



HEALTH ALERT

12 June 2017

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JUDGMENTS

Key decisions

7 June 2017 - [Al Muderis v Duncan \(No 3\) \[2017\] NSWSC 726](#) - DEFAMATION – assessment of damage – highly respected orthopaedic surgeon – continual vilification by former patient and family – need for injunctive relief – aggravated damages.

The plaintiff, an orthopaedic specialist, commenced proceedings against the defendant, who was previously his patient, for defamation. The defendant alleged complications associated with his operation performed by the plaintiff, and unsuccessfully instigated proceedings in medical negligence against the plaintiff. The defendant subsequently published on websites and multiple social media platforms allegations against the plaintiff of professional negligence and moral culpability. This included statements that the plaintiff as a surgeon deserved to be found guilty of negligence by the NSW Medical Board, and plaintiff engages in unethical human experimentation for the purposes of obtaining financial reward and prestige.

The Court held in favour of the plaintiff, and awarded an injunction and damages against the defendant. In coming to this decision, the Court took into account that the allegations focus on the plaintiff's capacity in his chosen profession and the potential damage to his highly respected position as an orthopaedic surgeon. The defendant was ordered to pay the plaintiff's damages in the sum of \$480,000. The Court also took into consideration the conduct of the defendant and his attitude to the plaintiff's request for an apology, a correction, and the removal of the publications.

6 June 2017 - [Inquest into the death of Helen Ashburn 2012/7052](#) - Coronial Law; Policy and procedures for identifying domestic violence in hospital emergency departments.

This inquest was into the death of Helen Ashburn, who died from a head injury. The deceased had presented to Royal North Shore Hospital with bruising on her arm, shoulder, knees and chest area, and subsequently with head injuries. While her treating practitioner was not suspicious that her injuries were the result of an assault, her medical records indicated that staff questioned the deceased's confused and conflicting accounts of the cause of her injuries. The deceased's progress notes revealed that there was some contact made with Police and that a social worker should liaise with the deceased.

The Coroner could not conclusively establish that the deceased's death was caused by assault or domestic violence. Nonetheless, the Coroner's inquest explored the role of the hospital in identifying and reporting suspected incidents of domestic violence. The Coroner acknowledged that in such circumstances, the primary task for the staff was to provide immediate treatment and thus it was possible to not consider whether her presentation could have been the result of violence. However, given the prevalence of domestic violence the Coroner emphasised the importance of implementing policies in which medical staff alert police to the possibility of suspected domestic violence at an early stage. Accordingly, the Coroner's recommendations included training for practitioners be modified to include a requirement mandating notification to police of suspected incidents of domestic violence.

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

6 June 2017 - [Care Staffing Solutions Pty Ltd \[2017\] FWCA 3100](#) - Application for approval of the Care Staffing Solutions Pty Ltd Enterprise Agreement 2016.

7 June 2017 - [Barro Group Pty Ltd \[2017\] FWCA 3117](#) - Application for approval of the Barro Group Pty Ltd Anacon Laboratory Services Enterprise Agreement 2016.

7 June 2017 - [CareFlight Limited T/A CareFlight \[2017\] FWCA 3118](#) - Application for approval of the CareFlight Nurses & Midwives Enterprise Agreement 2017 - 2020.

7 June 2017 - [Boneham Aged Care Services Inc \[2017\] FWCA 3121](#) - Application for approval of the Boneham Aged Care Services Inc Care Sector Employees and ANMF-SA Enterprise Agreement 2016.

7 June 2017 - [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation South Australian Branch \[2017\] FWCA 3143](#) - The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation South Australian Branch Employees Agreement 2017.

7 June 2017 - [Mandy Morrow v MedHealth Pty Limited T/A MedHealth \[2017\] FWC 3120](#) - Application for relief from unfair dismissal – minimum employment period met – jurisdictional objection dismissed.

New South Wales

7 June 2017 - [Rogers v Northern NSW Local Health District \[2017\] NSWSC 731](#) - INJUNCTIONS – ex parte applications – freezing orders – freezing order sought by defendant to personal injury case – cross-claim by defendant against third party seeking indemnity or contribution – freezing order sought against third party – no evidence of risk of dissipation of assets or frustration of any judgment – application dismissed.

