



# HEALTH ALERT

13 February 2017

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## JUDGEMENTS

### Commonwealth. Federal Court

3 February 2017 - *Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation v Royal Children's Hospital* [2017] FCA 59 - INDUSTRIAL LAW – construction of enterprise agreement – whether or not definition of experience limited to experience under enterprise agreement

On 10 February 2016, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and a registered nurse brought an application against the Royal Children's Hospital (**RCH**) alleging that it had underpaid the nurse in her employment. The determination of the application centres on the construction of the Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2012 - 2016 (**Agreement**). To have the issues determined the parties' agreed that first a separate question should be decided. The question was whether the RCH was obliged to recognise the nurse's previous employment as a nurse at an interstate hospital as 'experience' for the purpose of calculating her 'years of experience' under the Agreement. The nurses' 'years of experience' are significant because they affect the nurses' salary.

The RCH argued that the only experience that should be taken into account is experience as an employee under the Agreement. The Federal Court rejected this argument and held that there was no rational basis to distinguish experience gained from employment as a nurse under the Agreement from experience gained at the same level elsewhere in Victoria, interstate or overseas. To do otherwise would lead to a situation where a nurse with thirty years' experience in the private sector would not count for the purpose of classification and pay levels. Further, because the Agreement operated from July 2012, nurses already employed by RCH prior to that date would not be employed under the Agreement and their experience discounted.

### Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

8 February 2017 - *Della Lehmann v Mary Mackillop Aged Care SA* [2017] FWC 478 - Application for relief from unfair dismissal – patient care attendant in residential facility – alleged elder abuse involving rough handling and related conduct – earlier final warning – whether conduct occurred – whether misconduct – whether valid reason – findings made on credit – most but not all allegations found – valid reason – whether harsh given circumstances and reservations about earlier warning – on balance not harsh, unjust or unreasonable – application dismissed.

### Western Australia

31 January 2017 - *Medical Board of Australia v LAL* [2017] WASAT 23 - Professional misconduct - Sexual misconduct - Dishonesty - Misleading clinical notes - False statements

3 February 2017 - *Glenister v NMAHS-Mental Health (Graylands Hospital)* [2017] WADC 14 - Worker's compensation - Appeal from Workers' Compensation Arbitration Service - Leave to appeal - Whether a question of law is involved - Proper construction of the term 'communicable disease' and its related 'Process' within sch 3 - Whether expert evidence required to establish that methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus is a 'communicable disease' - Whether causation can be reasonably presumed - Proof of work related causation

This case is an appeal from a decision of an Arbitrator by a mental health nurse against her employer, Graylands hospital (**hospital**). The nurse had sought weekly payments against the hospital claiming that she had suffered a compensable injury being bacteria in her ear known as 'MRSA' or 'golden staph'. A number of issues were before the Court of Appeal including whether the Arbitrator had erred in finding that MRSA was not a 'communicable disease'. The appellant nurse also argued that the only conclusion available to the Arbitrator was that she had been infected with the MRSA pathogen whilst at work.

Despite the fact that MRSA was found to be a communicable disease, the appeal was ultimately dismissed. This was because there was not considered to be a sufficient incidence of MRSA at the hospital and because there was no recorded incidence of the MRSA clone being brought to the hospital. Further, there was no evidence before the Arbitrator to preclude the prospect that the appellant could have been colonised by MRSA by some means other than her work duties. Accordingly there was no evidentiary basis for concluding that the appellant probably acquired MRSA at work or in some work related context and the Arbitrator had been open to find that the appellant's case had not been proved.

