



HEALTH ALERT

29 May 2017

Judgments	2
Key Decisions	2
Commonwealth. Federal Court	2
Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission	3
New South Wales	3
Queensland	3
Legislation	3
Commonwealth	3
Queensland	4
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. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	5
Australian Digital Health Agency	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. Department of Health	7
Queensland. Department of Health	7
Queensland. Office of the Health Ombudsman	8
South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing	8
Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services	8
Victoria. Department of Health	9
Western Australia (WA). Department of Health	9
New Zealand. Ministry of Health	10
Australian Medical Association (AuMA)	10
About us	11
More information	11

JUDGMENTS

Key Decisions

25 May 2017 - *AAI Limited t/as Vero Insurance v GEO Group Australia Pty Limited* [2017] NSWCA 110 - APPEAL – insurance – failure to assess inmate of a correctional centre for risk of self harm – whether claim falls within the terms of the policy.

The respondent operates a correctional centre in which an inmate jumped off a high surface and suffered physical and brain injuries. The respondent settled a claim brought by the inmate in negligence for personal injury. The claim was based on the respondent's failure to conduct a risk assessment of the inmate and failure to provide him with access to medication or psychological services to manage his schizophrenia and depression. The respondent pursued a cross-claim against the appellant with whom it had a Medical Malpractice Civil Liability Insurance Policy. The Policy indemnified the respondent against civil liability for claims made against it resulting from 'the conduct of the Healthcare Services'. Healthcare Services was exclusively defined as 'the provision of medical services and treatment including services and treatment provided by psychologists'. The issue in dispute was whether the failures of the respondent in relation to the inmate constituted 'conduct' as to fall within the scope of the Policy.

The Court held that the appellant was liable to indemnify the respondent under the Policy. It concluded that an objective observer would conclude that the parties intended that 'conduct' of the Healthcare Services included an omission by the respondent to provide Healthcare Services. Therefore, the failure to assess the inmate was an omission in the course of provision of Healthcare Services to inmates. The 'conduct' of Healthcare Services extended to acts and omissions in identifying and assessing inmates for the purpose of determining which further health services and treatments were required.

12 May 2017 - *White v State of Queensland (Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service)* [2017] QIRC 41 - INDUSTRIAL LAW – APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT – UNFAIR DISMISSAL – HARSH, UNJUST OR UNREASONABLE – Whether the dismissal could also be considered harsh, unjust or unreasonable.

In this case the applicant brought proceedings against his former employer for unfair dismissal. The applicant was employed as a nurse by the respondent. The applicant's employment was terminated without notice for misconduct following patient complaints of sexual harassment and unprofessional conduct in post-operative care.

The Commissioner concluded that the dismissal was harsh, unjust or unreasonable and therefore unfair. The evidence before the Commission was that no formal investigation had been conducted in relation to the termination. The Commissioner criticised the employer's failure to contact the complainants to substantiate the allegations against the applicant and their sole reliance on the information contained in the file notes and feedback forms. He emphasised that having regard to the seriousness of the allegations and the significant consequences for the applicant's employment, the employer should have ensured it had attained the necessary standard of satisfaction that the facts in dispute were more probable than not to exist. He held that from the evidence before him the standard of 'reasonable satisfaction' could not be reached. The Commissioner also criticised the employer's failure to notify the employee of the basis upon which it concluded that he was guilty of misconduct.

The Commissioner granted an application to reinstate the applicant to his former position with the respondent and ordered the respondent to pay the applicant the remuneration lost by reason of the dismissal.

Commonwealth. Federal Court

22 May 2017 - *University of Sydney v ObjectiVision Pty Limited* [2017] FCA 554 - PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – application for leave to file further amended statement of cross-claim – leave granted COSTS – security for costs – order for costs of application and costs thrown away by reason of the amendments.

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

23 May 2017 - [Aged Care Services Australia Group Pty Ltd v Health Services Union & Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \[2017\] FWCFB 2806](#) - Appeal against decision of Deputy President Wells at Hobart on 2 March 2017 in matter number AG2017/165 – Permission to appeal – Finding of ambiguity or uncertainty – Exercise of discretion – Retrospective amendment – Fair Work Act 2009, ss. 53, 54, 217 and 604.

