



# HEALTH ALERT

1 May 2017

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## JUDGMENTS

### Key Decisions

21 April 2017 - *ILS Rehab Pty Ltd v Josephine Borg (as administrator of the estate of the late Damien Robert Borg)* [2017] NSWSC 442 - CONTRACTS – general contractual principles – construction and interpretation of shareholders agreement – no dispute that clause did not accurately reflect parties' intentions – appropriate to make order for rectification – whether clause was void for uncertainty – clause not void for uncertainty as it was capable of being given meaning by the court – not necessary to imply a term – defendant's construction of clause would not produce a commercial result and was not consistent with text and context.

This case relates to the construction of an agreement between shareholders. The plaintiff is a company, which supplies mobility products used by people with medical conditions. It had three directors who were the only shareholders, and each held one share. The defendant is the administrator of the estate of one of the directors who passed away. Following the death of the director a question arose as to how to construct the Shareholders' Agreement regarding the purchase of the share of a deceased director.

The Shareholders' Agreement provided that purchase price is equal to three times the company earnings before tax or depreciation in the immediately preceding financial year, and did not state when the share had to be sold. The defendant sought to sell the share at any point in time and for the value of three times the company's earnings. The plaintiff brought proceeding seeking immediate sale.

The Court found in favour of the plaintiff. It concluded that the purchase price equals the percentage shareholding of the outgoing Shareholder multiplied by three times the company earnings, and the sale of the share was to be done so immediately. It disagreed with the defendant's strict reading of the clauses and placed emphasis on interpreting the agreement in the manner intended by the parties at the time of entering the contract. The Court had little regard to the financial hardship that would be incurred by the defendant as a result of the sale because the alternative interpretation was commercially unworkable.

21 April 2017 - *Scott Vassella and Ambulance Service of NSW* [2017] NSWIRComm 1018 - Section 84- Unfair Dismissal- grievance by employee against perceived inappropriate treatment by Manager- recurrence of anxiety disorder-workers' compensation claim-fitness to work on duties other than with the Respondent-engagement with other employers-requirement to complete Secondary Employment approval application-failure to seek approval-Acceptance of full-time permanent work with another employer-dismissal for abandonment of employment-employee claim that acceptance of alternative employment was for rehabilitation purposes-claim unsupported-finding that applicant abandoned his employment.

The applicant in this case was employed by the respondent, Ambulance Service of New South Wales, as a claims manager. The applicant took a period of absence on sick leave, which he attributed to an exacerbation of anxiety disorder he experienced after a meeting with his manager. Upon his return to work his employment was terminated by the respondent.

The applicant brought an unfair dismissal claim against the respondent. The respondent argued that the decision to terminate the applicant's employment was made after learning that he had undertaken full-time work with another employer during his sick leave, which was contrary to his employment contract and constituted abandonment of his employment.

The Court dismissed the claim. It held that the applicant's formal acceptance of full-time permanent employment indicated an intention to cease his employment relationship with the respondent. Further, he was in breach of his employment contract which required explicit approval from the respondent before engaging in secondary employment, and he repeatedly refused to apply for secondary employment approval. In response to the applicant's claim that he was undertaking external duties for the purpose of retaining his confidence and an injury management plan, the court held that an employment contract remains binding even when employees are on sick leave.

## Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

21 April 2017 - [Serbian Community Welfare Association of SA Inc T/A Pennwood Village](#) [2017] FWCA 2214 - Application for approval of the Pennwood Village Nursing Employees (Aged Care) & ANMF-SA Enterprise Agreement 2016.

21 April 2017 - [SUEZ Medical Solutions Pty Ltd T/A SUEZ Medical Solutions](#) [2017] FWCA 2237 - Application for approval of the SUEZ Medical Solutions Agreement 2017.

24 April 2017 - [Ramsay Health Care Australia Pty Limited](#) [2017] FWCA 2239 - Application for approval of the Ramsay Health Care New South Wales and Health Services Union (HSU) New South Wales Enterprise Agreement 2016.

26 April 2017 - [Anne Pilbrow v Qld Prison Health Services; WorkPac Pty Ltd T/A WorkPac Healthcare](#) [2017] FWC 2288 - Application to deal with contraventions involving dismissal.