31 January 2017 - [Medical Board of Australia v LAL](#) [2017] WASAT 23 - Professional misconduct - Sexual misconduct - Dishonesty - Misleading clinical notes - False statements

### New South Wales (NSW)

3 February 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Elliott](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 20 - Unsatisfactory professional conduct – inappropriate relationship with patient while therapeutic relationship continues – failure to maintain appropriate professional boundaries – improper and unethical conduct. Whether conduct amounted to professional misconduct. Where practitioner does not attend the hearing

9 February 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Starckenburg](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 22 - Dentistry – infection control – hygiene – sterilisation of equipment – out of date materials – inadequate health records

10 February 2017 - [Ng v Health Care Complaints Commission](#) [2017] NSWSC 53 - APPEAL AND NEW TRIAL – appeal to the Supreme Court from the Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW – occupational decision – appeal as of right on question of law – disciplinary

### Queensland

3 February 2017 - [Gonot v Director of Public Prosecutions & Anor](#) - [2017] QCA 3 - APPEAL AND NEW TRIAL – APPEAL – GENERAL - PRINCIPLES – RIGHT OF APPEAL – NATURE OF RIGHT - – APPEALS IN THE STRICT SENSE AND APPEALS BY WAY OF REHEARING – APPEALS IN THE STRICT SENSE – where the appellant was charged with arson and attempted murder – where the matter of the appellant’s mental state was referred to the Mental Health Court – where the Mental Health Court determined that the appellant was not of Mental Health Court determined that the appellant was not of unsound mind – where some medical evidence was accepted and other medical evidence was rejected – where the appellant alleged an error of fact and an error of law – whether the Mental Health Court failed to take into account all of the relevant evidence – whether the determination of the Mental Health Court was against the weight of the evidence

## LEGISLATION

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

### Commonwealth

8 February 2017 - [Dental Benefits Amendment Rule 2017 \(No. 1\)](#) F2017L00105.

### Victoria

8 February - [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment \(Pilot Medically Supervised Injecting Centre\) Bill 2017](#) - (Private Bill) Council: Second reading moved.

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

10 February 2017 - [Lowest health insurance premium increases in a decade](#) - The Australian Government’s action to keep the pressure on private health insurers has helped drive the lowest premium price rise in ten years.

8 February 2017 - [Australia's First National Rural Health Commissioner: The Champion of Regional and Rural Health Reform](#) - Australia’s first National Rural Health Commissioner will be an independent and high-profile advocate for regional, rural and remote health.

8 February 2017 - [Child dental benefit cap to be \\$1000](#) - The Australian Government is increasing the rebate available under the Child Dental Benefit Scheme (CDBS) to \$1000 per child for treatment over a two year period.

8 February 2017 - [Australia's First National Rural Health Commissioner: The Champion of Regional and Rural Health Reform](#) - Australia's first National Rural Health Commissioner will be an independent and high-profile advocate for regional, rural and remote health.

8 February 2017 - [Professor Julie Quinlivan to head Professional Services Review](#) - Professor Julie Quinlivan has been appointed as the Director of the Professional Services Review (PSR).

8 February 2017 - [Statement on Mr Ben McDevitt](#) - The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (**ASADA**), Mr Ben McDevitt AM APM, has advised the Government that he has decided to step down as head of ASADA, from 5 May 2017.

7 February 2017 - [Aussie kids given immediate access to life-changing cystic fibrosis drug](#) - From 7 February, children aged two to five will have immediate and free access to Kalydeco® (ivacaftor) – a life-changing drug that addresses the causes of cystic fibrosis rather than just the symptoms.

6 February 2017 - [Major suicide prevention trial extended to four more regions](#) - Four more regions across Australia with higher than average suicide rates will be the latest communities to take part in a \$46 million trial aimed at delivering better mental health services.

4 February 2017 - [\\$125 million to help our scientists make the next great medical discovery](#) - The Australian Government is backing Australia's world-leading medical researchers and scientists with \$125.3 million to support their work in making the next major medical breakthrough.

### Private Health Insurance Circulars

[PHI 07/17 2017 Private Health Insurance Premium Round Announcement](#)

[PHI 06/17 2017 Private Health Insurance Sunshine Private Day Surgery](#)

[PHI 05/17 Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses\) Amendment Rules 2017 \(No. 1\)](#)

### Australian Digital Health Agency

10 February 2017 - [Industry Forum - The Role of Industry in Co-Designing Australia's Digital Health Strategy](#) - We'd like to invite you to discuss what the Australian Digital Health Agency's role could be in progressing digital health to 2022, and to explore the role of industry in delivering our shared vision in the industry forum on Thursday 23 February 2017.