2 June 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Liu \[2017\] NSWCATOD 88](#) - Chinese Medicine; Ulcerative colitis; Fasting; Liquid diet; Unsatisfactory professional conduct; Protective orders.

2 June 2017 - [In the matter of Hunter Valley Dental Surgery Pty Ltd \(in liquidation\) \[2017\] NSWSC 691](#) - CORPORATIONS — Winding up — Liquidators – Application by liquidator under Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) s 473(3)(b)(ii) to determine remuneration – whether amount of remuneration claimed is reasonable – whether evidence justifies amount of remuneration claimed.

Queensland

5 June 2017 - [The Health Ombudsman v Jamieson \[2017\] QCAT 172](#) - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT – DEPARTURE FROM ACCEPTED STANDARDS – where respondent practitioner stole three boxes of antibiotics from her place of employment – where the practitioner used the antibiotics to treat her son's recurrent medical condition – where the respondent was convicted of 1 count of stealing as a servant in the Magistrates Court in relation to that conduct – where no conviction recorded in respect of that charge – where respondent failed to notify the National Board of that charge – where respondent made a false declaration when renewing her registration in respect of that charge – where respondent believed she did not need to disclose the charge as no conviction was recorded – whether the practitioner engaged in professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct – whether reprimand is an appropriate sanction – whether an order as to costs should be made.

5 June 2017 - [The Health Ombudsman v John Christopher Riek \[2017\] QCAT 173](#) - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT – DEPARTURE FROM ACCEPTED STANDARDS – where respondent practitioner stole schedule 8 medication from his employer – where the respondent was convicted of 1 count of stealing as a servant in the Magistrates Court in relation to that conduct – where respondent earlier diagnosed with ADD, major depressive disorder and generalised anxiety disorder – where evidence and submissions dealt with whether respondent impaired in practising due to suffering from a substance abuse disorder – where impairment due to substance abuse disorder not an element of any charges brought by Health Ombudsman – whether the practitioner engaged in professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct – whether Tribunal should have regard to impairment due to substance abuse disorder – whether reprimand, suspension or disqualification an appropriate sanction – whether an order as to costs should be made.

Queensland

5 June 2017 - [Public Health \(Infection Control\) Amendment Bill 2017](#) - assented.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

9 June 2017 - **Innovate, navigate and communicate - 28th Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Conference** - Rural doctors and health professionals are meeting in Townsville to discuss current issues and future plans for health care throughout rural and regional Queensland.

9 June 2017 - **Supporting medical innovation to deliver better health for Australians** - The Australian Government is providing \$5.2 million to support researchers and small and medium start-up businesses to deliver innovative health and medical breakthroughs, and better health outcomes for Australians.

8 June 2017 - **\$73 million to support the mental health of Australian children** - The Australian Government will invest \$73 million in two new mental health programs to ensure Australian children and young people receive the support they need during their school years.

7 June 2017 - **A Better MBS for all Australians** - The clinician-led Taskforce that is reviewing more than 5,700 items covered by the Medicare Benefits Schedule to see if they are up-to-date, has released its third round of recommendations for public consultation.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

8 June 2017 - **PHI 28/17 Prostheses List Management System (PLMS)**

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

8 June 2017 - **Communiqué** - The Dental Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

7 June 2017 - **Tribunal finds allegations made against a doctor not proven** - A tribunal has dismissed allegations of professional misconduct against a general practitioner.

7 June 2017 - **Communiqué** - The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

7 June 2017 - **Chinese Medicine Board shares information on its regulatory practice** - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia has published a presentation with information on its regulatory work to help inform practitioners and the public.

5 June 2017 - **Chinese Medicine Board builds partnerships in China to help protect the public** - New regulatory partnerships have been developed between Australian and Chinese health practitioner regulators that will help protect the public who receive care from Chinese medicine practitioners.

2 June 2017 - **Communiqué** - The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communiqué.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

7 June 2017 - **Dementia deprescribing guideline released for public consultation** - The University of Sydney (the developer) has released the *Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for deprescribing cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine in people with dementia* for public consultation until **6 July 2017**. The developer will be seeking NHMRC approval of the guideline under section 14A of the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*. To access the guideline and provide comment please go to: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/cdpc/news-events-participation/deprescribing-guideline.php>

7 June 2017 - **Perinatal mental health guideline released for public consultation** - The Centre of Perinatal Excellence (the developer) has released an update to the *Effective mental health care in the perinatal period: Australian clinical practice guideline* for public consultation until **4 July 2017**. The developer will be seeking NHMRC approval of the guideline under section 14A of the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992*.

