



HEALTH ALERT

9 October 2017

Key Decisions	2
Judgments	2
Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission	2
Commonwealth. Federal Court.....	2
New South Wales	2
Victoria	3
Western Australia	3
Legislation	3
Commonwealth	3
South Australia.....	3
Reports	3
Australia. Department of Health	3
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards	4
Australia. National Health and Medical Research Council	4
Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme	4
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	5
New South Wales. Ministry of Health.....	5
Northern Territory. Department of Health	6
Queensland. Department of Health	6
South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing	7
Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services	8
Victoria. Department of Health	8
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.....	8
Western Australia (WA). Department of Health	9
Australian Medical Association (AuMA).....	10
About us	11
More information	11

KEY DECISIONS

29 September 2017 - *Peng v NSW Health Pathology [2017] NSWCATAD 288* - HUMAN RIGHTS – disability discrimination in employment – where President of the Anti-Discrimination Board has declined a complaint of disability discrimination in employment as lacking in substance – where employer relies on unjustifiable hardship exception – whether it is fair and just for leave to be given for complaint to proceed.

Mr Peng worked for the NSW Health Pathology for 23 years as a scientist in a chemistry laboratory carrying out toxicology evaluations. Mr Peng has had pain in his wrists since 2008 and is unable to work full-time or perform some of the tasks of his position. After a period of reduced hours and leave, Mr Peng was terminated from his employment for being unable to fulfil the inherent requirements of the position. Mr Peng brought an application for disability discrimination, stating that if his employer had rotated his duties in 2015, as recommended by an independent medical examiner, he would have been able to continue working. The President of the Anti-Discrimination Board declined the complaint as lacking in substance. The issue in this case was whether it was fair and just for the Tribunal to give Mr Peng leave for his complaint of disability discrimination to go ahead. NSW Health Pathology acknowledged that it had breached the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW) but relied on the 'unjustifiable hardship' exception. The Tribunal gave Mr Peng permission for the complaint to go ahead. The Tribunal considered it at least arguable that NSW Health Pathology will not be able to prove that the adjustments required for Mr Peng to continue work would constitute 'unjustifiable hardship'. As such, it would not have been fair or just to prevent Mr Peng from going ahead with his complaint.

JUDGMENTS

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

3 October 2017 - *Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation v Correct Care Australasia Pty Ltd [2017] FWC 4775* - Application for variation of the GEO Care Australia Nurses (Victorian Prisons) Enterprise Agreement 2013.

3 October 2017 - *Alliance Care Management Pty Ltd as the trustee for the Heritage Manor Aged Care Facility Unit Trust T/A The Trustee for the Heritage Manor Aged Care Facility Unit Trust [2017] FWCA 4979* - Application for approval of the Alliance Care Management Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Heritage Manor Aged Care Unit Trust Nurses Enterprise Agreement 2017.

Commonwealth. Federal Court

28 September 2017 - *Swiss Re Life & Health Australia Ltd v Public Trustee of Queensland (No 2) [2017] FCA 1146* - COSTS - application under s 215 of the Life Insurance Act 1995 (Cth) - application not wholly straightforward - appropriate order for costs.

New South Wales (NSW)

29 September 2017 - *Hampshire v Medical Council of NSW [2017] NSWCATOD 140* - Medical Practitioner registration suspended – application for stay of suspension pending hearing of appeal – principles on stay application.

29 September 2017 - *Health Care Complaints Commissioner v Menz [2017] NSWCATOD 141* - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES - health practitioner - whether practitioner not a suitable person to hold registration.

PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS – hearing complaint in absence of respondent constitutes a denial of procedural fairness.

29 September 2017 - *Peng v NSW Health Pathology [2017] NSWCATAD 288* - HUMAN RIGHTS – disability discrimination in employment – where President of the Anti-Discrimination Board has declined a complaint of disability discrimination in employment as lacking in substance – where employer relies on unjustifiable hardship exception – whether it is fair and just for leave to be given for complaint to proceed.

Victoria

20 September 2017 - [Finding without inquest into the death of Jason Lee Spradbury](#) - Mr Spradbury died at St Vincent's Hospital, Victoria from metastatic colo-rectal carcinoma.

