



# HEALTH ALERT

8 February 2016

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## JUDGMENTS

### South Australia

28 January 2016 - [Inquest into the death of Ebony Simone Napier](#)

The South Australian Coroner has recommended that health services work more closely with government authorities to monitor and report on child protection issues. The Coroner's recommendations arose out of an investigation into the death of a four month old infant, who died as a result of blunt head trauma in circumstances of family violence. The parents of the child were charged with murder in relation to her death, and ultimately pleaded guilty to criminal neglect.

The Coroner observed that the infant's family had disengaged from health services prior to her death. While the Coroner did not make any adverse findings in relation to the health services who had interacted with the family, he made a number of recommendations relating to the relationship between health care providers and child protection authorities, including that:

- A number of Ministers (including the Minister for Health) conduct a full reassessment of the manner in which health services interact with child protection authorities;
- Where the family of a child who is the subject of a child protection notification has disengaged with health services this should be reported, with the relevant authority to continue to monitor the family's engagement and insist on regular reports from the health service;
- Where drug abuse in a family environment is detected by health staff this should be reported to relevant authorities;
- Health service staff be trained in specific child protection issues; and
- Any child protection investigation should take into account the medical opinions of physicians involved with the child.

22 January 2016 - [Medical Board of Australia v Siow \[2016\] SAHPT 1](#)

Complainant alleges that the respondent behaved in a way that constitutes professional misconduct - Complaint alleged ten grounds of professional misconduct - Respondent admits professional misconduct in respect of each of the grounds set out in the complaint - The respondent consulted with a patient who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness - Despite an awareness of the patient's terminal illness and prognosis the respondent devised a nutritional and detoxification program and referred the patient to other medical practitioners - The respondent so conducted himself and made statements to the patient and his family members that continued to engender an unreasonable expectation on their part as to a positive outcome for the patient contrary to the prognosis - Held: The conduct set out in the complaint constitutes professional misconduct - The Tribunal is satisfied that appropriate public protection and discipline are achieved by: A reprimand - Payment of a fine of \$12,000 - Conditions imposed on the respondent's registration - The respondent will not consult, interview, examine, treat, advise or see any patient he knows to be suffering from cancer or a terminal illness - The respondent will engage in a professional mentoring program with a mentor approved by the complainant or its delegate - The respondent will maintain for review by the mentor a duplicate patient file - The respondent will submit to a practice audit at his practice in Melbourne to be undertaken by the mentor or an auditor approved by the Board - The respondent will complete an education course conducted by the Cognitive Institute within six months of being advised of the imposition of these conditions - The respondent will attend a psychiatrist at a frequency to be determined by the psychiatrist and comply with the recommended treatment plan - The respondent will ensure that the complainant receives a report from his psychiatrist every six months and within fourteen days of any request from the complainant or its delegate - The respondent will provide the name and address of the respondent's treating psychiatrist to the complainant within seven days of being advised of the imposition of these conditions - The respondent will provide a copy of these conditions to the respondent's present and any future treating psychiatrist - The respondent will remove and do all things necessary to facilitate the removal from all publications made by him or on his behalf containing any reference to his qualifications, education, training, experience or achievements which in any way represent or give rise to an imputation that he is a specialist other than a general practitioner - Review period for the

conditions imposed is twelve months - All costs associated with the conditions imposed are the responsibility of the respondent - The respondent is to pay the complainant's costs of and incidental to these proceedings as agreed between the parties - Ss 193, 195, 196 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010.

## Victoria

19 January 2016 - [Investigation without inquest into the Death of Benjamin Hodgson](#)

The Coroners Court of Victoria delivered findings of its investigation into the death of Benjamin Hodgson, who died aged 29 of diabetic ketoacidosis.