To access the guideline and provide comment please go to: <http://cope.org.au/about/review-of-new-perinatal-mental-health-guidelines/>

7 June 2017 - **NHMRC Research Tracker**

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

6 June 2017 - **Transitional arrangements for General Schedule deletions and replacements - 1 June 2017 PBS Schedule** - The following items have been deleted from the PBS Schedule on 1 June 2017: New items have been added.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

9 June 2017 - **Training sessions** - As part of a program of support for Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), we have identified education and training topics that will help SMEs, and others who may not interact with us frequently or often, to understand key issues around the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia.

9 June 2017 - **Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs)** - Added Ticagrelor (Brilinta).

9 June 2017 - **Advertising and making claims for therapeutic goods** - As part of a program of support for SMEs, we have identified a number of education and training topics that will help SMEs, and others who may not interact with us frequently or often, to understand key issues around the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia.

9 June 2017 - **SME educational topic: How we assess a product** - As part of a program of support for SMEs, we have identified a number of education and training topics that will help SMEs, and others who may not interact with us frequently or often, to understand key issues around the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia.

9 June 2017 - **SME Assist** - An information hub to help small and medium enterprises, and R&D groups developing new medicines and medical devices (including apps), better understand and navigate through therapeutic goods regulation in Australia.

9 June 2017 - **Meeting your obligations** - As part of a program of support for SMEs, we have identified a number of education and training topics that will help SMEs, and others who may not interact with us frequently or often, to understand key issues around the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia.

8 June 2017 - **TGA presentations: International Regulatory Convergence for MTP GMP, April 2017** - Three presentations on the subject of Good Manufacturing Practice.

8 June 2017 - **Regulatory decisions & notices (medical devices & IVDs)** - Annual charges for IVDs included on the ARTG will commence from 1 July 2017.

7 June 2017 - **Generic and biosimilar prescription medicines, 2016** - Summary of generic and biosimilar prescription medicines registered in Australia in 2016.

7 June 2017 - **Class 1-3 in-house IVDs: using the online application form** - User guidance has been updated to reflect recent changes to the notification form.

7 June 2017 - **Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines** - Added registration of new or extended uses of registered medicines.

7 June 2017 - **Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia** - Newly-registered new chemical entities added.

7 June 2017 - **Ventilators - monitoring communication** - TGA urges reporting of issues encountered in high-care settings.

7 June 2017 - **Consultation: Proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard - Joint ACCS/ACMS meeting, July 2017** - The TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on the proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard. Closing date: 7 July 2017.

- 6 June 2017 - **Specifications** - Added Therapeutic Goods Information Specification 2017.
- 5 June 2017 - **TGA presentation: AusMedtech, 24 May 2017** - Presentation: The medicines and medical devices regulation review and other regulatory reforms.
- 5 June 2017 - **TGA presentation: Industry, Sydney, 25 May 2017** - To provide prescription medicines regulatory affairs personnel information on development of the new minor variations e-form.
- 5 June 2017 - **Regulatory requirements for in-house IVDs** - A reminder that the transition period for in-house IVD medical devices ends on 30 June 2017.
- 5 June 2017 - **Database of TGA test results released** - Information about therapeutic goods tested as part the TGA's testing program.
- 5 June 2017 - **Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs** - Added Rovalpituzumab Tesirine (TBA).
- 2 June 2017 - **Updates to the Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy database** - Ten medicines added.
- 2 June 2017 - **Medical devices and IVDs: Suspensions from the ARTG** - Suspension notice: Lovell Surgical Supplies International Pty Ltd 'Cardiopulmonary bypass system heating/cooling unit.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

