



# HEALTH ALERT

7 March 2016

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## JUDGMENTS

### Victoria

26 February 2016 - [Inquest into death of Maree Rosalie Jones](#) - Ms Jones was admitted to hospital after she threatened suicide. Originally being admitted voluntarily, she was sent to the hospital's acute-care department, consisting of a secure unit (**ECU**) and a low dependency unit (**LDU**), as an involuntary patient. Originally assessed as a high suicide risk, she was transferred from the ECU to the LDU subject to continuous observations. Approximately one day later she committed suicide by securing a plastic bag over her head with a fabric pyjama cord.

The Coroner examined the hospital's risk management. Prior to Ms Jones' death, the facility did not allow ligature items (such as belts, shoelaces and cord) or plastic bags in the ECU but allowed both in the LDU at staff discretion. The inquest found that the decision to transfer Ms Jones to the LDU was reasonable, and the necessary observations were conducted. Following her death, the hospital instigated several reforms, including a ban on plastic bags in the entire acute-care department, and greater searching of patients in the LDU and during transfer to confiscate dangerous items.

The Coroner commended these policies and with reference to the coronial findings in a similar case of death by asphyxiation with ligature at another hospital, the Coroner urged St Vincent's and hospitals generally to apply consistent policies in regards to the confiscation of all items capable of being used as a ligature across entire acute care units.

24 February 2016 - [Kemp v Medical Board of Australia \(Review and Regulation\) \[2016\] VCAT 290](#) - Review and Regulation List – conditions imposed on medical practitioner's registration by Immediate Action Committee of the Board – application for stay of two of the eight conditions for a period of six weeks to enable practitioner to put in place arrangements for group practice – limited stay granted – Health Practitioner Regulation National Law s.156; Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998 s. 50.

28 February 2016 - [Inquest into the Death of Yamini Bhadrayu Patel](#) - Findings into the death of Yamini Bhadrayu Patel

### New South Wales

1 March 2016 - [Macquarie International Health Clinic Pty Ltd v Sydney Local Health District; Sydney Local Health District v Macquarie Health Corporation Ltd; Macquarie International Health Clinic Pty Ltd v City of Sydney Council \(No 9\) \[2016\] NSWSC 155](#) - In 1997, Macquarie International were granted development consent to demolish two existing buildings and build a new private hospital and medical centre with adjoining road and commercial car park on the site. The construction was opposed by the Sydney Local Health District (**Sydney LHD**) on the grounds that the consent had lapsed because Macquarie had failed to demonstrate a genuine commitment to the project that had been approved. In NSW, development consent lapses five years after the date it is granted unless it can be proven that "engineering and construction relating to the building, subdivision or work" has "physically commenced". Macquarie submitted that work already completed could satisfy this exception. The work completed included the demolition of existing buildings, bulk excavation and remediating, and construction incidental to the erection of the hospital.

Sydney LHD argued that the focus should be on the building of the hospital itself and that construction must include the core activities of the overall project. It submitted that the work done during those five years was generic and did not demonstrate the requisite intention to complete the project for which it had achieved consent. The Court found that regardless of the type of work completed, construction works had undoubtedly commenced. It dismissed the suggestions of Sydney LHD that these works needed to have been substantial in relation to the hospital or the health aspects of the construction. Accordingly, the court ordered that Macquarie is entitled to a declaration that the consent had not lapsed.

1 March 2016 - [Attorney General of New South Wales v McGuire \[2016\] NSWSC 158](#) - MENTAL HEALTH – Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1900 – forensic patient – limiting term expired – extension under supervision – application for further extension – whether patient poses continuing unacceptable risk – meaning of unacceptable risk – need for continued medication and supervision in

relation thereto – patient has improved but not sufficiently to allow self-medication on a voluntary basis – extension granted for 12 months so that more frequent assessments may be made

### Western Australia

26 February 2016 - *Medical Board of Australia v Veetill* [2015] WASAT 124 - Medical practitioner - National Law - Sexual conduct - Professional misconduct - Improper access to patient's records - Unsatisfactory professional performance

2 March 2016 - *Sklavos v Australasian College of Dermatologists* [2016] FCA 179 - NEGLIGENCE – Civil Liability Act 2002 (NSW) – duty of care – special relationships and duties – whether duty to prevent psychiatric injury – standard of care – whether precautions could have been taken in disciplinary process – causation – pre-existing likelihood of developing injury.