Western Australia

29 September 2017 - [Bakaimis v Health Care Marian Centre Pty Ltd \(No 2\) \[2017\] WADC 130](#) - Application to strike-out - Application for further and better answers to interrogatories - Turns on its own facts.

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

3 October 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Section 3C General Medical Services – Mechanical Thrombectomy\) Determination 2017](#) F2017L01314 - as made.

29 September 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Section 3C Pathology Services - BRCA Gene Testing No.2\) Determination 2017](#) F2017L01309 - as made.

29 September 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Health Care Homes\) Determination 2017](#) F2017L01310 - as made.

29 September 2017 - [National Health \(Originator Brand\) Amendment Determination 2017 \(No. 7\) \(PB 80 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01307 - PB 80 of 2017 as made.

29 September 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Authorised Supply of Specified Medical Devices\) Rules September 2017](#) F2017L01305 - as made.

29 September 2017 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2017 \(No. 8\) \(PB 79 of 2017\)](#) F2017L01304 - PB 79 of 2017 as made.

29 September 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Authorised Supply of Specified Biologicals\) Rules September 2017](#) F2017L01303 - as made

29 September 2017 - [Therapeutic Goods \(Authorised Supply of Specified Medicines\) Rules September 2017](#) F2017L01301 - as made.

29 September 2017 - [National Health \(Entitlement to Pharmaceutical Benefits—Special Evidentiary Categories\) Determination 2017](#) (PB 83 of 2017) F2017L01298 - PB 83 of 2017 as made.

29 September 2017 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical Benefits\) \(Conditions of approval for approved pharmacists\) Determination 2017](#) (PB 70 of 2017) F2017L01297 - PB 70 of 2017 as made.

South Australia

29 September 2017 - [Disability Inclusion Bill 2017](#) - Introduced and second reading.

28 September 2017 - [South Australian Public Health \(Immunisation and Early Childhood Care Services\) Amendment Bill 2017](#) - Second reading.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

5 October 2017 - [Federal Coalition Government delivers funding for new Local Drug Action Team to tackle ice, drugs and alcohol in the community](#) - The Port Macquarie–Hastings, Manning and Macleay communities are receiving one of 40 new Local Drug Action Teams rolling out across the country to tackle drug use and harm.

3 October 2017 - **New provider to bring better access to hearing services across Australia** - A new network of clinics has officially been launched, offering hearing checks and affordable hearing aids, and promising to increase choice and convenience for customers.

28 September 2017 - **Aged care connecting to culture a top priority** - A comprehensive new resource kit has been developed to assist Muslim Australians in accessing culturally comfortable aged care.

27 September 2017 - **Memorandum of Understanding on Sport Cooperation with Singapore** - Australia's athletes will benefit from a stronger sporting partnership under a new Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Australian and Singaporean Governments.

24 September 2017 - **Helping Australians take their lives back from drugs** - The Turnbull Government is today launching the next phase of our National Drugs Campaign to help tackle the use of illicit drugs, particularly ice, among young Australians.

22 September 2017 - **Australia to host region's key health decision makers** - Australia will host the 68th session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific (RCM68) in October.

Private Health insurance Circulars

PHI 46/17 Change to the Second-Tier Eligible Facilities

Consultations

4 October 2017 - **Redesign of dementia consumer supports** - Following discussions and feedback from the Ministerial Dementia Forum and Ministerial Dementia Forum discussion paper, the Department of Health has developed a proposed suite of redesigned dementia consumer supports. The consultation paper has been developed to explore and seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed suite of redesigned dementia consumer supports. Closes 15 Nov 2017.

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

6 October 2017 - **Expressions of interest to be Board's nominee to the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia** - Applicants are invited to provide an expression of interest in being one of the Chiropractic Board of Australia's (the Board) two nominees to the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA).

4 October 2017 - **Australian-first with corporation fined \$127,500 for unlawful advertising** - In an Australian-first, Wellness Enterprises Pty Limited, which traded as Australian Male Hormone Clinic, has been fined \$127,500 plus costs after being found guilty and convicted of 17 charges related to unlawful advertising of regulated health services.

