



HEALTH ALERT

24 April 2017

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JUDGEMENTS

Key decisions

20 April 2017 - *Bupa Care Services Pty Limited v New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association* [2017] FWCFB 1093 - Appeal against decision [2016] FWC 8508 of Commissioner Johns at Melbourne on 25 November 2016 in matter number C2016/4647 & C2016/4648.

This case relates to the interpretation of the Bupa Care Services, NSWNMA, ANMF (NSW Branch) and HSU NSW Branch, New South Wales Enterprise Agreement 2013 (**the enterprise agreement**). The appellant operates aged care homes, and the respondent represents two part-time nurses, who work at one of the appellant's care homes. The appellant implemented a new model of care, which resulted in changes to its staffing and rostering arrangements.

The respondents initially brought an application that the changes to their rosters breached the enterprise agreement. The enterprise agreement contained a clause that required terms of an employment agreement for part-time employees be varied by agreement and recorded in writing. However, it also contained a subsequent clause allowing the appellant to vary the rosters with reasonable notice. The respondent successfully argued that as there is a conflict between the two clauses, and the specific part-time employees clause should prevail. Accordingly, the appellant could only make changes to the roster of the part-time employees if it reached a written agreement.

In the current case, the Fair Work Commission reversed the previous decision. It held that the proper construction of the enterprise agreement allows the appellant to change the roster without reaching a written agreement, but it is required to agree in writing to any alterations to work hours. Further, the Commission concluded the appellant was not required to personally inform the respondents in writing of the changes to the roster, it was sufficient that the changes are displayed.

11 April 2017 - *Medical Board Of Australia and Nuttall* [2017] WASAT 58 - National Law - Professional misconduct - Advice - Lacking experience and expertise - Natural therapies - Interpreting scan and blood test results - Hepatoblastoma.

The matter concerned a medical practitioner who was held to have provided a patient and her parents medical advice he lacked the expertise to give. The patient was diagnosed with a tumour in her liver. Her parents refused recommendations by a hospital for her to undergo chemotherapy and instead opted for treatment with natural therapies. The hospital commenced legal action to have the patient treated with chemotherapy without their consent. The practitioner was advised of these facts and the intention to have the patient travel to El Salvador to avoid treatment. During a consultation the practitioner compared measurements of the tumour shown on a Ultrasound Scan to that of a CT scan taken a month prior. He informed the parents that the scans showed a slowed growth of the tumour, he encouraged the use of natural therapies and issued a fitness to fly Certificate.

The Tribunal found the practitioner behaved in a way that constituted professional misconduct. He did not have the expertise and experience in the treatment of tumours or similar conditions to be able to interpret the patient's scans or test results. Therefore, he should have informed the parents of this and should not have expressed an opinion in relation to results. Further, the Tribunal held there was no scientific basis for the endorsement of the alternative treatment, and the practitioner should not have recommended the continuation of the natural therapies.

Commonwealth. Fair Work

12 April 2017 - *Ms Della Lehmann v Mary Mackillop Aged Care SA* [2017] FWCFB 2099

7 April 2017 - *Uniting Care Medical Imaging Pty Ltd T/A Unitingcare Medical Imaging* [2017] FWCA 1969 - Application for approval of the Unitingcare Medical Imaging Clerical Enterprise Agreement 2016.

11 April 2017 - *Fresh Fields Aged Care (NSW) No 1 Pty Ltd T/A Hall & Prior Aged Care* [2017] FWC 1806 - Application for an order relating to instruments covering new employer and transferring employees.

12 April 2017 - [Rosann Meredith v John Flynn Private Hospital T/A John Flynn Private Hospital](#) [2017] FWC 2090 - Application for an unfair dismissal remedy.

13 April 2017 - [Health and Community Services Workforce Council Inc.](#) [2017] FWCA 2136 - Application for approval of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council Inc. Enterprise Agreement 2016.

20 April 2017 - [Mr Andrew Rennie v Demjet Pty Ltd \(in Liquidation\) formerly T/A Just Better Care Brisbane East](#) [2017] FWCFB 2212 - Appeal against decision in transcript of Commissioner Booth at Brisbane on 10 February 2017 in matter number U2016/5994.

19 April 2017 - [VEI Services Pty Limited T/A Vision Eye Institute](#) [2017] FWCA 2191 - Application for approval of the Vision Eye Institute (VEI) Services Pty Ltd Nurses (Victorian) Enterprise Agreement 2016.

19 April 2017 - [St John of God Health Care Inc](#) [2017] FWCA 2160 - Application for approval of the St John of God Health Care NSW Hospitals and New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association/ANMF - NSW Branch, Nurses Enterprise Agreement 2016.

Australian Capital Territory

18 April 2017 - [Kaye v Psychology Board Of Australia \(Occupational Discipline\)](#) [2017] ACAT 27 - OCCUPATIONAL DISCIPLINE – psychologist – immediate action – matters to be satisfied -Health Practitioners Regulation National Law (ACT) section 156 – nature of appeal from board –Health Practitioners Regulation National Law (ACT) section 199(h).

New South Wales

12 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Borthistle](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 56 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES — health practitioner — whether practitioner guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct — whether practitioner guilty of professional misconduct — appropriate protective orders where finding made that practitioner is guilty of professional misconduct — pre-condition to making a “prohibition order”.

