



# HEALTH ALERT

10 AUGUST 2015

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## JUDGMENTS

### Fair Work Commission

#### 5 August 2015 - *Emmanouil Karandinas v Monash Health* [2015] FWC 5348

The Fair Work Commission upheld an objection raised by the Respondent, Monash Health, in an application under s 394 of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (the Act) for unfair dismissal. Commissioner Ryan determined that there was no dismissal within the meaning of the Act, and that the employment relationship between the Applicant and the Respondent was brought to an end by the Applicant's free resignation.

The Applicant was the subject of several complaints made by co-workers and others in late 2014 and early 2015. In response to these complaints, a disciplinary meeting was held with the Applicant, three representatives of the Respondent and the Applicant's union organiser.

The Respondent had determined by the conclusion of the meeting to dismiss the Applicant for misconduct. However, during the meeting, the Applicant resigned and his resignation was accepted by the Respondent.

None of the Respondent's three representatives, at any stage, put to the Applicant that he would be fired if he did not resign. The Applicant's union organiser, however, proposed resignation as an alternative to dismissal.

Commissioner Ryan determined that there was nothing in the Respondent's conduct which showed an intention to force the Applicant to resign, or which was of a nature that made resignation the probable result. Commissioner Ryan further stated that nothing done by the Applicant's union organiser could be attributed to the Respondent. Hence, the Applicant was not dismissed within the meaning of the Act. The Applicant's application for an unfair dismissal remedy was dismissed by the Commission.

### Victoria

#### 3 August 2015 - *AB v McKimm & Anor* [2015] VCC 987

The County Court of Victoria granted an order enabling the plaintiff in this matter to continue a proceeding for damages via the use of a pseudonym.

The proceeding concerns an unsuccessful suction curettage procedure performed by the first defendant in order to terminate the plaintiff's pregnancy. The plaintiff's son, who was subsequently born in July 2008, has disabilities allegedly caused by the trauma inflicted during the attempted termination.

His Honour, Judge Saccardo, outlined the principles that govern an application of this type. Importantly, his Honour affirmed that the principal rule underpinning the precept of justice is that judicial proceedings occur publically, with no restriction on reporting. However, circumstances may require this rule to be qualified where it is necessary in order not to prejudice the administration of justice.

The second defendant argued, among other things, that 'several wrongful births' cases have been issued without the benefit of a pseudonym order. His Honour responded that the circumstances of this case fell within a largely unique category given the alleged link between the plaintiff's attempt to terminate her pregnancy and her son's disabilities; as well as her son's emotional vulnerability (which the plaintiff provided evidence on).

His Honour further accepted that both the plaintiff and her son may well be emotionally traumatised by publication of the circumstances of the case.

Balancing these factors with the principle rule of open justice, His Honour held it necessary to grant the order sought by the plaintiff in order not to prejudice the administration of justice.

#### 30 July 2015 - *Inquest into the Death of Martin Robert Beaty*

Finding Without Inquest into the Death of Martin Robert Beaty.

#### 5 August 2015 - *Linda Carr v Absolute Home Care Pty Ltd* [2015] FWC 5347

Application to deal with contraventions involving dismissal - general protections - extension of time.

## New South Wales (NSW)

### 5 August 2015 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Bours (No2)* [2015] NSWCATOD 80

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – *Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013* (NSW); where practitioner has been found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct; where HCCC seeks orders that the practitioner's registration be cancelled; suspension or cancellation of registration; whether there may be punitive effects through exercise of protective jurisdiction; professed change of insight and contrition between first and second stage hearings; evidence of insight and contrition; breaches of *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* (NSW); harassment of expert witness interfering with quasi-judicial process; critical compliance conditions; general deterrence; costs.

### 3 August 2015 - *Dezfouli v Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network* [2015] NSWCATAD 159

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY - sex discrimination - direct discrimination - on the grounds of sex'.