4 October 2017 - **Tribunal dismisses proceeding by former registered dentist against Dental Board** - Tribunal dismisses proceeding brought by a former registered dentist against the Dental Board of Australia relating to her application for registration.

3 October 2017 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Optometry Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

2 October 2017 - **Call for applications** - Call for applications for appointment to the Committee to oversee assessment of overseas qualified nurses and midwives.

Australia. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

6 October 2017 - **NHMRC Research Tracker - 6 October 2017**

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

4 October 2017 - **Agenda for the December 2017 PBAC meeting** - The Agenda for the December 2017 PBAC (Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee) meeting, to be held on 15 December 2017, is now available.

1 October 2017 - **PBS Website Update - 1 October 2017** - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 October 2017 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

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

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

5 October 2017 - [Surflink Media and Surflink Media 2 \(Models 200 and 210\) - used with wireless hearing aids](#) - Recall for product correction - may cause interference with mobile towers.

29 September 2017 - [Lucrin Depot Paediatric 30 mg PDS \(leuprorelin acetate\)](#) - Recall – potential for incomplete delivery of medication.

29 September 2017 - [Special Access Scheme](#) - Updates to products available under the SAS Category C pathway.

28 September 2017 - [Labelling changes: information for sponsors](#) - Minor updates to the labelling Orders TGO 91 and TGO 92 have been published.

27 September 2017 - [Updates to the Permissible Ingredients Determination for listed medicines](#) - An update of the Permissible Ingredients Determination has been published.

26 September 2017 - [TGA presentation: RACI and CAPSIG societies, 16 August 2017](#) - The presentation was an overview of the GMP regulations for medicine manufacturers.

26 September 2017 - [Updated GMP Clearance application forms](#) - GMP Clearance application forms now available.

26 September 2017 - [Consultation: Business process improvements supporting complementary medicines assessment pathways](#) - Consultation is now open regarding the business process improvements that will support the complementary medicines assessment pathways.

Australian Digital Health Agency

29 October 2017 - [SNOMED CT AU and Australian Medicines Terminology \(AMT\) September 2017 Release](#) - The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) is pleased to announce that the September combined release of SNOMED CT@-AU[1] and the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) is now available to registered users from the [NCTS website](#).

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

6 October 2017 - [Governments chipping in more for health, as individual Australians pay less](#) - Government funding for health has risen, with individuals now funding a smaller proportion of health costs, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The report, *Health expenditure Australia 2015–16*, shows that \$170.4 billion was spent on health goods and services in 2015–16, with \$114.6 billion (67.3%) of this funded by governments.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

On the Radar – 3 October 2017 – Issue 341 ([PDF 357KB](#)) ([Word 1450KB](#))

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Media Releases

1 October 2017 - [Mental health month – ‘share the journey’](#) - On the first day of NSW Mental Health Month, Minister for Mental Health, Tanya Davies is urging people to connect with others this October, to improve their mental health and build resilience.

'Be brave, be bold, be honest, and share your mental health story with friends, family members and others close to you,' Mrs Davies said.

29 September 2017 - [Workplace mental health in the spotlight](#) - Millions of workers will be the focus of New South Wales' first ever summit aimed at developing a statewide strategy to improve mental health in the workplace. Minister for Better Regulation Matt Kean said improving mental health strategies in the workplace would not only improve productivity, but also improve lives.

Publications

29 September 2017 - **Communicable Diseases Weekly Report (CDWR)**

Guidelines and Information Bulletins

28 September 2017 - **NSW Framework for New Health Technologies and Specialised Services** - Document number: GL2017_020

28 September 2017 - **Aboriginal Health Impact Statement** - Document number: PD2017_034

28 September 2017 - **Notification of obsolete guideline (GL2005_036) - Management of nicotine dependent inpatients** - Document number: IB2017_033

28 September 2017 - **Notification of obsolete Guideline (GL2009_014) - Smoke-Free Mental Health Facilities in NSW** - Document number: IB2017_034

Northern Territory. Department of Health

28 September 2017 - **\$2 million NDIS Grants for Innovative Projects** - The Territory Labor Government is accepting applications for the \$2 million National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Innovation Grant Project. Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said the Office of Disability secured the funding from the Australian Government, Sector Development Fund to help support the transition to the NDIS across the Territory.