12 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Burton](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 57 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES — health practitioner — whether practitioner guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct — whether practitioner guilty of professional misconduct — appropriate protective orders where finding made that practitioner is guilty of professional misconduct.

8 April 2017 - [Turner v NSW Health Pathology, Forensic & Analytical Science Service](#) [2017] NSWCATAD 114 - ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW - Government Information – validity of access application - reasonableness of searches – access to personal information - public interest considerations in favour of disclosure – public interest considerations against disclosure – personal information – balancing exercise – inconsistencies - allegations of impropriety and unlawfulness - request for referral to Minister – jurisdiction.

6 April 2017 - [Inquest into the death of AR](#) - Coroners: inquest, mental and physical care in hospital, security measures, communication with family.

South Australia

7 April 2017 - [Inquest into the death of Edward John Mayell](#) 11/2016 (1747/2014)

Queensland

11 April 2017 - [WorkPac Healthcare Pty Ltd v Rovic & Ors \(No 2\)](#) [2017] QDC 82 - COSTS – Whether unsuccessful defendants should pay costs of application for interlocutory injunction.

6 April 2017 - [Inquest into the death of Bradley Karl Coolwell](#) 2011/3161

Victoria

13 April 2017 - [Hii v Medical Board of Australia \(Review and Regulation\)](#) [2017] VCAT 510 - Review and Regulation List – application for review of decision of Board to refuse to remove conditions on a surgeon's registration restricting him from acting as primary surgeon except in relation to minor surgery – conditions imposed by agreement in 2010 at start of formal hearing arising from investigation following notifications into treatment of two patients – previous undertakings in similar terms– length of time since

practitioner has acted as primary surgeon –Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009 ss125.

7 April 2017 - [Inquest into the Death of Natasha Calleja](#) COR 2015 004329

Western Australia

11 April 2017 - [Medical Board Of Australia v Woollard](#) [2017] WASCA 64

Appeal from State Administrative Tribunal in disciplinary proceedings - Appeal on a question of law only - Whether there was any evidence upon which to find or to infer that certain complaints against the respondent medical practitioner constituted an abuse of process - Whether open to infer unreasonable or undue delay in bringing the claims - Whether open to infer that respondent was prejudiced by the delay - Double jeopardy - Public interest.

United Kingdom

11 April 2017 - [McCann \(Appellant\) v The State Hospitals Board for Scotland \(Respondent\)](#) [2017] UKSC 31

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

21 April 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2017 \(No. 3\)](#) F2017L00461 • as made

18 April 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Pathology Services Table\) Amendment \(Cervical Cancer Screening\) Regulations 2017](#) F2017L00441 • as made

13 April 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Section 3C Pathology Services—BRAF Gene Testing\) Determination 2017](#) F2017L00434 • as made

13 April 2017 - [Health Insurance \(Epicutaneous patch testing\) Revocation Determination 2017](#) F2017L00433 • as made

South Australia

12 April - [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(South Australia\) \(Miscellaneous\) Amendment Bill 2017](#) Introduced and Second Reading

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

31 April 2017 - [Nurses' important contribution to Australia's future health system](#) - Australian Government initiatives are helping to meet the challenge of ensuring the required nursing and midwifery workforce amid rising demands for health care.

20 April 2017 - [Rural doctors not affected by 457 visa changes](#) - Assistant Health Minister, Dr David Gillespie, has reassured doctors and rural communities on the impacts of the Australian Government's changes to the temporary and permanent employer-sponsored skilled migration schemes.

19 April 2017 - [Budget to deliver telehealth boost for rural psychological services](#) - People living in rural and remote regions of Australia will get the same access to psychologists as those living in our major cities, under a new telehealth initiative set to roll out later this year.

19 April 2017 - [Strengthening Residential Aged Care Funding](#) - The Australian Government is continuing to explore options to strengthen the way residential aged care funding is determined.

17 April 2017 - [Consultation invited on reviews of aged care strategies for people from diverse backgrounds](#) - The Australian Government is reviewing the national strategies that support the aged care

needs of people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) communities and people across both sectors are being encouraged to put their views.

16 April 2017 - **Improving Our National Organ and Tissue Donation System** - The Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt, released the Federal Government's response to an independent review of how the national reform program to increase Australia's rate of organ and tissue donation was progressing.

13 April 2017 - **2017 influenza vaccines now available** - Vaccinations to protect Australians against four strains of this year's influenza virus are now available – and are free of charge to those most at risk of getting sick this flu season.

13 April 2017 - **Federal Coalition Government announces 26 Regional Health Training Hubs and 3 new University Departments of Rural Health to boost clinical training in regional Australia** - Health and medical students will have greater opportunities to live, study and work in rural and regional Australia as part of the Federal Coalition's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program – another key initiative aimed at boosting Australia's regional and rural health workforce.

11 April 2017 - **Boost to drug, alcohol and Indigenous mental health treatment in Hunter and Manning regions** - Treatment for alcohol and drug misuse, including ice, and Indigenous mental health services across the Hunter and Manning regions are being improved with nearly \$2.8 million in Commonwealth funding.

