



HEALTH ALERT

7 November 2016

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JUDGMENTS

Victoria

2 November 2016 - [Tan v Gibbons \[2016\] VSC 652](#) - The plaintiff in these proceedings, Dr Tan, sought judicial review of a Medical Panel's determination that the degree of whole person impairment to the third defendant, Ms Were, satisfied the threshold level under Victorian legislation for recovering damages for non-economic loss resulting from personal injury.

Dr Tan brought the application on two grounds. Firstly, that the Panel had no factual basis to support its finding. This was not contested by Ms Were as she was 'not in a position to make any submissions to the contrary'. The second ground was that the Medical Panel made jurisdictional errors in applying the relevant legislation as it 'asked the wrong questions, failed to take into account a relevant consideration and took into account a matter that it was not bound to'. Dr Tan also requested that the Court express its opinion on whether the newly lowered threshold contained in the relevant legislation should apply to any subsequent reassessment of Ms Were.

The Court found that the Panel's conclusion regarding the injuries suffered by Ms Were to be unsupported by any evidence. It also found that that the Panel misconstrued its obligation to disregard impairment from unrelated injuries or causes. As a result, the Court ordered that the question of whole body impairment be reheard by a newly constituted Panel. It expressed the opinion that any new decision by a Medical Panel must be made in accordance with the new threshold.

New South Wales

3 November 2016 - [Pierce v Metro North Hospital and Health Service \[2016\] NSWSC 1559](#) - The plaintiff in these proceedings, Ms Pierce, claimed damages for the harm suffered by her as a result of video telemetry testing (**the testing**) conducted at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (**the Hospital**) on 4-5 January 2010. She alleged that the Hospital's negligence caused a marked and permanent deterioration of her epilepsy involving brain or neuronal injury and consequential psychiatric injury.

Ms Pierce suffers from epilepsy due to antenatal causes. The purpose of the testing at the Hospital was to determine whether the epilepsy was due to a lesion amenable to neurosurgery. The process involved inducing Ms Pierce into a seizure by withdrawing medication and depriving her of sleep. The Hospital then recorded Ms Pierce's clinical presentation during the seizure with Electroencephalographic monitoring of brain activity and electrocardiographic monitoring.

The Court found that the Hospital did not intervene with appropriate medical treatment as promptly as it should have, allowing Ms Pierce to descend into a more serious, prolonged period of seizure activity referred to as 'complex partial status epilepticus'. It accepted that this caused a significant increase in the burden of her epilepsy, especially in relation to her motor seizure activity. The court ordered judgment for the plaintiff in the sum of \$1,672,790.75.

2 November 2016 - [Health Services Union NSW and Sydney Local Health District; Health Services Union, New South Wales \(o/b Mohammed Sarower Siddique\) and Sydney Local Health District \[2016\] NSWIRComm 1033](#) - Dispute Notification - threatened dismissal - conciliation unsuccessful - dismissal - Unfair Dismissal claim filed - Applicant in breach of Code of Conduct - Self-defence, damage to property not an issue - Visitor was a patient to the hospital - NUM required to be obeyed in relation to how patient is to be managed - Dismissal not unreasonable or unjust - Dismissal harsh - compensation awarded.

4 November 2016 - [Inquest into the death of Phillip Joel Hughes](#)

Western Australia

1 November 2016 - [Arakkal and Medical Board of Australia \[2016\] WASAT 130](#) - National Law - Specialist registration - 'Qualification' - Administrative mistake.

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

31 October 2016 - [National Health \(PB 95 of 2016\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(PB 96 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01690 as made.

31 October 2016 - [Health Insurance \(Optical Coherence Tomography\) Determination 2016](#) - F2016L01691 as made.

31 October 2016 - [National Health \(Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 10\) \(PB 90 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01689 as made.

31 October 2016 - [National Health \(Price and Special Patient Contribution\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 8\) \(PB 91 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01688 as made.

31 October 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2016 \(No. 7\)](#) - F2016L01665 as made.

31 October 2016 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 10\) \(PB 93 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01664 as made.