Mr Hodgson visited his General Practitioner (GP), Dr Carne, the day prior to his death with symptoms of increased urination, elevated temperature, thirst and difficulty sleeping. Dr Carne concluded that Mr Hodgson appeared to have a urinary tract infection and most likely diabetes. On this basis, Dr Carne prescribed antibiotics and referred Mr Hodgson for a fasting blood test, which he scheduled for the following day. Dr Carne did not perform a finger prick test at the time of consultation, stating that he did not consider Mr Hodgson to be in any immediate danger from diabetes.

The following evening, Mr Hodgson was found deceased by his family. A pathology report indicated ketones and glucose in Mr Hodgson's urine. Dr Carne acknowledged that had he performed a finger prick test, and seen Mr Hodgson's levels of ketones and glucose, he would have immediately sent him to hospital.

The Coroner echoed this, stating that the identification of elevated glucose during the consultation might have prompted testing for ketones and led to earlier identification of ketoacidosis and hospitalisation.

In light of this investigation, the Coroner recommended that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) provide a clinical update to GPs highlighting the importance of recognising hyperglycaemia and ketosis. The Coroner also recommended that the RACGP advise GPs that patients suffering from evolving diabetic ketoacidosis may require hospitalisation.

## Commonwealth. Federal Court

2 February 2016 - [Sevdalis v Director of Professional Services Review \[2016\] FCA 32](#)

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – application to restrict access to, or publication of, documents from disciplinary procedures under professional review scheme – legislative prohibition on disclosure to a "person" – whether disclosure to Court falls within prohibition

3 February 2016 - [Assarapin v Australian Community Pharmacy Authority \[2016\] FCAFC 9](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – where pharmacy approved under s 90 of the National Health Act 1953 (Cth) located in a building within a shopping centre which was demolished ; STATUTORY INTERPRETATION - whether it was open to the Authority to find that the approved premises ceased to be "within a facility" within the meaning of item 124 of Sch 1 of Part 1 the National Health (Australian Community Pharmacy Authority Rules) Determination 2011 (the Rules) on demolition of the building where they were located; ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – cross-appeal as to whether the appellants were "persons aggrieved" for the purposes of s 3 of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977 (Cth)

## New South Wales

4 February 2016 - [Hilton Mtanda and New South Wales Health, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District \[2016\] NSWIRComm 1002](#)

Unfair Dismissal-Out of Time claim-Applicant not aware that 21 day time limit referred to consecutive days-Applicant believed it referred to 21 business days plus allowance for public holidays-Applicant had consulted Solicitors-Applicant had union representation up until his dismissal-no satisfactory reasons provided for late application-no evidence of hardship provided-no evidence provided as to the conduct of the Employer relating to the late filing-no sufficient reasons for the Commission to exercise its discretion to accept the out-of-time claim-rejected.

3 February 2016 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Talmadge \[2016\] NSWCATOD 16](#)

Psychology – sexual relationship between practitioner and patient – patient very vulnerable – patient with complex mental health presentation – Dissociative Identity Disorder – appropriateness of diagnostic process and treatment plan – failure to seek expert supervision – Gender Identity issues – failure to support referral for psychiatric review prior to surgical procedures – failure to maintain professional boundaries in treatment – failure to maintain professional boundaries in telephone communication out of session – home visits – failure to refer for other mental health support at termination of therapeutic relationship – allegation of destruction of clinical records – failure to keep clinical records – application to dispense with hearing as complaints conceded – important particulars not conceded

## LEGISLATION

### Commonwealth

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Originator Brand\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 8 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00083 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 7 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00082 as made

1 February 2016 [National Health \(Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 6 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00080 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Indigenous Chronic Disease - PBS Co-payment Measure\) Special Arrangement 2016 \(PB 9 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00079 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health Determination under paragraph 98C\(1\)\(b\) Amendment 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 3 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00077 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 5 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00076 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 1 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00075 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical benefits – early supply\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 4 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00074 as made

1 February 2016 - [National Health \(Price and Special Patient Contribution\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 2 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00073 as made

