission.

Northern Territory. Department of Health

30 June 2015 - **Don't be a casualty - have a safe Territory Day** - Territory Day is a time of celebration however every year some people suffer serious and possibly life changing injuries from firework related harm. Fireworks can be hazardous and have the potential to cause severe burns, lacerations, bruises even visual impairment, hearing loss and broken bones. These are the types of injury sustained during Territory Day celebrations in past years. Last year 21 people were treated across the Territory with age ranging from four to 54 years with varying severity of fireworks-related injuries. Since 2002 typically the majority (37 per cent) of injuries are to the hands and arms, with one quarter of people affected with face, neck and eye injury. In more than one third of cases bystanders not directly involved in the lighting of fireworks, were injured.

2 July 2015 - **NT women's cancer screening service success** - The Country Liberals Government is making life safer for Territorians, with more than 1600 women in rural and remote communities across the Territory screened for breast cancer by the 4WD BreastScreenNT bus.

Queensland. Department of Health

1 July 2015 - **Travellers warned to take care** - Far North residents are being reminded to take precautions against preventable diseases in the lead up to the 15th annual Pacific Games in Port Moresby this weekend. Acting Director for Tropical Public Health Services (Cairns) Dr Roscoe Taylor said the event saw hundreds of people travel to Papua New Guinea from the Far North and Torres Strait regions each year. 'In previous years we have seen an increase in cases of measles and reported exposure to mosquito borne disease such as Chikungunya and Dengue,' he said. 'Last year there were nine measles cases that were associated with travel to Papua New Guinea who collectively had contact with hundreds of people on their return – each requiring follow-up and sometimes vaccination for protection against this very serious disease.'

1 July 2015 - **Queensland tops BreastScreen participation** - Queensland women are being proactive about their breast health and utilising the services available to them through BreastScreen Queensland. The newly released '*Participation in BreastScreen Australia 2013/2014*' report shows Queensland participation rates at 3.4 per cent above the national average – 57.6 per cent compared to 54.2 per cent. The report was released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

29 June 2015 - **Charleville Hospital rectification works near completion** - Charleville Hospital staff and residents are starting to enjoy the benefits of a two-year \$8.69 million State Government-funded works program that is gradually approaching completion. Hospital Director of Nursing and Facility Manager Sally Gorman said the works were expected to be completed by late July or early August. 'We will start returning our various relocated wards and services to their original areas from then,' she said. The works were designed primarily to rectify fire safety, water supply and electrical systems that were deemed no longer up to standard due to the age of the hospital.

26 June 2015 - **Far North cancer patients win with \$2.4m scanner** - A full diagnostic cancer service for the Far North is within touching distance following the arrival of a \$2.4 million PET-CT scanner. Queensland Health Minister Cameron Dick visited Cairns Hospital today to inspect the installation of the new machine and discuss the service with Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Board Chair Bob Norman.

26 June 2015 - **Mixed results for Queenslanders being screened for bowel cancer** - Bowel cancer is Queensland's second biggest cancer killer, but is curable in around 90 per cent of cases if detected early. This is the message being promoted by Queensland Health during Bowel Cancer Awareness Month (June). The latest **National Bowel Cancer Screening Program monitoring report**¹ shows that an increasing number of Queenslanders are getting screened. However, the number of people who are declining to take part in the screening program remains a cause for concern. The screening program is targeting the participation of the over-50 age group, the population demographic most at risk of bowel cancer.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

1 July 2015 - **South Australians make their wishes known** - More than 10,000 South Australians have made their future health care wishes known by completing a new Advance Care Directive over the last 12 months. Launched on 1 July 2014 the new Advance Care Directive allows people to make clear legal arrangements for their personal affairs, ahead of time using one simple form. David Swan, Chief Executive, SA Health, said it was encouraging to see so many people making sure their future requests, values and preferences were protected. 'A year ago today we launched the new Advance Care Directive to help make it easier for others to know and act upon your wishes, should you not be able to do so yourselves,' Mr Swan said. 'The Advance Care Directive is a simple form which expresses your preferences on things such as living arrangements, health care and end of life arrangements.'

29 June 2015 - **Mental Health services closer to home** - The Mount Gambier Integrated Mental Health Inpatient Unit (IMHIU) will start seeing its first clients today after officially opening its doors to the public. Country Health SA Acting Director, Mental Health, Strategic Operations, Nicole Jones, said the six-bed unit will provide high-quality, specialised mental health care. 'The South East is just the third country community in South Australia to have a country-based inpatient mental health facility that will provide a level of mental health care not previously available in this region,' Ms Jones said.