- 8 June 2017 - **Immunisation rates improve for Australian children** - The proportion of Australian children who are fully immunised continues to rise, but significant variation remains across local communities, a report released today by the AIHW reveals. The report, *Healthy Communities: Immunisation rates for children in 2015-16*, shows that about 93% of Australian 5 year olds were fully immunised in 2015-16. This is up from 90% in 2011-12, but still below the national target of 95%.
- 8 June 2017 - **Healthy Communities web update: Patient experiences in Australia in 2015–16** - This web update provides the latest local-level information on people's experiences with the health care system. Good experiences are an important component of quality healthcare, along with clinical effectiveness and patient safety. More than 20 self-reported measures are included, such as information on health status, how many times people visited GPs, if they saw a dentist or other health practitioner, whether their GP listened to them and if they delayed or did not see a health practitioner due to cost. While most Australians rate their health positively, their experiences with the health care system can vary depending where they live.
- 7 June 2017 - **The Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation ACSQHC media release: Second Atlas highlights opportunities for healthcare improvement** - Mapping variation is an invaluable tool for understanding how our healthcare system is providing care. The *Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation* series illuminates variation by mapping use of health care according to where people live. Each Atlas identifies specific achievable actions for exploration and quality improvement.
- 5 June 2017 - **Disability support services: services provided under the National Disability Agreement 2015–16** and **Disability in Australia: changes over time in inclusion and participation factsheets: community living, education & employment** - While people with disability participate actively in all aspects of Australian life, they are more likely to face challenges than people without disability, and their rates of participation in various life areas are generally lower. These fact sheet use data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers to look at changes that occurred between 2003 and 2015 for people with disability in the key life areas of education (DIS 69), employment (DIS 68), and community life (DIS 67).

Australia. Digital Health Agency

- 6 June 2017 - **Private radiology to be available in My Health Record for the first time** - For the first time, private radiology reports will be available in My Health Record, the Australian Digital Health Agency has announced today. Clinicians and their patients have asked for shared access to x-ray results and other radiology reports because it will improve the safety and effectiveness of their care.

2 June 2017 - [Workshops for National Strategic Framework for Child and Youth Health](#) - eHealth NSW is seeking representatives to attend half-day workshops in June 2017 as part of the Partnership Groups into the National Strategic Framework for Child and Youth Health.

The Partnerships Group will develop project proposals, informed by the feedback from the Australian Digital Health Agency's national strategy consultation process, state and national strategic priorities for child health and wellbeing and the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council's National Strategic Framework for Child and Youth Health: *Healthy, Safe and Thriving*.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

7 June 2017 - [Second Atlas highlights opportunities for healthcare improvement](#) - A landmark new report to be launched today shows large variations in the provision of common health treatments across the country – giving health experts and clinicians valuable new information that will help to ensure more patients get the most effective and appropriate care.

On the Radar – 5 June 2017 – issue 324 ([PDF 320KB](#)) ([Word 224KB](#))

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

6 June 2017 - [Keeping Canberra's students healthy](#) - The ACT Government is introducing a new Year Seven Health Check for Canberra students to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our young people. The ACT Government's *10-Year Health Plan* is all about keeping Canberrans healthy through better preventative, primary and community care.

In keeping with the Government's election promise, Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris said the new health checks will serve two purposes – firstly as an individual screening tool to identify students at high risk and secondly, as a tool to report on the health risk factors for ACT youth.

3 June 2017 - [Keeping Canberrans healthy, active and well](#) - The ACT Government is investing in preventative health to ensure Canberrans remain healthy, active and well. We will focus on key risk areas to reduce the burden of chronic health conditions in the ACT, including obesity and lack of physical activity.

2 June 2017 - [Better care for Canberrans in their homes; better skills, careers for nurses](#) - The ACT Government is delivering on its election commitment to start working on the expansion of the Hospital in the Home program and invest in the nursing workforce in the 17-18 Budget.

Minister for Health Meegan Fitzharris said the budget would fund the planning work needed to expand the Hospital in the Home service to increase its capacity to care for people in their own homes and in community health centres.

1 June 2017 - [Better care for women and children through Centenary Hospital expansion](#) - The 2017 Budget will invest in expanding the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children to provide better health services for women and young people.

Minister for Health Meegan Fitzharris said the expansion would deliver another of the Government's election promises, and meet the growing needs of the community and its demand for maternity services. The hospital would expand physically and also in its capacity to deliver health services for Canberrans.