3 March 2016 - *Multigate Medical Devices Pty Ltd v B Braun Melsungen AG* [2016] FCAFC 21 - PATENTS – intravenous catheters – safety needle protecting devices – construction of integers of claims – infringement – infringement claim upheld by primary judge – leave to appeal granted – appeal allowed in part

### South Australia

25 February 2016 - *Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia v Walker* [2016] SAHPT 2 - Complainant alleges that the respondent behaved in a way that constitutes professional misconduct - The complainant alleges eight grounds of misconduct by the respondent - The respondent admits that the eight alleged grounds amount to professional misconduct - The respondent engaged in conduct in presenting forged and false documents, knowingly making false representations that he held a Master's Degree and falsely representing that he held an endorsement on his registration and was entitled to practise as a nurse practitioner - Prior to the hearing of this matter the respondent made certain admissions and at the hearing through his counsel admitted that his conduct set out in each of grounds 1-8 inclusive of the complaint amounted to professional misconduct - Held: The Tribunal finds that the respondent's conduct as pleaded in grounds 1-8 inclusive of the complaint herein is professional misconduct within the meaning of Section 5 of Schedule 2 to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010 - The Tribunal is satisfied that appropriate public protection and discipline are achieved by: A reprimand - Suspension of the respondent's registration as a nurse for twelve months - Conditions are imposed on the respondent's registration - The respondent must complete education approved by the complainant or its delegate within six months of the imposition of these conditions in the area of ethics in the practice of nursing - The respondent must provide the complainant with evidence of successful completion of the education within one month of completion of the education - The respondent is to be responsible for meeting any reasonable costs arising from compliance with the conditions - The review period for the conditions is twelve months - In the event that the respondent changes his principal place of practice to New South Wales then the appropriate review body for conditions on registration is the Medical Council of New South Wales - The conditions will remain in force until such time as they are set aside on appeal or the complainant agrees to their amendment or removal - A failure to comply with these conditions may constitute behaviour for which action may be taken under Part 8 of the National Law - The respondent is to pay the complainant's costs of and incidental to these proceedings to be agreed or in default of agreement adjudicated by the Tribunal - Ss 193, 195, 196 Health Practitioners Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010.

### Queensland

3 February 2016 - *Medical Board of Australia v Maharajh* [2015] QCAT 504 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS – LICENSES AND REGISTRATION – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – OTHER MATTERS – where registrant a former psychiatrist in New Zealand – where registrant made false declaration on employment application whilst being investigated in New Zealand – whether decision or findings of another jurisdiction may be adopted – where registrant found guilty of professional misconduct in New Zealand – where professional misconduct by registrant – whether the registrant be disqualified from applying for registration for a period – where registrant was disqualified for applying for registration for a period

## United Kingdom

26 February 2016 - [Lillington v Ansell & Anor \[2016\] EWHC 351 \(QB\)](#)

26 February 2016 - [The Secretary of State for Health & Anor v Servier Laboratories Ltd \[2016\] EWHC 366 \(Ch\)](#)

2 March 2016 - [John v Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust \[2016\] EWHC 407](#)

3 March 2016 - [PeCe Beheer BV & Anor v Alevere Ltd & Ors \[2016\] EWHC 434 \(IPEC\)](#)

Legislation

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

## Commonwealth

2 March 2016 - [Narcotic Drugs Amendment Act 2016](#) C2016A00012 Act No. 12 of 2016 - as made

1 March 2016 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 13 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00216 PB 13 of 2016 - as made

1 March 2016 - [National Health \(Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 14 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00213 PB 14 of 2016 - as made

1 March 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Prudential Supervision\) Amendment Rules 2016 \(No. 1\)](#) F2016L00207 - as made

1 March 2016 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical benefits - early supply\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 12 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00200 PB 12 of 2016 - as made

1 March 2016 - [National Health \(Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No.1\) \(PB 15 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00202 PB 15 of 2016 - as made

29 February 2016 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 16 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00185 PB 16 of 2016 - as made

29 February 2016 - [National Health \(Remote Aboriginal Health Services Program\) Special Arrangements Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 17 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00183 PB 17 of 2016 - as made