10 February 2017 - [Clinical Forum - The Role of Healthcare in Co-Designing Australia's Di...](#) - At this important forum on Thursday 23 February 2017, we will present what the Agency's role is in progressing digital health to 2022, plus discuss the role Healthcare Professionals needs to play to reach this common goal.

8 February 2017 - [Board Advisory Committee members announced](#) - On behalf of the Board of the Australian Digital Health Agency I am pleased to announce the appointment of members to the five Board Advisory Committees — Clinical and Technical; Consumer; Privacy and Security; Audit and Risk; and Digital Health Safety and Quality Governance.

7 February 2017 - [Secure Messaging to take a leap forward](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency has released a request for tender seeking partners in industry to establish an interoperable and secure electronic messaging service. Its objective is to improve 'point to point' messaging across care providers and the clinical information systems being used across Australia.

3 February 2017 - [Secure Messaging Proof of Concept Projects Request for Tender](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency invites industry providers delivering secure messaging, clinical information system/applications suppliers and end users to collaborate with the Agency on national implementation projects. The projects will prove the concept and demonstrate a working model for three key use cases to progress the adoption of secure messaging capabilities across the health sector in Australia.

3 February 2017 - [Community Pharmacy Software Industry Partnership Offer](#) - The Agency recognises the importance of quality medicines information for people's health and wellbeing day-to-day, and in the transfer of care between healthcare settings. We want to ensure community pharmacists can

access people's health records and share the vital information they hold with patients and other healthcare providers.

2 February 2017 - [Webcast: The Future of Digital Health in Australia - A Social Policy Discussion](#) - What do Australians want from a modern healthcare system? Over the last few months the Australian Digital Health Agency has spoken to all areas of the community – including consumers, clinicians, healthcare providers, peak and advisory bodies, research and science, industry, and technology – to better understand the needs, wants and aspirations of Australians in respect to their health and care.

### **Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards**

10 February 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Chiropractic Board of Australia releases its January communiqué.

9 February 2017 - [Tribunal reprimands medical practitioner, imposing conditions to restrict practice](#) - The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**VCAT**) has reprimanded a medical practitioner and imposed conditions on his registration restricting his practice, after finding he engaged in professional misconduct by failing to comply with conditions that had been imposed on his registration.

8 February 2017 - [Public consultation webinars](#) - The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (**the Board**) is conducting two webinars as part of the public consultation on proposed revised competency standards for occupational therapists.

7 February 2017 - [Tribunal cancels registration and reprimands GP](#) - The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**the tribunal**) has reprimanded a general practitioner, Dr Gershon Cukier, cancelled his registration and disqualified him from re-applying for registration as a medical practitioner for a period of 18 months.

7 February 2017 - [Nursing and midwifery registration standards and guidelines have changed – vodcast now available](#) - Revised registration standards and standards for practice came into effect for nurses and midwives on 1 June 2016. Additional midwifery specific registration standards and guidelines took effect from 1 January 2017.

7 February 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Nursing and Midwifery Board has released its quarterly registration data.

7 February 2017 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

### **Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council**

4 February 2017 - [\\$125 million to help our scientists make the next great medical discovery](#) - The Turnbull Government is backing Australia's world-leading medical researchers and scientists with \$125.3 million to support their work in making the next major medical breakthrough.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (**NHMRC**) funding includes almost \$39 million to fight multiple types of cancer facing children and adults, marking a significant investment on World Cancer Day.

10 February 2017 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

### **Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme**

10 February 2017 - [Post-market Review of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension \(PAH\) Medicines – Public Consultation](#) - The public submission process is now open for the Post-market Review of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (**PAH**) Medicines.

7 February 2017 - [Updated PBAC Outcomes for November 2016](#) - Subsequent to the deferral at the November 2016 PBAC meeting, the PBAC recommended the PBS listing of ivacaftor for treatment of cystic fibrosis CF in patients over the age of 2 years who have a G551D mutation or other class III gating mutations in the CFTR gene.