23 May 2017 - [Wyndham Wellness Centre Pty Ltd T/A Back In Motion Werribee \[2017\] FWCA 2833](#) - Application for approval of the Back in Motion Health Group Werribee Enterprise Agreement 2015.

22 May 2017 - [Mermaid Beach Physiotherapy Pty Ltd T/A Back In Motion Health Group Mermaid Beach \[2017\] FWCA 2801](#) - Application for approval of the Back in Motion Health Group Mermaid Beach Enterprise Agreement 2017.

24 May 2017 - [Contract Pharmaceutical Services of Australia Pty Ltd T/A CPSA \[2017\] FWCA 2860](#) - Application for termination of the CPSA Employee Enterprise Agreement 2014.

New South Wales

22 May 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Chong \[2017\] NSWCATOD 81](#) - Medical Practitioner – disciplinary proceedings- Professional misconduct - prescribing drugs of addiction- without authorisation, inadequate records, assessments, consideration of alternative pain options, strategies to deal with addicts seeking prescriptions of addictive drugs. Education, Strategies and other improvements already introduced by Practitioner. Reprimand, removal of conditions, restoration of prescribing rights.

2 May 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Safi \(No. 3\) \[2017\] NSWCATOD 83](#) - Medical practitioner found guilty of professional misconduct-urgent consent application for interim order pending stage 2 hearing-held appropriate to dispense with public hearing and to make order.

Queensland

19 May 2017 - [Shahinper v Psychology Board of Australia \[2017\] QCA 96](#) - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – MEDICAL AND RELATED PROFESSIONS – PSYCHOLOGY – DISCIPLINE, AND REMOVAL FROM REGISTER – where the applicant was disqualified from practice for professional misconduct, in engaging in a personal relationship with a patient before the treating relationship had ended – where the applicant's registration as a psychologist was cancelled and he was disqualified from applying for re-registration for three years – where the applicant seeks leave to appeal against the sanction imposed on him – where the applicant paid the complainant to prevent her from revealing the relationship – where the applicant contended that the Tribunal erred in failing to find that the complainant had blackmailed him, and in failing to infer that blackmail indicated a change in the power imbalance as between them – whether the Tribunal erred in not making the finding – whether such a finding could have supported an inference about the nature of the relationship at relevant times – where the applicant had been subject to prior disciplinary proceedings – where the applicant denied the misconduct until confronted with evidence – whether the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.

24 May 2017 - [Burgess v Sanbray Pty Ltd \[2017\] QDC 132](#) - LIMITATION OF ACTIONS – Personal injuries – extension of time – whether material facts decisive – whether within means of knowledge of applicant – discretion.

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

23 May 2017 - [National Health \(Immunisation Program – Designated Vaccines\) Variation Determination 2017 \(No. 1\)](#) - F2017L00589 as made.

19 May 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Charges\) Amendment \(2017 Measures No. 1\) Regulations 2017](#) - F2017L00554 as made.

19 May 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment \(Fees and Other Measures\) Regulations 2017](#) - F2017L00552 as made.

19 May 2017 - [Medical Indemnity Amendment \(High Cost Claim Threshold\) Regulations 2017](#) - F2017L00551 as made.

Queensland

23 May 2017 - [Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017](#) - Introduced.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Consultations

26 May 2017 - [Antenatal Care Guidelines Review](#) - This consultation is seeking feedback as part of a review of selected topics under the Antenatal Care Guidelines. Closes 27 Jun 2017.

19 May 2017 - [The form of the food \('as prepared'\) rules for the Health Star Rating \(HSR\) system](#) - The HSR Advisory Committee, responsible for overseeing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the HSR system, is reappraising the form of the food ('as prepared') rules in [The Guide for Industry to the HSR Calculator](#) - Closes 30 Jun 2017.

Media releases

25 May 2017 - [Medical research reforms to improve our future health](#) - The Australian Government provides more than \$800 million through the National Health and Medical Research Council each year to fund life-changing research.