Queensland. Department of Health

6 October 2017 - **New service to support high risk young people in care** - Young people in care living with a mental illness who are also struggling with drug addiction including Ice will soon have access to help and support in the one place.

6 October 2017 - **Maternity care closer to home for at-risk pregnant women in Logan** - (<http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2017/10/6/maternity-care-closer-to-home-for-atrisk-pregnant-women-in-logan>).

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services | The Honourable Cameron Dick | at 8:30am
The Palaszczuk Government is rolling out three new maternity hubs in Logan to improve the health of mums and newborn bubs, with the community lagging behind the state's average on several health fronts.

6 October 2017 - **Mareeba Hospital site for \$1.5million staff accommodation project** - Mareeba Hospital will be the location of a new \$1.5million staff accommodation building, the Palaszczuk Government has announced.

5 October 2017 - **Life as an amputee - with Lisa Cox** - When Lisa Cox was 24, she contracted an infection which caused her to have a stroke. The medication needed to help her recover caused damage to one of her legs, her toes and fingertips, which all had to be amputated. We spoke with Lisa about what life is like as an amputee, whether that's the appropriate term, and how people should treat amputees.

4 October 2017 - **New health program to tackle chronic disease in South East Queensland** - South East Queenslanders are set to benefit from a \$27 million healthy lifestyle program in a bid to combat chronic disease.

4 October 2017 - **Everything you need to know about your prostate** - Below, we've got all the details about what your prostate is, where it is and what it does. We'll also discuss how it might change as you age, and any changes or symptoms you should keep an eye on and tell your doctor about.

4 October 2017 - **New health program to tackle chronic disease in South East Queensland** - South East Queenslanders are set to benefit from a \$27 million healthy lifestyle program in a bid to combat chronic disease.

1 October 2017 - **100,000 more hospital car parking concessions for patients and carers** - One hundred thousand additional car parking concessions will be available annually under new arrangements starting in Queensland Health's major hospitals today (Sunday 1 October).

1 October 2017 - **Public Trustee holding more than \$120 million in unclaimed money** - Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Cameron Dick is encouraging Queenslanders to claim what is theirs by checking the Public Trustee's online database of unclaimed money.

30 September 2017 - **Cladding removal begins at Princess Alexandra Hospital** - Components of the external cladding near public entry points at the Princess Alexandra Hospital will be removed and installation of replacement boarding will take place over the weekend.

29 September 2017 - **Report shows lower rate of seclusion events in mental health units** - Queensland's mental health system has achieved a record low rate of seclusion events in acute mental health units and a significant reduction in the number of patients absent from facilities without permission.

29 September 2017 - **Additional frontline staff help manage growing demand for health services** - The Department of Health's 2016-17 Annual Report reflects a financial year where the challenges of rising demand have been met with huge reductions in the number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for specialist outpatient appointments and the delivery of a \$65 million surplus across the system.

29 September 2017 - **Nicholls should apologise to more than 200 health workers sacked** - Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick has called on Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls to use his trip to Rockhampton to apologise to the more than 200 Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service workers sacked when he was Treasurer of the former LNP Government.

27 September 2017 - **What's the difference between 'good' cholesterol and 'bad' cholesterol?** - Cholesterol can become a serious health problem when your body has too much of it, especially one type in particular called low-density lipoprotein or LDL cholesterol. Read on to find out what cholesterol is, the difference between 'good' and 'bad' cholesterol and how you can try to keep your cholesterol at a healthy level.

29 September 2017 - **I thought I had asthma, but my heart had been slowly dying** - It has been nearly 23 years since Karen Sander was told her heart was failing. She had just given birth to her second child when she returned to her doctor complaining of a gurgling in her chest.

27 September 2017 - **Hiccups – everything you've ever wanted to know** - For most of us, hiccups are an occasional nuisance. For a few, they're a constant frustration. Find out what hiccups are and if you should ever see your doctor about them.

27 September 2017 - **10 weird things you might not know alcoholic drinks are doing to your body** - We all know that drinking alcohol to excess isn't really part of a healthy lifestyle. Drinking more than the **recommended guidelines**¹ can put you at risk of developing serious diseases, affect your brain health and make you prone to alcohol-related accidents. You know about alcohol poisoning, hangovers and brain damage, but did you know about the other ways alcoholic drinks can affect your body?