08 April 2017 - **Coalition Supports Better Medical Services for Rural Mothers** - A number of Australian Government initiatives will help to ease the shortage of qualified doctors available to help women giving birth in rural and regional Australia.

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

20 April 2017 - **Responsible advertising of health services: Practitioners reminded about their legal obligations on advertising** - Registered practitioners are reminded to **check, correct** and **comply** with their professional and legal advertising obligations.

13 April 2017 - **Former pharmacist fined for holding himself out as a registered pharmacist** - A former pharmacist in Western Australia has been convicted of holding himself out as a registered pharmacist while not being registered under the National Law.

13 April 2017 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Physiotherapy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

13 April 2017 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Psychology Board of Australia has released the March 2017 communiqué.

13 April 2017 - **Newsletter - Registrant Update** - The Physiotherapy Board of Australia has released its latest newsletter.

11 April 2017 - **Medical Board and AHPRA adopt all recommendations of chaperone report** - The Medical Board of Australia (MBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) today released the report *Independent review of the use of chaperones to protect patients in Australia* and have accepted all its recommendations.

11 April 2017 - **Newsletter from the Board** - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

11 April 2017 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Chiropractic Board of Australia releases its February communiqué.

11 April 2017 - **Communiqué from the Board** - The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communiqué.

11 April 2017 - **Request for Quote - Revised Capabilities for osteopathic practice** - The Osteopathy Board releases a request for quote - Revised capabilities for osteopathic practice.

11 April 2017 - **Communiqué** - The Dental Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

10 April 2017 - [New guideline for transitional programs published today](#) - The Board has published a new guideline on transitional programs for overseas qualified applicants, with information for overseas-applicants, their employers and their supervisors.

10 April 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

10 April 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Optometry Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

7 April 2017 - [Quick reference guide for registered Chinese herbal dispensers](#) - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) has developed a Quick Reference Guide for Chinese herbal dispensers.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council

11 April 2017 - [Postgraduate Scholarships – Opening Wednesday 12 April 2017](#) - Applications for [2017 Postgraduate Scholarships for funding commencing in 2018](#) are now open. Postgraduate Scholarships fund successful applicants to obtain a research based postgraduate degree (PhD or Masters). The scheme aims to support outstanding health and medical graduates early in their career so they can be trained to conduct research that is internationally competitive and develop a capacity for original independent research within Australia.

Scholarships are awarded in a variety of categories. We would like to draw your attention to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Postgraduate Scholarship category which supports awardees to pursue research and training in areas of health with particular relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Scholarships are available in both a full-time and part-time capacity. Applications close **5pm AEST Wednesday 7 June 2017**. All applications must be submitted online through [RGMS](#).

7 April 2017 - [Update: Structural Review](#) - As expected, and not surprisingly, the sector is keen to hear the outcome of the review that has been undertaken on the structure of our grant program. While a final decision has not yet been reached, I can advise that the review is in its final stages. I thank all of you who have contributed to our consultations, for your interest, constructive advice and patience throughout.

The decision about whether to introduce a change in the structure of our grant program is incredibly important and the Office of NHMRC is working through a number of details before we present the proposal to Government. I will advise the sector about the final decision on the proposed new grant program and its implementation as soon as possible.

I have also provided an update in the Australian Society for Medical Research's newsletter (April Issue).

Article: [Reviewing the structure of NHMRC's grant program, by Professor Anne Kelso AO, NHMRC CEO](#)

NHMRC Research Tracker—7 April 2017

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

7 April 2017 - [Drugs and manners of administration that meet the F2/multi-brand criteria \(30 month clock for originator removal calculation\) for the 2017 October Cycle](#) - A list of drugs and manners of administration that meet the F2/multi-brand criteria (30 month clock for originator removal calculation) for the 2017 October Cycle.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

18 April 2017 - [Submissions received and TGA response: Orphan drug program](#) - Publication of submissions and outcome summary.

12 April 2017 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) Added Adalimumab (Humira).

12 April 2017 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia](#) - Added registered new chemical entities for March 2017.

- 12 April 2017 - **Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines** - Added registration of new or extended uses of registered medicines.
- 11 April 2017 - **ACMD meeting statement, Meeting 23, 25 September 2015** - Advisory Committee on Medical Devices, Meeting 23 statement.
- 11 April 2017 - **ACMD meeting statement, Meeting 24, 12 November 2015** - Advisory Committee on Medical Devices, Meeting 24 statement.
- 11 April 2017 - **Lose Weight Capsules** - Lose Weight capsules- safety alert.
- 11 April 2017 - **Specifications** - Added Therapeutic Goods Information (Laboratory Testing) Specification 2017.
- 10 April 2017 - **Varying biological entries on the ARTG** - This guidance is for sponsors applying for a variation to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) entry of a biological.
- 10 April 2017 - **Codeine-containing medicines: Harms and changes to patient access** - From 1 February 2018, medicines that contain low-dose codeine will no longer be available without prescription in pharmacies.
- 10 April 2017 - **New biologicals based on a parent biological** - This guidance is for sponsors of biologicals included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods who want to make a change to that biological (parent biological) where the change creates a separate and distinct good (new biological).
- 10 April 2017 - **Medicines Advisory Statements Specification updates** - Advance notice of publication of Medicines Advisory Statements Specification 2017 - including amended requirements for codeine and oral NSAIDs.
- 8 April 2017 - **Nangen Zengzhangsu capsules** - Safety advisory - Nangen Zengzhangsu capsules pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken.
- 7 April 2017 - **Changes to submission of ADR reports for unapproved medicines and biologicals** - Changes to submission of adverse event reports.