### 7 August 2015 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Nguyen-Phuoc* [2015] NSWCATOD

Medical practitioner practising complementary medicine - requirement to practice in conformity with orthodox medicine - held if practice of complementary medicine exposes patients to risk of harm or adverse consequences constitutes professional misconduct. Medical practitioner issuing prescriptions for medications while suspended constitutes professional misconduct Medical practitioner failing to maintain proper clinical records constitutes unsatisfactory professional conduct.

### 3 August 2015 - *Chapman-Davis v State of New South Wales* [2015] NSWIC 10

APPLICATION FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF – declaratory relief pursuant to s 154 – statutory construction – construction of Item 25 in Pt 19H of Sch 6 of the *Workers Compensation Act* – workplace injury – exemption from amendment to workers compensation legislative scheme - entitlement to workers compensation – discretionary considerations – whether term 'paramedic' should be construed by reference to award classification or duties – meaning of 'operational duties' – secondment - applicant maintained appointment to her substantive position during secondment and at time of injury – applicant was classified as a 'paramedic' under the relevant award during secondment and at time of injury – applicant was performing duties in secondment distinct to those of an 'operational paramedic' – principles of statutory interpretation – whether it is permissible to have recourse to extrinsic material – Court determined to make a declaratory order consistent with the terms of the second declaration sought – draft orders with submissions reflecting the decision to be filed and served – costs applications and submissions in support of the same to accompany submissions on draft orders.

## United Kingdom (UK)

### 5 August 2015 - *Owers & Anor v Medway NHS Foundation Trust & Anor* [2015] EWHC 2363 (QB)

Alleged negligence - breach of duty - claim for pain, suffering and loss of amenity - psychological injuries - causation.

### 31 July 2015 - *Michael Mark Junior Darnley v Croydon Health Services NHS Trust* [2015] EWHC 2301 (QB)

Duty of non-clinical reception staff and professional clinical staff - alleged duty to provide information concerning triage waiting time - causation.

## LEGISLATION

### Commonwealth

6 August 2015 - *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Transitional Variation 2015 (Application A1099 – Serine Protease (Trypsin) as a Processing Aid (Enzyme))*.

6 August 2015 - *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Transitional Variation 2015 (Application A1098 – Serine Protease (Chymotrypsin) as a Processing Aid (Enzyme))*.

6 August 2015 - [Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code – Transitional Variation 2015 \(Application A1097 – Food derived from Herbicide-tolerant and Insect-protected Corn Line MON87411\)](#).

31 July 2015 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2015 \(No. 8\) \(PB 72 of 2015\)](#).

31 July 2015 - [National Health \(Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Amendment Instrument 2015 \(No. 7\) \(PB 68 of 2015\)](#).

31 July 2015 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2015 \(No. 6\) \(PB 75 of 2015\)](#).

31 July 2015 - [Amendment Determination under section 84AH of the National Health Act 1953 \(2015\) \(No. 3\) \(PB 74 of 2015\)](#).

### **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

4 August 2015 - [Liquor Amendment Bill 2015](#).

### **New South Wales (NSW)**

4 August 2015 - [Health Services Amendment \(Ambulance Services\) Bill 2015](#).

4 August 2015 - [Health Services Amendment \(Paramedics\) Bill 2015](#).

## **REPORTS**

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

#### Media releases

7 August 2015 - [Abbott Government to tackle dementia research](#) - Minister for Health Sussan Ley has launched a three-pronged approach to support and promote dementia research in the search of new treatments, models of care and ways of preventing the debilitating disease.

7 August 2015 - [Netball World Cup to inspire more kids in sport](#) - Minister for Sport Sussan Ley has welcomed the international netball community to Australia for the 2015 World Cup.

7 August 2015 - [Youth self-harm, suicide & depression rates 'confronting': Ley](#) - A confronting picture around teenage depression, self-harm and suicide has been painted by the largest ever national survey of youth mental health of its kind in Australian history.

7 August 2015 - [Primary health care reform discussion paper released](#) - The Australian Government has released an options discussion paper *'Better outcomes for people living Chronic and Complex Health Conditions through Primary Health Care'*.

31 July 2015 - [Government to continue Inborn Error of Metabolism Programme](#) - Patients on the Inborn Error of Metabolism programme will continue to have access to government subsidy.