31 May 2017 - [New Walk in Centres to provide better health care in our suburbs](#) - New nurse-led Walk in Centres in the Gungahlin and Weston Creek regions will give better access to health care for thousands of Canberrans, delivering the government's election commitment. Minister for Health Meegan Fitzharris said Walk in Centres provided an alternative for people needing access to healthcare for less serious conditions.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

8 June 2017 - **NSW Health places its motto where its mouth is** - NSW will be the first state in Australia to remove sugary drinks from health facilities when it launches a healthy food and drink policy aimed directly at its own ranks. Sugary drinks with no nutritional value are set to go as NSW Health leads by example with its new Healthy Choices in Health Facilities policy framework. The drinks will be phased out by December 2017. The policy is designed to support its Make Healthy Normal campaign and support NSW Health staff and visitors by increasing the availability and choice of healthy foods and drinks in NSW Health facilities. Healthy choices will make up at least 75 per cent of the offering.

NSW Health Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said vending machines, cafes and catering services were all earmarked to offer more healthy options for staff and visitors.

4 June 2017 - **\$2.83M “bionic ear” upgrade for public patients** - Up to 370 adults with severe hearing loss will have their “bionic ears” upgraded, thanks to a \$2.83 million funding boost from the NSW Government. Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the upgrade to all outdated Cochlear implants worn by NSW adult public patients will significantly enhance their everyday lives.

9 June 2017 - **Encourage, Support, Connect: \$750,000 for suicide prevention in Newcastle** - Support for people after a suicide attempt will continue to be available in the Newcastle region with a \$750,000 boost from the NSW Government, Minister for Mental Health Tanya Davies announced today. Hunter Primary Care will receive the funds to help carry on the vital trial program The Way Back Support Service - a specialised team offering one-on-one practical support to people after a suicide attempt, following discharge from hospital.

Publications

7 June 2017 - **Maternal influenza vaccination - evidence review (flyer)** - An evidence review on maternal immunisation against influenza during pregnancy, primarily for healthcare workers.

2 June 2017 - **Translational Research Grants Scheme Recipients 2017** - The Translational Research Grants Scheme promotes a culture of collaboration within the health services. The scheme provides clinicians, managers and policy makers with the tools they need to translate research outcomes into policy and practice to deliver better patient care and create healthier communities.

There are over \$6.6 million in funding to the successful projects in Round 2 of the Translational Research Grants Scheme. The funded projects address system or local priorities, demonstrate strong partnerships across the system, and use high quality robust research methodologies to deliver policy and practice relevant outcomes.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

8 June 2017 - **Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Management** PD2017_014.

8 June 2017 - **Healthy Food and Drink in NSW Health facilities for Staff and Visitors Framework** GL2017_012.

7 June 2017 - **Infection Prevention and Control Policy** PD2017_013.

Information Bulletins

9 June 2017 **Increase to rates of pay and allowances for Public Health Service Skilled Trades (State Award)** IB2017_012.

New South Wales Health Care Complaints Commission

5 June 2017 - **Dr Frank Simonson - Unsatisfactory professional conduct** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted general practitioner Dr Frank Simonson who held Visiting Medical Officer admitting rights at Bega District Hospital (as it was then known) and Pambula Hospital. The Commission’s complaint before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal concerned Dr Simonson’s clinical care and judgment in four clinical cases in 2013 and 2014 (three at Pambula Hospital and one at

Bega District Hospital). The Commission also alleged that Dr Simonson's record keeping in those four cases and an additional case breached regulations.

Northern Territory. Department of Health

9 June 2017 - **Teens urged to take up free meningococcal vaccine** - Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick has encouraged teenagers aged 15 to 19 across the state to receive free vaccinations against four strains of meningococcal disease, during his visit to Calvary Christian College in Townsville.

6 June 2017 - **Free major health program launched in Cairns** - Cairns locals will be receiving free health checks at Smithfield Shopping Centre today to determine whether they are eligible to participate in My health for life, a \$27 million statewide healthy lifestyle program to be rolled out over four years.

5 June 2017 - **Experts appointed to sexual health committee** - Good sexual health for Queenslanders will be the key focus for members appointed to a new ministerial advisory committee.

4 June 2017 - **New report reveals truth of trauma impact on Queensland hospitals** - A report released today shows falls from playground equipment is one of the leading causes of injury hospitalisation for children while physical violence was the top cause of injury hospitalisation for young adults.

