



HEALTH ALERT

14 December 2015

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JUDGMENTS

Victoria

4 December 2015 - [Inquest into the Death of Baby Kylie Hamilton COR 2009 003481](#)

7 December 2015 - [Inquest into the Death of Jeffrey John Hartwig COR 2009 5822](#)

9 December 2015 - [Finding Without Inquest into the Death of Benjamin David Johnston COR 2015 1002](#) - The Victorian Coroners Court has delivered findings into the death of Benjamin David Johnston who died in hospital from global hypoxic brain injury and hanging. At the time of the medical investigation by the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM), Mr Johnston's family raised concerns about his recent use of varenicline. This concern was conveyed formally to the Coroners Court, which then proceeded to investigate the link between varenicline and suicidal incidences.

Varenicline is a medication used to treat nicotine dependence. It was approved in 2007 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, listed as a Schedule 4 prescription-only medication, and included on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in 2008. The Coroners Court identified that Mr Johnston was prescribed varenicline on two occasions, and examined various different sources of evidence regarding a potential connection between the drug and suicidality. The Coroners Court acknowledged that, while studies have failed to establish a causal link, there is evidence that the drug is linked with adverse psychiatric symptoms including suicidal behaviour.

The findings of the Coroners Court were that, while making no criticism against the prescribing doctor, the evidence in this case supports a conclusion that Mr Johnson's death was an adverse reaction to varenicline. As a consequence, the VIFM has confirmed that it will commence testing for varenicline as part of their routine analyses, and the Coroners Court warned against using the drug if any behavioural change is noticed in patients.

New South Wales

7 December 2015 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Ostendorf \[2015\] NSWCATOD 137](#) - The New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Tribunal) has considered the application by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) regarding a nurse who was reported for demonstrating drug seeking behaviour. The HCCC filed its complaint on two grounds. Firstly, that the nurse had an impairment and, secondly, that she was not competent within the meaning of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW).

The HCCC provided evidence in the form of reports by a consultant psychiatrist as well as various statements by witnesses to the behaviour. The HCCC did not differentiate between behaviour that went to the issue of impairment and that which went to competency, submitting that a finding of impairment means a finding that the practitioner is not competent must follow. The Tribunal did not agree that they are necessarily reliant, and found that the nurse was suffering impairment (in the form of both drug dependency and mood disorder) that is likely to detrimentally affect her capacity to practise nursing but dismissed the second claim in relation to competency.

Prior to the hearing, the nurse had voluntarily surrendered her registration. Accordingly, the orders sought by the HCCC were framed as statements on what the Tribunal would have done had she still been registered, and the HCCC requested that Tribunal make recommendations to a future Tribunal should the nurse reapply for registration. The Tribunal refused to make future recommendations, noting that the record of the request for those recommendations in the current matter was sufficient to inform a future Tribunal decision.

7 December 2015 - [Bahramy v Medical Council of New South Wales \[2015\] NSWCA 384](#) - ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW – appeal on question of law – application for reinstatement of registered medical practitioner – whether Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW had jurisdiction to make orders dismissing application – whether Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW had jurisdiction to make orders precluding application for two year period - ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW – appeal on question of fact – challenge to findings regarding credibility of expert witness

United Kingdom

8 December 2015 - [Jamie-Lee Anderson v North West Strategic Health Authority \[2015\] EWHC 3563 \(QB\)](#)

8 December 2015 - [Sales v Portugal \[2015\] ECHR 1076](#)

9 December 2015 - [Jonathan Davey v General Dental Council \[2015\] EWHC 3594 \(Admin\)](#)

10 December 2015 - [Daina Moyo v Nursing and Midwifery Council \[2015\] EWHC 3547](#)

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

11 December 2015 - [Health Insurance Act 1973](#) - C2015C00593 - Act No. 42 of 1974 as amended

11 December 2015 - [Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010](#) - C2015C00590 - Act No. 72 of 2010 as amended

