



HEALTH ALERT

5 December 2016

Judgments	2
Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission	2
New South Wales	2
Victoria	2
Legislation	3
Commonwealth	3
South Australia.....	3
New South Wales.....	3
Victoria.....	3
Reports	4
Australia. Department of Health	4
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards	4
Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	5
Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme	5
Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	5
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare	5
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.....	6
New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health	6
New South Wales Health Care Complaints Commission.....	6
Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health	6
Queensland. Department of Health	6
Queensland. Office of the Health Ombudsman	7
South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing	7
Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services	7
Victoria. Department of Health	8
Western Australia. Department of Health	9
New Zealand. Ministry of Health	10
Health Canada	10
United Kingdom. Department of Health	10
Australian Medical Association (AuMA)	10
About us	11
More information	11

JUDGMENTS

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

1 December 2016 - *Ms Robin Hansen v Calvary Health Care Adelaide Limited [2016] FWCFB 8162* - Costs application – permission to appeal and appeal – s 399A application to dismiss an unfair dismissal application – whether appeal instituted ‘without reasonable cause’ and/or with ‘no reasonable prospects of success’ – unreasonable act or omission – jurisdiction enlivened – discretion exercised – costs ordered on a party to party basis.

New South Wales

28 November 2016 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Schmidt [2016] NSWCATOD 145* - Medical practitioner - specialist obstetrician consumed alcohol while on call – argumentative interaction with patient- HELD did not constitute unsatisfactory professional conduct as particularised by HCCC.

This decision of the Civil and Administrative Tribunal of New South Wales (**Tribunal**) was an appeal brought by the Health Care Complaints Commission (**HCCC**) in relation to the dismissal of a complaint of unsatisfactory professional conduct, brought against a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist. HCCC alleged that on 30 October 2013, the doctor had consumed alcohol at a social function, and then attended to a pregnant patient while on call at a hospital. Subsequent to being treated, the patient complained that the doctor had acted inappropriately with both her and her mother, and had been unduly affected by the alcohol that he had consumed.

The appeal was dismissed due to deficiencies in the construction of the Complaints. It was held that the particulars were not formulated in terms that the consumption of a particular level of alcohol over the applicable period of time ipso facto constituted unsatisfactory professional conduct. It was this factor that allowed the doctor to avoid a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct, despite the Tribunal coming to the conclusion that his actions had created a consequential risk to the safety of the public.

29 November 2016 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Little [2016] NSWCATOD 146* - Chiropractor – where practitioner admits he is guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct – inappropriate relationship with patient while therapeutic relationship continues – failure to maintain appropriate professional boundaries – whether conduct amounted to professional misconduct – appropriate review body.

28 November 2016 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Chen [2016] NSWCATOD 146* - Medical practitioner-inappropriate prescribing of drugs of addiction- no authority to prescribe-medical record keeping inadequate- professional misconduct-burden of establishing mitigating factors on respondent-cancellation of registration-costs

Victoria

24 November 2016 - *Sheehan v Kitson (Human Rights) [2016] VCAT 1964* - Vexatious Proceedings Act 2014 –applications for extended restraint order –applications granted. On 29 November 2016, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**Tribunal**) handed down its decision in relation to an application by four doctors against a former patient, seeking a declaration that the patient had conducted vexatious proceedings against each of them in relation to the provision of medical records.

The application for the declaration was made on the basis that the former patient had made over 30 complaints to the Health Services Commission regarding one or other of four applicants, arising out of the same, or very similar facts. Each applicant alleged that as a result of the complaints (and related Tribunal proceedings), they had begun to feel harassed and intimidated.

The Tribunal ordered the respondent patient could no longer commence proceedings in VCAT of any complaint regarding the *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic). This was because the bringing of complaints arising out of the same subject matter, despite previous lack of success, amounted to harassment of the applicant doctors. The Tribunal confirmed that Health Privacy Principles cannot be relied upon by a patient to address general grievances about diagnosis, nor, to require doctors to identify from medical records how their conclusions or opinions are supported.

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

1 December 2016 - [Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Amendment \(New Governance Arrangements\) Act 2016](#) - C2016A00083 Act No. 83 of 2016 as made.

29 November 2016 - [Narcotic Drugs Legislation Amendment Act 2016](#) - C2016A00076 Act No. 76 of 2016 as made.

29 November 2016 - [Narcotic Drugs \(Licence Charges\) Act 2016](#) - C2016A0007 Act No. 75 of 2016 as made.

1 December 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2016 \(No. 8\)](#) - F2016L01846 as made

30 November 2016 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 11\) \(PB 100 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01842 as made.