26 February 2016 - [Health Legislation Amendment \(eHealth Application Day\) Proclamation 2016](#) F2016L00161 - as made

## Australian Capital Territory

2 March 2016 - [Health Legislation Amendment Act 2016](#) (Act 11/2016) - commenced

1 March 2016 - [Mental Health \(Treatment and Care\) Amendment Act 2014](#) (Act 51/2014) - commenced

1 March 2016 - [Mental Health Act 2015](#) (Act 38/2015)

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

4 March 2016 - [My Health Record gets one million more reasons to sign up](#) - The number of Australians with a digital health record will jump by more than a million, as part of the Australian Government's commitment to improving health outcomes and saving lives through digital innovation and information sharing.

3 March 2016 - [\\$129.4 million in grants to support medical research](#) - The Australian Government has awarded \$129.4 million in grants to Australia's preeminent researchers.

2 March 2016 - **Health premiums hit 4 year low after record resubmissions** - Health insurance premium increases will hit a four year-low in 2016 after a record number of insurers resubmitted lower price rises in response to a direct request from Minister for Health Sussan Ley.

1 March 2016 - **Hep C cures available today for as low as \$6.20 a prescription** - Minister for Health Sussan Ley announced Australians with Hep C would now pay just \$6.20 a prescription if they were a concession card holder or \$38.30 a prescription as a general patient for four different cures listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

29 February 2016 - **Figures reveal Ice Taskforce was the right call** - New figures from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Council revealing ice use tripled between 2009-10 and 2013-14.

28 February 2016 - **#girlsmakeyourmove for the rest of your lives** - The Turnbull Government is today launching a landmark awareness campaign to encourage younger Australian women to 'make your move' after bombshell new research found teenage girls were only half as physically active as their male peers.

23 February 2016 - **New whooping cough booster for 18 month old children** - A whooping cough booster has been added to the NIP for children at 18 months of age. The booster dose complements whooping cough containing vaccinations given at two, four and six months with booster doses given at four years and 10 to 15 years. Supplies of the vaccine will be available from March 2016.

#### Consultations

1 March 2016 - **Proposal to add condition of use on the AICS** - Interested parties are invited to submit a statement describing the reasons why a proposed condition of use should not be included in the AICS for Thioimidodicarbonic acid ((HO)C(O)NHC(S)(OH)), C,C'-dibutyl ester - Runs to 29 March 2016

#### Private Health insurance Circulars

2 March 2016 - **PHI 15/16 - 2016 Private Health Insurance Premium Round Announcement**

29 February 2016 - **PHI 14/16 - Private Hospital Information: Clarification of PH 12/16**

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

2 March 2016 - **Tribunal reprimands former pharmacist, finds unprofessional conduct** - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) has reprimanded a former pharmacist and found he engaged in unprofessional conduct.

1 March 2016 - **Newsletter from the Chinese Medicine Board** - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its February newsletter.

26 February 2016 - **Psychologist reprimanded for unsatisfactory professional conduct** - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded psychologist Kirsten McArthur after finding she engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct.

25 February 2016 - **Tribunal reprimands, removes dentist from register** -A tribunal has reprimanded a dentist and removed his name from the register of practitioners.

2 March 2016 - **Tribunal reprimands medical practitioner** - The Northern Territory Health Professional Review Tribunal (the Tribunal) has imposed conditions on a specialist general practitioner's registration.

26 February 2016 - **Tribunal reprimands surgeon for unsatisfactory professional conduct** - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) found that Dr Christopher Joseph Bourke engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct.

25 February 2016 - **Newsletter from the National Board** - The Medical Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

25 February 2016 - **Tribunal restricts practice, finds unprofessional conduct** - The ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) has found an orthopaedic surgeon engaged in unprofessional conduct

16 February 2016 - **Lessons for all in system failures at Djerriwarrh** - Australia's health practitioner regulator says there are lessons for everyone in the tragedy at the Djerriwarrh Health Service and that AHPRA is doing its part to address the system failures that let patients down.

## Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

3 March 2016 - [NHMRC Grants announcement](#) - Minister for Health Sussan Ley today awarded \$129.4 million in NHMRC grants to Australia's preeminent researchers helping fund Australia's commitment to fostering the best and brightest in health and medical research

3 March 2016 - [\\$129.4 million in grants to support medical research](#) - The Turnbull Government today awarded \$129.4 million in grants to Australia's preeminent researchers helping fund Australia's commitment to fostering the best and brightest in health and medical research. Minister for Health Sussan Ley said the grants focus on a range of health topics, including Indigenous health in the Northern Territory, developing an AIDS vaccine and tackling over-diagnosis in the Australian health sector.

19 February 2016 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

February 2016 - [NHMRC Health Tracker](#)

## Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

2 March 2016 - [Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling \(ACMS\)](#) - Updated the medicines scheduling secretariat contact information.

2 March 2016 - [Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling \(ACCS\)](#) - Updated chemicals scheduling secretariat contact information.

1 March 2016 - [LCS Complete RPS Knee System \(used in knee replacements\)](#) - Hazard alert - higher than expected revision rate when used without patella resurfacing.

1 March 2016 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Chenodeoxycholic acid and Thiotepea (TEPADINA).

1 March 2016 - [TGA business plan 2015-2016](#) - The TGA Business Plan for 2015-16 is now available.

1 March 2016 - [Common Technical Document Module 1: OTC medicines](#) - CTD Module 1 requirements for an effective OTC medicines application commences 1 March 2016.

1 March 2016 - [Mandatory requirements for an effective over-the-counter medicines application](#) - The requirements for an effective OTC medicines application commences 1 March 2016.

1 March 2016 - [Medical Devices Safety Update, Volume 4, Number 2, March 2016](#) - In this issue: endoscope reprocessing; device cybersecurity a key issue; safely retaining devices; sponsor workshops; recent safety alerts.

29 February 2016 - [The Poisons Standard \(the SUSMP\)](#) - New edition of the Poisons Standard SUSMP No. 11.

29 February 2016 - [Maxagra capsules](#) Recall - products contain undeclared substances.

26 February 2016 - [ConceivePlease one step hCG urine pregnancy test](#) - Recall – potential decreased sensitivity and risk of false negative results.

## Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

On the Radar – 29 February 2016 – Issue 262 ([PDF 240KB](#)) ([Word 1587KB](#))

Publications

23 February 2016 - [Guide to the NSQHS Standards for community health services, February 2016](#)

19 February 2016 - [Credentialing health practitioners and defining their scope of clinical practice – A guide for managers and practitioners, December 2015](#)

4 January 2016 - [A15/05: Accreditation assessment requirements of health service organisations post significant clinical or governance review](#)

## Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA)

2 March 2016 - [APRA releases intermediated general insurance statistics for December 2015](#) - The *Intermediated General Insurance Statistics* publication provides an overview of intermediated general

insurance placed with APRA-authorised general insurers, Lloyd's underwriters and unauthorised foreign insurers (UFIs). The statistical tables include detailed information about risks placed with UFIs.

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

2 March 2016 - **New Greenway ambulance station on budget, on schedule** - The Tuggeranong community will be serviced by a new ambulance station from the end of April, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Simon Corbell announced today.

1 March 2016 - **The new Mental Health Act 2015 comes into effect** - The new *Mental Health Act 2015* has come into effect, giving those in the ACT living with mental illness greater opportunities to contribute to decisions on their treatment, care and support.

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

Policy Directives & Guidelines

2 March 2016 - **Management of the Adult Brain Dead Potential Organ and Tissue Donor** GL2016\_008

1 March 2016 - **Clinical Care of People Who May Be Suicidal** PD2016\_007

Information Bulletins

29 February 2016 - **Pharmaceutical Charges for Hospital Outpatients and Safety Net Thresholds** IB2016\_007

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

1 March 2016 **Dr Matthew Rixon – restrictions on medical practice and health conditions imposed**

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

1 March 2016 - **Further medical assistance deployed to Fiji** - A second Australian Medical Assistance Team has been deployed on behalf of the Australian Government by the Darwin-based National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre. The medical team of 15 personnel supplements the six person Australian Medical Assistance Team (AusMAT) deployed to Suva in Fiji last week and brings the number of AusMAT personnel in Fiji to 21.