26 April 2017 - [National Union of Workers v Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd](#) [2017] FWC 2272 - Proposed protected action ballot of employees of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

26 April 2017 - [Gastro West Pty Ltd as the Trustee for Western Suburbs Endoscopy Services Unit T/A Keilor Private](#) [2017] FWCA 2261 - Application for approval of the Gastro West Pty Ltd as the Trustee for the Western Suburbs Endoscopy Services Unit Trust Support Services Enterprise Agreement 2017.

26 April 2017 - [Victorian Hospitals' Industrial Association](#) - [2017] FWCA 2257 - Application for approval of the Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Enterprise Agreement 2016-2020.

## New South Wales

21 April 2017- [Hoade by his tutor Hoade v Mid North Coast Local Health District](#) [2017] NSWSC 465 - PROCEDURE - notice of motion - order sought under s 82(1) of the Civil Procedure Act 2005 (NSW) against defendant for interim payment of damages sought to be recovered – consent orders made – costs.

24 April 2017 - [Bellenger v Mid North Coast Local Health District](#) [2017] NSWIRComm 1019 - Unfair Dismissal - inappropriate use of workplace email system - alleged breach of Code of Conduct and Communications Policy - serious misconduct proven - mitigating factors - dismissal harsh but not unreasonable or unjust compensation awarded.

27 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Ovchinnikov](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 62 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES — health practitioner — whether practitioner guilty practitioner guilty of professional misconduct — whether practitioner has an impairment — whether practitioner is “a suitable person to hold registration” — appropriate protective orders where findings of professional misconduct and impairment made.

## LEGISLATION

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

No new legislation

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

27 April 2017 - [Delivering medical training for the Sunshine Coast](#) - The first stage of a national assessment of medical schools has been concluded and the Australian Government will collaboratively support 50 students to enable a complete university medical program to be delivered on the Sunshine Coast.

27 April 2017 - [New headspace centre for Whyalla](#) - The Australian Government will establish a new *headspace* mental health service in Whyalla, South Australia to provide ongoing support to young people in the region.

27 April 2017 - [Turnbull Government to deliver \\$6 million for prostate cancer nurses](#) - The Australian Government is providing almost \$6 million to continue support for prostate cancer specialist nurses in 15 locations across Australia, with a focus on regional areas.

23 April 2017 - [New campaign to encourage further childhood vaccination](#) - The Australian Government is rolling out a new \$5.5 million immunisation awareness campaign to encourage Australian parents and carers to get their kids vaccinated.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

[PHI 18/17 Guidelines for evaluation of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation \(TAVI\) or Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement \(TAVR\) devices](#)

[PHI 17/17 Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2017 \(No. 3\)](#)

**Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards**

28 April 2017 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Medical Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

27 April 2017 - [Call for applications](#) - Call for applications for appointment to the State and Territory Boards of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

27 April 2017 - [Call for applications](#) - Multiple vacancies have become available due to a number of fixed term appointments expiring in 2017 arising on the Northern Territory Board of the Medical Board of Australia.

27 April 2017 - [Tribunal cancels registration, orders medical practitioner to pay costs](#) - On 24 April 2014, the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) received a notification alleging that Dr Gregory Duck, a medical practitioner, had bought lingerie for a patient, taken photographs of her while she was wearing the lingerie and inappropriately prescribed the patient medication.

27 April 2017 - [Call for applications](#) - Multiple vacancies have become available due to a number of fixed term appointments expiring in 2017 arising on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

27 April 2017 - [Call for applications](#) - Multiple vacancies have become available due to a number of fixed term appointments expiring in 2017 arising on the ACT/TAS/Vic Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia.

27 April 2017 - [Call for expressions of interest](#) - Call for expressions of interest for panel appointments - health practitioners from Northern Territory and Western Australia.

26 April 2017 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

**Australia. Medical Benefits Schedule**

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

**Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)**

20 April 2017 - [Targeted Calls for Research into mental health of older Australians](#) - NHMRC has opened two Targeted Calls for Research (TCRs) to address important aspects of mental health in older Australians. The first TCR focuses on [Dementia in Indigenous Australians](#) and is part of the Australian Government's [Boosting Dementia Research](#) budget measure. In partnership with [beyondblue \(link is external\)](#), the second TCR is for research applications addressing [Depression, Anxiety and Suicide in Elderly Australians](#). Applications must be submitted in NHMRC's Research Grants Management System. Refer to the [NHMRC website](#) for further details.