8 December 2015 - [National Health Act 1953](#) - C2015C00588 - Act No. 95 of 1953 as amended

8 December 2015 - [Australian Immunisation Register Rule 2015](#) - F2015L01946 - as made

4 December 2015 - [Family Assistance \(Vaccination Schedules\) \(DSS\) Determination 2015](#) - F2015L01939 - as made

South Australia

2 December 2015 - [Mental Health \(Review\) Amendment Bill 2015](#) - As laid on the table and read a first time, 2 December 2015

Victoria

8 December 2015 - [Access to Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2015](#) - First reading passed 8 December 2015

8 December 2015 - [Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2015](#) - First reading passed 8 December 2015

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

11 December 2015 - [\\$5.79 million to support aged care in rural and remote communities](#) - The Australian Government announced funding of \$5.79 million to increase aged care places in rural and remote communities across Australia.

10 December 2015 - [Fund to bridge biomedical research to market gaps](#) - The Australian Government's \$250 million Biomedical Translation Fund will bridge the gap between research and commercialisation of new Australian biomedical discoveries.

10 December 2015 - [Summer safety campaign kicks in \\$5000 to Australia's Surf Life Saving Clubs](#) - Every surf life-saving club across the nation will receive \$5000 to improve safety equipment and better-prevent drownings this summer as part of the latest round of Commonwealth funding.

8 December 2015 - [Indigenous Aged Care Graduates to Help Meet Future Workforce Demands](#) - More than 30 Indigenous aged care graduates are about to embark on a career in a priority industry, thanks to an Australian Government-funded programme which aims to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians.

7 December 2015 - [Turning Medical Research into Commercial Reality](#) - The Australian Government will invest \$250 million over two years to help translate Australian health and medical research into commercial reality as part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda.

6 December 2015 - [A new action plan to tackle ice](#) - The Australian Government has released the National Ice Taskforce Final Report and the Commonwealth response.

5 December 2015 - **40,000 Australians have their say on private health** - Almost 40,000 Australians have flooded the Government's online survey asking whether they are getting value for money from their private health cover and how best to improve their policy

5 December 2015 - **Grass roots a key to tackling ice** - The Australian Government will enlist local sports clubs and empower local communities to tackle the use of crystal methamphetamine or 'ice'.

4 December 2015 - **Catch-up: Incentives for vaccination providers and general practitioners** - From 1 January 2016, an additional \$6 incentive payment will be made to vaccination providers and GPs who follow up and vaccinate children who are more than two months overdue for their childhood vaccinations.

Private Health insurance Circulars

8 December 2015 - **PHI 80/15 Prostheses List Management System**

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

11 December 2015 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Psychology Board of Australia has released the November 2015 meeting communiqué.

10 December 2015 - **Revised standards for PII arrangements published today** - A revised registration standard for Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements has today been published by eight National Boards regulating Australian registered health practitioners.

10 December 2015 - **Tribunal reprimands nurse for theft and forged prescription** - A tribunal has reprimanded a nurse and found she engaged in professional misconduct for stealing a blank prescription and forging a prescription for a drug of dependence.

10 December 2015 - **Newsletter from the Board** - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

9 December 2015 - **Tender opens for National health support service for nurses and midwives** - The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) is looking for a provider to deliver a National health support service for nurses and midwives with a health impairment or at risk of a health impairment in Australia.

8 December 2015 - **Call for applications** - Call for applications for appointment to the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia's list of approved persons for appointment to panels.

7 December 2015 - **Request for tender and vendor briefing** - Seeking qualified and experienced parties to establish, deliver and manage a National health support service for nurses and midwives.

7 December 2015 - **Quarterly registration data released** - The National Dental Board has released its quarterly registration data.

7 December 2015 - **Revised guidelines now in effect** - The Pharmacy Board of Australia is reminding pharmacists that revised guidelines published in September take effect today.

7 December 2015 - **The National Board has released its quarterly registration data** - The National Board has released its quarterly registration data.

4 December 2015 - **New information for osteopathy students and graduates** - From today, osteopathy students and graduates have a new way of finding out about becoming a registered osteopath.