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

1 March 2016 **Queensland to pursue progressive medicinal cannabis regime** The Federal Government passed legislation last week to allow domestic cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis products. More Queensland patients will have access to medicinal cannabis under new legislation proposed by State Government. The dedicated Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 creates a formal process for doctors to prescribe medicinal cannabis for their patient's treatment.

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

2 March 2016 - **Zika Virus case confirmed in South Australia** - SA Health has today confirmed that a 25 year old man who recently returned from overseas has tested positive to the Zika virus. SA Health Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paddy Phillips said the man, who has now recovered, acquired the virus overseas and there is no risk to the public in South Australia from this case because the mosquito that spreads the Zika virus is not in South Australia

1 March 2016 - **Helping home dialysis families enjoy a rare break** - For most people holidaying with family and friends is a part of everyday Australian life, however for six families who need dialysis three times a week, having a holiday is extra special. Home Dialysis Clinical Services Co-ordinator for the Central Northern Adelaide Renal Transplant Services, Serena Frasca, said the Country Health SA (CHSA) mobile dialysis unit will spend five days at Clare Caravan Park, providing treatment to patients and respite for loved ones.

28 February 2016 - **Proactively disclosing patient privacy breaches** - The number of staff disciplined for inappropriately accessing patient records will be publicly released every three months and there will be an immediate review of the policies and procedures surrounding open disclosure within the state's health system.

## Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

2 March 2016 - **Mersey Hospital on track to become a dedicated Elective Surgery Centre** - A critical part of our Plan to reduce elective surgery waiting lists is to utilise the Mersey Hospital as a dedicated elective surgery centre.

2 March 2016 - **New inpatient facility a critical part of RHH Redevelopment** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is building a better health system with major investments around the state in improved facilities.

1 March 2016 - **New Hepatitis C medications welcomed on PBS** - I welcome the listing of new hepatitis C medications on the national Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) today.

29 February 2016 - **Request for Proposals – To Provide Family Violence Counselling Services for Children, Young People and/or Adults** - Children and Youth Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is seeking to engage community sector organisation(s) to deliver counselling services to children, young people and/or adults who have experienced family violence.

27 February 2016 - **\$4 million dollar upgrade of Allied Health at LGH** - Creating a better health system for everyone is a major focus of the Hodgman Liberal Government.

## Victoria. Department of Health

2 March 2016 - **New children's hub benefits Springvale families** - A new integrated children's centre in Springvale brings together kindergarten and family and children's health services under the one roof, meaning better access for Springvale families. Premier and Member for Mulgrave Daniel Andrews and Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos opened the \$1 million Springvale Rise Primary Kindergarten today, co-located next to Springvale Rise Primary School.

29 February 2016 - **Call to honour Victoria's health volunteers** - Victorians are being encouraged to nominate inspirational health volunteers for the 2016 Minister for Health Volunteer Awards. These awards celebrate individuals who volunteer to support the health and wellbeing of those around them, with award recipients to be recognised at special ceremony on 18 May 2016

28 February 2016 - **New China-Victoria medical exchange to boost skills and research** - Victorian medical students will have the opportunity to expand their skills and experience through a new partnership between Monash University and Wenzhou Medical School. Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, yesterday formally secured the agreement following meetings with representatives from Zhejiang Province and the Wenzhou Medical School. An existing medical student exchange program between the University of Melbourne and Zhejiang University will also be boosted and expanded as a result of today's meetings.

28 February 2016 - **Planning secures safe helicopter paths for hospitals** - Planning controls to protect helicopter flight paths have been locked in around six Victorian hospitals. The controls will allow for development near hospitals while maintaining a clear path for helicopters coming to and from helipads. The paths have been secured to and from the Warragul, Frankston, Alfred, Royal Childrens and Royal Melbourne hospitals and the Monash Medical Centre in Clayton.

26 February 2016 - **China visit to drive health and medical research exports** - A nine-day visit to China is expected to deliver a significant boost to Victoria's economy through new agreements focusing on medical training, health technology and collaborative research. Led by the Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, the visit will build on Victoria's reputation as a world leader in medical research and innovation to further strengthen ties between Victoria and China

25 February 2016 - **Shade grants to protect Victorian school students** - The first round of the Andrews Labor Government's School Shade Grants Program is now open to help Victorian Government schools provide much needed shade for students. The School Shade Grants Program provides grants of up to \$25,000 for shade development, including building new shade, repairing existing shade or creating natural shade by planting trees. We know that childhood and adolescence are critical periods during which exposure to UV radiation is more likely to contribute to skin cancer later in life.

