



# HEALTH ALERT

13 March 2017

<b>Judgements</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Commonwealth, Federal Court</b> .....	2
<b>Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission</b> .....	2
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b> .....	2
<b>New South Wales</b> .....	2
<b>Northern Territory</b> .....	3
<b>Legislation</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>New South Wales</b> .....	3
<b>Queensland</b> .....	3
<b>International</b> .....	3
<b>Reports</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Australia. Department of Health</b> .....	4
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards.....	4
Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC).....	5
Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.....	5
Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).....	5
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare.....	6
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.....	6
New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health.....	6
Northern Territory. Department of Health.....	6
Queensland. Department of Health.....	7
<b>South Australia (SA). Department for Health &amp; Ageing</b> .....	7
<b>Victoria. Department of Health</b> .....	8
<b>Western Australia (WA). Department of Health</b> .....	8
<b>New Zealand. Ministry of Health</b> .....	9
<b>Australian Medical Association (AuMA)</b> .....	9
<b>About us</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>More information</b> .....	<b>10</b>

## JUDGEMENTS

### Commonwealth, Federal Court

3 March - *General Manager of Fair Work Commission v Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation* [2017] FCA 195 - PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – liability and penalties – Federal Court Rules 2011 (Cth) r 30.01 – whether the question of penalties for one respondent that has accepted liability should be heard before the determination of liability for another respondent where there is alleged co-contravention by those respondents.

### Commonwealth, Fair Work Commission

7 March 2017 - *Mrs Glenyce Ham v Dr Allan Clarke T/A CJ Orthopaedics Pty Ltd* [2017] FWC 1335 - APPLICATION - for relief from unfair dismissal, jurisdictional objection, whether termination at the initiative of the Employer, Orthopaedic surgeon, medical Practice Manager, impact of personal relationships on workplace, constructive dismissal, contributing conduct.

The applicant brought proceedings contending she had been unfairly dismissed by the respondent, an orthopaedic surgeon. The case concerned a meeting between the plaintiff and the respondent to discuss her conduct, in particular, the respondent was frustrated with patient complaints and he made clear that he could no longer support her in her role within his practice.

The respondent argued that dismissal had not occurred, and in fact, the applicant had resigned. The Commission rejected this submission and held that a constructive dismissal had taken place because while the applicant tendered her resignation, she was forced to do so as a result of the conduct engaged in by the respondent. The Commission stated that the respondent's indication that he would not support the applicant in her role left the applicant with no option but to resign, because if she was not supported by the respondent she could not continue to perform her role properly.

The applicant was awarded compensation in the amount of 3 weeks wages. In calculating compensation, the Commission took into account the applicant's contributing conduct to the deterioration in her professional relationship with the respondent in the lead up to the dismissal.

7 March 2017 - *Royal District Nursing Service of SA Limited T/A RDNS SA* [2017] FWCA 1299 - Application for approval of the Royal District Nursing Service of SA Ltd Nurses Enterprise Agreement 2016.

9 March 2017 - *National Mental Health Commission* [2017] FWCA 1350 - Application for approval of the National Mental Health Commission Enterprise Agreement 2017-2020.

9 March 2017 - *Linfox Australia Pty Ltd* [2017] FWCA 1363 - Application for approval of the Linfox WA Healthcare Centre Greenfields Agreement 2016.

9 March 2017 - *St John of God Health Care Inc* [2017] FWCA 1349 - Application for approval of the St John of God Health Care - ANMF - Registered Nurses' and Midwives' Agreement 2016.

### Australian Capital Territory

6 March 2017 - *Mr M v B (Discrimination)* [2017] ACAT 14 - DISCRIMINATION – direct discrimination – whether unfavourable treatment was because of race – no reasonable and definite inference of racism can be drawn from the circumstances – indirect discrimination – no disadvantage because of race – requirement necessary for health and safety – Briginshaw principle does not apply to the standard of proof – no victimisation.

### New South Wales

2 March 2017 - *Litchfield v Fairfax Digital Australia & New Zealand Pty Ltd* [2017] NSWDC 31 - TORT – defamation – imputations – form and capacity – no issue of principle.