1 June 2017 - **New Mental Health Commissioner to help drive key priority** - Queensland has named a new Mental Health Commissioner to help strengthen the delivery of integrated care across government and the community sectors. Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Cameron Dick, said mental health expert Ivan Frkovic had been appointed as Commissioner for a period of three years from 1 July 2017, following a merit selection process.

Queensland. Department of Health

7 June 2017 - **Recovery after a concussion** - In Australia, we hear about concussion a lot. It comes up in sports reports, at workplace health and safety sessions, and on TV dramas that require a convenient lapse in a character's memory. It's not surprising, then, that concussion is the most common type of mild or moderate head injury. But just because concussion is common doesn't mean that it shouldn't be treated seriously.

5 June 2017 - **Why antibiotics can't be used to treat your cold or flu** - It's understandable that when you're sick, or when someone you're caring for is sick, all you want is a medicine that will make everything better. Unfortunately when it comes to viruses like those that cause colds or influenza (flu), antibiotic medicines don't work. In fact, taking antibiotics to try and treat viral illnesses might make us all sicker in the future.

6 June 2017 - **Winter in Queensland** - Winter in Queensland: if you're up north you might not even notice much of a change in weather, while Western and Southern Queenslanders will definitely feel a nip in the air. Below we've listed some key things you can do to stay healthy throughout a Queensland winter.

6 June 2017 - **5 health benefits of quitting smoking** - Quitting smoking isn't easy, but the benefits to your health make it worthwhile. Within days, you'll notice the positive effects of stopping smoking, and as the months and years pass, your decision to stop smoking will reduce your risk of a number of serious health conditions. Below we've listed just a few of the health improvements you can expect after stopping smoking, and links to information that can help you quit.

6 June 2017 - **The surprising health benefits of gardening** - Whether you're growing fruit and veggies, flowers or succulents, getting your green thumb on can have a surprising number of **health benefits**¹ for you and your family.

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

7 June 2017 - **Three meningococcal cases - June** - Three unrelated cases of invasive meningococcal disease have been notified in people across South Australia. A 20 year old woman from metropolitan Adelaide, a 31 year old male from regional South Australia and a 51 year old woman from regional South Australia have contracted the disease. All are in hospital in a stable condition.

6 June 2017 - **Funding for 24/7 Mount Barker doctor** - Adelaide Hills residents will have access to an on-site emergency doctor 24 hours a day at the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, with the State Government today announcing funding of \$800,000 in 2017-18, increasing to \$1.9 million indexed from 2018-19.

2 June 2017 - **New ambulance station announced for the West** - A new multi-million dollar ambulance station will be built in the heart of Adelaide's western suburbs, with the prime location revealed today.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

6 June 2017 - **Review of Ambulance Tasmania Clinical and Operational Services** - The State Government has released the findings of the Government's Review of Ambulance Tasmania Clinical and Operational Services. The review commenced as part of Patients First, and identifies reforms to increase the efficiency on Ambulance Tasmania resources and to reduce demand on emergency services.

6 June 2017 - **Taking action to address locum costs** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is taking action to address the long term issue of locum costs while ensuring the best health services for Tasmanians who live in regional areas. While it's not ideal, the state has historically had to rely on the use of locums for positions that could not be filled within the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) and the expected locum cost in 2016-17 is \$27.75 million. The THS has implemented a number of strategies to reduce locum costs

6 June 2017 - **Reducing elective surgery waiting lists** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is addressing Tasmania's long elective surgery waiting list as a priority – and this is showing significant results with a record low number of patients on the waiting list for elective surgery and a record low number of patients waiting for more than the clinically recommended time. By November 2016 we had reduced the waiting list to 5744 patients – the lowest ever, and at the same time also reduced the wait time for those waiting longer than clinically recommended to 997 patients.

6 June 2017 - **New Beds Implementation Team** - With a record boost to health funding to meet significant extra patient demand we need to work together to quickly and safely open additional beds. I am pleased to announce today that the Government will establish a New Beds Implementation Team, to ensure every effort is made to open new beds and ensure people get the care they need sooner at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

6 June 2017 - **Ambulance Tasmania review** - As part of the Hodgman Liberal Government's commitment to ensure Tasmanians receive the best paramedic emergency care, we sought a review into ambulance services and are releasing the report today. We have already taken action on the review with our announcement in the Budget that we will fund two new ambulance crews, one each in Greater Hobart and Launceston, and they will be on the road as soon as staff are recruited.