25 May 2017 - [Online resource for end-of-life care](#) - The Federal Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, has launched a new website containing important evidence-based medical and practical information to support the provision of palliative care to older people at the end of life.

22 May 2017 - [Australia provides financial support to global efforts to fight infectious diseases](#) - Australia will be providing \$2 million to support international efforts to develop vaccines to fight emerging infectious diseases, the Federal Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt, announced at a G20 meeting of Health Ministers in Germany.

22 May 2017 - [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\) advice on Rotarix® to replace RotaTeq®](#) - ATAGI Clinical advice to support the introduction of Rotarix® to replace RotaTeq® in specified Australian states (Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland) from 1 July 2017.

21 May 2017 - [More support for Men's Sheds across Australia](#) - The Australian Government is providing funding for 105 Men's Sheds across Australia to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of men in our communities.

19 May 2017 - [Delivering \\$33 million to help fund our next medical breakthrough](#) - The Australian Government will provide \$33 million to fund world-leading medical research trials and fellowships, supporting doctors and scientists to uncover the next breakthrough and improve the health of all Australians.

Private Health insurance Circulars

24 May 2017 - [PHI 23/17 Key dates for August 2017 Prostheses List Updated - Human Tissue](#)

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

24 May 2017 - [Newsletter from the Osteopathy Board of Australia](#)

19 May 2017 - [Newsletter from the Dental Board of Australia](#)

19 May 2017 - [Nurse disqualified for 12 months for professional misconduct](#) - The State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia found that Mr Brian Roha Smith behaved in a way that constituted professional misconduct, in relation to a physical altercation with a patient.

19 May 2017 - [Enrolled nurse suspended for 8 months for professional misconduct](#) - The State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia has reprimanded an enrolled nurse and suspended his registration for 8 months for professional misconduct arising from his manual handling of elderly patients.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

25 May 2017 - [Medical research reforms to improve our future health](#) - The Turnbull Government provides more than \$800 million through the NHMRC each year to fund life-changing research.

Health and medical research is one of the four pillars of the Government's Long-Term National Health Plan. It saves lives and plays a critical role in improving our health system. I am therefore delighted to announce NHMRC's new research funding program.

The new program will reduce the burden on researchers in applying for funding across different funding schemes by providing consolidated, five-year grants for our high-performing researchers at all stages of their careers.

25 May 2017 - [NHMRC's new grant program](#) - Information on NHMRC's new grant program is available at future.nhmrc.gov.au.

19 May 2017 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

23 May 2017 [Post-market Review of Ezetimibe – Revised Draft Report Public Consultation](#) Public consultation on the Revised Draft Report to the PBAC of the Post-market Review of Ezetimibe is now open.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

25 May 2017 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Bevacizumab (rch) (Avastin).

25 May 2017 - [TGA presentation: Digital Health Show, 30 March 2017](#) - Explores the definition of a medical device and how this applies to software.

24 May 2017 - [TGA presentation: Immunotherapy@Brisbane, 11 February 2017](#) - The process for inclusion on the ARTG, and regulation of clinical trials in Australia.

24 May 2017 - [Documents released under Section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) - Added FOi 282-1617 documents.

23 May 2017 - [TGA presentation: Royal Australian College of Physicians Congress, 9 May 2017](#) - Legislative framework and Commonwealth access schemes relevant to supply of medicinal cannabis.

22 May 2017 - [TGA presentation: ARCS Webinar, 28 April 2017](#) - A presentation on regulatory reforms at the TGA relating to low risk therapeutic goods.

22 May 2017 - [Consultation: Comparable overseas regulators - medical devices](#) - The TGA is seeking comments on the use of medical devices approvals from comparable overseas regulators. Closing date: 30 June 2017.

19 May 2017 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Mepolizumab (Nucala).

19 May 2017 - [Medicines Safety Update, Volume 8, Number 2, April-May 2017](#) - Viekira PAK and Viekira PAK-RBV, ingenol mebutate and testosterone.