The plaintiff, a doctor, brought proceedings for defamation against the defendant for publication of an article in the Brisbane Times titled "Drugs and sex complaints against GPs". A paragraph in the article referred to doctors who had non-consensual sexual relationships with patients, the following paragraph, in

which the plaintiff was mentioned, dealt with lesser penalty matters. The plaintiff alleged that from the location of the paragraphs in the article an inference could be made by the reader that he had non-consensual relations with patients.

The Court held that this imputation was not reasonably capable of being conveyed. The complaints in the articles against doctors were described by the Court as being a variety of offences which had a wide range of penalties. The Court stated that an ordinary reasonable reader would understand that there was no connection drawn between the facts of each of the cases in the article, and that an inference would not be drawn that the plaintiff had non-consensual relationships with his patients.

6 March 2017 - [Jung v R](#) [2017] NSWCCA 24 - CRIMINAL LAW - sentence appeal - 10 indecent assault offences under s.61L Crimes Act 1900 - two further offences taken into account on a Form 1 - offences committed by physiotherapist against six female patients during treatment - aggregate sentence of imprisonment for five years with non-parole period of three years and six months - claim of error in sentencing Judge's approach to evidence of offender's mental condition at time of offences - error not demonstrated - claim that aggregate sentence manifestly excessive - repeated offences committed against patients during treatment - abuse of trust - good character a precondition to registration as a health practitioner - offences involved gross breaches of offender's ethical obligations - need for appropriate punishment - role of general deterrence - aggregate sentence not manifestly excessive - appeal dismissed.

6 March 2017 - [Arnold v Matsias](#) [2017] NSWSC 173 - INTERROGATORIES – negligence – breach – duty of care – notice of motion.

3 March 2017 - [Attia v Health Care Complaints Commission](#) [2017] NSWSC 178 - ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – appeal from decision of the Civil and Administrative Tribunal that the plaintiff's registration as a pharmacist be cancelled – where cancellation order implemented by a separate statutory agency prior to commencement of appeal – application for interlocutory restorative injunction – whether Court has power to order the agency to reinstate the plaintiff's name to the register pending determination of the appeal – factors relevant to the exercise of any such discretion.

### Northern Territory

2 March 2017 - [Hunter v Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#) [2017] NTCAT 109

8 March 2017 - [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia v Scott \(Review and Regulation\)](#) [2017] VCAT 334 - Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009 – ss 5 & 196 – suicide of in-patient in psychiatric inpatient service in context of failure by registered nurse to conduct 30 minutely observations or ensure such were conducted by other persons - failure by registered nurse to appropriately comply with supervision condition on registration.

## LEGISLATION

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

### New South Wales

9 March 2017 - [Public Health \(Medicinal Cannabis\) Bill 2017](#) - Introduced and Second Reading Speech

### Queensland

4 March 2017 - [Mental Health Amendment Bill 2016](#) - Assent and commencement

3 March - [Mental Health Amendment Act 2017](#) - Assent and commencement of Act except Section 50A, to the extent it inserts new chapter 18A, parts 3 and 4 Reports.

### International

9 March - [Repeal and Replacement of Obamacare Begins](#) - Policy changes to unfold in coming months.

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

#### Media releases

10 March 2017 - **\$115 million for more Commonwealth Home Support services across Australia** - More older Australians will be able to continue to live independently at home and in their communities with \$115 million in extra aged-care funding support from the Australian Government.

9 March 2017 - **Quality Aged Care – Have Your Say** - Quality aged care for older people is vital for the whole community. This is why the Australian Government is introducing a Single Aged Care Quality Framework across aged care from July 2018.

8 March 2017 - **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health** — My Life, My Lead is a new online public consultation portal to highlight the issues that support or impede Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have good health.

8 March 2017 - **Turnbull Government supports female sporting leaders** - The Australian Government is backing the next generation of female leaders in sport with the launch of a new initiative aimed at encouraging more participation throughout Australia and a greater representation at the elite level.

7 March 2017 - **\$31 million boost to student training opportunities at James Cook University** - Medical students in Mackay will receive greater opportunities to train under the Australian Government's continued investment in the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program.