Australian Digital Health Agency

10 April 2017 - **New blog post! My Health Record in General Practice** - Read the latest blog entry by Dr Steve Hambleton as he shares his experiences as a GP using My Health Record.

Amongst my other roles, I've been a GP at the Kedron Park 7-Day Medical Centre in Brisbane for the past 29 years. Many of my patients have been in my care for a long time and I know them very well but I cannot be there for them every day. Like a lot of GPs who have been in the same practice for a long time, I mainly treat people with chronic and complex disease.

I believe one of the responsibilities of General Practitioners is to facilitate patients' interactions with the health system as a whole, and it's particularly important for those with chronic ailments. For this reason, I am an early adopter of My Health Record – the secure, online digital summary of a patient's pertinent medical information, including diagnosis, outcomes, medications, reactions and allergies.

10 April 2017 - **NSW patients first to view their pathology results in My Health Record** - The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) is pleased to announce that patients in NSW will now be able to view their pathology results through the My Health Record consumer portal and mobile applications.

5 April 2017 - **Bringing Digital Health to Central Australia - introducing Dr Sam Goodwin** - Australia's digital health system is currently developing and evolving to best serve the community's needs, and arguably, people living in the most remote areas of the continent stand to benefit the most. Recently, **Tim Kelsey, CEO, Prof Meredith Makeham, Chief Medical Advisor and I travelled to the Northern Territory** to meet with a number of stakeholders, among them, Dr Sam Goodwin, the Executive Director of Medical and Clinical Services with the Central Australian Health Service. Having lived and worked in the area for 11 years, Dr Goodwin gives first-hand insights into the challenges faced by remote communities and how digital services can make a significant, positive difference.

31 March 2017 - [Putting in place the digital foundations for better health and care](#) - South west of Alice Springs the bush has come to life: creams and shades of blue that aren't predicted for this time of year flourish because of the unusual rains. We stop at a vantage point that marks the life of the great Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira who described in his watercolours the pale distended limbs of Valley Ghost gum trees and the rest of this unique outback world. Albert was a resident of Hermannsburg (or Ntaria in Aboriginal designation) and this is where we are heading: a community of 900 mainly indigenous people about an hour and a half from Alice.

31 March 2017 - [The Clinical Terminology March v20170331 release is now available for download](#) - The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) is pleased to announce the release of SNOMED CT®-AU and the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) combined March release; and Royal College of Pathologists Australasia (RCPA) Pathology Terminology and Information Models v1.1 release.

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24 March 2017 - [National Product Catalogue Data Quality in Health Program](#) - GS1 Australia and the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency), in partnership with the Healthcare Industry, are continuing to implement the National Product Catalogue Data Quality Improvement Program to address healthcare industry concerns relating to data quality within the National Product Catalogue (NPC).

23 March 2017 - [Digital Health in an Era of Precision Medicine — The Genome Generation](#) - As the Chief Medical Adviser for the Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency), I'm privileged to have the opportunity to meet with many inspiring people – clinicians, health consumers, researchers and innovators who help us think about the way our organisation can best serve Australians to get a good deal out of our investment in digital health services and technologies. We are delivering key services at the Agency that will enable our health system to remain world-leading in its innovation and ability to support a high standard of health and well-being for our citizens. Our continued efforts to improve and expand our understanding of how our services underpin and interrelate to the broader health and care ecosystem depends upon us continually looking outwards, reflecting and learning about future directions for health and care clinical priorities, as well as focussing on striving for internal excellence in our organisation.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

13 April 2017 - [Media release: Small changes in our weight could significantly reduce health impact of obesity](#)

19 April 2017 - [Media release: Domestic violence leading cause of hospitalised assault among girls and women](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

18 April 2017 - On the Radar – Issue 319 ([PDF 181KB](#)) ([Word 148KB](#))

10 April 2017 - On the Radar – Issue 318 ([PDF 306KB](#)) ([Word 282KB](#))

Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate

13 April 2017 - [Planned maintenance work](#) - Canberra Hospital is performing scheduled electrical maintenance to Buildings 1 and 3, from 7.00pm Thursday, 13 April to 5.00am, Friday, 14 April 2017.

11 April 2017 - **Death Cap mushroom alert** - With the recent wet weather, Death Cap mushrooms have been found in several locations across Canberra.

10 April 2017 - **Health experts in Canberra to bring preventative health into focus** - The first steps towards developing the ACT's Preventative Health Strategy moved forward today at Canberra's inaugural Preventative Health Forum. Minister for Health, Meegan Fitzharris joined international health experts to put preventative health on the agenda, having made it one of her major priority areas since the start of this new term of Government.