### Victoria

[Health Services Amendment Act 2014](#) (Act 22/2014) - expired

### New South Wales

[Health Legislation Amendment Act 2015](#) (Act 38/2015) - commencement of remaining provisions

### Western Australia

[Hospitals \(Licensing and Conduct of Private Hospitals\) Amendment Regulations 2016](#) - commenced

[Hospitals \(Licensing and Conduct of Private Psychiatric Hostels\) Amendment Regulations 2016](#) - commenced

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

3 February 2016 - [Gender-equity in travel a priority for Australian sport](#) - The Australian Government has moved to ensure travel arrangements for major international sporting events are gender-equitable and that female athletes receive the same travel standards as male athletes.

2 February 2016 - [Minister Nash releases independent organ donation and transplantation review](#) - The Government has welcomed the independent review into the organ donation and transplantation sector.

02 February 2016 - [One step online registration to increase organ donation](#) - Australians will soon be able to register as organ donors in less than ten minutes online, the Minister responsible for organ donation Fiona Nash has announced.

1 February 2016 - [Private Health Insurance Premiums - Request for More Information](#) - I have asked all Private Health Insurers to provide additional information regarding possible premium increases for 2016 in an attempt to ensure consumers get the best deal.

Private Health insurance Circulars

3 February 2016 - [PHI 06/16 New Private Overnight Hospital Information](#)

14 January 2016 - [PHI 05/16 Revoke Private Day Hospital Declaration - Canberra Eye Hospital](#)

14 January 2016 - [PHI 04/16 - Private Hospital Declaration - Chatswood Private Hospital](#)

14 January 2016 - [PHI 03/16 - Private Same Day Hospital Declaration - Sydney Day Hospital](#)

14 January 2016 - [PHI 02/16 - Private Same Day Hospital Declaration - Hyperbaric Health Wound Centre](#)

14 January 2016 - [PHI 01/16 - Revoke Public Hospital Declaration - Thursday Island Primary Health Care Clinic](#)

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

4 February 2016 - [Continuing Professional Development Resources](#) - The revised registration standard for continuing professional development (CPD) has been in effect since 1 December 2015.

4 February 2016 - [Honour for Board member](#) - Dental Board of Australia member recognised in Australia Day honours.

3 February 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

3 February 2016 - [Equivalent qualifications list has been updated](#) - From 1 February 2016 changes to the Medical Radiation Practice Board's Equivalent qualifications list took effect.

2 February 2016 - [Revised registration standards published](#) - Revised registration standards for six registered health professions have been published this week.

1 February 2016 - [Public consultation](#) - The Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) is inviting feedback on a public consultation on a review of guidance on the expiry of compounded parenteral medicines.

29 January 2016 - [Tribunal reprimands nurse and imposed conditions on her registration](#) - A tribunal has reprimanded a nurse and imposed conditions on her registration.

22 January 2016 - [New online supervisor services](#) - A new supervisor services portal is now available for current Board-approved supervisors.

#### **Australia. National E-health Transition Authority (NEHTA)**

3 February 2016 - [New section for pharmacists on the NEHTA website](#) - NEHTA has published a new section specifically for pharmacists wanting to use eHealth.

1 February 2016 - [NEHTA eHealth Software Developer Community announcement - Specifications Maintenance Schedule](#) - The National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) has recently updated the Specifications Maintenance Schedule, which may be accessed [here](#).

1 February 2016 - [NEHTA eHealth Software Developer Community announcement](#) - Conformance Test Specification for CDA™ Rendering and My Health Record Usability Recommendations.

## **Australia. National Blood Authority**

5 February 2016 - **Imported Plasma and Recombinants Products Request for Tender** - The National Blood Authority has released a Request for Tender (RFT) for Supply of Imported Plasma and Recombinant Products (C1 esterase inhibitor concentrate and Plasma derived FXI).