4 December 2015 - **Supreme Court dismisses doctor's application for judicial review** - The Supreme Court of Western Australia has dismissed a doctor's application for judicial review of a decision of the Medical Board of Australia Performance and Professional Standards Panel.

4 December 2015 - **Call for applications** - Call for applications for appointment to the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia's list of approved persons for appointment to panels.

4 December 2015 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

11 December 2015 - **Consultation: Proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard (Codeine)** - The TGA is seeking further advice/submissions about proposed changes to the scheduling of codeine. Closing date: 29 January 2016

9 December 2015 - **100% healthy food for men tablets** - 100% healthy food for men tablets pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken.

8 December 2015 - **Reasons for scheduling delegates' final decisions (Joint ACMS-ACCS), December 2015** - Reasons for decisions for amendments to the Poisons Standard.

7 December 2015 - **Classification of IVD medical devices** - IVDs are classified according to the health risk that may arise from an incorrect result.

7 December 2015 - **TGA presentation given at Parenteral Drug Association Australia Chapter meeting, 24 November 2015** - This presentation provided an update on the achievements and challenges for Manufacturing Quality Branch in 2015.

4 December 2015 - **TGA pilot of IMDRF Table of Contents for medical device submissions** - The TGA is participating in the pilot program to trial the ToCs for conformity assessment pre-market applications

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

Specialist homelessness services 2014–15 web report is the fourth annual report from the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection and the first presented as a web report. It describes the characteristics of clients of specialist homelessness services, the services requested, outcomes achieved, and unmet requests for services during 2014–15.

11 December 2015 - **Media release: Mental health and domestic violence continue to be key issues facing homelessness services**

10 December 2015 - **Health expenditure Australia 2013–14: analysis by sector**

10 December 2015 - **Media release: Spending on pharmaceuticals slows, but more prescriptions dispensed**

8 December 2015 - **National framework for protecting Australia's children (dynamic data display): December 2015 update**

8 December 2015 - **Domestic and family violence and homelessness 2011–12 to 2013–14**

Northern Territory. Department of Health

9 December 2015 - **Changes to Royal Darwin Hospital car parking** - The Northern Territory Government is working closely with Wilson Parking to end the commercial relationship between government and Wilson Parking. Royal Darwin Hospital will take over management of the car parking at the hospital and implement changes to improve the system for patients, visitors and staff. 'The current business model is not suitable for Royal Darwin Hospital and, as a result, we have made the decision to part ways with Wilson Parking,' Minister Elferink said. 'This decision was about making sure that car parks were available to patients and visitors and improving on the current system.'

Queensland. Department of Health

10 December 2015 - **Townsville forum highlights NDIS market boom** - Representatives from National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) have asked local service providers to think differently about their businesses and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) at a market readiness forum, jointly hosted with the Queensland Government.

9 December 2015 - **Winners of 2015 Awards for Excellence in Health** - The response to the Ravenshoe burns incident and the Aspiring Women Leaders' Summit team received special commendations at the 2015 Queensland Health and Department of Health Awards for Excellence.

9 December 2015 - **New specialist rehabilitation and surgical facilities for Herston Quarter** - A new 132 bed specialist rehabilitation centre will be built as part of the multi-million dollar Herston Quarter redevelopment as part of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

7 December 2015 - **Binge drinking and drug use targeted in new action plan** - The Palaszczuk Government has launched a new action plan to target Queensland's problem with binge drinking and other drug-related harms.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

7 December 2015 - **New measles case** - SA Health is urging people to make sure they are immunised against measles following notification of a new measles case. SA Health's Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Paddy Phillips, said the confirmed case is a 12 year old female who recently travelled to Bali. 'Measles is highly contagious among people who are not fully immunised, and is spread through coughing and sneezing', Professor Phillips said. 'The illness begins with fever, cough, runny nose, and sore eyes, followed by a blotchy rash which begins on the head and then spreads down the body. Complications of measles can be severe and even fatal. Measles is common in Southeast Asia so it is vital that people travelling to that region check that they have had two doses of the measles vaccine before leaving home.'