"Bringing some of the world's leading minds on preventative health together will encourage innovation, new ideas and solutions, to help us guide the strategy and make Canberra a healthier place to live," Minister Fitzharris said.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

17 April 2017 - **Measles confirmed after exposure to earlier case in Quakers Hill** - NSW Health is urging people to watch for measles symptoms after a person who contracted the disease in Quakers Hill spent time in the Blue Mountains, Strathfield and Leichhardt while infectious. Vicky Sheppeard, Director Communicable Diseases, NSW Health, said contact is being made with people who may have been directly exposed to the virus. This brings us to 22 cases of measles in NSW residents with onset in 2017. This is now 16 locally acquired cases related to the Western Sydney outbreak," Dr Sheppeard said.

13 April 2017 - **Take the jab to beat the winter flu: NSW Health** - NSW Health is urging pregnant women, the elderly and other high-risk groups to take advantage of a free flu vaccination – now available from GPs – ahead of the winter flu season. A vaccine protecting against the four likely circulating influenza strains is free for people eligible under the National Immunisation Program. This includes those who are pregnant, over 65 years of age, have severe asthma, diabetes and heart conditions, as well as Aboriginal people aged from six months up to five years and 15 years of age and over. Dr Vicky Sheppeard, Director Communicable Diseases, NSW Health, said it was vital for pregnant women to have the flu jab as they had an increased risk of hospitalisation, intensive care admission, pre-term delivery and possibly death if they caught the flu.

13 April 2017 - **Work starts on Australia's biggest morgue** - Construction has begun on the new hi-tech Coroner's facility which will bring together the top scientists in NSW and revolutionise the way deaths and disasters are investigated. Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the \$91.5 million Forensic Pathology and Coroner's Court at Lidcombe will be a world-class facility with the best coronial set-up in Australia.

10 April 2017 - **Roundtables on future for palliative care** - The future for palliative care services in NSW will be discussed at statewide roundtables with the community and health professionals, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard and Parliamentary Secretary Leslie Williams announced today. Mr Hazzard will host the first roundtable at Parliament House on Wednesday 26 April 2017, which will give medical and nursing specialists and organisations an opportunity to contribute to the NSW Government's new strategy for palliative care.

Publications

12 April 2017 - **Developing and Using Program Logic: A Guide**

4 April 2017 - **OHMR Innovator Biobank Special**

New South Wales Health Care Complaints Commission

13 April 2017 - **Dr Elvin Suet Pang Cheng - Professional misconduct** - The Commission prosecuted a complaint before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal ("Tribunal") against Dr Elvin Suet Pang Cheng. It was alleged that between 1993 and 2013 Dr Cheng, a general practitioner who primarily practised in Lidcombe, conducted improper physical examinations of five female patients who consulted him as a general practitioner. The female patients were aged from 12 to 28 years old at the time of the alleged conduct.

Northern Territory. Department of Health

12 Apr 2017 - **Donation focuses attention on saving lives** - A painting to be donated to the Central Australia Health Service by DonateLife NT shares the story of a kidney recipient's journey through the transplant process.

21 April 2017 - **AMT Report Card Shows Costly Failings** - An evaluation into the former CLP government's controversial Alcohol Mandatory Treatment (AMT) Program has been released along with the Department of Health's response. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said the evaluation was commissioned by the former CLP government in 2015.

13 April 2017 - **Frontline Health Workers to Benefit from BDR** - The Territory Labor Government says the new Banned Drinkers Register will help ease pressures on frontline health workers by reducing the supply of alcohol to those who cause so much harm. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said Territorians have the right to access the high quality services our hospitals offer.

12 April 2017 - **Scanners Ready for BDR and a New Pilot Program for Drive Thru Bottle Shops** - The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice has confirmed that the Territory Government owned scanners will be re-used for the Banned Drinker Register, with a pilot trial of new portable devices rolled out at Territory bottle shops that have a drive thru. Minister Natasha Fyles said work is continuing to ensure scanners, software and telecommunications services including networks are in place for the September 1 roll out of the Banned Drinker Register (BDR).

10 April 2017 - **COUNTDOWN to the Banned Drinker Register** - The Territory Labor Government has delivered on its election commitment – announcing more than \$17 million to bring back the Banned Drinker Register and rehabilitate problem drinkers. The Health Minister Natasha Fyles said the new BDR will cut off supply to problem drinkers – making our community safer.

Queensland. Department of Health

19 April 2017 - **Premier officially opens Australia's newest tertiary hospital** - Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick officially opened the new, state-of-the-art \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) today.

16 April 2017 - **Extra ambulance resources for Coen during tourist season** - The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is enhancing its capabilities in the Coen community on Cape York, to cater for the growing number of tourists visiting the region each year.

15 April 2017 - **Queenslanders called on to keep EDs for emergencies ONLY** - Queensland Health is today re-booting its Keep Emergency for emergencies advertising campaign with digital content to tackle the increasing demand facing Queensland's public hospital emergency departments.

15 April 2017 - **Strong interest in expanded Q-PrEP HIV prevention trial** - More than 1200 Queenslanders are participating in the Palaszczuk Government's \$6 million four-year expanded PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) trial as part of efforts to prevent the transmission of HIV.

14 April 2017 - **Additional mental health services to be trialled in Bowen** - Bowen will benefit from improved access to mental health services as part of a three-month trial being led by the Mackay Hospital and Health Service (HHS).