31 October 2016 - [Statement of Principles concerning animal envenomation \(Reasonable Hypothesis\) \(No. 81 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01663 as made.

31 October 2016 - [CASA 115/16 - Instructions — V.F.R. flights conducted by CGG Aviation \(Australia\) Pty Ltd](#) - F2016L01662 as made.

31 October 2016 - [National Health \(IVF Program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 4\) \(PB 94 of 2016\)](#) - F2016L01661 as made.

Victoria

1 November 2016 - [Gene Technology Amendment Bill](#) - Act commenced by Proclamation.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

3 November 2016 - [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kids' Immunisation Rates Topping the Nation](#) - The Australian Immunisation Register quarterly data shows childhood immunisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has gone up across the board.

3 November 2016 - [Childhood Cancer Network receives \\$20 million to help children with cancer](#) - The Zero Childhood Cancer Collaboration Network received \$20m from the Australian Government to help improve health outcomes for children with cancer.

2 November 2016 - [National Vaccination Program Expanded](#) - Seventy-year-old Australians can now get the shingles vaccine for free.

31 October 2016 - [Australian Government boosts funding for Manning Health Precinct](#) - The Taree Health Precinct has been given a further boost thanks to the Australian Government's announcement that Newcastle University will receive \$29.24 million between 2016 and 2018 under the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program.

30 October 2016 - [Medicinal cannabis scheme licence applications open](#) - Businesses can now apply for a licence to cultivate cannabis for medicinal purposes, to manufacture medicinal cannabis products or to conduct medicinal cannabis related research under the Medicinal Cannabis Scheme.

28 October 2016 - [Australian Government boosts funding to support Geraldton Health Precinct](#) - The Geraldton Health Precinct has been given a further boost thanks to the Australian Government's announcement that the University of Western Australia will receive \$39.8-million between 2016 and 2018 under the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

31 October 2016 - [PHI 84/16 Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2016 \(No.7\) changes to the Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Rules 2011](#)

31 October 2016 - [PHI 83/16 Payment of the Private Health Insurance Complaints Levy for 2016-17](#)

31 October 2016 - [PHI 82/16 Re-declaration Private Same-Day Hospital Information](#)

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

4 November 2016 - [Tribunal reprimands enrolled nurse for failing to advocate for her patient](#) - A tribunal has found an enrolled nurse had engaged in unprofessional conduct after failing to advocate for her patient and for failing to make adequate notes in the patient record.

4 November 2016 - [Communiqué from the Optometry Board of Australia](#)

3 November 2016 - [Medical practitioner admits professional misconduct](#) - A medical practitioner has admitted to engaging in professional misconduct after prescribing medications while suspended from practice and while his registration had conditions imposed that prevented him from practising.

3 November 2016 - [Board and AHPRA publish health profession agreement](#) - The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and the AHPRA have published the health profession agreement for 2016-20.

2 November 2016 - [Communiqué from the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia](#)

3 November 2016 - [Communiqué from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#)

3 November 2016 - [Communiqué from the Psychology Board of Australia](#)

31 October 2016 - [Communiqué from the Chiropractic Board of Australia](#)

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

3 November 2016 - [Stroke guidelines released for public consultation](#) - The Stroke Foundation has released the updated *Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management* for public consultation between 1 November 2016 and 30 November 2016. The Stroke Foundation will be seeking NHMRC approval of the guidelines.

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

1 November 2016 - [PBS Website Update](#) - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 November 2016 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

31 October 2016 - [Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation](#) - In his most recent Message from the Chair, Prof Stephen King has thanked all those who provided written submissions to the Review and those who completed the Online Questionnaire. All non-confidential submissions received in response to the Review's Discussion Paper may now be viewed via the [Review webpage](#).