Australian Digital Health Agency

19 May 2017 - [Ransomware - mitigation advice...](#) - Ransomware is an increasingly prevalent threat, with a rising number of variants designed to target our computer networks. Consequently, prior to the 'WannaCry' ransomware attacks that recently affected many healthcare organisations globally, the Australian Digital Health Agency had taken proactive steps to defend against this type of attack.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

26 May 2017 - [More Australians turning to weight loss surgery](#)

25 May 2017 - [Cervical screening in Australia 2014–2015](#)

24 May 2017 - [National Bowel Cancer Screening Program: monitoring report 2017](#)

24 May 2017 - [National Cervical Screening Program Data Dictionary version 1.0](#)

24 May 2017 - [Palliative care hospitalisations rising for Australians at end-of-life](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

19 May 2017 - [New Clinical Care Standard sets the benchmark for treating knee osteoarthritis](#) - Surgery should be considered a last resort for the treatment of knee osteoarthritis, under a new clinical care standard released today by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and which is designed to help patients get the best care.

On the Radar – 22 May 2017 – Issue 322 ([PDF 407KB](#)) ([Word 1207KB](#))

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

25 May 2017 - [Free Winter flu jabs nothing to sneeze at](#) - With Winter just around the corner, NSW Health is urging anyone who has not yet had a flu shot to visit their GP to get vaccinated. Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Director, Health Protection NSW, said each year an estimated 800 to 1000 people die from flu-related illnesses in NSW.

22 May 2017 - [Independent expert panel to begin mental health review](#) - Five mental health experts with wide reaching clinical and lived experience will join NSW Chief Psychiatrist Dr Murray Wright to begin a review of the practice of seclusion, restraint and observations across the NSW mental health system.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard and Mental Health Minister Tanya Davies confirmed the review will consider whether existing legislation, policy, clinical governance and practice standards are consistent with national standards, international best practice and the expectations of patients and the community.

18 May 2017 - [Patient diagnosed with tuberculosis](#) - NSW Health is undertaking precautionary screening of 22 patients at two Sydney hospitals who may have been potentially exposed to tuberculosis (TB) from a man recently diagnosed with the disease. The man, in his thirties, had attended Royal Prince Alfred and St Vincent's Public Hospitals between February and April this year but was only recently diagnosed, as he presented with symptoms not typical of TB.

Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Director, Health Protection, said staff who came into contact with the patient will also be offered precautionary screening. 'TB does not spread easily from person to person and there is no ongoing risk to patients, staff or visitors of either hospital,' Dr McAnulty said.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

15 May 2017 - [Accreditation of Pathology Laboratories in NSW Health](#) - PD2017_011

Information Bulletins

24 May 2017 - [Indicator Procedure Code Update - Effective 1 July 2017](#) - IB2017_009

24 May 2017 - [National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee \(NAIDOC\) Week 2017](#) - IB2017_010

24 May 2017 - [Increase in Car Parking Fees](#) - IB2017_011

New South Wales. Health Care Complaints Commission

24 May 2017 - [Dr Saeid Saedlounia – Professional misconduct](#) - In 2016, the Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted two separate complaints before the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal against Dr Saeid Saedlounia.

The first complaint related to Patient A, a 17 year old person who was biologically female but identified as male. It was alleged that in July 2014 Dr Saedlounia inappropriately touched and examined Patient A and failed to keep adequate records of his treatment and examination.

The second complaint related to Patient B, a clinical psychologist who, at the time of her attendance, was providing psychological treatment to Dr Saedlounia's domestic partner. It was alleged that in 2014 Dr Saedlounia: inappropriately consulted with Patient B, made inappropriate comments about Patient B's future surgical treatment in the presence of her children, and, that he also breached Patient B's confidentiality by disclosing to his domestic partner that Patient B was one of his patients.

24 May 2017 - **Mr Adam Kennedy – Professional misconduct** - The Commission prosecuted a complaint before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal against Mr Adam Kennedy, a pharmacist at Kingswood Compounding Pharmacy.