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

5 October 2017 - **Media release: Meningococcal W outbreak in APY lands** - Free meningococcal W vaccinations are being provided to people living in the APY (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara) Lands communities in response to several recent cases of the disease within the region. SA Health's acting Chief Medical Officer, Associate Professor Nicola Spurrier, said two new cases have been confirmed from the region in an 11-year-old boy and 3-year-old girl this week, following a case in a 4-year-old boy last Friday.

29 September 2017 - **Media release: Meningococcal W case** - A case of invasive meningococcal disease has been notified in a 7-year-old boy from regional South Australia. The patient has been admitted to hospital and is in a stable condition.

29 September 2017 - **Media release: Awards celebrate active ageing** - Nine individuals and groups from across South Australia were recognised at the annual CelebrateAge Awards at Government House in Adelaide today.

Director of Intergovernment Relations and Ageing Jeanette Walters said the winners' commitment to maintaining links across generations – a key priority to ageing well – was truly inspiring.

28 September 2017 - **'No jab, no play' legislation to be introduced to Parliament** - Law reforms to introduce 'no jab, no play' rules for early childhood will be introduced to State Parliament today.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

6 October 2017 - **Tasmanian Health funding above national average for first time** - The *Health Expenditure* report published today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has confirmed that recurrent expenditure on health in Tasmania is above the national average for the first time since records began in 1998. While this is from all funding sources it clearly reflects the high priority that the Hodgman Liberal Government has placed on health.

4 October 2017 - **White's Medihotel Madness #5 – ambulances as taxis** - The more Rebecca White tries to explain her Medihotels madness the more questions emerge. Exactly what will be the impact of Labor's reliance on ambulances being used to transfer patients to Medihotels? Will Tasmanians in need of transport to hospital for life saving treatment suffer critical delays because patients are being transferred to Medihotels by ambulances?

And if private services are engaged what will be the cost to the taxpayer? While Ms White likes to call them 'patient transfer services' we know what she really means is ambulances. Scott Bacon made that very clear when asked about it on radio.

29 September 2017 - **Tasmanian Government supports latest suicide reduction trial** - Every life lost to suicide is one too many. The Hodgman Liberal Government is serious about suicide prevention and we welcome Tasmania being chosen as a site for a national suicide prevention trial. The Federally funded trial, which will be coordinated by Primary Health Tasmania aims to increase our understanding of what strategies may be most effective in preventing suicide at a community level.

29 September 2017 - **Latest data reveals elective surgery waiting list at new record low** - The latest DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) Dashboard confirms that more Tasmanians are benefiting from the Hodgman Liberal Government's record investment in health, with the elective surgery waiting list at a new record low.

Victoria. Department of Health

5 October 2017 - **Bold Plan To Improve Aboriginal Health And Wellbeing** - The Andrews Labor Government has today unveiled an ambitious new plan to revolutionise how Victoria's health and human services work with Aboriginal communities, backed up by a \$7.1 million funding boost. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy and Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos today launched the *Korin Korin Balit-Djak Aboriginal Health, Wellbeing and Safety Plan* for the next 10 years. The plan puts Aboriginal self-determination front and centre in all of Victoria's health and human services.

4 October 2017 - **Works On Shepparton Hospital Revamp Underway** - The Andrews Labor Government's \$169.5 million world-class redevelopment of Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton has begun with builders on board and the first sod turned today. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today celebrated the historic milestone, kick starting early site preparation works for a bigger and better hospital to meet the growing healthcare needs of the region.

3 October 2017 - **Doggies Kicking Goals For Women's Health** - The Western Bulldogs Football Club is kicking goals for women's health in Melbourne's west and Ballarat with a new program to support more women to embrace active and healthy lives.

2 October 2017 - **Flu Funding Boost To Treat More Hospital Patients** - The Andrews Labor Government is delivering a \$115 million boost to give Victoria's busy hospitals relief from a massive surge in demand following one of Victoria's worst-ever flu seasons.