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

10 December 2015 - **Union attempt to stop funding for additional family violence counselling fails** - A public sector union has tried and failed to stop the Tasmanian Government from providing more counselling for children and adults impacted by family violence. In the Tasmanian Industrial Commission (TIC) today, the Community and Public Sector Union applied for a moratorium to be placed on the Government's funding of a non-government community services organisation. This funding – provided under the Hodgman Liberal Government's \$26 million Family Violence Action Plan – will help ensure that those on waiting lists for counselling, particularly children, receive the support they need.

9 December 2015 - **Greens' claims on child protection staff false** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to redesigning the broken child protection system. We have consistently said that the fact that we have vacancies in child protection positions demonstrates that the issue lies with the system and not resourcing. Our commitment to full occupancy of every position in CPS has not changed. Consecutive recruitment processes have been occurring for over 12 months now and are continuing.

8 December 2015 - **Cutting red tape** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to cutting red tape and helping local business grow and create jobs. From Wednesday (Dec 9), Tasmanians and visitors can enjoy greater food choices as a result of financial barriers preventing many mobile food business moving around the state being scrapped. The Government's amendments to the Food Act 2003 reduce the costs for mobile food business operators and also reduce the administrative burden for councils.

8 December 2015 - **Helicopter Rescue Test Run to Royal** - The Westpac Rescue Helicopter will simulate aeromedical retrievals to the Royal Hobart Hospital this morning between 11 am and 12 noon. Project Director, Ben Moloney said preparation for the construction of K-Block next year had commenced including operational testing for the helipad. Hobart's typical wind conditions meant that two flight paths needed to be tested. 'Helicopter flight paths have more flexibility than fixed wing aircraft. Today we are confirming the most efficient helicopter flight path to the Royal – one that delivers critically ill patients to the hospital fastest and minimises the impact on the city.' Mr Moloney said that the helipad was a key feature in the rescued Redevelopment project.

Victoria. Department of Human Services (DHS)

10 December 2015 - **Ending the ambulance crisis: improving services, saving lives** - The Andrews Labor Government is fast-tracking funding to take immediate action to reform our ambulance system – delivering improved response times and better support for paramedics after four years of crisis and neglect under the former Liberal Government. Minister for Ambulance Services, Jill Hennessy, today released the final report of the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee, Victoria's Ambulance Action Plan: Improving Services, Saving Lives. The landmark report delivers on the Labor Government's election promise to end the war on paramedics and work with them, not against them – and builds on work already undertaken to reform our ambulance service.

10 December 2015 - **Improving support for Victoria's carers** - The Andrews Labor Government is boosting the general carer allowance and making the system simpler for Victorians caring for our most vulnerable children. The Labor Government is providing a \$31.4 million funding boost – the biggest in a decade. In Victoria, assessed and approved foster carers, kinship carers, permanent carers and special needs local adoptive parents are entitled to a care allowance. A simplified rate structure will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and will see around 5,000 carers receive additional funds to help meet the needs of over 7,000 children and young people in their care.

8 December 2015 - **Legalised Medicinal Cannabis Another Step Closer** - Victorian families are one step closer to legally accessing medicinal cannabis in exceptional circumstances with the Andrews Labor Government today introducing legislation into the Parliament. The *Access to Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2015* will provide a legal framework to enable the cultivation and manufacture of safe and high quality medicinal cannabis products in Victoria. This landmark legislation will deliver on the Andrews Labor Government's election promise to make medicinal cannabis available to people in exceptional circumstances, safely, securely and lawfully, because no family should have to choose between breaking the law and watching their loved ones suffer. Children with severe epilepsy will be given first access to medicinal cannabis from early 2017. The Australian-first legislation reflects the recommendations made by the Victorian Law Reform's Commission Report on Medicinal Cannabis.