24 May 2017 - **Dr Graham Thein-Win – Unsatisfactory professional conduct** - The Commission prosecuted a complaint against general practitioner Dr Graham Thein-Win who at the time, was an employee of International Health Medical Services which provides medical services to detainees at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre ('the Detention Centre'). The complaint concerned his care and management of a transgender female patient who was a detainee at the Detention Centre.

Northern Territory. Department of Health

19 May 2017 - **Top End Mental Health Service wins local art prize** - Two artworks created by patients and staff at Royal Darwin Hospital have won prizes at this year's Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival art space competition.

Queensland. Department of Health

26 May 2017 - **Queensland, we need to talk about dying** - Queensland, we need to have a conversation about the end of our lives. In particular, we want to talk about dying. That's right: dying, not death.

25 May 2017 **Logan families to benefit from expanded community maternity services** Logan mothers will benefit from the return of community based midwifery care to the region with a new \$2M annual investment from the Palaszczuk Government.

25 May 2017 - **Celebrating palliative care nurses across Queensland** - This National Palliative Care Week, we want to share a story that celebrates palliative care nurses across Queensland and highlights the support they provide in what can be a devastating and stressful time, particularly for the families of patients

24 May 2017 - **\$1.92M Barcaldine dental hub expansion completed** - Work on a \$1.92 million expansion of the Barcaldine Multipurpose Health Centre's regional dental hub is now complete, delivering improved facilities, more capacity and better service to the local community.

23 May 2017 - **Tick for tougher laws to target unsafe health facilities** - Health authorities now have the power to take stronger, swifter action against facilities found to be putting people at risk of developing serious infections.

23 May 2017 - **Scared of having a breast screen?** - Like any medical test, breast screens can seem scary. Women might worry that the procedure will hurt, that they'll get bad news as a result of having the test, or that the process will be embarrassing.

19 May 2017 - **Be allergy aware** - If someone is having a severe allergic reaction call 000 immediately and administer the persons' EpiPen if available. Australia has one of the highest incidences of food allergy in the world and this is increasing at an alarming rate; in fact, one in 10 babies born in Australia will develop a food allergy.

21 May 2017 - **New Commission to help children and families avoid obesity and chronic disease** - The Palaszczuk Government will establish a public health commission to tackle Queensland's high obesity and chronic disease rates by supporting children, young people and families to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

20 May 2017 - **Innovation takes root as hospital garden blooms** - Gold Coast Health staff have competed for more than \$200,000 to fund innovative ideas designed to improve how the health service delivers patient care.

20 May 2017 - **Maryborough Hospital celebrates 130 years of care** - Maryborough Hospital today marked its 130th anniversary with a community celebration, just as the facility did when it opened on 20 May 1887.

19 May 2017 - **Nurse navigator guides Townsville family with health care** - A Townsville couple whose 18-month-old daughter suffers from Bronchiectasis is being guided through the health system by one of the nurse navigators employed under a Palaszczuk Government program to help patients with complex health care needs.

Queensland. Office of the Health Ombudsman

9 May 2017 - **Q3 report shows strong performance: Health Ombudsman** - The latest Office of the Health Ombudsman quarterly performance report shows that 1575 complaints were made to the Queensland health service complaints agency between January and March. Health Ombudsman Leon Atkinson-MacEwen said that most complaint issues related to professional performance (42%), medication (13%) and communication (13%).

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

24 May 2017 - **Country Health SA health care model goes global** - A delegation of Vietnamese doctors have toured South Australian country hospitals and inspected vital infrastructure to learn more about a system that helps cardiac patients in rural and regional areas.

26 May 2017 - **Greater access to vaccines through pharmacies** - South Australians will have greater access to potentially life-saving vaccinations with local pharmacists given the opportunity to expand the range of vaccines they can administer.

Rather than having to make an appointment with a GP, people aged 16 and over will have the option to obtain vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, and polio from their local authorised pharmacist.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

26 May 2017 - **Labor votes against protecting emergency service workers** - Labor has once again chosen self-interest above the safety of Tasmanians when they shamefully voted against mandatory minimum sentences for serious assaults on emergency service workers.