### **Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration**

9 February 2017 - [Glyceryl trinitrate tablets \(Anginine and Lycinat\)](#) - Update - medicine shortage.



- 9 February 2017 [MRA GMP clearance application processing timelines](#) Updates to MRA clearance application processing timelines.
- 9 February 2017 [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) Added AusPAR Gadobutrol (Gadovist 1.0).
- 8 February 2017 [Fees and charges: summary - from 1 July 2016](#) Minor amendment to description of fees in items 2AA and 3AA and new table for registered OTC medicines - requests with single fee.
- 8 February 2017 [Documents released under Section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) Added FOI 055-1617 documents.
- 7 February 2017 [Publication of TGA laboratory testing outcomes](#) Outcomes of TGA Laboratories testing will be published commencing from May 2017.
- 6 February 2017 [Chao Jimengnan Super Powerful Man Tablets](#) Chao Jimengnan Super Powerful Man Tablets pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken.
- 6 February 2017 [Zhen Gongfu capsules](#) Zhen Gongfu capsules pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken.
- 6 February 2017 [Impeous Man capsules](#) Safety advisory.
- 3 February 2017 [Glyceryl trinitrate tablets \(Anginine and Lycinate\)](#) Alternative products and potential medicine shortage.
- 3 February 2017 [Changing an OTC medicine: using the Changes Tables](#) Updates to the OTC medicines change codes table have been published.

### **Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**

On the Radar – 6 February 2017 – Issue 309 ([PDF 324KB](#)) ([Word 449KB](#))

- 7 February 2017 [National Infection Control Guidance for Non-tuberculous Mycobacterium associated with heater-cooler devices](#)
- 17 January 2017 [Recommendations for terminology, abbreviations and symbols used in medicines documentation](#)
- 3 January 2017 [Advisory A16/04: Medication management plan](#)

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

- 6 February 2017 [NeuroMoves program to assist people with spinal injuries in Canberra](#) Spinal Cord Injuries Australia's NeuroMoves program will soon be up and running in the ACT thanks to funding from the ACT Government promised during the 2016 election. Minister for Health Meegan Fitzharris said the ACT Government had delivered \$300,000 to fund the ACT's NeuroMoves program, which would offer a full suite of innovative exercises to assist people with conditions such as spinal cord injury, acquired brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease and cerebral palsy.
- 1 February 2017 [Tips to Beat the Heat](#) Stay safe and comfortable during this summer's hot weather by taking some simple precautions.

### **New South Wales. Ministry of Health**

#### Media Releases

- 9 February 2017 [Hot spell continues: stay cool and hydrated](#) With much of NSW set to swelter through a scorching weekend, NSW Health is again urging people to keep cool and hydrated during the hot spell. The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting temperatures to hit over 40 degrees across NSW over the weekend, prompting health officials to remind people to guard against heat-related illness.
- 8 February 2017 [NSW Health Alert: New measles case confirmed in Sydney](#) NSW Health is urging people to watch for measles symptoms after a young adult who contracted the disease overseas spent time in Sydney's CBD, inner west and Baulkham Hills area while infectious.

6 February 2017 - [Meningococcal W protection for NSW teens](#) - The NSW Government will fund a new school-based meningococcal vaccination program for all Year 11 and 12 students to combat the rise in the W strain of this potentially fatal disease, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard announced today.

Information Bulletins

10 February 2017 - [National Health and Medical Research Council Research Staff Salary Rates 1 January 2017](#) IB2017\_006

10 February 2017 - [United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW - Subsidy to delegates attending the Annual General Conference](#) IB2017\_003

8 February 2017 - [NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association Annual Conference and Professional Day 2017](#) IB2017\_003

### **New South Wales. Health Care Complaints Commission**

7 Feb 2017 - [Mr Anthony Elliot – Professional Misconduct](#) - The Commission prosecuted a complaint before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (the Tribunal) against Mr Anthony Elliot, an enrolled nurse.