28 October 2016 - [Post-market Review of Ezetimibe – Targeted Stakeholder Forum](#) - The Reference Group of the Post-market Review of ezetimibe has requested that a targeted Stakeholder Forum be held in Canberra on Friday 11 November 2016 to seek additional stakeholder input to further inform the Review. The forum will be specifically targeted to pharmaceutical sponsors who either have a current PBS medicine listing for ezetimibe or in combination with ezetimibe, or propose to have one in the near future. Stakeholders who wish to attend and have not received an invitation should submit an expression of interest to the [Ezetimibe Review Secretariat](#) by COB Friday 4 November 2016.

28 October 2016 - [PBAC Public Summary Documents - July 2016 meeting](#) - The [Public Summary Documents](#) (Positive Recommendations and Subsequent Decisions Not to Recommend) from the July 2016 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (**PBAC**) are now available.

28 October 2016 - [Drug Utilisation Sub Committee \(DUSC\) Utilisation Analysis Public Release Documents](#) - The [Utilisation Analysis Public Release Documents](#) from the June 2016 DUSC Meeting are now available.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

3 November 2016 - [TGA presentation: University of Technology, Sydney, 19 October 2016](#) - This presentation provides an overview of the TGA's pre-market and post-market pharmacovigilance methods

2 November 2016 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - added Ulipristal acetate (Esmya).

2 November 2016 - [Consultation - Software as a Medical Device \(SaMD\): Clinical Evaluation](#) - The TGA (together with all other working group members) is inviting interested parties to comment on the document. Closing date: 2 December 2016.

2 November 2016 - [TGA presentation: Nanoparticle Therapeutics 2016, 20 October 2016](#) - This presentation provides an overview of the regulation of Nanomedicines in Australia.

2 November 2016 - [TGA Presentation: Prescription Medicines MMDR Reforms, Targeted Stakeholder information Meeting, 14 October 2016](#) - This presentation gives an introduction to the regulation of medical devices, biologicals, and the manufacture of therapeutic goods in Australia.

1 November 2016 - [Orchestra and Orchestra Plus programming devices when used with Reply and Esprit pacemakers](#) - Consumers and health professionals are advised that Sorin Group Australia has undertaken additional software improvements to address the issues identified in the previous statement.

1 November 2016 - [TGA presentations: Biotherapeutics Association of Australasia 2016 AGM, TGA Workshop & Education Session, 13 October 2016](#) - Workshops covering topics of biovigilance, epidemiological situations, TGA licensing and certification applications, update and variations to Biologicals, and the consultation on 'Guidance on variations to biologicals included in the Register'.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

31 October 2016 - [Cancer screening in Australia by small geographical areas \(dynamic data display update\)](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

3 November 2016 - [A new platform to explore Australia's healthcare variation](#) - A new online interactive tool allows users to explore data in the Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation (the atlas) in more detail, zooming in on maps and comparing data.

On the Radar – 31 October 2016 – Issue 297 ([PDF 454KB](#)) ([Word 460KB](#))

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

31 October 2016 - [ACCC reports on changes to private health insurance policies](#) - The ACCC has released its annual report on the private health insurance industry, highlighting concerns about how some insurers notify consumers of reductions in their insurance coverage and benefits.

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

2 November 2016 - [Survey and submissions now open](#) - The National Mental Health Commission today invited public input into the Review of the services available to veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force in relation to the prevention of self-harm and suicide.

A survey is now online and written submissions can also be made at www.nmhcreview.com.au until 22 November 2016.

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

31 October 2016 - **Hospital Road reopens to two-way traffic** - Hospital Road, the main road that runs through the Canberra Hospital campus, reopened to two-way traffic.

31 October 2016 - **Prescription of medicinal cannabis** - On 1 November 2016 some cannabis products will be able to be prescribed by doctors in Australia, including the ACT.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

31 October 2016 - **Get prepped for Schoolies' Week: NSW Health** - School leavers planning to celebrate Schoolies' Week overseas should see their GP and be vaccinated against infectious diseases endemic in their travel destinations, NSW Health has warned.

1 November 2016 - **\$1 million parking boost for Orange Hospital** - Patients and visitors to Orange Hospital will have more free parking options with 160 new spaces to be created at a cost of about \$1 million.