Frontline workers have the right to work without being seriously assaulted, which is exactly why we introduced this legislation that sends the right message that this will no longer be tolerated.

26 May 2017 - **More money, more paramedics** - Our record Health Budget provides more than \$7 billion for health services, and includes new funding for Ambulance Tasmania.

Unlike Labor, who looked to bring in an ambulance levy and make Tasmanians foot the bill for vital services, we have put the Budget on a sustainable footing so we can invest more in our ambulance service.

24 May 2017 - **Medical cannabis Controlled Access Scheme clarification** - It is important to correct misleading claims made by the Greens yesterday that access to unregistered medical cannabis products will be restricted under the Controlled Access Scheme.

The scheme is not restricted to Epilepsy.

Medical specialists will be able to seek authority to prescribe these products for any condition they think could be assisted. These conditions may include severe Epilepsy or the side effects of cancer pain treatments, among others.

23 May 2017 - **Medical cannabis Controlled Access Scheme to open on September 1** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is supporting Tasmanians to get access to medical cannabis through the Controlled Access Scheme from September 1. The Controlled Access Scheme will mean that patients can be prescribed with unregistered medical cannabis products by an appropriately qualified, specialist doctor.

This week's state Budget will support the implementation of the Controlled Access Scheme with \$3.75 million to enable the comprehensive clinical assessment of patients with severe epilepsy who may be

eligible for medical cannabis, due to being non-responsive to mainstream medications. Specialists will consider the scheme's rules, including patient safety and appropriateness for the individual case.

20 May 2017 - **Response to AMA Tasmania President** - The Hodgman Government is committed to providing the best possible health care for all Tasmanians. Since 2014 we have been steadily working to improve the system with increased investments and the One Health System reforms which were widely consulted and strongly supported by all health organisations including the AMA. We don't believe the system is as good as it should be. But the improvements that have been achieved need to be consolidated and built upon.

It is incredibly disappointing that the AMA has chosen today's course of action, despite clear communications from me that we openly recognise and are actively addressing their concerns around patient access.

Victoria. Department of Health

26 May 2017 - **Seven More Supercare Pharmacies Opening Soon** - The Andrews Labor Government will open another seven Supercare Pharmacies across Victoria next month so even more people can get the healthcare and advice they need from pharmacists and nurses late at night.

24 May 2017 - **More Protections For People With A Disability** - The Andrews Labor Government continues to lead the country on a zero tolerance approach to abuse of people with a disability with the introduction of the *Disability Act Amendment Bill* today.

The Bill formalises a principle of zero tolerance by strengthening the powers of the Disability Services Commissioner to be able to initiate investigations into allegations of individual cases, systemic and recurrent issues of abuse, and neglect of people with a disability.

24 May 2017 - **Delivering Firefighters Cancer Compensation** - The Andrews Labor Government is legislating to provide presumptive rights to cancer compensation for both career and volunteer firefighters along with delivering other changes to build modern fire services for a growing Victoria.

23 May 2017 - **Celebrating Victoria's Unsung Health Heroes** - The ninth Minister for Health Volunteer Awards today celebrated the tireless efforts and incredible work of some of Victoria's most generous citizens. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy handed out the 14 awards, congratulating the recipients on their outstanding work, which ranged from leadership in raising awareness within the community around specific health issues, to closely to closely caring for the most vulnerable.

22 May 2017 - **Innovation Fund Targets Better Health Outcomes** - The Andrews Labor Government's Public Sector Innovation Fund will support a crucial project to make the most of our world-class medical research so that we can make that next new breakthrough to improve patient care. Special Minister of State Gavin Jennings today joined health professionals and researchers at the Royal Melbourne Hospital to announce grant funding of \$450,000 towards the Melbourne Health Accelerator (MHx) program.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

26 May 2017 - **Minister for Health: Free vaccine program helps protect teens from meningococcal disease** - Western Australian teenagers aged 15-19 years of age are encouraged to get the free meningococcal ACWY vaccine to help protect them and others against this serious disease.