30 December 2016 - [Broadcasting Services \(Regional Commercial Radio - Specification of Periods for Subsections 43C\(1A\) and 61CD\(2\)\) Variation Instrument 2016 \(No. 1\)](#) - F2016L01841 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health \(Originator Brand\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 8\) \(PB 105 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01840 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health \(Price and Special Patient Contribution\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 9\) \(PB 98 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01839 as made.

30 December 2016 - [Amendment Determination under section 84AH of the National Health Act 1953 \(2016\) \(No. 4\) \(PB 103 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01838 as made

30 December 2016 - [Payment of Visa Application Charges and Fees in Foreign Currencies Amendment Instrument 2016/109](#) - F2016L01837 IMMI 16/109 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health \(Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 11\) \(PB 101 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01836 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health Determination under paragraph 98C\(1\)\(b\) Amendment 2016 \(No. 8\) \(PB 108 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01835 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical benefits – early supply\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 10\) \(PB 99 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01834 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 11\) \(PB 104 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01833 as made.

30 December 2016 - [National Health \(Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 11\) \(PB 97 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01832 as made.

28 November 2016 - [National Cancer Screening Register \(Consequential and Transitional Provisions\) Rule 2016](#) - F2016L01815 as made.

South Australia.

1 December 2016 - [Health Care \(Miscellaneous\) Amendment Act 2016](#) - Remainder of Act came into operation.

New South Wales.

25 November 2016 - [Commencement Proclamation under the Health Legislation Amendment Act 2016 No 45](#) - section 3 commences.

Victoria.

29 November 2016 - [Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Bill 2016](#) - Assented.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

2 December 2016 - [Multi-million dollar boost for Health training in Lismore](#) - Health and medical students will have greater opportunities to undertake training and clinical placements at the University Centre for Rural Health in Lismore, New South Wales.

1 December 2016 - [Patients gain subsidised access to expensive new medicines](#) - Australians from 1 December will pay no more than \$38.30 for a medicine to treat thyroid cancer that would cost a patient \$117,000 without subsidised access through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

29 November 2016 - [Health Care Homes' voluntary trial scheduled for mid-2017](#) - The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Sussan Ley, said the Australian Government was committed to its Health Care Homes program to find better ways of delivering medical services to an ageing population with one in two Australian living with a chronic condition.

28 November 2016 - [National mental health charity achieves 30-year milestone](#) - For 30 years SANE Australia has provided help and support to Australians experiencing mental health issues.

25 November 2016 - [Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation Communiqué 25 November 2016](#) - Communiqué of outcomes from the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation teleconference held on 25 November 2016.

25 November 2016 - [Food Safety Website now live for industry and consumers](#) - Australian ministers and the New Zealand minister responsible for food have released a revamped food safety website designed to give stakeholders better access to information about the joint Australian and New Zealand food regulation system.

Private Health insurance Circulars

28 November 2016 - [PHI 88/16 Registration of a New Private Health Insurer Emergency Services Health Pty Ltd](#)

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

2 December 2016 - [Report on complaints noted](#) - We note the report on the medical complaints process and are taking action to do our part to address bullying and harassment.

2 December 2016 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Podiatry Board has released its quarterly registration data.

1 December 2016 - [Revised Recency of practice registration standard takes effect](#) - The revised Recency of practice registration standard for four registered health professions takes effect from today.

1 December 2016 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Chiropractic Board has released its quarterly registration data.

1 December 2016 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Occupational Therapy Board has released its quarterly registration data.

1 December 2016 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Optometry Board has released its quarterly registration data.

1 December 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Psychology Board of Australia has released the November 2016 communiqué.

30 November 2016 - ['No excuse' says Board as court fines social worker for claiming to be a psychologist](#) - AHPRA, on behalf of the Psychology Board of Australia, has successfully prosecuted a social worker for claiming to be a psychologist.

30 November 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

30 November 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Optometry Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

29 November 2016 - [Communique from the Board](#) - The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communique.

29 November 2016 - [Statement of Agreed Principles on a Respectful Culture in Medicine](#) - The Medical Board of Australia has signed up to the NSW Health Statement of Agreed Principles on a respectful culture in medicine.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

29 November 2016 - [Review of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(the Code\)](#) - The revised draft Code and supporting draft *Guide on investigating and managing potential breaches of the Code* is now available to view and submit feedback on, via the [NHMRC Public Consultation portal](#).