26 October 2016 - **First integrated Clinical Genomics Unit in Australia opens** - An Australia-first integrated Clinical Genomics Unit that will transform the delivery of healthcare was opened today by Minister for Medical Research, Pru Goward. Ms Goward said the St Vincent's Clinical Genomics Unit, a partnership between the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and St Vincent's Hospital, was one of the first of its type in the world, and helped to position NSW as a global leader in medical research.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

4 November 2016 - **Eligibility of Persons for Public Oral Health Care in NSW**

3 November 2016 - **NSW Health Policy Directives and Other Policy Documents**

3 November 2016 - **Mandatory Training - Criteria for Approval as a NSW Health Requirement**

Queensland. Department of Health

3 November 2016 - **Turnbull Government needs to fix dental funding mess** - Federal funding for dental services in Queensland could be about to fall off a cliff.

3 November 2016 - **Queenslanders to take control of their palliative care** - Palliative care experts from across the state have today gathered at the Palliative Care Queensland conference to discuss how patients can embrace their life and take control of their care.

1 November 2016 - **First works start at Roma Hospital** - Work on the \$70 million new Roma Hospital is underway with the first of two early works packages starting this week, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk told State Parliament.

31 October 2016 - **Statement regarding Moorooka bus incident** - Like all Queenslanders, I was shocked to learn of the terrible incident which unfolded in Moorooka on Friday. Metro South Hospital and Health Service will conduct an internal review of treatment and services provided to the accused. This is a mandatory process in cases such as this.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

31 October 2016 - **Meningococcal cases** - A case of invasive meningococcal disease has been notified in a 16 month old baby from metropolitan Adelaide. The baby has been admitted to hospital and is in a critical condition. SA Health has identified multiple people who had contact with the patient, of which eight people have been directed to receive antibiotic chemoprophylaxis.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

29 October 2016 - **Call for submissions on increasing the tobacco licence fee** - The Department of Health and Human Services is inviting public comment on the draft *Public Health (Tobacco Seller's Licence) Regulations 2009*. The regulations would increase the tobacco licence fee under sections 74B and 74F of the *Public Health Act 1997* from 239 fee units to 478 fee units on 1 January 2017, and then to 717 fee units from 1 January 2018.

2 November 2016 - **No net reduction of RHH beds** - There is no net reduction in the number of Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) operational beds due to the decommissioning of B-Block. Unlike the previous government, we have a safe decant plan which focuses on patient care and safety. Given this, it is extraordinary that RHH Medical Staff Association chairman Dr Frank Nicklason would call to stop the redevelopment of the hospital which will provide future generations of Tasmanians a contemporary and world class health facility.

2 November 2016 - **New Ambulance Tasmania chief executive appointed** - The Department of Health and Human Services has appointed Neil Kirby ASM as the new chief executive of Ambulance Tasmania.

1 November 2016 - **New NW integrated maternity service born** - New consolidated maternity services have commenced in the North West from today to provide better, safer care to mothers and babies across the North West Coast. Based on the best clinical advice from specialists, the integrated maternity service will see the North West Private Hospital at Burnie provide birthing services, while antenatal and postnatal services all across the Coast will for the first time be delivered by the Tasmanian Health Service at the Mersey Community Hospital, the North West Regional Hospital and some rural outreach locations.

1 November 2016 - **RHH temporary inpatient facility on track** - In a significant step for the \$689 million Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment, the project team received the certificate of occupancy for the temporary inpatient facility yesterday. Tasmanians can be assured that the 54-bed health facility is safe and fit for purpose.

31 October 2016 - **Building a Truly Statewide Clinical Service** - The Hodgman Government has a long term plan to build a better health system for all Tasmanians. We have already started implementing our One Health System reforms which are aimed at providing better access to services and better patient outcomes. Structural changes at the management level are now needed to support our goal of ensuring Tasmanians can get the right care, at the right place and at the right time. The Tasmanian Health Service is leading this process and has been engaged with key staff and stakeholder groups to get to this point. It will now formally engage in statewide consultations and workshops over the next month with employees.