30 July 2015 - [\\$15.3 Million for Purple House](#) - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote Central Australia will reap the benefits of a funding boost to Western Desert Dialysis, also known as Purple House.

30 July 2015 - [Renewed Agreement to Improve Health and Wellbeing](#) - The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of NT (AMSANT) have re-committed to a framework agreement aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

29 July 2015 - [\\$10 Million Support for Central Australia Renal Patients](#) - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote Central Australia are being further supported to access dialysis services.

#### Current Issues

6 August 2015 - [Human consumption of unpasteurised \(raw\) milk](#).

6 August 2015 - [Cessation of the Inborn Error of Metabolism \(IEM\) Programme](#).

## Private Health Insurance Circulars

- 6 August 2015 - [PHI 53/15 New Private Hospital Information.](#)
- 5 August 2015 - [PHI 52/15 Revoke Private Hospital Information.](#)
- 5 August 2015 - [PHI 51/15 New Private Hospital Information.](#)
- 5 August 2015 - [PHI 50/15 Retraction of PHI 47/15 Private Health Insurer Code Changes.](#)
- 4 August 2015 - [PHI 49/15 New version \(version 1.12.0.0\) of Check-IT 2 released.](#)
- 3 August 2015 - [PHI 48/15 Data Submission Portal Update and File Naming Standards.](#)
- 3 August 2015 - [PHI 47/15 Private Health Insurer Code Changes.](#)
- 3 August 2015 - [PHI 46/15 Private Hospital Information.](#)

## Australia. Department of Social Services

- 5 August 2015 - [Building Capacity for the Emerging Aged Care Needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse \(CALD\) Communities](#) - Resources are now available to assist CALD community groups in competing in an Aged Care Approvals Round.
- 28 July 2015 - [National Aged Care Quality Indicator Programme.](#)

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

- 7 August 2015 - The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) website will undergo a number of improvements on 11 August 2015. [Read more.](#)
- 7 August 2015 - The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) has published consultation paper 25: Consultation on ending the higher degree exemption from sitting the National Psychology Examination. [Read more.](#)
- 6 August 2015 - The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communiqué. [Read more.](#)
- 6 August 2015 - The Medical Board of Australia today warned doctors to look out for a fraudulent letter purporting to be jointly from the Board and the Department of Human Services. [Read more.](#)
- 6 August 2015 - Applications are now sought from registered midwives from the Australian Capital Territory to fill vacancies on the Australian Capital Territory Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. [Read more.](#)
- 31 July 2015 - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué. [Read more.](#)
- 5 August 2015 - The information that appears on the Register of medical practitioners will soon change for some medical practitioners. [Read more.](#)

## Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council

- 07 August 2015 - [Abbott Government to tackle dementia research](#)

## Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

- 6 August 2015 - [TGA presentation give at the PDA conference, July 2015](#) - This presentation provides an overview of data integrity and the expectations of the TGA.
- 6 August 2015 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Ustekinumab (Stelara), Idelalisab (Zydelig) and Aflibercept (Eylea).
- 6 August 2015 - [Consultation: Proposed Amendments to the Poisons Standard \(Medicines\)](#) - The TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard. Closing date: 3 September 2015.
- 4 August 2015 - [Contact Detach infusion sets](#) - Recall for product correction - potential for interruption of insulin delivery and/or infection due to needle breaking during use.

3 August 2015 - [Children's medicines supplied in bottles that may be faulty - multiple brands](#) - Update - additional products affected.

3 August 2015 - [Pharmacy Care children's paracetamol suspension for 6 to 12 years and Pharmacy Care children's paracetamol elixir for 1 to 5 years](#) - Recall - risk of plastic fragments breaking from bottle and being ingested.

3 August 2015 - [Medicines Safety Update Volume 6 Number 4, August 2015](#) - In this issue: risperidone and risk of cerebrovascular adverse events; infliximab and non-melanoma skin cancers; tramadol oral drops.

3 August 2015 - [Medicines Safety Update Volume 6 Number 4, August 2015](#) - In this issue: risperidone and risk of cerebrovascular adverse events; infliximab and non-melanoma skin cancers; tramadol oral drops.