26 June 2015 - **Situation update - Middle Eastern Respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).**

26 June 2015 - **It's not too late to get a flu shot as SA becomes third highest flu state** - South Australians are being warned that it's not too late to get a flu shot to protect themselves and their family before the peak of the flu season hits. Health Minister Jack Snelling said influenza activity was continuing to increase across the state, with thousands of local residents struck down with the illness already this year. 'South Australia often has the highest flu numbers per population of any state and this year appears to be no different,' Mr Snelling said. 'So far this year we've seen 2105 cases of flu, which is not far behind New South Wales with 2315, despite their much larger population. 'We have more flu cases than both Victoria and Western Australia.'

26 June 2015 - **Wet wipes warning** - Dermatologists working in South Australia's hospitals have seen an increase in allergic dermatitis cases as a result of reactions to a preservative found in some wet wipes. National figures show that so far this year, 15 per cent of Australians patch tested for allergic reactions have reacted to Methylisothiazolinone (MI), the preservative found in many wet wipes including baby wipes. This is up from around four per cent in 2005. Minister for Health Jack Snelling said increased cases of dermatitis are being seen locally and he is urging members of the public to be aware that some people using the wipes may have a reaction to MI. 'Allergic reactions to MI, such as hand dermatitis, are being found in people using wet wipes such as mothers and babies who are frequently in contact with baby wipes,' Mr Snelling said.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

3 July 2015 - **School Nurses report for duty** - Today we officially welcome 10 School Health Nurses into the Tasmanian Department of Education, marking a significant milestone.

2 July 2015 - **Deaths in custody** - As Minister for Corrections I am extremely concerned at the two recent deaths in custody which have occurred.

2 July 2015 - **Second Anniversary of NDIS and the launch of Possability** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to the full roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Tasmania.

1 July 2015 - **First day for new, unified Tasmanian Health Service** - Today marks another important turning point in the future of Tasmania's health system.

30 June 2015 - **Mental health another part of the broken health system** - Today we have released the results of a review and stakeholder consultation on the state's mental health services and system.

30 June 2015 - **Labor's White Paper response – close the Mersey Emergency Department** - The latest thought-bubble from Labor complaining about our decision to keep the Mersey Emergency Department open.

29 June 2015 - **Health White Paper advertising** - This week the Hodgman Liberal Government has outlined its plan to fix Tasmania's broken health system.

29 June 2015 - **Strong Support for Health Reform Welcomed** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is changing the way our health system operates so we can get better results for all Tasmanians.

28 June 2015 - **One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes** - The release today of the final health White Paper marks a significant turning point for health in Tasmania.

28 June 2015 - **Further expansion of elective surgery centre at Mersey to feature in White Paper** - The Mersey Hospital will take on even more elective surgeries than previously anticipated.

27 June 2015 - **12 new Paramedics in Devonport as part of Health Reforms** - Emergency care on the North West will be boosted in the upcoming White Paper by the addition of 12 new paramedics in Devonport.

26 June 2015 - **Health Reform Long Overdue** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to fixing Tasmania's health system and providing patients with access to better services.

Victoria. Department of Health

1 July 2015 - **Results of asbestos testing in Sunshine North** - Fifty-six homes tested by Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) for asbestos in Sunshine North have been assessed as safe. Tests were conducted on living areas (indoor air), and samples of roof dust and soil from gardens. Results have been conveyed to all residents whose homes were tested and presented to the community at an open house today. Indoor air tests for asbestos were found to be safe. Results showed very small amounts of non-respirable asbestos in the settled dust in roof spaces of 12 homes near the old factory site. These residents have been advised their homes are safe and no further action is required. Small amounts of asbestos detected in the soil of nine homes are likely to be from old building materials. These residents have been advised that there is no risk of asbestos exposure. All testing complies with Australian and international standards, and was conducted in laboratories accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities.

26 June 2015 - **Mental Health Consumer and Carer program review (pdf)** - The Victorian Government has commissioned an integrated, independent review of a range of state-funded mental health consumer support, carer support, and consumer, carer and family participation programs and activities.

26 June 2015 - **Multi-million dollar boost to tackle ice harm** - The Andrews Labor Government is working with the community and local health services to tackle the drug ice, with almost \$25 million for extra support services distributed across the state as part of the Ice Action Plan. Minister for Mental Health, Martin Foley, joined the MPs for Wendouree and Buninyong, Sharon Knight and Geoff Howard, as well as health professionals and community leaders in Ballarat today to announce a package of \$24.6 million to expand treatment services, support families and strengthen communities.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

2 July 2015 - **Minister for Health: Yellow submarine – your colour choice for MRI** - Giving children the chance to choose a colour for their magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan is now possible at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) thanks to a new technologically-advanced unit, made possible by funding from the State Government, Telethon and Imaging West.