20 April 2017 - [NHMRC releases updated assisted reproductive technology guidelines](#) - The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) today released the [Ethical guidelines on the use of assisted reproductive technology in clinical practice and research, 2017](#)(ART guidelines). This update replaces the [2007 ART guidelines](#) and provides contemporary ethical guidance for the conduct of ART in the clinical setting.

21 April 2017 - [NHMRC Research Tracker—21 April 2017](#)

## [NHMRC Health Tracker – April 2017](#)

### [Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme](#)

21 April 2017 - [Recommendations made by the PBAC - March 2017](#) - The recommendations from the March 2017 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) meeting are now available.

### [Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)

27 April 2017 - [Scheduling committees meeting dates and decisions timeframes](#) - The 2017 scheduling calendar is now available.

27 April 2017 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Obeticholic Acid.

27 April 2017 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia](#) - Added registered new chemical entities for April 2017.

27 April 2017 - [Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines](#) - Added registration of new or extended uses of registered medicines.

26 April 2017 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Paritaprevir / ritonavir / ombitasvir and dasabuvir (as sodium salt) and ribavirin (Viekira Pak-RBV).

24 April 2017 - [Target processing timeline for MRA GMP clearance applications](#) - Update on target processing timeline for MRA GMP clearance applications.

21 April 2017 - [Therapeutic goods determinations](#) - Added Therapeutic Goods (Permissible Ingredients) Determination No. 2 of 2017.

21 April 2017 - [Updates to the Permissible Ingredients Determination for listed medicines](#) - An updated version of the Permissible Ingredients List for use in listed medicines has been published.

20 April 2017 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Nine trace elements including chromic chloride (Addaven).

20 April 2017 - [Slim-Vie Slimming Capsules](#) - Slim-Vie Slimming Capsules pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken.

20 April 2017 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added C1 esterase inhibitor, human (Berinert) and Dexamethasone (Ozurdex).

20 April 2017 - [Breast implants](#) - Update – additional confirmed cases of anaplastic large cell lymphoma.

19 April 2017 - [TGA presentations: RACI Supply and Use of Medicinal Cannabis Seminar, 28 March 2017](#) - Four TGA presentations on the subject of medicinal cannabis regulation in Australia.

19 April 2017 - [Idelalisib \(Zydelig\) 100 mg and 150 mg tablets](#) - Final update - safety advisory published.

19 April 2017 - [Idelalisib \(Zydelig\)](#) - Safety advisory - change to indications and addition of warnings.

19 April 2017 - [Infections associated with heater-cooler devices](#) - TGA is conducting a product safety review into all heater-cooler devices supplied in Australia.

19 April 2017 - [Span-K \(potassium chloride\) 600 mg tablets](#) - Recall for product correction - bottles supplied without child-resistant caps.

### [Australian Digital Health Agency](#)

24 April 2017 - [Great health and wellbeing outcomes for Australian children made possible through patient-centred and clinician friendly digital technology](#)

20 April 2017 - [New blog post: Health in an age of information](#)

### [Australian Institute of Health & Welfare](#)

[Alcohol and other drug treatment National Minimum Data set \(AODTS NMDS\) key findings 2015–16](#)



## Twittergraphic: Alcohol & Other Drug Treatment Services 2015–16 (390KB JPG) (20 Apr 2017)

21 April 2017 - **Older Australians at a glance: 6 new snapshots: Burden of disease; Diabetes; Oral health and disease; Biomedical risk factors; Dental services; Aged care assessments**

19 April 2017 - Injury: **Serious unintentional injury involving a railway train or tram, Australia, 2009–10 to 2013–14 | infographic (378KB JPG); Dog-related injuries | infographic (301KB JPG); DIY injuries | infographic (300KB JPG); Firearm injuries and deaths | infographic (334KB JPG); Hospitalised assault injuries among women and girls | infographic (378KB KPG); media release: Domestic violence leading cause of hospitalised assault among girls and women**

### Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate

20 April 2017 - **Winter is coming – prepare yourself against the flu** - Minister for Health, Meegan Fitzharris said flu vaccinations were the best way to curb your family's risk of suffering from influenza during the Canberra winter. "Each year the vaccine is designed to match the circulating virus as much as possible, which is why annual vaccination is necessary for immunity," Minister Fitzharris said.