30 July 2015 - [GMP clearance application process improvements](#) - We will continue our efforts to clear the current backlog of GMP Clearance applications and provide you with updates on progress.

30 July 2015 - [Issues affecting documentation attached to some GMP clearance applications](#) - The TGA has become aware of issues affecting documentation attached to some GMP clearance applications.

#### **Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)**

4 August 2015 - [Better Cardiac Care measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: first national report 2015](#).

3 August 2015 - [Benchmarks set to measure cardiac care and outcomes for Indigenous Australians](#).

#### **Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate**

5 August 2015 - [A courageous walk for a great cause](#) - Former hospital patient, Ruth Henderson, who is preparing to walk 80km to raise funds for the Canberra Hospital, was congratulated today for her bravery and determination by Minister for Health Simon Corbell.

5 August 2015 - [ACT Hospital and Health Services awarded national accreditation for quality and safety](#) - ACT Health has been awarded unconditional three year accreditation for acute services, community health services, day procedure services, dental services, mental health services and sub-acute services by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, Minister for Health Simon Corbell announced today.

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

##### Information Bulletins

5 August 2015 - [Health Records and Medical/Clinical Reports - Rates](#).

5 August 2015 - [Mandatory Online Designated Officer Training Program](#).

4 August 2015 - [Hairdressers Employed in the NSW Health System](#).

4 August 2015 - [Fees Payable to Lecturers in Respect of In-Service Courses](#).

4 August 2015 - [Salary Increases for Staff in the NSW Health Service - HSU and ASMOF Awards](#).

31 July 2015 - [Salary Increase Staff Specialists NSW Public Health System - Staff Specialists \(State\) Award](#).

31 July 2015 - [Amendments to the Mental Health Act 2007](#).

##### Publications

5 August 2015 - [Effective Models of Care for Comorbid Mental Illness and Illicit Substance Use](#).

#### **Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health**

6 August 2015 - [Trauma Centre delivers AusMAT surgical training](#) - Surgeons, anaesthetists and peri-operative nurses from around Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific are in Darwin this week for Australian Medical Assistance Team (AusMAT) training with the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

## Queensland. Department of Health

4 August 2015 - **3D Avatar revolutionises fight against skin cancer** - The fight against skin cancer in Queensland has been taken to another level with the installation at Princess Alexandra Hospital of Australia's first 3D Avatar – a revolutionary skin cancer-detecting system.

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

5 August 2015 - **Australian-first operation gives seven-year-old boy hope for a healthy life** - A team of South Australian surgeons, with the support and collaboration of local, national and international experts, have performed an Australian-first operation at the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH). Health Minister Jack Snelling said Australia's first paediatric islet auto-transplant was a remarkable surgery, giving a 7 year old boy with hereditary pancreatitis a chance at a much better childhood and adult life. 'I congratulate the wonderfully talented and specialist staff involved in this pioneering surgery, which was undertaken after extensive ethical review and international consultation over an 18 month period,' Minister Snelling said.

4 August 2015 - **Winter plan put into place following busiest day in hospitals all Winter** - SA Health has today enacted its winter demand management plan following a significant increase in hospital demand this week. Health Minister Jack Snelling said that as outlined earlier in the year, a number of strategies were prepared to ease pressure on metropolitan hospitals in peak winter periods. 'Today has been the busiest day our hospitals have experienced so far this winter,' Mr Snelling said. 'As a result we are enacting our winter demand management plan to free up as many beds in our hospitals as possible to manage this demand.' This involves cancelling the majority of non-urgent elective surgeries for the next 48 hours and we are now in the process of informing impacted community members.

2 August 2015 - **A new PTSD Centre for Excellence at Glenside** - An expert advisory panel including clinicians, veteran representatives, consumers and carers has recommended Glenside Health Service Campus as the site for the new \$15 million veteran mental health precinct including the Centre for Excellence for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Health Minister Jack Snelling said the panel assessed a number of locations based on specific criteria, before recommending Glenside Health Service Campus as the best location for veteran mental health services in South Australia.