25 May 2017 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Lands: McGowan Government progressing with Medihotels** - The State Government has shortlisted submissions from the private sector to build Western Australia's first Medihotel next to Fiona Stanley Hospital.

24 May 2017 - **Minister for Health: Flu vaccination rates slump to an alarming low** - New data from the Department of Health has shown the uptake of the flu vaccine has declined, despite the risk of influenza remaining high.

22 May 2017 - **New data confirms safety of the flu vaccine** - Vaccine safety surveillance system, AusVaxSafety, released a report last week confirming the safety of the flu vaccine.

24 May 2017 - [Minister for Health: Regional workshops to address palliative care](#) - Geraldton and Busselton will be the beneficiaries of a Western Australian health-funded initiative to increase the awareness of palliative care and other end-of-life issues.

19 May 2017 - [Up-to-date immunisations essential for 2018 school enrolments](#) - The Department of Health is reminding parents who are enrolling their children in school for 2018 to ensure their immunisations are up-to-date.

Enrolments for kindergarten and pre-primary close on 21 July 2017 and, under existing legislation, parents are required to provide their child's Australian Immunisation Register history statement when enrolling.

Policy Frameworks

24 May 2017 - MP 0052/17 [Motor Vehicle Fleet](#) - This policy sets out the minimum requirements for Health Service Providers and the Department of Health to comply with the WA Government Fleet Policy and Guidelines as issued by the Department of Finance.

24 May 2017 - [Western Australia Emergency Access Target quarterly reports](#)

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

17 May 2017 - [Auditing Requirements: Home and community support sector Standard. NZS 8158:2012](#) - This publication outlines the requirements for conformity assessment bodies that are auditing and certifying providers of home and community support services against the Home and Community Support Sector Standard (NZS 8158:2012).

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

25 May 2017 - [AuMA calls for marriage equality](#) - Discrimination affects people's physical and mental health, and not allowing same-sex couples to marry is discrimination. The AuMA is calling on the Australian Parliament to legislate for marriage equality, and end the divisive debate.

25 May 2017 - [Take part in the AuMA's online GP survey on Primary Health Networks](#) - The AuMA is inviting you to take part in a short [survey](#) to learn about your experiences with your local Primary Health Network and your opinion of its usefulness, performance and impact on health services in your area. Your answers will help to support our advocacy on this important issue.

25 May 2017 - [Beware of 'directory listing' scams](#) - The AuMA is warning practices about the latest 'directory listing' scam. These scams usually offer a worthless listing for your practice in an online directory and use misleading paperwork to lock you into costly fees for the listing.

25 May 2017 - [AuMA continues to highlight obesity issues](#) - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, has cautioned against a proposal to make obese Australians pay more for private health insurance, saying the idea was 'discriminatory', and would hurt some of our most vulnerable Aussies. 'If they were to face adjustments in their premiums, funds could effectively discriminate against people who are likely to be high costs claimants. These people may be priced out of the private health insurance market as a result,' Dr Bartone told [Starts at 60](#).

25 May 2017 - [Call for national approach to support doctors' mental health](#) - The AuMA has called for a national approach to deal with doctor suicide rates, following a number of tragic suicides in recent months.

25 May 2017 - [Billing Medicare funded services for new born babies](#) - Following a recent query about billing Medicare funded services for newborn babies, the AuMA can advise that a number of options are open to practitioners.

25 May 2017 - **One size does not fit all when it comes to standards: Australian Medicine** - Chair of the AMA Council of General Practice, Dr Richard Kidd, writes in this month's edition of *Australian Medicine* about the AMA's concerns over the increasing encroachment by the Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Health Care into general practice standards and accreditation.

ABOUT US

Dr Gerry Bean



Gerry is a Corporate Partner and provides corporate and commercial advice to the health sector and the not for profit sector. He has over 20 years' experience as a partner. He acts for hospitals, primary healthcare networks, aged care and retirement villages, charities and health insurers. Gerry has acted on several mergers in the health and non-for profit sectors including the merger which created cohealth. Gerry is an active contributor to our pro-bono practice. Gerry is also a director of the Law Institute of Victoria and a director of DLA Piper's International Board.

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