28 November 2016 - [Revised Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research](#) - The National Health and Medical Research Council and the Consumers Health Forum of Australia have released a revised joint statement reflecting the growing recognition of the place of consumers and community in health research.

25 November 2016 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

29 November 2016 - [Utilisation and cost model workbook - to accompany the PBAC Guidelines](#) - A Utilisation and cost model workbook has been developed to accompany the Pharmaceutical Benefit Advisory Committee (PBAC) Guidelines.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

2 December 2016 - [Ampicillin injection and Amoxicillin injection - medicine shortages](#) - Medicine shortage update - return of supply of Ibimicycyn ampicillin injections.

30 November 2016 - [Varying entries in the ARTG - medical devices and IVDs](#) - New guidance available.

30 November 2016 - [ACSOV meeting statement, Meeting 12, 12 August 2016](#) - Advisory Committee on the Safety of Vaccines meeting statement.

29 November 2016 - [Nanostim leadless cardiac pacemaker](#) - Hazard alert - potential for loss of telemetry and pacing due to battery malfunction.

29 November 2016 - [ASR XL total hip replacements](#) - Alert - TGA advice regarding potential association with heart failure.

29 November 2016 - [TGA business plan 2016-17](#) - Overview of strategic considerations for 2016-17

29 November 2016 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Tiotropium bromide (Spiriva Respimat / Favint Respimat).

28 November 2016 - [Updating medicine ingredient names](#) - New change to list of affected ingredient names and new communication materials available.

28 November 2016 - [AusPARs: Questions & answers](#) - Updated questions and answers.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

1 December 2016 - [Elective surgery waiting times stable nationally](#).

2 December 2016 - [Hospitalised burn injuries Australia 2013–14](#).

30 November 2016 - [Incidence of suicide among serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel 2001–2014](#).

29 November 2016 - [Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act \(ROACA\) data cubes](#).

28 November 2016 - [Spatial distribution of the supply of the clinical health workforce 2014: relationship to the distribution of the Indigenous population.](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

On the Radar – 28 November 2016 – Issue 301 ([PDF 225KB](#)) ([Word 183KB](#)).

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

2 December 2016 - [Higher honours for HETI](#) - NSW's Health Education and Training Institute (**HETI**) has been officially designated as a higher education provider - a first for a state health entity. The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency has named HETI as a registered higher education provider for the maximum registration period of seven years.

1 December 2016 - [NSW on track to eliminate HIV by 2020](#) - NSW is on track to achieve the virtual elimination of HIV transmission by 2020, with new HIV diagnoses in NSW at their lowest in more than four years while testing is at an all-time high.

1 December 2016 - [Christmas can be dangerous, NSW Health warns](#) - Stay alert and stay out of hospital this festive season – that's the message from NSW Health which aims to see less people unnecessarily in hospital emergency wards this Christmas.

28 November 2016 - [New era of healthcare for Nepean Hospital](#) - A \$550 million redevelopment will transform Nepean Hospital and bring a state-of-the-art healthcare facility to the region, NSW Premier Mike Baird and Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced today. Mr Baird and Mrs Skinner said the redevelopment will provide more services, beds and staff to serve the growing Nepean population and is in addition to a new \$26 million car park.

New South Wales Health Care Complaints Commission

29 November 2016 - [Dr Darren Little - Unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct](#) - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted a complaint before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal against chiropractor Dr Darren Little. The complaint related to Dr Little having formed an inappropriate personal and intimate relationship with a patient, whose two children he also treated.

29 November 2016 - [Dr Mengyi Chen – Unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct – Registration cancelled](#) - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Mengyi Chen, a medical practitioner, before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The complaint alleged unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct in relation to Dr Chen's inappropriate prescribing of Schedule 8 and Schedule 4D drugs, including prescribing drugs of addiction to drug dependent patients, and Dr Chen's failure to maintain adequate medical records.

Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

30 November 2016 - [\\$2 million Immediate Works Stimulus for remote clinics](#) - The NT Government has announced a \$2 million repairs and maintenance package for remote health clinics – the final part of the NT Government's \$22 million Immediate Works Stimulus Package.

28 November 2016 - [Closing loopholes in the Liquor Act](#) - The Northern Territory Labor Government will introduce in parliament urgent amendments to the Liquor Act, to restrict possible Sunday sales of takeaway alcohol.