1 August 2015 - **Kidney transplant recipients celebrate 50th anniversary** - Today, nearly 300 kidney transplant recipients will gather to celebrate 50 years since the first successful living donor kidney transplant in Australia, performed at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH). Health Minister Jack Snelling said today's gathering is one of the largest gatherings of kidney transplant recipients ever held in Australia. 'Those attending today's event have received kidney transplant surgery resulting in approximately 3,100 dialysis free years between them,' Mr Snelling said. Today is an opportunity to celebrate 50 years of successful kidney transplant surgery that began at TQEH in 1965.

## Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

2 August 2015 - **Organ donors save lives** - Tomorrow marks the beginning of DonateLife Week, a time to promote the life-saving importance of organ and tissue donation.

31 July 2015 - **One Health System vital to improve poor health performance of the past decade** - The case of Lois Sheridan demonstrates exactly why the Liberals' Plan to fix the broken health system is needed.

## Victoria. Department of Health

4 August 2015 - **Investing in better dental care for Victorians** - The Minister for Health today announced that the Andrews Labor Government is investing more than \$207 million in public dental services in 2015-16. The announcement coincides with national Dental Health Week, which runs until Sunday 09 August. This funding will provide dental treatment to over 332,000 eligible patients this year, and includes more than \$3.7 million to upgrade equipment at more than 40 public dental clinics across the State. The upgrades include 25 new sterilisers, 17 x-ray machines and 73 more modern dental chairs.

## Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

6 August 2015 - **Minister for Health: Grants awarded on merit** - State Government research funding totalling \$1.3 million will help 20 local health and medical researchers improve their chances of securing National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants and fellowships.

5 August 2015 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Landmark new hospital for Pilbara now closer** - The largest hospital infrastructure project investment ever undertaken in regional Western Australia is a step closer today with the State Government announcing that Brookfield Multiplex is the preferred respondent for the design and construction of the new \$207.15 million Karratha Health Campus.

5 August 2015 - **New Director General starts at WA Health** - Dr David Russell-Weisz has started work as WA Health's Director General.

31 July 2015 - **Two cases of meningococcal infection diagnosed** - The Department of Health today reported that two cases of meningococcal disease had been confirmed this week, in a young child and an older teenager, respectively. The cases are not linked and both are currently recovering in separate hospitals.

#### Operational Directives (OD)

6 August 2015 - **OD 0623/15** - Contact with Lobbyists Code and the Register of Lobbyists - STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT - PROCEDURES - Operational Directive (OD) - Contact with Lobbyists.

6 August 2015 - **OD 0622/15** - Non-Admitted Activity Recording and Reporting Policy for WA Health Services 2015–2016 - The purpose of this Operational Directive is to assist WA hospitals and health services to record non-admitted outpatient activity in a consistent and meaningful manner and the Non-Admitted Activity Recording and Reporting Policy for WA Health Services (the NAARRP) is a key part of this process. The Policy provides health services with a framework, containing detailed rules and criteria to enable this to occur. Also provides an understanding of reporting requirements to mitigate risks associated with failing to accurately report activity.

6 August 2015 - **IC 0227/15** - Dental Technicians Industrial Agreement 2015 - Notification of registration of the Dental Technicians Industrial Agreement 2015 by the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission on 27 July 2015.

#### New Zealand (NZ). Ministry of Health

6 August 2015 - **A validation and norming study of the strengths and difficulties questionnaire in the New Zealand context** - A summary of a study commissioned by the Ministry of Health to measure the reliability and validity of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, as part of B4 School Checks.

5 August 2015 - **Report on the Performance of General Practices in Whānau Ora Collectives as at March 2015** - This report focuses on the performance of general practices in Whānau Ora collectives – using results from the software package HealthStat, which collects an anonymous summary of patient health information from general practices in Whānau Ora collectives.

4 August 2015 - **Guidelines for Verifying Death** - When a person dies, a number of steps need to be completed and different role related tasks undertaken. This publication provides information and clinical guidance to health practitioners, employers, professional bodies, the police and the funeral industry on the process for verifying death.