2 June 2017 - **More graduate jobs in health** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is delivering a record \$7 billion health investment, 106 beds and 350 staff around Tasmania. To meet our future health staff needs we are committed to employing as many Tasmanian graduates as possible in the THS.

Victoria. Department of Health

5 June 2017 - **\$60 Million In Hospital Equipment And Infrastructure Grants** - The Andrews Labor Government is investing in better equipment and infrastructure for Victoria's hospitals, so they can keep providing the best treatment and care.

Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today invited health services to apply for grants from the next round of the \$35 million *Medical Equipment Replacement Program* and the \$25 million *Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program*.

Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine

9 June 2017 - **An article evaluating the effect of the Clinical Communiqué has been published by the BMJ** - The primary aim of this study was to explore whether subscribers reported clinical practice changes as a result of reading the CC. It also compared the characteristics of subscribers who self-reported changes to clinical practice with those who did not, and explores subscribers' perceptions of the educational value of the CC.

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

9 June 2017 - [Heartbreak spurs life-saving donation](#) - A Toodyay family's heartbreak at losing their much loved daughter and sister may soon be helping spare other families a similar tragedy.

9 June 2017 - [Study helps prepare for Zika threat](#) - Australian health authorities will be better prepared for an outbreak of the Zika virus here following a new study that has examined the prevalence of microcephaly across our population over the past 35 years.

9 June 2017 - [Victor helping patients cope with hospital](#) - For many people, hospitals are associated with illness, grief and hardship.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

9 June 2017 - [Children and Young People Living Well and Staying Well: New Zealand Childhood Obesity Programme Baseline Report 2016/17](#) - Indicators will be used to monitor the progress of the New Zealand Childhood Obesity Programme. This report describes each of the indicators and their measures and provides a baseline view of their performance.

9 June 2017 - [Delivering Better Public Services: A Good Start to Life](#) - This publication sets out the Government's plans for achieving Better Public Service Results 2 and 3. The overall aim is to ensure that every child in New Zealand gets a good start to life.

8 June 2017 - [Standardised Tobacco Products Packaging Draft Regulations: Summary of Submissions](#) - This publication summarises the submissions received on the consultation document Standardised Tobacco Products Packaging Draft Regulations, which was released for public consultation between May and July 2016.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

7 June 2017 - [AuMA supports reform of after-hours primary care services](#) - Patients need access to after-hours primary care services when they have genuinely urgent clinical needs, but the system needs reform to ensure that there is a clearer definition of what is considered "urgent", AuMA President Dr Michael Gannon says.

6 June 2017 - [Donations to AuMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship now tax deductible](#) - With the end of the financial year approaching, consider making a tax deductible donation to the AuMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship.

8 June 2017 - [Shigellosis warning: increased antibiotic resistance](#) - The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services is asking GPs to be alert for shigellosis in high risk populations as there has been an increase in the number of shigellosis cases resistant to multiple antibiotics. Shigellosis is a nationally notifiable disease.

8 June 2017 - [DVA online mental health resources](#) - The Department of Veterans' Affairs would like GPs to know that it has a range of online mental health resources to support the veteran community that can complement the clinical treatment and care provided by GPs.

DVA's suite of resources includes both websites and mobile apps. Your patients can use these websites and apps in their own time for education and prevention, self-help, and self-care between consultations. Patients who use online resources to actively manage their health care are more likely to take an active role in their own treatment, make better and more tailored treatment decisions, and are likely to have increased compliance, satisfaction and treatment rates.

8 June 2017 - [Family Doctor Week 2017](#) - AuMA welcomes Tonic Health Media on board as its second event partner for AuMA Family Doctor Week, to be held on 23-29 July 2017. With the theme for this year being *Your Family Doctor: all about you*, AuMA Family Doctor Week highlights the role of GPs – the family doctors – and their value to the community and the health system as they deliver high-quality holistic health care to their patients.

American Medical Association

8 June 2017 - **Patient safety culture should start in medical school** - A new textbook helps physicians-in-training understand how systems can contribute to medical errors and how to handle such incidents and near misses.

ABOUT US

Michael Regos



Michael is the head of the DLA Piper health litigation group.

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