25 November 2016 - [Northern Territory emergency response experts to present on global stage](#) - Australia's National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre will share its innovations and knowledge in preparing and responding to disaster response at a global meeting of Emergency Medical Teams in Hong Kong next week.

Queensland. Department of Health

25 November 2016 - [Still working on Slip, Stop, Slap? Here's the two steps you're missing](#) - Remember the five sun safe behaviours - slip, slop, slap, seek, slide. If you learned about sun safety back

in the 80s, there's a pretty good chance the sun safety mantra of slip, slop, slap has been burned into your brain.

Queensland. Office of the Health Ombudsman

24 November 2016 - **Investigation report – Undoing the knots constraining medicine regulation in Queensland** - This report details the investigation undertaken by the Health Ombudsman into the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Queensland regulatory system for scheduled medicines as it applies to health services, in particular the prescribing and dispensing of schedule 8 medicines. The investigation commenced after a number of complaints displaying common trends were received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman relating to prescribing and dispensing of scheduled medicines.

During these investigations, concerns were raised about the timing and adequacy of regulatory actions and of the dissemination of information to other relevant regulatory bodies. In particular, the Health Ombudsman was concerned about what appeared to be significant delays in taking appropriate action. As a result, the Health Ombudsman commenced an own-motion systemic investigation under section 80(c) of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 to review the system and its apparent inadequate, timely regulatory responses to prescribing and dispensing of schedule 8 medicines that posed a risk to the health and safety of the public.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

2 December 2016 - **Country Health Media release: Consultation key to Mount Gambier Hospital review** - Staff engagement and community consultation will be a central component of Country Health SA's independent review of Mount Gambier Hospital. The review team will spend four days at the Hospital, meeting with staff and observing and assessing how the emergency department currently works.

1 December 2016 - **Media release: Mums the word for SA women in their 30s** - More South Australian women are choosing their 30s as the time for motherhood, according to data released today. SA Health Epidemiology Director Dr Katina D'Onise said the Pregnancy Outcome in South Australia 2014 report shows a continuing trend of women choosing to have children later in life.

1 December 2016 - **Media release: Privacy Breach Quarterly Update** - Over the past three months, two SA Health staff have had their employment terminated for inappropriately accessing patient records. From 1 September to 30 November, another four staff were disciplined, 1 volunteer was terminated and one staff resigned prior to the allegations being substantiated.

28 November 2016 - **SA Health stars shine at night of nights** - Outstanding staff achievements, projects and innovations in health over the past year were celebrated at the eighth annual SA Health Awards ceremony on Friday night.

27 November 2016 **SA ambos 'Hands Off' approach goes interstate** - An award winning campaign to protect South Australian paramedics from violence while on the job has been so successful; it's been rolled out interstate.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

1 December 2016 - **Elective surgery improvements** - The Hodgman Liberal Government inherited a run down health system that required a major overhaul to get it back on track and with a better focus on patient care. There is no quick fix but we are getting on with the job with our \$76 million investment in elective surgery, which has enabled the opening of the two new theatres at the Launceston General Hospital, as well as extra capacity at the Royal Hobart Hospital. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Elective Surgery Waiting Times 2015-2016: Australian Hospital Statistics report, as well as the My Hospitals website, shows almost 19,000 admissions for elective surgery and that Tasmania had the highest rate of admissions per capital of any state or territory. This was an increase of more than 21 per cent over the number of admissions in 2014-15, with more than 3300 additional surgeries.

30 November 2016 - **Wage negotiations with nurses** - A formal offer including a 2 per cent increase for three years has today been sent to the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

28 November 2016 - **Improved facilities for RHH mental health inpatients** - Some of Tasmania's most vulnerable patients will receive care and treatment in greatly improved facilities at the Royal Hobart

Hospital from tomorrow. The Hodgman Liberal Government is progressing the \$689 million RHH Redevelopment which will deliver Tasmanians a state-of-the-art health facility for generations to come. The relocation of the Department of Psychiatry to levels 2 and 3 of J-Block on Tuesday is the final inpatient move in the Tasmanian Government's safe decanting plan.

25 November 2016 - **Testing of low-THC hemp as a food continues** - The Hodgman Liberal Government has been a long-time advocate for the use of low-THC hemp in food, which will present an economic opportunity for our farmers. An update was provided to the Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation today at its meeting in Brisbane, on progress to consider low-THC hemp as a food. Work is currently underway to evaluate the impact of the consumption of low-THC hemp as a food in regards to random drug testing protocols in use in Australia, and it was advised today the final research report is delayed, and will now be considered in early 2017.