6 March 2017 - **Coalition to deliver more doctors for regional and rural Australia** - Hundreds of new junior doctors are set to experience work as a general practitioner in regional and rural Australia through a new Australian Government initiative.

6 March 2017 - **RFI – Seeking advice on new IT payments system** - The Australian Government is seeking to replace IT systems supporting health and aged care and related veterans' payments.

5 March 2017 - **Nominations now open for Commonwealth Games baton bearers** - As the countdown to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) continues, the Australia Government is delighted to announce that nominations for baton bearers are now open.

5 March 2017 - **Protecting Australians from influenza in 2017** - The Australian Government has secured a supply of new vaccines which protect against four strains of influenza virus for the 2017 season.

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

10 March 2017 - **Update on the status of investigations - health practitioners associated with Djerriwarrh Health Services (Bacchus Marsh)** - In 2015 the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) in Victoria was alerted to a cluster of potentially avoidable newborn and stillborn deaths at Bacchus Marsh Hospital (Djerriwarrh Health Services).

9 March 2017 - **Optometry regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16** - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Optometry Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

9 March 2017 - **Podiatry regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16** - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Podiatry Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

8 March 2017 - **First national health support service for nurses and midwives launches today** - Nurses and midwives now have 24 hour access to confidential health support anywhere in Australia, after an independent health service launched today.

8 March 2017 - **New accreditation publications about costs and international accreditation systems** - Two new papers have been published today about key aspects of the accreditation functions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

8 March 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Podiatry Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

7 March 2017 - [Chiropractic regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16](#) - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Chiropractic Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

7 March 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Psychology Board of Australia has released the February 2017 communiqué.

7 March 2017 - [Medical radiation practice regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16](#) - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

7 March 2017 - [Occupational therapy regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16](#) - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

7 March 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

7 March 2017 - [Osteopathy regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16](#) - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Osteopathy Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

7 March 2017 - [Physiotherapy regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16](#) - A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

6 March 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

6 March 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communiqué.

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

#### **NHMRC Research Tracker—10 March 2017**

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

7 March 2017 - [Recommendations made by the PBAC - November 2016](#) - The outcomes for tolvaptan and trifluridine with tipiracil from the November 2016 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) meeting are now available.

6 March 2017 - [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder \(COPD\) Review - Stakeholder Forum](#) - A Stakeholder Forum will be held for the Post-market Review of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) Medicines on 21 March 2017 in Sydney.

3 March 2017 - [PBAC Public Summary Documents - November 2016 meeting](#) - The Public Summary Documents (positive recommendations and subsequent decisions not to recommend) from the [November 2016 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee \(PBAC\) meeting](#) are now available.

3 March 2017 - [Drug Utilisation Sub Committee \(DUSC\) Utilisation Analysis Public Release Documents](#) - The Utilisation Analysis Public Release Documents from the September 2016 Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC) Meeting are now available.

#### **Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)**

9 March 2017 - [Placebo Tablets](#) - Counterfeit Placebo tablets- Safety Alert.

9 March 2017 - [Counterfeit Tadalafil 100mg Tablets](#) - Counterfeit Tadalafil 100mg tablets- Safety Alert.

9 March 2017 - [Africa Black Ant capsules](#) - Counterfeit Africa Black Ant capsules- Safety Alert.

8 March 2017 - [MRA GMP clearance application processing timelines](#) - Updates to MRA clearance application processing timelines.



8 March 2017 - [Submissions received: Guidance on biovigilance responsibilities of sponsors of biologicals](#) - Submissions received on the draft Guidance on biovigilance responsibilities of sponsors of biologicals consultation have been published.

7 March 2017 - [Zostavax vaccine](#) - Safety advisory – not to be used in patients with compromised immune function.

7 March 2017 - [Medtronic StrataMR Valves and Shunts](#) - Hazard alert – potential for under-drainage.

6 March 2017 - [Infections associated with heater-cooler devices](#) - TGA is conducting a product safety review into all heater-cooler devices supplied in Australia.

6 March 2017 - [Flu vaccine: 2017 seasonal influenza vaccines for use in children](#) - This year, only quadrivalent vaccines will be available.

6 March 2017 - [2017 seasonal influenza vaccines](#) - This year, only quadrivalent vaccines will be available.

6 March 2017 - [Stability testing for prescription medicines](#) - Update to Stability testing of prescription medicines.