2 July 2015 - **Perth Children's Hospital look unveiled** - WA Health has unveiled the new logo and branding for Perth Children's Hospital brand.

1 July 2015 - **Web resources to aid health professionals in quest to cut Aboriginal maternal smoking** - A new web site is now available with extensive resources developed with the aim to help prevent tobacco smoking among pregnant Aboriginal women and new mothers.

1 July 2015 - **Minister for Mental Health: Agency to tackle drug issues and mental health** - The merger today of the Mental Health Commission and the Drug and Alcohol Office aims to improve services for West Australians with mental health, drug and alcohol or co-occurring problems.

30 June 2015 - **Australian of the Year Rosie Batty speaks to WA Health** - Australian of the Year Rosie Batty spoke to a packed auditorium at WA Health's Royal Street offices about family and domestic violence.

30 June 2015 - **New procedures to reduce ambulance ramping to begin in public hospitals** - The Acting Director General of the Department of Health has explained how new procedures to reduce ambulance ramping will be implemented at Perth's major public hospitals.

30 June 2015 - **National recognition for KEMH blood standards** - King Edward Memorial Hospital Haematology Department excelled at the 2015 National Blood Symposium scooping two of five possible national excellence awards.

29 June 2015 - **Wilson Inlet given the all clear following wastewater overflow** - WA Health advises that the Wilson Inlet in Denmark will be reopened for recreational activities.

29 June 2015 - **Minister for Mental Health: Subacute facility to service Goldfields from 2017** - Community consultation would begin on plans to build a six-bed subacute mental health facility on a preferred site in Davidson Street, South Kalgoorlie, Mental Health Minister Helen Morton said today.

29 June 2015 - **Minister for Health: Health funding injection for regional communities** - A \$4 million investment from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program is expected to help address gaps in current service delivery of palliative care in non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia.

Operational Directives (OD)

2 July 2015 - **IC 0222/15** - Dental Officers Industrial Agreement 2014 - Notification that the Dental Officers Industrial Agreement 2014 was registered by the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission on 11 June 2015.

1 July 2015 - **OD 0614/15** - Mandatory providers of road based inter hospital patient transport services for Department of Health Hospital Sites and Nursing Posts. - The Department of Health has established two contracts for the provision of road based inter hospital patient transport services that are mandatory for Department of Health Hospital Sites and Nursing Posts from 1 July 2015. These contracts cover emergency and non-emergency transport.

1 July 2015 - **OD 0613/15** - Ambulance Handover in Emergency Departments - Provides timing as to when patients are to be transferred in to the care of the ED.

25 June 2015 - **OD 0612/15** - Corporate and Individual Memberships Policy - This Policy specifies when requests to purchase or renew a corporate membership or individual membership to an entity may be funded by WA Health and the process to obtain approval.

25 June 2015 - **OD 0611/15** - Clinical Incident Management Policy (2015) - On 13 June 2015, an updated Clinical Incident Management (CIM) Policy was endorsed by the A/Director General. The updated CIM Policy has incorporated the new sentinel event definition regarding maternal death which was endorsed by AMHAC and clarified and strengthened the processes around the evaluation and reporting of recommendations.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

30 June 2015 - [Statement of Intent 2015 to 2019](#) - The Statement of Intent identifies outcomes for the health system and the Ministry: New Zealanders live longer, healthier and more independent lives; the health system is cost-effective and supports a productive economy.

30 June 2015 - [Factsheet: Short stay emergency department events](#) - This factsheet provides background information for those wishing to analyse hospital data from the National Minimum Dataset.

30 June 2015 - [Privately funded hospital discharges- 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013](#) - These tables contain national data detailing the number of privately funded discharges, diagnoses and numbers of procedures carried out in both private and public hospitals. In addition, data is also provided in pivot table and machine readable formats.

30 June 2015 - [Mortality: Historical summary 1948–2012](#) - These tables present mortality data (numbers and age-standardised rates) by sex for certain causes of death from 1948 to 2012.

30 June 2015 - [Mortality 2012 online tables](#) - These tables contain information on the underlying causes of all deaths registered in New Zealand in 2012. Information is broken down by age, sex, ethnicity, district health board and ICD-10-AM chapters, subgroups and three character codes.

30 June 2015 - [Evaluation of the New Graduate Nurse employment scheme through the Very Low Cost Access initiative: Final evaluation report](#) - This publication is the final report of the evaluation commissioned by the Ministry of Health on the first year of the Very Low Cost Access (VLCA) new graduate nurse (NGN) employment initiative. An interim evaluation report was published on the Ministry of Health website in November 2014.