4 August 2015 - **Te Ohonga Ake: The Health of Māori Children and Young People with Chronic Conditions and Disabilities in New Zealand** - This report examines a range of conditions arising in the perinatal period, chronic conditions and disabilities, and the distribution of obesity and its determinants for Māori children and young people.

31 July 2015 - **Phase II of the Physician Assistant Demonstrations Evaluation Report** - This publication is the final evaluation of the Physician Associate (Physician Assistant) role by Synergia.



## Canada. Department of Health

1 August 2015 - **Harper Government Moves Forward to Regulate Salvia** - Will protect Canadians from its potentially harmful effects. The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, today announced further steps to protect Canadian youth from dangerous drugs.

1 August 2015 - **Government of Canada to Take Proactive Approach to Marijuana Advertising Enforcement** - The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, today announced she has directed Health Canada to take a more proactive approach to monitoring illegal advertising of marijuana by non-regulated parties.

31 July 2015 - **Statement from the Minister of Health on labelling changes for certain homeopathic products** - OTTAWA - Today, I am taking additional steps to protect and ensure the safety of Canadian children, by introducing changes for certain homeopathic products that fall under the Natural Health Product Regulations (NHPR). Many Canadians choose to purchase natural health products, including homeopathic products, to maintain and improve their health. The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that they continue to have access to a wide variety of these products, however, current package labeling for some homeopathic products may not be adequate for Canadians to make informed choices. The changes apply to the labeling of some homeopathic products, specifically nosode products as well as homeopathic cough, cold and flu products for children 12 and under.

31 July 2015 - **Government of Canada commits to ongoing funding for Aboriginal health programs** - Today, Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose announced the Government of Canada's ongoing, permanent funding commitment of \$120.5 million per year for seven health programs that help reduce the health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

## United Kingdom (UK). Department of Health

6 August 2015 - **NHS Blood and Transplant: triennial review**.

## Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

6 August 2015 - **Medibank Private out of touch with reality of quality in health care** - AMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said today that an article in *The Australian* newspaper by Medibank Private Managing Director, George Savvides, shows yet again that Australia's biggest private health insurer is out of touch with the realities of quality in health care. Professor Owler said that Mr Savvides claims that Medibank Private wants to work on improving quality and minimising preventable complications in hospitals 'in partnership with others', but the insurer's recent behaviour has been quite the opposite.

6 August 2015 - **AMA urges renewed Government focus on addressing alcohol harms** - Ahead of Federal Parliament resuming next week, the AMA is calling on the Government to renew its focus on addressing the many ways that the misuse of alcohol is causing harm across the Australian community. AMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said today that the AMA acknowledges that some governments are working on new solutions and actions to address alcohol-related harms that touch the lives of most Australians – but it is too slow.

4 August 2015 - **Primary health care discussion paper - Good ideas must be supported by strong new investment and Government commitment** - In welcoming the Primary Health Care Advisory Group's Discussion Paper, *Better Outcomes for People with Chronic and Complex Health Conditions through Primary Health Care*, the AMA warns that important reforms cannot succeed without significant new investment in general practice and genuine Government support for Australia's hardworking GPs. AMA President, Professor Brian Owler, said today that the AMA, the medical profession, and patients are looking to this Review to make a real difference to the level of support that is provided to primary care, particularly general practice.

## ABOUT US

### Caroline Atkins



Caroline Atkins is the Office Managing Partner for the Canberra office of DLA Piper and has worked extensively in the health sector for Australian Government agencies.

Her experience includes the conduct of major technology projects for the health sector, such as in the e-health and aged care sectors, and in advising the Commonwealth on the implementation of policy programs in contractual arrangements (including for medical indemnity insurance and for CSO arrangements for PBS funding).

She has also advised the National Blood Authority on major Commonwealth contracts for the supply of blood products including with the Red Cross and CSL.

Caroline's commercial experience extends over 30 years and also includes significant experience in ICT outsourcing, whole-of-government technology procurements, intellectual property rights licensing, contract management, procurement strategy and dispute resolution.

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