Victoria. Department of Health

30 November 2016 - **New Panel To Create Jobs In Health And Medical Research** - A new panel of experts has been established to drive leadership and excellence in Victorian health and medical research, attracting more investment and jobs to Victoria. Fourteen members will sit on the new Science, Medical Research and Technology Panel, led by Ms Brigitte Smith, Co-founder and Managing Director of GSB Venture Partners as the inaugural with Professor Kathryn North, AM, Director of Murdoch Children's Research Institute as the Deputy Chair.

30 November 2016 - **Bold Vision For The Future Of Victoria's Health System** - The Andrews Labor Government today released a bold new long-term vision to make sure all Victorians have better access to health care, receive better quality care and enjoy better health through prevention. Speaking at CEDA's Health Industry and Policy Forum today, Minister for Health Jill Hennessy released the Labor Government's future plan for the health system, *Health 2040: Advancing health*.

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29 November 2016 - **More Support For Victorian Refugees** - Foundation House will upgrade its facilities and expand mental health services for refugees in Melbourne's northern suburbs, with a further \$200,000 provided by the Andrews Labor Government. The Labor Government provides Foundation House \$3.4 million a year to deliver a range of health services across Victoria to people from refugee backgrounds who have survived torture or war-related trauma.

28 November 2016 - **Work Starts On Broadmeadows Surgery Centre** - Construction of the Andrews Labor Government's \$17.3 million expansion of surgery at Broadmeadows Health Services has begun. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today joined Member for Broadmeadows Frank McGuire to mark the start of construction works that will see a major revamp and reconfiguration of the hospital to build a new elective surgery centre.

27 November 2016 - **450 New Paramedics On The Road To Put People First** - Hundreds more paramedics will be employed as part of a new Andrews Labor Government \$500 million plan to improve ambulance response times. Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy today announced the record funding – the biggest ever investment in ambulance services – to employ 450 more paramedics, put more new ambulances on the road and build 15 new and upgraded stations across Victoria. **How will we save more lives?**

23 November 2016 - **State-Wide Review Into Thunderstorm Asthma Emergency** - The Inspector-General of Emergency Management will lead a state-wide review of the emergency response to the thunderstorm asthma event that occurred on Monday 21 November.

22 November 2016 - **Quitting Smoking During Pregnancy A Priority** - Too many pregnant women are putting their unborn babies at risk by continuing to smoke late into their pregnancy, new figures released today show.

22 November 2016 - **Greater Transparency For Mental Health Services** - The Andrews Labor Government has delivered on its election commitment to report annually to the Victorian Parliament and the broader community on mental health services. Victoria's Mental Health Services Annual Report 2015-16 will provide a greater understanding of the public mental health system, identifying system strengths, challenges and opportunities.

November 22, 2016 - **Call For Clinicians To Boost Patient Safety** - Doctors, nurses and other health clinicians are being urged to play their part in an overhaul of Victoria's hospital quality and safety system with expressions of interest for the new Victorian Clinical Council now open.

21 November 2016 - **New Service To Put Mothers On The Right Path** - In a Victorian first, a specialist alcohol and drug withdrawal unit has been launched to help mothers get the treatment they need while still caring for their babies.

November 21, 2016 - **Tick Of Approval For World Class New Bendigo Hospital** - Construction of the \$630 million world-class new Bendigo Hospital is finished one month ahead of schedule. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today joined Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan to celebrate the 'technical completion' of the new hospital that will open its doors to patients in late January.

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

30 November 2016 - **Minister for Health: Healthway helps make arts a wellbeing winner** - A total of 18 arts and community organisations in Perth and across regional Western Australia will share in \$809,000 from Healthway sponsorships to promote healthy lifestyles.

30 November 2016 - **Two cases of meningococcal disease notified** - The Department of Health today reported that a young child and an older teenager had been diagnosed with meningococcal disease – both due to serogroup W.

30 November 2016 - **Minister for Health: WA leads the way in preterm birth prevention** - A world-first program centred on King Edward Memorial Hospital (**KEMH**) has reduced the rate of Western Australian preterm births by eight per cent in its first year of operation, setting new standards for improving newborn health outcomes.

30 November 2016 - **Minister for Health: WA leads the way in preterm birth prevention** - A world-first program centred on KEMH has reduced the rate of Western Australian preterm births by eight per cent in its first year of operation, setting new standards for improving newborn health outcomes.