31 October 2016 - **REISSUED: Reforms in health making big changes to Tasmanian lives** - Improving Tasmania's health system remains a key priority of the Hodgman Government and we are making good progress, backed by our record investment of \$6.4 billion over four years.

28 October 2016 - **Nurse and midwifery double shifts reduced** - Right To Information documents that have been released, show that for the period July and August 2016, there were 87 fewer double shifts than in the same period in 2015. This is a positive sign that the Hodgman Government's policy to cap nursing and midwifery double shifts is working. There is however still more to be done. Work is currently underway to understand why and when double shifts happen to ensure future strategies are tailored to address the causes and provide more long term sustainable solutions.

Victoria. Department of Health

3 November 2016 - **Faster diagnosis for kids with rare diseases** - Victorian children with rare genetic conditions are five times more likely to get a diagnosis thanks to an Australian-first DNA testing project, saving thousands of dollars on expensive medical tests.

28 October 2016 - **More ambulances arriving sooner thanks to record investment** - More ambulances are arriving at emergencies sooner with Victoria's ambulance response times the quickest they have been in five years.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

4 November 2016 - **Minister for Health: WA genetics pioneer honoured for life's work** - Professor Jack Goldblatt AM has capped a stellar career as a Western Australian pioneer of genetic services by winning one of WA's top health honours, the Minister for Health Award.

3 November 2016 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: More than \$13 million to innovate aged care** - Twelve organisations across regional Western Australia have been provided one-

off grants that will assist older people living in regional areas to remain independent, involved and contributing members in their communities.

3 November 2016 - [New cases of meningococcal disease in a pre-school child and an adult](#) - The Department of Health today reported that two cases of meningococcal disease have been reported in recent days – in a pre-school child and an adult. The cases are not linked and both are currently recovering in separate hospitals.

2 November 2016 - [Minister for Health: New hospital ED delivers Harvey peace of mind](#) - Harvey residents are now benefiting from a new hospital emergency department, thanks to a \$13 million Liberal National Government investment in the Harvey Health Service.

2 November 2016 - [Minister for Health: Efficiency key to Bunbury pathology expansion](#) - Bunbury's state-of-the-art new pathology centre is nearing completion, with the \$4.8 million consolidated facility set to triple the size of the existing PathWest laboratories.

2 November 2016 - [Free shingles vaccine now available](#) - WA Health is encouraging people aged 70-79 to receive the free shingles vaccination offered through the National Immunisation Program.

2 November 2016 - [Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Open day celebrates Lake Grace Health Service](#) - The Lake Grace Health Service upgrade, which includes refurbishment of the emergency department, is now complete and will be open for local residents to view in early November.

Policies

28 October 2016 - MP 0039/16 [Cannabis-based Products for Medicinal Use](#) - The Cannabis-based Products for Medicinal Use Policy provides regulatory, research and governance guidance to health services and health practitioners in relation to medicinal cannabis.

Publications

3 November 2011 - [WA Health Information Management Strategy 2017-2021](#) - A key deliverable of our [ICT Strategy 2015-18](#), the WA Health Information Management Strategy provides a clear vision and direction for the future of health information management in the WA Health system.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

4 November 2016 - [Code of Practice for Dental Radiology: A consultation document](#) - This consultation document relates to the use of X-rays for dental radiology.

United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health

2 November 2016 - [Safer screening test for pregnant women](#) - Following a clinical recommendation by experts at the UK National Screening Committee, a new non-invasive prenatal test for Down's, Edwards' and Patau's syndromes, which is safer for women and their babies, has been approved.

1 November 2016 - [UK team of health experts to tackle global disease outbreaks](#) - The UK Public Health Rapid Support Team, consisting of clinicians, scientists and academics, can be deployed to tackle outbreaks of disease anywhere in the world within 48 hours. They will be on call to respond to urgent requests from countries around the world and fly in to help tackle disease outbreaks at source. The Ebola crisis highlighted the need for the international community to develop a system to help countries respond to and control disease outbreaks that pose a threat to public health before they can develop into a global emergency.