The complaint of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct concerned Mr Elliot's conduct between July 2013 and October 2014 whilst employed as an enrolled nurse at the South Coast Private Hospital. The complaint alleged that Mr Elliot failed to maintain professional boundaries by forming an inappropriate personal relationship with Patient A, a mental health inpatient requiring acute treatment.

### **Northern Territory. Department of Health**

6 February 2017 - [Tickets now available for 2017 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards](#) - Tickets to attend the 2017 Northern Territory Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards are now available.

### **Queensland. Department of Health**

10 February 2017 - [In a little league of their own](#) - Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick today joined former NRL stars Scott Prince, Ashley Harrison and Luke O'Dwyer to launch an exciting partnership aimed at creating a culture of fitness for children.

8 February 2017 - [Depression: Don't talk yourself out of getting help](#) - About one in five Australians will experience a mental illness in any given year, and almost half of us will experience a mental health problem at some point during our lives. Despite these numbers, many people will wait months or even years before they seek out help.

8 February 2017 - [Low acuity ambulance program launches in Ipswich](#) - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick today launched a new low acuity ambulance program in Ipswich to treat non-urgent cases and optimise the use of ambulance resources to best serve the community.

8 February 2017 - [Queensland research creates jobs as human trials set to begin](#) - Queensland Government is supporting research that will create both hope for sufferers of coeliac disease and jobs for health workers as it enters critical human trials this month.

6 February 2017 - [Dehydration - the condition all Queenslanders need to be aware of](#) - In Queensland, we often talk about dehydration in relation to the elderly, children and babies, or during extreme heatwaves. But the reality is dehydration can affect any Queenslanders at any time of year.

5 February 2017 - [Stop playing Russian roulette with raw egg](#) - Salmonella outbreaks in five locations across the state has prompted a warning to Queenslanders to stop playing Russian roulette with uncooked eggs and meat.

3 February 2017 - [Sunshine Coast University Hospital service commencement details announced](#) - Sunshine Coast University Hospital (**SCUH**) is on track to see its first patients in March as part of the staged opening of the new \$1.8B facility, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick announced today.

3 February 2017 - [Queensland Health allows dental clinic to reopen](#) - Queensland Health has allowed the Gap Free Smile dental clinic at Carina to reopen following onsite audits. Chief Health Officer Dr

Jeannette Young said Queensland Health had acted to close the premises in December until infection control procedures at the clinic were improved to meet the required standards.

### **South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing**

9 February 2017 - **ED anti-violence video set to go viral** - The State Government has today launched a confronting social media campaign that depicts the terrifying impact violent outbursts have on staff and patients at hospital emergency departments.

### **Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services**

10 February 2017 - **Next intake of school nurses report for duty** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is bringing forward its commitment to deliver 20 school nurses into Government schools by 2018.

4 February 2017 - **World Cancer Day** - Cancer is the leading cause of death in the nation, with one in three Australians developing some form by the age of 85. This undoubtedly has a significant impact on Tasmanians, their families and our health care system. On World Cancer Day (Sat. Feb. 4) the Hodgman Liberal Government recognises that this disease affects every part of a person's life, not just physically, but all parts of that individual's life – relationships, friendships, work and income.

3 February 2017 - **RHH emergency demand to be addressed** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is working on a package of measures to address additional demand in the Royal Hobart Hospital emergency department. While our Patients First Action Plan has meant more patients are getting the care they need sooner, it's clear that the Government needs to meet this extra demand.

### **Victoria. Department of Health**

February 8, 2017 - **Protecting Victorians From Meningococcal W While Turnbull Dithers** - The Andrews Labor Government is taking immediate action to protect Victorian kids and teenagers from the deadly Meningococcal W strain, while the Federal Liberal Government continues to shirk its responsibility and put people at risk. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced the Labor Government will provide \$7.1 million to deliver a one year free school-based vaccination program for Meningococcal W for 15 to 19 year olds – commencing in Term Two – until the Federal Government gets it act together and funds a national response. This age group was chosen based on the recommendation of national immunisation experts as teenagers are at increased risk of meningococcal disease and more likely to spread the disease to others.