6 March 2017 - [Consultations on adoption of European Union guidelines in Australia](#) - Consultation: EU guidelines proposed for adoption. Closing date: 18 April 2017.

3 March 2017 - [Updates to the list of designated orphan drugs](#) - Added Idebenone (RAXONE) and Arsenic Trioxide (PHENASEN).

3 March 2017 - [Half yearly performance snapshot: July to December 2016](#) - The Half Yearly Performance Snapshot for July to December 2016 is now available.

2 March 2017 - [TGA presentation: ARCS webinar, 17 February 2017](#) - An overview of the reform initiatives relevant to complementary medicines.

#### **Australian Institute of Health & Welfare**

10 March 2017 - [Hospital care for patients aged 85 and over, 2014–15 \(web report\)](#)

10 March 2017 [Deaths in Australian hospitals 2014–15 \(web report\)](#)

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

On the Radar – 6 March 2017 – Issue 313 ([PDF 172KB](#)) ([Word 142KB](#))

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

##### Media Releases

7 March 2017 - [Seventh NSW resident returns from OS with measles in 2017](#) - NSW Health is again urging people to vaccinate against measles and watch for symptoms, after the seventh NSW resident in nine weeks returned to Australia with the disease. Dr Vicky Sheppeard, Director Communicable Diseases NSW Health, said people should particularly watch for symptoms if they were in the same locations as the latest measles case who become infectious in Thailand before returning to Sydney.

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

7 March 2017 - [Statement on Alcohol Review](#) - The Government's position on Dan Murphy's hasn't changed – they are welcome in the Territory but must abide by the same rules as everyone else.

We recognise that while everyone has the right to enjoy a drink responsibly, alcohol abuse is a significant cause of violence and crime in our community. We came to Government with clear policies - like bringing back the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) and a review of the Liquor Act - to tackle alcohol abuse and make our community safer. There will be a comprehensive public review of the Northern Territory's alcohol policies and legislation, including the Liquor Act, in order to develop an evidence-based overarching alcohol harm minimisation strategy.

## Queensland. Department of Health

10 March 2017 - **Stroke of genius from Fraser Coast social workers** - Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick has praised social workers on the Fraser Coast who are helping ease the huge emotional toll on patients following a stroke.

9 March 2017 - **'Mork and Mindy' make record number of organ transplants possible** - Queensland saw a record 199 kidneys transplanted in 2016 – 60 more than in 2015, thanks to two transport devices affectionately called Mork and Mindy.

9 March 2017 - **Pēpi-Pods program promotes safe sleep for newborns** - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander newborns will sleep more safely and soundly under a new Queensland Government 'safe sleeping' initiative to distribute Pēpi-Pods to new mothers.

9 March 2017 - **Behind the scenes: where we get our information about healthy eating** - At Queensland Health, we base our advice and information about healthy eating on the **Australian Dietary Guidelines**<sup>1</sup> (the Guidelines).

9 March 2017 - **Why can't I get a free mammogram if I'm under 40?** - Breast Screen Queensland provides free, high quality breast cancer screening and assessment services for women aged 50 to 74 years, as this is the age group where the benefits from screening have been most clearly demonstrated.

8 March 2017 - **Nurse navigators guide Wide Bay patients** - Wide Bay patients with complex health care needs will be able to navigate the Queensland health system more efficiently, thanks to the help of their appointed nurse navigators.

8 March 2017 - **Our workforce is 75 per cent women, but we have more to do** - 75% of Queensland Health employees are female. While this statistic is representative of the entire Queensland Health workforce, when broken down it reveals there is not equity in many senior teams and positions. Queensland Health is a leader in women's participation in the workforce, and endeavours to continue bridging the gap towards greater diversity system-wide. But while we are a leader in overall participation, we also have segregation occurring where women are concentrated in nursing, for example, and men are concentrated in technical streams.

7 March 2017 - **Thursday Island scientist honoured** - Marita Sagigi, Senior Scientist from the Pathology unit on Thursday Island has been recognised for her hard work in improving pathology services in Queensland's northern sector.