1 October 2017 - **New Thunderstorm Asthma Forecasting System** - A new world-leading thunderstorm asthma monitoring, prediction and alert system is now up and running, giving Victorians an early warning of possible epidemic thunderstorm asthma events this grass pollen season.

Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Clinical Communiqué Volume 4 Issue 3 September 2017

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

5 October 2017 - [Have your say in the future of health](#) - The WA health system's Sustainable Health Review (SHR) is looking at ways to continue patient-first, innovative and sustainable care for years to come.

5 October 2017 - [Nominate now for the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards](#) - Nominate a nurse or midwife now for the 2018 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

5 October 2017 - [HPV vaccine – don't forget your Year 8's final dose](#) - WA Health is reminding parents of Year 8 students to make sure their child receives their final HPV vaccine.

5 October 2017 - [Graylands team wins Rotary Award](#) - A team of Graylands Hospital allied health professionals and nurse specialists has won the Excellence in Innovative Practice Award.

3 October 2017 - [Meningococcal disease in older adult](#) - The Department of Health today reported that an elderly patient is currently recovering in hospital after being diagnosed with serogroup Y meningococcal disease.

2 October 2017 - [Chocolate for trial to help medicine go down](#) - The best medicine will not work if a child refuses to take it but a team of WA researchers believes it may have a solution to the dearth of strong pain relief options available for children – chocolate-flavoured medicine.

2 October 2017 - [Innovative training program to better support people with HIV in aged care settings](#) - A nationally-accredited training program for frontline aged care staff who provide support to people with HIV in aged-care settings is now available.

Policy Framework

4 October 2017 - MP 0072/17 [Health Technology Governance Policy](#) - The Health Technology Governance Policy is a statewide framework for the introduction of health technologies and associated review of existing health technologies used within the WA public health system. Policy framework: [Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework](#).

4 October 2017 - MP 0071/17 [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy](#) - The Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy specifies the mandatory policy requirements that all Health Service Providers (HSPs) must comply with to strengthen and embed the approach to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living in Western Australia (WA). The Department of Health has developed the Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030 (the Implementation Guide) to inform the application and use of the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030 (the Framework) by HSPs. The Implementation Guide presents a how-to manual for taking meaningful and measureable actions towards improvements in Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes across WA. The purpose of the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy is to ensure a consistent approach across HSPs to address the Framework's strategic directions and work towards the performance measures and targets that relate to Aboriginal people, as detailed in the Health Service Performance Report. Policy framework: [Clinical Services Planning and Programs Policy Framework](#).

4 October 2017 - MP 0070/17 [Mental Health Emergency and Follow Up Information on Discharge from Hospital Emergency Departments Policy](#) - This Policy requires all applicable services to offer individuals who present to the emergency department for mental health assessment and/or treatment, or with mental health-related concerns, with contact numbers for mental health emergency response services prior to discharge from the emergency department. If applicable, the individual's family members and carers should also be offered contact numbers for mental health emergency response services prior to the individual's discharge from the emergency department. Policy framework: [Mental Health Policy Framework](#).

4 October 2017 - MP 0069/17 [Mental Health Consumer Medication Information Policy](#) - The Policy outlines the requirement for health professionals to provide mental health consumers and, if applicable, their family members or carers with timely verbal and written information for every medication prescribed or reviewed for the consumer. Policy framework: [Mental Health Policy Framework](#).

4 October 2017 - MP 0068/17 **Non-Admitted Activity Recording and Reporting Policy** - The purpose of this policy is to advise relevant Health Service Providers and Contracted Health Entities of the current and new requirements related to recording and reporting of non-admitted patient activity. This policy is applicable to all public hospital and publicly funded non-admitted patient services in Western Australia. This policy is not applicable to specialist mental health non-admitted patient services or community health services in Western Australia. Policy framework: **Information Management Policy Framework**.

Publications

6 October 2017 - **Elective Surgery Wait List reports**.

29 September 2017 - **Medical Workforce Report**.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

5 October 2017 - **Pharmacy Guild undermining TGA over codeine** - The AuMA fully supports the independence of the TGA in making decisions about medicines scheduling, and condemns groups that are attempting to undermine the TGA decision to make codeine prescription-only.