13 April 2017 - **Telehealth saves Coen resident trips to Cairns** - Telehealth outpatient consultations have nearly doubled in the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service in the past two years and are making life easier for many remote area residents like former police tracker Barry Port.

13 April - **Coen oval to receive \$500,000 upgrade** - The Coen community's sporting oval will receive a much needed upgrade thanks to a funding partnership between the Palaszczuk Government and Cook Shire Council.

9 April 2017 - **Review of cosmetic surgery regulation underway** - The Palaszczuk Government is seeking public input into a possible change in legislation covering cosmetic surgery to provide more protection for people undergoing such procedures.

11 April 2017 - **Queenslanders urged to consider jab to protect against the flu** - Winter is upon us and with it comes the flu season. Each flu season can bring new strains of the potentially deadly influenza virus, which is why it's so important for all Queenslanders to get vaccinated every year.

18 April 2017 - **Getting straight answers for a healthier lifestyle** - "The Healthier. Happier. Straight Answers campaign provides simple, straightforward answers to many of the conflicting messages around nutrition, physical activity and weight management.

20 April 2017 - **The effects of alcohol on the adolescent brain** - You probably know that **drinking alcohol** can make you feel dizzy, uninhibited or hungover, but did you know that drinking while you're a teenager might also impact your health for years to come?

19 April 2017 - **Concussion: Know the warning signs** - We all tend to forget things at times, but sometimes it may be an unwelcome sign of something more serious. Concussion is the most common type of minor head injury. Do you know the warning signs?

19 April 2017 - **Steps to take now to prevent falls as you age** - We all know that 40 is the new 30, but putting in some groundwork now can help you stay 'young of body' as well as 'young at heart' for longer. Even though the time for '**having a fall**' might seem a long way off, there are things that middle-aged Queenslanders can do to help decrease the risk of falling as they age and prevent serious side effects from falls.

18 April 2017 - **Egg safety - what, why and how** - Eggs – they're a great source of protein, make yummy breakfasts and are useful for baking, but when it comes to egg safety, there can be confusion. Keep them in the fridge or on the shelf? Wash or don't wash? Are foods containing raw eggs alright to eat?

18 April 2017 - **Airport foam spillage prompts fishing warning** - People should avoid recreational fishing near the Brisbane Airport following a foam spillage that is believed responsible for a small fish kill.

The foam was believed to have contained Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), one of the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

20 April 2017 - **Online tool promotes consistent quality care** - A new web based information tool to support General Practitioners and other health care providers is being developed to better manage patients in South Australia. In partnership with the Adelaide Primary Health Network and the Country SA Primary Health Network, SA Health will implement HealthPathways, a comprehensive, evidence based information, assessment, management and referral resource. The online tool will ensure the consistent management of patients across the state. It will encourage the use of community based care options and improve the consistency and quality of referrals for people who may require specialist outpatient services. This will ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place at the right time.

12 April 2017 - **Revolutionary cancer app creates more jobs in SA** - The creators of a revolutionary app that helps doctors diagnose, manage and treat skin cancer will set up shop in Adelaide, creating up to 25 high tech jobs in the Health Industries sector.

10 April 2017 - **World-class cancer day centre unveiled at New RAH** - The State Government has today unveiled the new state-of-the-art Cancer Day Centre at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital that will deliver 17,000 treatments each year to South Australians with cancer.

12 April 17 - **Beware of measles hot spots these school holidays** - Families planning their school holiday getaway are reminded to ensure their measles vaccinations are up to date, especially if they are travelling overseas. SA Health's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paddy Phillips said while we are yet to see a measles case in South Australia this year, national data shows the number of cases is relatively high in comparison to previous years.

"We're only just over three months in to 2017 yet nationally we have seen 43 cases of measles, the majority of which were acquired in Bali, compared to just 99 cases around the country for the whole of 2016," Professor Phillips said.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)

19 April - **DHHS helps with Queensland recovery** - Four Department of Health and Human Services staff flew out of the state recently to help with the Queensland cyclone and flood recovery. The Tasmanian Government has an agreement with the Queensland Government to provide more personnel, this time to help people, families and communities with their immediate and mid-term post cyclone and flood recovery needs.

17 April 2017 - **\$6.4 billion record investment in Tasmania's health system** - The Hodgman Liberal Government has made rebuilding Tasmania's health system a key priority and this is reflected in the actions we have taken. We are investing an unprecedented \$6.4 billion over the 2016-17 Budget and Forward Estimates, \$600 million more than the former Labor-Green Government's last Budget -including opening beds, conducting more surgeries and employing more frontline clinical staff.

13 April 2017 - **Extended Care Paramedics start in the South** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to investing in health at the Royal Hobart Hospital and that is why we have employed three Extended Care Paramedics in the South as additional staff with greater scope of practice. The three paramedics, Matt, Tegan and Elise, completed a 10-week intensive training course in February and are now working independently to reduce the need to transport patients to hospital Emergency Departments. Extended Care Paramedics are part of our \$5.6 million Patients First initiative which is all about ensuring patients get the care they need sooner.

Victoria. Department of Health

21 April 2017 - **Wangaratta Hospital Revamp To Treat Patients Sooner** - More Wangaratta patients will get the critical care they need closer to home, thanks to an Andrews Labor Government funding boost to redevelop Wangaratta Hospital.