7 March 2017 - **Healthy Hearing: Accuscreen delivering hearing screening for newborns** - In August 2016, the Healthy Hearing program began using a new hearing loss screening device for newborns. Queensland was the first jurisdiction to introduce the new Accuscreen device that completes a hearing screening in as little as 12 seconds, compared to the older Algo3 or 3i technology which could take up to seven minutes.

8 March 2017 - **Wide Bay set to clean up** - More than 10 permanent jobs will be created with the expansion of Queensland Health's Wide Bay Group Linen Services (GLS) to accommodate linen demand from the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH).

6 March 2017 - **New health powers to combat infection risks** - Cabinet today authorised the preparation of legislation to give health officials tough new powers to investigate, shut down and fine facilities putting people at risk of serious infections.

3 March 2017 - **Nicholls should apologise to the Wide Bay nurses and midwives he sacked** - Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls should use his trip to Bundaberg this weekend to apologise to the 107 Wide Bay nurses and midwives his government sacked when he was Treasurer in the LNP Newman Government, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick said today.

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

8 March 2017 - **CHSALHN - Media release: More funding and staff for Mt Gambier Hospital** - An additional \$536,000 a year to boost the number of doctors headlines Country Health SA's response to Health SA's response to HGgsjvdjvjan independent review of Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service released today.

## Victoria. Department of Health

10 March 2017 - **Work Starts On Werribee Mercy Hospital Expansion** - More patients in the West will soon get the care and surgeries they need faster with construction now underway on the Andrews Labor Government's \$85 million redevelopment of Werribee Mercy Hospital.

8 March 2017 - **Victorian First Sexual And Reproductive Health Plan** - A new state-wide pregnancy support phone hot line, more funding to support women with polycystic ovary syndrome and the creation of eight new community-based family planning health hubs are at the centre of Victoria's first ever plan to improve the sexual and reproductive health of all Victorian women.

8 March 2017 - **Help Shape Victoria's Future Support For Carers** - Consultations have kicked off today for the Andrews Labor Government's Carers Statement which will outline how we can best support and recognise carers. Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers Gabrielle Williams said carers played a vital role in our community and it was important that their voice was heard.

6 March 2017 - **Work Starts On Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre** - Women in Melbourne's east will soon have better access to breast screening, assessment and diagnostic services and care, closer to home, with construction starting on the new Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre in Ringwood.

6 March 2017 - **Fellowship Brings Leading Cancer Researcher To Victoria** - One of the world's best cancer researchers working to accelerate future treatments through DNA repair has received support from the Andrews Labor Government and veski to undertake research here in Victoria. Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade Philip Dalidakis today announced Dr Vihandha Wickramasinghe as the 2016-17 veski Innovation Fellowship recipient.

5 March, 2017 - **Help Save Lives By Saving 000 For Emergencies** - A new Andrews Labor Government campaign is urging all Victorians to save 000 calls for emergencies so paramedics can respond quicker and save more lives. Minister for Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy today launched the new advertising campaign, which aims to reduce the number of non-emergency calls made for an emergency ambulance.

3 March 2017 - **Record Ambulance Investment To Put Ararat And St Arnaud Patients First** - The Andrews Labor Government will boost ambulance resources in Ararat and St Arnaud, giving paramedics the facilities and support they need to quickly respond to local emergencies. Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy today joined paramedics in Ararat to announce that Ararat will receive a new peak period unit with seven full-time equivalent paramedics and a new ambulance vehicle.

3 March 2017 - **Equipment Boost To Treat More Stawell Patients Sooner** - More Stawell patients will get the surgeries they need sooner thanks to an Andrews Labor Government funding boost to upgrade medical equipment at Stawell Regional Health. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced Stawell Regional Health would receive \$220,000 through the first round of the Labor Government's new Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

## Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

### Media Releases

9 March 2017 - **Sixth meningococcal case for 2017** - The Department of Health today reported that an adult had made a good recovery after being hospitalised with serogroup W meningococcal disease at the weekend. The patient has since been discharged from hospital.

7 March 2017 - **Finalists announced for 2017 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards** - A total of 33 of Western Australia's most dedicated nurses and midwives were chosen as finalists for the 2017 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards, to be announced in May.