24 October 2016 - Getting patients quicker access to innovative healthcare. The [Accelerated Access Review: final report](#), commissioned by the government and led by an independent chair, was published today (24 October). The review aims to make the UK a world-leader in healthcare innovation, with an NHS that embraces the new drugs and technologies that patients need and supports work with local areas to develop solutions to their specific healthcare needs.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

1 November 2016 - **Indigenous Medical Students encouraged to apply for AuMA Scholarship** - The AuMA is now accepting applications for the 2017 AuMA Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship. The successful applicant will receive \$10,000 each year for the duration of their course. AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today that a highly skilled medical workforce that includes more Indigenous doctors and health professionals will help reduce health inequalities for Indigenous Australians.

4 November 2016 - **GP Network News AuMA calls on Small Business Ombudsman to intervene in pathology rents deal** - AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, has written to Ms Kate Carnell AO, the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, asking her to investigate the Government's deal with Pathology Australia to put an unfair cap on the rents that pathology providers pay for authorised collection centres co-located with general practices and other specialist practices.

4 November 2016 - **GP Network News GP Registrars – Safe Hours Audit** - The AuMA is urging GP Registrars, to complete its **2016 Safe Hours Audit**, an online survey to assess the fatigue risk of their working hours. The 2011 AuMA Safe Hours Audit examined the working hours of GP registrars for the first time and the AuMA hopes this audit will build on that work. Issues of fatigue extend beyond the hospital sector and the engagement of GP registrars in this audit is very important.

4 November 2016 - **GP Network News Primary's move to private billing 'no surprise'** - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, says it is no surprise that health care giant, Primary Health Care – a long-time champion of bulk billing - is trialling private billing at one of its medical centres.

4 November 2016 - **Update and reminder - DoH consultation forums on redesigning the PIP** - The Department of Health (**DoH**) has begun public consultations on redesigning the Practice Incentives Program (**PIP**) to simplify the current incentives and to introduce a new Quality Improvement Incentive.

4 November 2016 - **GP Network News 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 now being sought for the 2017 Scholarship from eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who have entered an Australian university to study medicine.

30 October 2016 - **Safe working environments benefit Doctors and Patients** - The AuMA launched its 2016 Safe Hours Audit, an online survey to assess the fatigue risk of the working hours of salaried doctors and doctors in training, including GP registrars. AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said that fatigue and quality medical care do not mix.

27 October 2016 - **Government backs down on whistle-blower laws** - In a win for transparency and patient care, and as a High Court challenge was launched by Doctors for Refugees, the Government has backed down on laws that threatened doctors and nurses with prison if they spoke out about abuses in offshore detention centres in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

27 October 2016 - **DoH Consultation – Redesigning the Practice Incentives Program** - As part of the 2016-17 Budget, the Government announced that it would be redesigning the PIP to simplify the current incentives and to introduce a new Quality Improvement Incentive. The aim of the redesign is to give general practices increased flexibility to improve quality care in areas such as detection and management of a range of chronic conditions, and to focus on issues specific to their practice population.

27 October 2016 - **AuMA List of Medical Services and Fees - 1 November 2016** - The 2016 AuMA List of Medical Services and Fees (**AuMA List**), effective 1 November, has been distributed

27 October 2016 - **Help when claiming MBS items for children with disabilities** - The Department of Human Services has updated its education guide for the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative to make claiming easier.

27 October 2016 - **GPs views sought on prescribing and antibiotic use** - Practicing Australian GPs are invited to participate in a University of Sydney online research survey on antibiotic use and resistance.

20 October 2016 - [AuMA MBS freeze campaign continues to keep pressure on Government](#) - The AuMA has finalised the AuMA List of Medical Services and Fees 2016, which provides guidance to AuMA members in setting their fees based on their own practice cost experience.

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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