### New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

#### Media Releases

26 April 2017 - **Home visiting program sustains NSW families** - A nurse-led home visiting program that has helped more than 550 vulnerable families cope in the early stages of parenting will be the focus of an expert forum today. NSW Health's Executive Director of Health and Social Policy, Tish Bruce, said the Sustaining NSW Families program is an early intervention and prevention program aimed at vulnerable families and led by nurses. "Sustaining NSW Families has helped mothers with psychosocial distress, reducing their isolation and promoting parenting skills that will benefit their children for their whole lives," Ms Bruce said.

26 April 2017 - **Palliative care a priority for NSW** - Today marks the start of major efforts by the NSW Government to deliver better access to palliative care across NSW, said Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, ahead of a major palliative care forum at NSW Parliament House. The Metro palliative care Roundtable today sees more than 80 people with palliative care expertise and community involvement gather to help shape new directions in palliative care for NSW. The Roundtable will be facilitated by respected health broadcaster Dr Norman Swan.

24 April 2017 - **Mullumbimby Hospital site offered to Council** - Byron Shire Council has been offered the opportunity to acquire the Mullumbimby and District War Memorial Hospital site. Minister for Health Brad Hazzard said the NSW Government was willing to consider a reasonable offer from Council but it needs to be made quickly otherwise remediation works will commence.

24 April 2017 - **First-ever family obesity service opens in NSW** - Overweight children and their parents will benefit from Australia's first family-centred obesity clinic set up to help educate and treat families losing the battle of the bulge. Minister for Health Brad Hazzard said the \$1 million Nepean Blue Mountains Family Obesity Service will help thousands of families in NSW break the cycle of obesity.

21 April 2017 - **Failure by private contractor to secure patient medical correspondence** - NSW Health is investigating the placement in a rubbish bin of copies of medical letters by a sub-contractor to a private medical transcription company, Global Transcription Services (GTS).

21 April 2017 - **NSW Health urges measles vaccination checks after new case** - NSW Health is urging people in their 20s, 30s and 40s to check their measles vaccination status after confirmation of a further case connected to the western Sydney outbreak. The latest person to contract measles brings the total number of cases associated with the outbreak to 17 and the total number of NSW measles cases, with onset of symptoms this year, to 23.

#### Publications

20 April 2017 - **Steps to healthy swimming (A3)**

### HealthStats NSW

April 2017 - **Overweight and obesity in children**

## Northern Territory. Department of Health

28 April 2017 - **Therapy dogs bringing smiles to patients at RDH** - For the very first time patients at Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) will receive the ongoing benefits of therapy dog visits, with the introduction of a therapy dog program across the RDH campus.

28 April 2017 - **RDH staff weaving their way towards ending violence** - Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) has pledged to weave 10,000 stars as part of the One Million Stars to End Violence Project, a global weaving project that engages communities from around the world in the conversation about ending violence.

27 April 2017 - **Building Better Renal Facilities: Budget 2017** - The Territory Labor Government has announced budget funding for critical health infrastructure in Darwin and the bush.

26 April 2017 - **Tackling Alcohol Abuse - Expert Panel Announced** - The Northern Territory Government is pleased to announce that the Hon. Justice Trevor Riley has agreed to lead its review into NT Alcohol Policies and Legislation.

## Queensland. Department of Health

26 April 2017 - **Genomics researchers advance Queensland health care** - The Palaszczuk Government is positioning Queensland as a world leader in the translation of genomics research into healthcare practice, today announcing the first recipients of its \$25 million Queensland Genomics Health Alliance (QGHA) funding.

26 April 2017 - **Harrowing Federal budget awaits Queenslanders** - Queenslanders will face longer waits for treatment if the Turnbull Government continues to take an axe to public health funding in its 9 May Budget.

26 April 2017 - **Update on health service investigation into 2016 Moorooka Incident** - The Director-General of Queensland Health, Michael Walsh, has advised me that an independent review into health services has been completed following an incident in Moorooka in October last year.

26 April 2017 - **Queensland researchers lead the way with cancer research** - World-leading cancer research will begin at the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) with the official launch of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) Molecular Oncology Translational Imaging Facility (MOTIF).