Premier Daniel Andrews today joined Minister for Health Jill Hennessy, Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes and local residents to announce that the much-loved hospital would receive \$15.2 million through the Labor Government's new *Regional Health Infrastructure Fund*.

The funding boost will see a new 12-bed critical care unit built, increasing the capacity of the current unit by an extra four beds. The additional beds will support more patients in need of specialist intensive care and life support.

20 April 2017 - **New Eating Disorder Support Provides Food For Thought** - Teaching staff will be provided with more resources to support young people in an Australian first initiative to tackle disordered eating. Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley today joined Member for Niddrie Ben Carroll to launch Food For Thought, a program developed by headspace, at Buckley Park College. *Food for Thought* will help to support staff in secondary schools to be able to identify and respond to disordered eating, which can be an early indicator of an eating disorder.

20 April 2017 - **More Support For New Parents And Their Children** - New parents and their babies will receive even more support under an expansion of the Maternal Child Health Service. Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos today announced that 37,000 families will now be able to rely on expanded Enhanced Maternal and Child Health services until their child turns three.

19 April 2017 - **New 4D Scanners Give A Clearer Picture Of Lung Health** - A world-first scanner – manufactured right here in Victoria – will provide four-dimensional respiratory analysis to better diagnose and treat lung conditions.

19 April 2017 - **Monash Emergency Expansion To Treat Kids Quicker** - The Andrews Labor Government will expand the Monash Medical Centre emergency department, with an exclusive area just for children so our sickest kids get the care they need sooner. As the first young patients move into the new co-located Monash Children's Hospital, Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced the \$63.2 million boost, included as part of the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*.

The investment will mean more adult and paediatric beds and more space, and will give doctors and nurses the modern facilities they need to deliver the highest quality emergency care, more quickly.

Emergency areas for adults and children will be separated, ensuring children are treated with the privacy they need. Mental health patients will also have their own dedicated area.

17 April 2017 - **Boosting Forensic Mental Health Services To Keep Us Safe** - To help address the root causes of crime and keep Victorians safe, the Andrews Labor Government will expand mental health support for those who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system. With a focus on preventing offending in the first place, the funding will mean more forensic mental health beds, more specialist treatment and create a range of community, prison and court programs.

13 April 2017 - **New Life-Saving Helipad Ready To Take Off At Monash** - A brand new helipad on the roof of the Monash Children's Hospital is ready to help save lives by providing a faster and more direct route to vital emergency care. Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy today officially opened the helipad for time-critical emergency air ambulance transfers to both the new Monash Children's Hospital and Monash Medical Centre.

The Andrews Labor Government provided \$3.8 million to build a helipad on the rooftop of the Monash Children's Hospital, after it was cut from the project by the former Liberal Government.

12 April 2017 - **More Shade To Protect Victorians From UV Radiation** - The Andrews Labor Government is installing more shade and trees in community spaces to protect Victorians from harmful UV radiation. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced 228 recipients that will share in \$1.78 million from the second round of the Community Shade Grant Program.

11 April 2017 - **Paramedics And Ambulances Fast-Tracked To Save Lives** - The Andrews Labor Government has fast-tracked 12 new paramedic teams and 13 new vehicles across Victoria, as part of its record \$500 million plan to improve ambulance response times and save lives.

11 April 2017 - **Paramedics Fast-Tracked To Save Lives In Wyndham Vale** - The Andrews Labor Government has fast-tracked a new paramedic team in the Wyndham Vale area and a new vehicle as part of its record \$500 million plan to cut ambulance response times and employ 450 new paramedics across Victoria.

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

20 April 2017 - **Practical completion for Children's Hospital** - The State Government has granted Practical Completion of the Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) project enabling it to take control of the site and address remaining building and contractual issues.

Publications

21 April 2017 - **Elective Surgery Wait List reports**

11 April 2017 - **Referrals to public outpatient surgical clinics reporting**

6 April 2017 - **Healthview**

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

19 April 2017 - **Intraoperative radiotherapy for patients with early-stage breast cancer in New Zealand: An economic assessment** - This publication provides an economic assessment of introducing Intraoperative Radiotherapy (IORT) into the New Zealand public health system for patients with early-stage breast cancer.

12 April 2017 - **A Guide to Community Engagement with People with Disabilities** - This guide offers practical advice about consulting with people with disabilities and reducing barriers to their full participation in the consultation process.

12 April 2017 - **Annual Report on Drinking-water Quality 2015-2016** - The Annual Report on Drinking-water Quality 2015-16 describes drinking-water quality for all registered networked drinking-water supplies that served populations of more than 100 people from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

12 April 2017 - **Te Ara Whakapiri: Principles and guidance for the last days of life** - This guide outlines the requirements to ensure consistent and quality care for all New Zealand adults at the end of life.

12 April 2017 - [A Strategy to Prevent Suicide in New Zealand: Draft for public consultation](#) - Public consultation document on a draft strategy to prevent suicide in New Zealand.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

18 Apr 2017 - Media release - [Cautious support for 457 visa changes](#) - It is critical that new visa arrangements strike the right balance between filling vacancies with locally trained graduates and ensuring that communities, particularly in rural and regional Australia, have enough doctors with the appropriate specialist skills and experience to meet patient need, the AuMA says.