4 December 2015 - **Supporting Goulburn Valley Health services to grow** - Residents in Shepparton and beyond now have access to timely dialysis services, extra palliative care beds and a tele-dentistry service, with three new initiatives open to patients at Goulburn Valley Health. Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, today visited the hospital to launch its new night dialysis service, refurbished palliative care beds and an exciting project providing dental care via the internet to remote communities. Goulburn Valley Health is the first rural Victorian hospital to offer a nocturnal dialysis service, which operates from 7.30pm-5.30am on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights. The service enables an extra seven dialysis patients to receive treatment, closer to home, in Shepparton.

4 December 2015 - **Doors open at new health services in northern Victoria** - Residents in Echuca, Kyabram and Tongala will benefit from higher quality and more timely health services with the official openings of a number of new health services today. Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, today officially opened new services at Echuca Regional Health, Tongala Community Health and Kyabram District Health, complete with modern new facilities and cutting edge technology. First was the newly redeveloped Echuca Hospital where \$65 million has seen the completion of an expansion, providing patients with more comfort, safety and privacy. The expansion included a new emergency department, short stay/medical assessment and procedure unit, maternity and paediatrics unit, medical ward and a sub-acute unit. The project increased capacity by 22 multi day beds, six short stay beds and 10 emergency department treatment spaces to meet growing demand.

4 December 2015 - **World class Bendigo Hospital works power ahead** - The interior of the \$630 million world-class new Bendigo Hospital is quickly taking shape with Victoria's largest ever regional hospital project on track to open to patients in 2017. Premier Daniel Andrews today joined local members Jacinta Allan and Maree Edwards to tour the busy construction site for the first time inspecting the state-of-the-art fit out of the hospital's new maternity ward.

Victoria. Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

15 December 2015 - The Clinical Communiqué releases its latest newsletter. The Communiqué is an educational resource for medical practitioners and health professionals with a focus on patient safety in acute health care settings. Written by clinicians for clinicians about lessons learned from deaths investigated by the Coroners Court. [Read more.](#)

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

10 December 2015 - **Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Police: Police and mental health clinicians join forces** - The State Government has further addressed mental health in the community, announcing a two-year trial of mental health and WA Police co-response teams which aim to divert people with mental illness away from the criminal justice system to the health and support networks they need.

10 December 2015 - [Minister for Health: Mid-West cancer centre reaches key milestone](#) - The Midwest Cancer Centre is one step closer with preferred contractor for the project, Geraldton Building Services and Cabinets Pty Ltd, clearing the site ready for construction.

9 December 2015 - [Minister for Health: Clinical research could improve baby survival rate](#) - A WA Health clinician undertaking studies that could improve the survival rate of babies with leukaemia will be among four researchers to benefit from almost \$1 million in State Government funding announced this evening.

8 December 2015 - [Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Silver Chain adds emergency links to Lancelin](#) - For the first time an isolated, nurse-operated Silver Chain clinic in Lancelin has joined the Emergency Telehealth Service network, providing critical emergency medicine support to the seaside town north of Perth.

7 December 2015 - [Premier and Minister for Mental Health: Plan to expand regional mental health services](#) - Regional areas are a key focus of a substantial State Government agenda to expand the delivery of mental health, alcohol and drug services across Western Australia over the next decade.

7 December 2015 - [Minister for Health: \\$1 million injection for health research](#) - Researchers conducting studies into a range of medical topics will be able to apply for a one-off Department of Health funding opportunity from today.

Operational Directives

10 December 2015 - [IC 0236/15 - Notifications of Acute Rheumatic Fever \(ARF\) and Rheumatic Heart Disease \(RHD\)](#) - Describe the statutory requirements to notify all cases of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)

United Kingdom. Department of Health

11 December 2015 - [Chief Medical Officer calls for action on women's health](#) - News story

11 December 2015 - [Chief Medical Officer annual report 2014: women's health](#) - Independent report

10 December 2015 - [Mutual recognition of professional qualifications in healthcare](#) - Open consultation

10 December 2015 - [Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013 to 2016](#) - Policy paper

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

8 December 2015 - [HHS Partners with LGBT Organizations to Promote Open Enrollment Activities during LGBT Week of Action](#) - With the December 15 deadline for coverage starting in January 2016 fast approaching, the Department of Health and Human Services today announced partnerships with key national organizations to support LGBT outreach and enrollment efforts during 2016 Open Enrollment.