28 November 2016 - **Minister for Health: Doctor detectives solve more medical mysteries** - The success of Western Australia's nation-leading Undiagnosed Diseases Program has almost tripled expectations, with all but two of its first seven patients now diagnosed and undergoing targeted therapies.

28 November 2016 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Artworks to honour Manjimup's rich history** - West Australian artists Adam Cruickshank and George Domahidy will work together to create two freestanding artworks commissioned under the State Government's Percent for Art Scheme, for the new Warren Health Service in Manjimup.

28 November 2016 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health: More nurses to back up expanded meth campaign** - Additional nurses with specialist training in dealing with drug-affected individuals will be placed in hospital emergency departments from January 2017.

30 November 2016 - **Health Matters – HIV and AIDS** - WA Health, WA AIDS Council and guest, Hartley Williams, talk about HIV for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV Awareness Week.

28 November 2016 - **Diagnosing rare diseases brings music to Molly's ears** - Australian music icon Molly Meldrum dropped into King Edward Memorial Hospital to congratulate WA Health's Undiagnosed Diseases Program on its success in diagnosing children with rare and as yet undiagnosed medical

conditions. The program – an Australian first – began earlier this year with hopes of achieving a 25 per cent success rate but it has almost tripled those early expectations having diagnosed five of its first seven cases.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

30 November 2016 - [Mortality 2013 online tables](#) - These tables contain information on the underlying causes of all deaths registered in New Zealand in 2013. Information is broken down by age, sex, ethnicity, district health board and ICD-10-AM statistical classification chapters, subgroups and three character codes.

Health Canada

30 November 2016 - [Health Canada Regulates Chemicals Used to Make Fentanyl](#) - Canada is experiencing a crisis of opioid-related overdoses and deaths across the country. Many of these deaths involve fentanyl, a highly potent and addictive synthetic opioid. The severity of this issue requires a comprehensive and collaborative response. As part of the federal government's commitment to address the national opioid crisis, today, regulations were published controlling six chemicals used in the production of fentanyl. This will make it harder to access the chemicals used to make illicit fentanyl, and provide law enforcement with a stronger ability to take action on these substances.

United Kingdom. Department of Health

30 November 2016 - [New nursing degree apprenticeship](#) - Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt will announce new nursing degree apprenticeship, opening up a career in nursing to more people.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

1 December 2016 - [GP Groups call for delay to Health Care Home trial](#) - United General Practice Australia, which comprises leading general practice organisations including the AuMA, has called on the Federal Government to push back the start date on the Health Care Homes pilot project, to allow sufficient time to get this important opportunity to transform the nation's healthcare system right.

1 December 2016 - [Government delays introduction of pathology rent changes](#) - AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, met with Health Minister Sussan Ley in Canberra last week to discuss the Government's proposal to change the definition of market value for pathology collection centre leases. Dr Gannon told the Minister that the AuMA was prepared to work with the Government to come up with a more balanced policy approach that genuinely targeted inappropriate rental arrangements and did not interfere with legitimate commercial arrangements.

1 December 2016 - [ePIP: Upload or Repay](#) - Practices participating in the Practice Incentives Program Digital Health Incentive are reminded that they have until January 31 2017 to meet their cumulative quota for Shared Health Summary uploads for the last three quarters. The Department of Health has advised those practices that don't meet the total requirement of 0.5 per cent of their SWPE per quarter will be required to pay back any payments received to date for the incentive.

1 December 2016 [More experts support AuMA call for tougher action to tackle weight gain](#) - The AuMA's call for national, coordinated action to tackle obesity has been backed by a host of health experts and economists. The Grattan Institute recently released figures estimating that obesity costs taxpayers \$5.3 billion annually, with one in three Australians now classified as obese.

1 December 2016 - [GPs play a central role in health system](#) -: AuMA President AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, has written an opinion piece for *Health Voices*, the journal of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia, on the important and central role of the GP in providing coordinated, patient-centred health care

1 December 2016 - [Applications invited for AuMA Indigenous People's Medical Scholarship 2017](#) - The AuMA recognises the critical importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors through the AuMA Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship scheme. Applications are being sought for the 2017 Scholarship from eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have entered an Australian university to study medicine.

1 December 2016 - **SimGP: Improving management of the chronic disease patient** - There is a growing understanding that there is a need to find ways to advance chronic disease management in primary care to improve patient management long-term. SimGP is a first of its kind digital simulation program for Australian GPs designed to help you improve what you do in clinical 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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