21 April 2017 - **Faking it is good for your health** - Did you know that Ultra Violet Radiation (UVR) in a sunbed can be five times stronger than the midday sun during a hot Queensland summer? UVR damages skin cells and can lead to the development of skin cancer - no matter what type of skin you have. It can also lead to premature ageing of the skin and eye damage. Research shows sunbed users have a 20 per cent higher risk of developing skin cancer, but this jumps to 59 per cent if a sunbed is used before the age of 35.

20 April 2017 - **The effects of alcohol on the adolescent brain** - You probably know that **drinking alcohol** can make you feel dizzy, uninhibited or hungover, but did you know that drinking while you're a teenager might also impact your health for years to come?

19 April 2017 - **Concussion: Know the warning signs** - Concussion is the most common type of minor head injury. Do you know the warning signs?

19 April 2017 - **Steps to take now to prevent falls as you age** - We all know that 40 is the new 30, but putting in some groundwork now can help you stay 'young of body' as well as 'young at heart' for longer. Even though the time for '**having a fall**' might seem a long way off, there are things that middle-aged Queenslanders can do to help decrease the risk of falling as they age and prevent serious side effects from falls.

## South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

26 April 17 - **Fight the bite to avoid Malaria** - South Australians are urged to 'fight the bite' as latest statistics show Malaria cases notified locally jumped 450 per cent from 2015 to 2016. SA Health's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paddy Phillips said while there were still a relatively low number of cases, the

increase is a serious reminder to people to take precautions from mosquitoes especially when travelling overseas.

#### 26 April 17 - [Meningococcal case April](#)

24 April 17 - [Give it your best shot during world immunisation week](#) South Australians are encouraged to book in for their influenza vaccination as today marks the beginning of World Immunisation Week. Director of SA Health's Communicable Disease Control Branch Dr Ann Koehler said the event coincided with autumn, an opportune time for people to receive their vaccination ahead of the flu season.

#### **Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services**

27 April 2017 - [White lies about no beds available at LGH](#) - Bec White has taken her dishonest 'mediscare' campaign to the Launceston General Hospital, a campaign aimed at scaring Tasmanians for her own political gain. Her claim that there were no beds available when she visited the hospital yesterday is a blatant lie. There were empty beds available for additional patients when Ms White visited Ward 4D – a ward that the Hodgman Liberal Government re-opened after it was closed by Labor and the Greens.

26 April 2017 - [Labor has no Plan, no solutions for increasing hospital demand](#) - Bec White's latest whinge over the Hodgman Liberal Government opening 27 new fully funded hospital beds in Southern Tasmania proves she still has no Plan of her own for health – despite being Labor's Health spokesperson for three years. The Government recognises that demand is continuing to increase in our hospitals which is why we are opening more beds while Ms White continues to complain from the sidelines.

This is galling considering we are opening beds closed down by Ms White's Labor. The majority of extra beds are in place and ready to be opened in coming weeks, as soon as extra staff can be recruited to look after these additional patients.

#### **Victoria. Department of Health**

28 April 2017 - [Taking Action On Ice And Other Drugs](#) - The Andrews Labor Government is stepping up the fight against ice and drug addiction, with new rehabilitation beds and thousands more treatment places and counselling services for Victorians. As part of the Victorian Budget 2017/18, \$81.1 million will be invested in stage three of the Ice Action Plan with a focus on early intervention and treatment for Victorians struggling with dangerous drug use.

28 April 2017 - [Taking Action On Ice And Other Drugs In Gippsland](#) - The Andrews Labor Government is stepping up the fight against ice and drug addiction, across the state with Gippsland one step closer to another drug rehabilitation service. As part of the Victorian Budget 2017/18, \$81.1 million will be invested in stage three of the Ice Action Plan with a focus on early intervention and treatment.

28 April 2017 - [Funds To Ensure Young People Can Party Safely](#) - The Andrews Labor Government will extend a successful harm minimisation outreach program that will give 1800 young people the tools to party safely. The innovative Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (Party) program graphically demonstrates the impact of alcohol and drug abuse.

27 April 2017 - [Thunderstorm Asthma: New Systems, Training And Resources To Better Prepare And Respond](#) - The Andrews Labor Government will develop a Victorian-first real-time monitoring system to track emergency demand and ensure a faster response to large-scale emergencies like thunderstorm asthma events. The real-time monitoring system will be funded in the Victorian Budget 2017/18, as part of a \$15.56 million package to make sure we are better able to predict and respond to similar large-scale events.