20 April 2017 - [Consumables: an open wound for GPs](#) - Dr Richard Kidd, Chair AuMA Council of General Practice, writes in the latest edition of Australian Medicine about the ongoing dilemma faced by GPs and general practices in not being able to recoup the costs for consumables, such as bandages/dressings for treating chronic wounds. The AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, recently wrote to the Health Minister asking for the Government to consider extending the same arrangements that apply to vaccines to consumables.

20 April 2017 - [PIP eHealth Incentive Targets – what happens if you fall short?](#) - The Department of Health has advised that it will be writing to general practices who have not met their Shared Health Summary (SHS) target uploads from 1 May 2016 to 31 January 2017 under the PIP eHealth Incentive before the end of April.

What happens will be dependent on the degree to which a practice has not met the upload requirement and whether it is eligible for an exemption from the requirements for circumstances beyond its control.

20 April 2017 - [Champix moves to streamlined authority approval system](#) - GPs will be pleased to learn that from 1 May 2017 the PBS subsidised drug varenicline (Champix®) will become a streamlined authority, eliminating the need for prescribers to call the PBS Authorities line for an authority.

20 April 2017 - [PNIP Guidelines changed](#) - In other news from the Department of Human Services (DHS) new PNIP Guidelines will soon come into effect, there is a new eLearning program to help you with billing and claiming for skin services, and an updated guide for Closing the Gap (CTG) – PBS Co-payment Measure with more information to help prescribers meet the scheme's requirements.

20 April 2017 - [My Health Record to get pathology results](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency has recently advised the AuMA that pathology tests carried out at South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and The Children's Hospital at Randwick will be the first to be shared with patients signed up to the My Health Record. Other locations in NSW will be progressively going live over the coming months with work also commencing in the Northern Territory, Tasmania, ACT, and Queensland.

20 April 2017 - [Indexation freeze impacting Veterans' access to specialists](#) - A recent survey of 557 AuMA members shows that the Government's ongoing indexation freeze, which also applies to the DVA's Repatriation Medical Fee Schedule (RMFS), is having an impact on access to specialist care for the veterans' community.

20 April 2017 - [Providing Services to Veterans'](#) - To make it easier to provide services under DVA arrangements, a number of professions, including General Practitioners, are automatically registered with DVA when their Medicare Provider numbers are issued. As GPs and other practitioners providing services under DVA arrangements to veterans' are not permitted to charge a gap, DVA sets its fees above those outlined in the MBS.

20 April 2017 - [MJA: Is Australia prepared for the next pandemic?](#) - In a perspectives article in the latest Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) the authors explore Australia's preparedness for the next infectious outbreak. Infectious diseases continue to be an ongoing threat to global health security, in our modern and global world, with new human pathogens emerging and previously "controlled" diseases re-emerging.

20 April 2017 - [Australian Medicine](#) - The AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, writes about the imperative for the Government in unraveling the freeze on patient's Medicare rebates and of the advice he's provided to the Minister for Health in their discussions on the matter.

20 April 2017 - **Identify yourself as an AuMA Family Doctor** - To enhance the concept with patients of the Family Doctor, the AuMA has made available a logo for GP members to use in identifying and promoting themselves as a Family Doctor. The use of the 2017 AuMA Family Doctor Logo is a sign to the community and your medical and health professional colleagues that you provide patient-centred, holistic, and longitudinal medical care.

12 April 2017 - **Last chance to nominate - 2017 AuMA Public Health Awards** - GPs are reminded that nominations for the AuMA Public Health Awards close on COB Wednesday 19 April 2017. These Awards provide well-deserved recognition of the extraordinary contribution doctors and associated health groups make to health care and public health.

12 April 2017 - **Digital Health can provide opportunities to enhance health care delivery** - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, speaking to ABC Radio Adelaide last week said that while digital health and digital platforms will play an increasing role in the delivery of health care in the future, it is best served where there's a pre-existing relationship between the doctor and patient. Dr Bartone noting the awareness and understanding of a patient's history is vital when making care decisions without a visual or in-person consultation.

12 April 2017 - **Pharmacists in General Practice needed** - A paper recently published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics* reviewed the impact of drug-drug interactions among elderly patients and their side-effect symptoms. Studies like this reinforce the case for medication reviews as well as the AuMA's proposal to integrate pharmacists into general practices. The latter would help improve medication management, reduce adverse drug events (ADEs) and, according to independent modelling, deliver around \$545m in savings to the health system over four years.

12 April 2017 - **Be alert to Dengue** - In an interview with MJA Insight, Dr Alex Tai, one of the authors of a research paper on the management of dengue in Australian travelers, warns that Australian clinicians should be familiar with the clinical manifestations of dengue, key warning signs of severe dengue, and with its management. This warning, comes after a retrospective analysis of confirmed dengue cases showed that a significant proportion of patients were misdiagnosed with one-fifth prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs putting them at risk of life-threatening complications.

12 April 2017 - **2017 NIP seasonal influenza vaccines** - GPs will welcome the news that the 2017 National Immunisation Program (NIP) seasonal influenza vaccines are currently being distributed around the country. Promotional material and information about this year's vaccine is being sent out but is attached for your convenience.

ABOUT US

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