30 June 2015 - [Publicly funded hospital discharges- 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013](#) - These tables contain national data detailing the number of publicly funded discharges, diagnoses and numbers of procedures carried out in both public and private hospitals.

29 June 2015 - [Level 2 Advance Care Planning Practitioner Training Review](#) - A review by Deloitte into the value for money obtained by Health Workforce New Zealand's support of training in the Advance Care Planning suite of techniques.

28 June 2015 - [Implementing Medicines New Zealand 2015 to 2020](#) - Implementing Medicines New Zealand is the action plan for Medicines New Zealand - the New Zealand medicines strategy.

Canada. Department of Health

26 June 2015 - [Message from Ministers – International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#) - Our Government is committed to keeping our streets and communities safe for all Canadians and their families. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a day for nations around the globe to reflect on the devastating impact drug abuse has on our communities.

26 June 2015 - [Harper Government moves forward on regulating tamper-resistant properties for prescription drugs](#) - Health Canada today published a Notice of Pre-Consultation in Canada Gazette, Part I, seeking stakeholder feedback on draft Tamper-Resistant Properties of Drugs Regulations. The draft regulations would require that all controlled release oxycodone products have tamper-resistant properties before they can be sold in Canada.

United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health

2 July 2015 - [The Royal College of Psychiatrists International Congress](#) - Speech.

2 July 2015 - [Draft regulations on the sale and manufacture of tobacco products](#) - Open consultation.

2 July 2015 - [Clinics authorised to carry out abortions](#) - Guidance.

2 July 2015 - [Ordinary residence disputes: Care Act 2014](#) - Notice.

1 July 2015 - [Updating the NHS Constitution](#) - Consultation outcome.

1 July 2015 - [Report on the effect of the NHS Constitution](#) - Research and analysis.

1 July 2015 - [Public perceptions of the NHS and social care: winter 2014](#) - Independent report.

- 1 July 2015 - [New social contract between the public, health and care services](#) - News story.
- 30 June 2015 - [Master Indemnity Agreement](#) - Guidance.
- 29 June 2015 - [The Department of Health's agencies and partner organisations](#) - Corporate report.
- 26 June 2015 - [Jeremy Hunt: message to NHS staff on the new deal for GPs](#) - Speech.

United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services

- 1 July 2015 - [HHS launches National Ebola Training and Education Center](#).
- 1 July 2015 - [HHS education and training resources on multiple chronic conditions for the health care workforce](#).
- 29 June 2015 - [HHS study finds early dialysis saved lives following Hurricane Sandy](#).
- 25 June 2015 - [Statement by HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell on the Affordable Care Act](#).

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

1 July 2015 - [Ongoing Medicare rebate freeze sends a shiver through patients and medical practices](#) - AMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said today that the ongoing indexation freeze of Medicare patient rebates is placing further pressure on the viability of many medical practices, especially general practices, and forcing patients to pay higher out-of-pocket costs for their health care. Today is the third anniversary of the Medicare rebate freeze. There has been no increase to Medicare patient rebates for consultations and operations since 2012. GP services were last indexed on 1 July 2014.

1 July 2015 - [PHNs – an opportunity to provide GP-led support for quality primary care service delivery](#) - From today, 31 new Primary Health Networks (PHNs) start work across the country, replacing the former Government's Medicare Locals. AMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said today that the AMA has always acknowledged the importance of a network of primary health organisations to facilitate improved patient access to primary care services, but Medicare Locals had been patchy at best in delivering the results promised by the former Government.

1 July 2015 - [E-safety Commissioner to improve online safety for children](#) - AMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said the establishment today of the Office of the Children's e-Safety Commissioner is an important step to increase the online safety of Australian children. The new Commissioner, Mr Alastair McGibbon - a former Australian Federal Police Officer and a recognised expert in online safety - will oversee a complaints system that will issue formal notices to quickly remove harmful cyberbullying material that targets Australian children on large social networking sites.

British Medical Association (BMA)

2 July 2015 - [Palliative care bill to push for 'sea change'](#) - New legislation could see a 'sea change' in the delivery of palliative care in England, ensuring that patients' needs come first.

1 July 2015 - [Define seven-day services, BMA demands](#) - A clear definition of seven-day services must be established, the BMA has urged after the Government refused a legal request to clarify what the term includes.

30 June 2015 - [Travelling hopefully: international medical graduates](#) - Doctors who come to the UK after graduating in another country are essential to the NHS workforce, but they face considerable challenges in adapting to their new lives and working practices, as a new BMA report shows.

26 June 2015 - [Indemnity fears for voluntary work overseas](#) - Doctors have raised concerns about the difficulty of obtaining medical indemnity for overseas volunteers.

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.

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