7 December 2015 - [New campaign to educate teens about sexual health before they have sex](#) - During yesterday's opening session of the National HIV Prevention Conference, Douglas M. Brooks, M.S.W., the director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, announced the launch of the Know The Facts First campaign.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

11 December 2015 - [The 'Medical Home' is the family GP](#) - The AuMA today released its new *Position Statement on the Medical Home 2015*. The AuMA has produced the Position Statement to contribute to the current health policy discussion over the future directions of general practice and primary care in Australia. AuMA Vice President, Dr Stephen Parnis, said the Position Statement outlines key principles and requirements for the Medical Home if it is to lead to improved patient care in the Australian context.

10 December 2015 - [Primary Health Networks must not be used to ration health care for patients](#) - The AuMA today released its Position Statement on Primary Health Networks (PHNs) 2015, which replaces the AuMA Position Statement on Medicare Locals 2011. AuMA Vice President, Dr Stephen Parnis, said the AuMA supports the need for an overarching structure of Primary Health Care Organisations (PHCOs) such as Medicare Locals or Primary Health Networks (PHNs), but they should not

become agencies for rationing health funding or devolving the Federal Government's core primary health care responsibilities.

9 December 2015 - **Smoking and risky drinking rates down, but still too many Australians overweight or obese** - The latest national health survey from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that smoking and risky alcohol consumption rates are down among Australian adults, but too many adults and children still fall into the overweight and obese category. AuMA Vice President, Dr Stephen Parnis, said today that some of the survey rates are encouraging, but it is clear that much more work needs to be done by individuals, communities, and governments on preventative health programs and activities.

9 December 2015 - **AuMA proposes stronger support and standards for International Medical Graduates (IMGs)** - The AuMA today released its new AuMA Position Statement on International Medical Graduates 2015, which replaces the AuMA Position Statement on Overseas Trained Doctors 2004. The new Position Statement sets out the AuMA's policy on IMGs, particularly those IMGs who are yet to establish themselves in the Australian medical workforce, and recommends priorities for recruiting, assessing, training, and supporting IMGs.

4 December 2015 - **AuMA advocates zero tolerance of sexual harassment in the medical workplace** - The AuMA today released its new Position Statement on Sexual Harassment in the Medical Workplace 2015, advocating a zero tolerance approach to this very important issue. The Position Statement was developed in response to serious allegations of sexual harassment in the medical workforce that were highlighted in the media earlier this year.

British Medical Association (BMA)

10 December 2015 - **MPs approve devolved powers over healthcare** - New laws conferring devolved powers over healthcare have been approved by MPs amid BMA warnings that the changes have 'significant implications' for the NHS.

10 December 2015 - **Pharmacists' support for GPs welcomed** - GPs in Northern Ireland will be supported by practice-based pharmacists via a five-year, multi-million pound scheme, which follows BMA lobbying.

9 December 2015 - **Offer to cover GP indemnity costs** - GPs will have their indemnity costs for extra OOH (out-of-hours) shifts covered this winter following BMA lobbying.

8 December 2015 - **Consultant-led maternity services safe** - The Government must renew its commitment to protecting funding for public health services to avoid creating future problems for the NHS, the BMA has warned.

8 December 2015 - **BMA calls for commitment to public health** - The Government must renew its commitment to protecting funding for public health services to avoid creating future problems for the NHS, the BMA has warned.

7 December 2015 - **GPs ensure healthcare access during floods** - GPs have been praised for their quick response in providing voluntary weekend care to patients affected by the Cumbria floods.

7 December 2015 - **Overseas patient charges pose 'public health risk'** - Proposals to charge tourists and migrants for NHS services could have 'unintended drawbacks' on patients and the health service, the BMA has warned.

7 December 2015 - **'Significant change' needed to deliver health services** - Doctors leaders in Scotland have warned that there needs to be a 'significant change' in how health services are delivered.

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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