February 7, 2017 - **New Fellowships To Boost Health And Medical Research** - The Andrews Labor Government's new fellowship program to support talented health and medical researchers to grow their careers is now open. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today opened applications for the inaugural Victorian Health and Medical Research Fellowships, with three four-year fellowships on offer, each worth a total of \$800,000.

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

7 February 2017 - **Funding opportunity for child health researchers** - Applications are now open for round five of the Telethon-Perth Children's Hospital Research Fund.

### **New Zealand. Ministry of Health**

7 February 2017 - **Final Evaluation Report of the Bowel Screening Pilot: Screening Rounds One and Two** - This report presents the final evaluation findings from Rounds One and Two of the Waitematā District Health Board Bowel Screening Pilot.

### **United Kingdom. Department of Health**

6 February 2017 - **Recovering the cost of NHS treatments given to overseas visitors** - New regulations will help to recover the cost of healthcare given to patients not ordinarily resident in the UK.

### **Australian Medical Association (AuMA)**

8 February 2017 - **New director of Professional Services Review** - Respected Western Australian obstetrician and gynecologist, Professor Julie Quinlivan, has been appointed as Director of the Professional Services Review. AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, says Professor Quinlivan is an



experienced and respected medical practitioner, and her appointment will ensure that the PSR continues to safeguard the health of Australians.

9 February 2017 - [AuMA President meets with Minister Hunt](#) - AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, had his first meeting with new Health Minister Greg Hunt last week, at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in Melbourne. Dr Gannon said the meeting was productive, and covered all the areas raised in the AuMA's Pre-Budget Submission.

9 February 2017 - [AuMA calls for new safeguards to ensure access to telecommunication services in the bush](#) - The AuMA has made a submission to the Productivity Commission Draft Report on the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation (**TUSO**), calling for new safeguards to ensure Australians living in rural and remote areas have equitable access to telecommunications services.<https://ama.com.au/gp-network-news/ama-calls-new-safeguards-ensure-access-telecommunication-services-bush>

9 February 2017 - [Nominations now open - 2017 AuMA Public Health Awards](#) - The AuMA Public Health Awards provide well-deserved recognition of the extraordinary contribution doctors and associated health groups make to health care and public health. If you know someone you think deserves to be recognised for their efforts then the AuMA encourages you to submit a nomination.

9 February 2017 - [Invitation to attend the 2017 AuMA National Conference - Melbourne 26-28 May](#) - The AuMA invites General Practitioners to hear from world-class speakers, debate contentious issues and connect with peers and other medical professionals to help shape the future of Australian healthcare at the [AuMA National Conference 2017](#).

9 February 2017 - [Search engine promotes verified medical information](#) - The AuMA has cautiously welcomed the news that Tech giant Google has launched Health Cards, containing basic medical information verified by doctors at the Mayo Clinic, for users searching online to learn more about their symptoms. According to Google, the cards are not meant to be a diagnostic tool, but enable patients to have more informed conversations with their doctors.

9 February 2017 - [Response to Meningococcal W spreads](#) - The AuMA reports that following last week's decision by the WA Government to fund a three-year schools-based vaccination program to protect students aged 15-19 against the A, C, W and Y meningococcal serogroups, NSW has now also announced it will be offering immunisation against the four serogroups to all NSW students in years 11 and 12. Both programs will be starting in Term Two (late April) this year.

9 February 2017 - [drs4drs.com.au](#) - The AuMA continues to progress the development of a national health program for doctors and medical students in Australia, with funding to support this provided by the Medical Board of Australia. Doctors Health Services Pty Ltd (DrHS) is overseeing this and is now funding doctors' health services in all states and territories.

### **American Medical Association**

9 February 2017 - [Clinicians often misestimate interventions' harms, benefits](#) - A systematic review finds clinicians regularly overestimate how much tests, treatments and screenings help and underestimate how much they can harm.

## 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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