29 September 2017 - **Adopt WA Model Of Mandatory Reporting - AuMA** - The AuMA has urged the COAG Health Council to adopt the Western Australian model of mandatory reporting provisions for doctors seeking treatment for mental health and stress-related conditions.

The Council has released a consultation paper on developing nationally consistent laws, following concerns that current laws that require treating practitioners to notify authorities about doctors who seek help are a major barrier to doctors accessing the care and support they need.

5 October 2017 - **New 2017 AuMA Fees List Online Launching 16 October** - Starting October 16 the AuMA Fees List will be launching its new online format! The new website will be replacing the book and CD-ROM formats making it faster and more user friendly than ever before. You will still be able to download PDF and CSV files, plus access a range of new, useful features.

5 October 2017 - **ACCC – GP feedback needed** - The AuMA holds an ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) authorisation allowing general practices to engage in intra-practice price setting.

5 October 2017 - **Mental health resources for current and former serving ADF members** - For GPs with patients who are former serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) a comprehensive health assessment initiative has been made available. The *ADF Post-discharge GP Health Assessment* is funded under the MBS health assessment items 701, 703, 705 and 707. The assessment is available once only, and supports GPs in identifying and diagnosing the early onset of physical and/or mental health problems among former serving ADF members.

5 October 2017 - **Updates from NPS MedicineWise** - Two recent articles from NPS (National Pension Scheme) MedicineWise are of direct relevance to GPs, covering the topics of cervical screening tests and suicide prevention, detection and intervention.

5 October 2017 - **Tonic Health TV and Brochure Board system** - Keeping patients engaged isn't always easy, especially during unforeseen extended wait times. But what if you could educate and entertain them with health content you can trust, at a time when they're most likely to be receptive? Aimed at improving the health literacy for all Australians, the Tonic Health TV and Brochure Board system is a patient education and entertainment system for GPs, allied health, specialists and hospital waiting areas. Tonic was a major sponsor of this year's AuMA Family Doctor Week.

28 September 2017 - **Time to allow GPs to recover the costs of consumables** - The AuMA has made some progress in its advocacy to allow GPs to recover the costs of consumables provided to patients during bulk-billed consultations.

28 September 2017 - **President's speech: Indigenous health – turning words into action** - At a recent speech to the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) Conference AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, reiterated the AuMA's commitment to prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

28 September 2017 - **\$20 Million My Aged Care Enhancements** - A \$20 million injection of funds to My Aged Care has recently been announced. This funding will facilitate improvements for health professionals,

assessors and service providers, enabling improved access for rural clients, better support for clients with diverse needs, and improved system linkages to births, deaths, and marriages.

28 September 2017 - **Services available from DVA for GPs** - GPs are able to access services and support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) for their patients who are current or former members of the Australia Defence Force (ADF) that have experienced sexual or physical abuse during their military service.

28 September 2017 - **Updates from the TGA** - The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) provides regular updates on medicines safety. Most recently, they have advised of lithium level toxicity warnings, new precautions for hyoscine butylbromide ampoules, and using caution for off-label prescribing.

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.

Michael regularly presents to medical groups and hospitals on medico-legal issues.

Contact Details

T +61 3 9274 5437

michael.regos@dlapiper.com

MORE INFORMATION

Contact your nearest DLA Piper office:

BRISBANE

Level 9, 480 Queen Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
T +61 7 3246 4000
F +61 7 3229 4077
brisbane@dlapiper.com

MELBOURNE

Level 21, 140 William Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T +61 3 9274 5000
F +61 3 9274 5111
melbourne@dlapiper.com

PERTH

Level 31, Central Park
152-158 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
T +61 8 6467 6000
F +61 8 6467 6001
perth@dlapiper.com

SYDNEY

Level 22, No.1 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
T +61 2 9286 8000
F +61 2 9286 8007
sydney@dlapiper.com

www.dlapiper.com

DLA Piper is a global law firm operating through various separate and distinct legal entities.

For further information, please refer to www.dlapiper.com

Copyright © 2017 DLA Piper. All rights reserved.

If you would like to reproduce any of this publication, please contact Michael Regos on +61 3 9274 5437 or michael.regos@dlapiper.com.

[1216322965]