3 March 2017 - **New case of meningococcal disease in a young child (case 5)** - The Department of Health today reported that a young child is currently recovering in hospital after being diagnosed with serogroup W meningococcal disease.



## New Zealand. Ministry of Health

8 March 2017 - **Safe Management of PCBs Code of Practice** - The purpose of this code of practice is to describe recommended practices for the handling, storage, transport and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). It is intended for all holders of PCBs, for transporters of PCBs, and for all those with statutory or other responsibilities in managing PCBs. (Updated February 2017)

## Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

8 March 2017 - **Proposed tax changes would hit rural workforce** - An Australian Tax Office plan to tax some scholarship programs aimed at addressing medical workforce shortages could hit rural and regional Australia, the AuMA has warned.

9 March 2017 - **Redistribution of medical school places not sole solution** - The AuMA has made a submission to the review of distribution of medical school places around the country, arguing that while some redistribution is needed, it is not the sole solution for the rural and regional medical workforce.

9 March 2017 - **AuMA calls for clearer guidance on obtaining medical cannabis** - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, has called on the Government to provide better guidance for doctors on how to access medicinal marijuana for their patients. More than a year after then Health Minister, Sussan Ley, declared she'd delivered the "missing piece" for sick Australians wanting to use the drug, and a week after new Health Minister Greg Hunt announced the fast-tracking of imports, Dr Bartone said the Special Access Scheme (SAS) was still a "significantly difficult process". "(It's a) scheme that is really heavily laden in red tape and not all that easy to navigate," Dr Bartone told **Triple J's Hack** program.

9 March 2017 - **AuMA reinforces the importance of vaccinations** - AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, has spoken to the media on the importance of parents having their children vaccinated, following controversial comments by Senator Pauline Hanson that were widely reported in the media this week.

9 March 2017 - **Changes to cervical screening program delayed** - Planned changes to the new national cervical cancer screening program have been delayed until December to allow more time for the creation of the National Cancer Screening Register. The changes which will see the screening aged raised to 25, the replacement of Pap tests every two years with human papilloma virus (HPV) tests every five years, and the implementation of the national register. The delay gives the Government the chance to counter widespread misunderstanding about the changes promulgated in an online petition.

9 March 2017 - **2017 Seasonal Influenza Immunisation** - The supply of new vaccines to protect against four strains of influenza virus for the 2017 influenza season will be available to at-risk groups free of charge through the National Immunisation Program from April. The 2017 quadrivalent vaccines will cover two A strains (Michigan and Hong Kong) and two B strains (Brisbane and Phuket) of influenza, as recommended by the World Health Organization.

9 March 2017 - **Donations to AuMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship Now Tax Deductible** - The AuMA is seeking contributions towards the *Indigenous Medical Scholarship* to increase our support for Indigenous medical students, and to help grow the Indigenous medical workforce. All contributions can now be claimed as a tax deduction.

9 March 2017 - **What's in the latest issue of Medical Journal of Australia?** - This month's issue of the *Medical Journal of Australia* features a Perspectives article on a unique solution to encourage medical students to consider a career in general practice. A second Perspectives article describes overcoming the barriers to chronic disease management in rural areas.

## ABOUT US

### Michael Regos



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

He practises in the areas of health law, insurance law, medical negligence and coronial enquiries. He represents Victorian public hospitals and their insurers, the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and is the solicitor of choice for Australia's second-largest private health operator.

Michael regularly presents to medical groups and hospitals on medico-legal issues.

### Contact Details

T +61 3 9274 5437

[michael.regos@dlapiper.com](mailto:michael.regos@dlapiper.com)

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact your nearest DLA Piper office:

### BRISBANE

Level 9, 480 Queen 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 VIC 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)

[www.dlapiper.com](http://www.dlapiper.com)

DLA Piper is a global law firm operating through various separate and distinct legal entities.

For further information, please refer to [www.dlapiper.com](http://www.dlapiper.com)

Copyright © 2016 DLA Piper. All rights reserved.

If you would like to reproduce any of this publication, please contact Michael Regos on +61 3 9274 5437 or [michael.regos@dlapiper.com](mailto:michael.regos@dlapiper.com).

1214954131