22 April 2017 - [Funding Boost To Fast Track World-First MND Research](#) - The Andrews Labor Government will provide \$3 million towards a world-first project that will fast track drug discoveries to treat and fight Motor Neurone Disease (MND). The Government is partnering with the Cure for MND Foundation and the Florey Institute to deliver the project which will use a world-first drug screening platform and Nobel Prize winning stem cell technology to rapidly identify potential new drug discoveries.

#### **Western Australia. Department of Health**

Media Releases



26 April 2017 - [Study finds fears foiling flu-prevention efforts](#) - Misguided beliefs about the safety of influenza vaccination are undermining public health efforts to prevent influenza-related illness and deaths in Western Australian children.

Publications

28 April 2017 - [Western Australia Emergency Access Target quarterly reports](#)

#### **New Zealand. Ministry of Health**

28 April 2017 - [Health and Independence Report 2016](#) - This publication presents a picture of the health and independence of New Zealanders in 2016.

27 April 2017 - [Antimicrobial Resistance: New Zealand's current situation and identified areas for action](#) - This publication outlines the evidence and the collective, expert views of stakeholders from across the sectors of animal and human health, food and agriculture on the current antimicrobial resistance (AMR) situation in New Zealand.

#### **Australian Medical Association (AuMA)**

27 April 2017 - [Pharmacy flu jabs not the best option](#) - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, has cautioned against having the influenza vaccine at a pharmacy, calling it the "second-best option" for patients, and saying it further reduces opportunities for regular health checks and preventative care with patients, particularly men.

27 April 2017 - [Government launches childhood vaccination awareness campaign](#) - Building on its 'No Jab No Pay' policy, which has seen around 200,000 extra children vaccinated since the start of last year, the Federal Government has embarked on a new \$5.5 million immunisation awareness campaign to encourage Australian parents and carers to get their children vaccinated.

27 April 2017 - [Keeping your COPD patients well this winter: Veterans' Mates](#) - The Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Veterans' MATES program team have released the latest topic in the [Veterans' MATES program](#), *Keeping your COPD patients well this winter*. This topic highlights interventions that can help prevent exacerbations and improve the physical and mental wellbeing of patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

27 April 2017 - [Dealing with Bad Health News Masterclass – earn CPD points](#) - The AuMA recognises the importance of good clinical communication skills among healthcare professionals and, in partnership with the Pam McLean Centre, is offering a pre-conference masterclass for doctors who want to improve their skills in delivering bad news and leading conversations on end of life care.

This pre-conference masterclass, facilitated by Professor Stewart Dunn, will address some of the most common and most challenging communication skills in the context of the long-term doctor-patient relationship – breaking bad news, and dealing with bad news learned from other specialists; interpreting complex information from other disciplines; and making sense of the options when active treatment is no longer possible.

27 April 2017 - [Working with you to transform the practice of medicine \(Sponsored Article\)](#) - A business is a 'collaboration' between the principals, management and staff. A *good* business can only stem from an effective collaboration between these stakeholders, one that has at its core a shared vision and the appropriate will, systems and procedures to see it through to fruition.

A medical practice is no exception. At The Private Practice, we have long held that the collaboration between business-minded principal practitioners and an educated and empowered management team has the capacity to transform the practice of medicine.

27 April 2017 - [Risk of rabies from the dead - ATAGI Bulletin](#) - Evidence indicates that the rabies and the Australian bat lyssavirus can remain viable in a dead animal for several days. With a large number of bat deaths due to recent heatwaves there is a potential risk of transmission for those who have handled dead bats.

GPs may wish to note that the 2017 update of the Immunisation Handbook will include minor changes to the rabies chapter to reflect a risk assessment approach to rabies post-exposure prophylaxis after handling dead animals.

27 April 2017 - **Fees for playing music in practices to increase** - For the information of practices that play licenced music in their waiting rooms or during telephone calls, the Phonographic Performance Company of Australia has advised the AMA that there will be a CPI-based increase of around 1.5 per cent to tariff rates that will apply from 1 July 2017 to all new licences and/or renewals.

## 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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