25 February 2016 - **Top specialist appointed as quality and safety leader** - Experienced cardiologist Associate Professor Andrew Wilson has been appointed as the State's Chief Medical Officer. His



appointment follows the uncovering last year of the tragic events at Djerriwarrh Health Services which led to a number of women learning their baby's death could possibly have been avoided.

24 February 2016 - **Pedal Power funding boost for North East Victoria** - Victoria's North East is a step closer to becoming one of the world's premier destinations for trail cycle tourism, with a funding boost from the Andrews Labor Government. Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford today announced funding of \$205,000 to support projects to enhance and extend existing trails and create new links between the Murray to Mountains and High Country Rail Trails.

23 February 2016 - **New law gives all donor-conceived Victorians the right to know their heritage** - All donor-conceived Victorians will now be able to access available identifying information about their donors and heritage from 1 March 2017 without donor consent.

## **Western Australia (WA). Department of Health**

### Media Releases

3 March 2016 - **Minister for Health: Broome health delivers high-quality care and services** - The official opening today of the Broome Health Campus marks the end of an eight-year redevelopment.

3 March 2016 - **New round of research funding opens** - Applications are now open for the 2016 New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Support (NIRIS) Awards.

2 March 2016 - **Rare diseases under the spotlight** - World Rare Diseases Day on 29 February aimed a spotlight on people living or affected by rare disease and raised broader awareness of their conditions.

1 March 2016 - **Minister for Mental Health: \$2.5 million to build suicide prevention skills** - The State Government today announced \$200,000 in grants for suicide prevention training programs, including education for high-risk groups.

1 March 2016 - **Minister for Health: Lotterywest grant funds new RFDS hangar** - A \$3.9 million Lotterywest grant will support the construction of a new hangar and office facility at the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Western Australia's Jandakot head office.

1 March 2016 - **Don't let your Year 8 miss free immunisations** - WA Health is reminding parents of Year 8 students to sign and return their immunisation consent form to ensure that their child does not miss out on the free immunisation program offered through secondary schools.

1 March 2016 - **Minister for Mental Health: \$2.5 million to build suicide prevention skills** - The State Government today announced \$200,000 in grants for suicide prevention training programs, including education for high-risk groups.

29 February 2016 - **Minister for Health: Awards recognise nursing excellence in WA** - Now in its twelfth year, the annual WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards will be held again in May to honour Western Australia's nurses and midwives.

### Operational Directives

2 March 2016 - **OD 0660/16** Adoption by WA Health of 'Series of National Guidelines' (SoNGS) produced by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia for public health management of communicable diseases.

### Publications

26 February 2016 - **Port Hedland Health Risk Assessment**

## 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.

### Contact Details

T +61 2 6201 8789

[caroline.atkins@dlapiper.com](mailto:caroline.atkins@dlapiper.com)

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact your nearest DLA Piper office:

### BRISBANE

Level 29, Waterfront Place  
1 Eagle Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
T +61 7 3246 4000  
F +61 7 3229 4077  
[brisbane@dlapiper.com](mailto:brisbane@dlapiper.com)

### CANBERRA

Level 3, 55 Wentworth Avenue  
Kingston ACT 2604  
T +61 2 6201 8787  
F +61 2 6230 7848  
[canberra@dlapiper.com](mailto:canberra@dlapiper.com)

### MELBOURNE

Level 21, 140 William Street  
Melbourne NSW 3000  
T +61 3 9274 5000  
F +61 3 9274 5111  
[melbourne@dlapiper.com](mailto:melbourne@dlapiper.com)

### PERTH

Level 31, Central Park  
152–158 St Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6000  
T +61 8 6467 6000  
F +61 8 6467 6001  
[perth@dlapiper.com](mailto:perth@dlapiper.com)

### SYDNEY

Level 22, No.1 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000  
T +61 2 9286 8000  
F +61 2 9286 8007  
[sydney@dlapiper.com](mailto:sydney@dlapiper.com)

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