19 January 2016 - **Request for Tender for Supply of Red Cell Diagnostic Products** - The National Blood Authority has released a Request for Tender (RFT) for Supply of Red Cell Diagnostic Products (RCDP).

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

### **NHMRC Research Tracker - 5 February 2016**

#### **Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)**

3 February 2016 - **2016 April Price Disclosure Cycle - Indicative Prices** - Indicative 1 April 2016 prices resulting from the 2016 April Cycle of Price Disclosure have now been published on the Price Disclosure (SPD) web page.

1 February 2016 - **PBS Website Update** - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 February 2016 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the **New, Amended and Deleted Items page**.

29 January 2016 - **Biosimilar awareness - updated implementation framework** - As part of the Biosimilar Awareness Initiative, the updated implementation framework is now available.

27 January 2016 - **Generic Medicines Working Group Communiqués** - The communiqués from the first two meetings of the Generic Medicines Working Group (GMWG) are now available.

7 January 2016 - **Updated PBAC Outcomes for November 2015** - Outcomes for pirfenidone from the November 2015 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) meeting are now available.

6 January 2016 - **PBAC Public Summary Documents - March 2015** - Additional Public Summary Documents from the March 2015 Pharmaceutical Advisory Benefits Committee (PBAC) meetings are now available.

1 January 2016 - **PBS Website Update** - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 January 2016 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the **New, Amended and Deleted Items page**.

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

4 February 2016 - **Reasons for scheduling delegate's interim decision and invitation for further comment for the ACCS and ACMS meetings, November 2015** - Reasons for scheduling delegate's interim decision and invitation for further comment for the ACCS and ACMS meetings, November 2015. Closing date 18 February 2016.

3 February 2016 - **Maxagra capsules** - Safety advisory.

3 February 2016 - **Medicines Safety Update Volume 7 Number 1, February 2016** - In this issue: mycophenolate mofetil, varenicline and baclofen active pharmaceutical ingredient.

2 February 2016 - **Acetazolamide (Diamox) 250 mg tablets** - Recall - potential contamination.

1 February 2016 - **Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML)** - Medicines Advisory Statements Specification 2016, from 1 January 2016.

1 February 2016 - **Therapeutic Goods Committee (TGC)** - Membership details of the TGC are now available.

1 February 2016 - **ACPM meeting statement, Meeting 307, 3-4 December 2015** - Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines, Meeting 307 statement.

1 February 2016 - **Amazon Tonic III: does not treat cancer and contains potentially dangerous ingredients** - Safety advisory.

1 February 2016 - [The Poisons Standard \(the SUSMP\)](#) - New edition of the Poisons Standard, No. 10.

6-28 January 2016 - [Last month's news & updates](#)

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

5 February 2016 - [25 years of health expenditure in Australia: 1989–90 to 2013–14](#)

4 February 2016 - [Palliative care services in Australia 2015 - tranche 2 \(web update\)](#)

2 February 2016 - [Spending on mental health services hits \\$8 billion](#)

#### **Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate**

3 February 2016 - [Death Cap mushrooms found in the Canberra region](#) - ACT Chief Health Officer, Dr Paul Kelly today alerted the community that Death Cap mushrooms have been found in several locations in the ACT due to the recent wet weather.

2 February 2016 - [Make a difference in the fight against cancer](#) - The importance of cancer screening, early detection and adopting a healthier lifestyle has been highlighted on World Cancer Day.

2 February 2016 - [High standard mental health services in the ACT](#) - Productivity Commission Report shows the ACT is performing well above national standards in delivering mental health services.

2 February 2016 - [Elective surgery waiting times continue to improve](#) - Productivity Commission Report shows waiting times for elective services have continued to improve in the ACT over the past year.

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

##### Media Releases

3 February 2016 - [Record Donor Rates for NSW In 2015](#) - NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service figures show there were 127 deceased organ donors in NSW in 2015 - surpassing the previous record of 102 donors in 2013 and exceeding the 2015 target of 116 donors.

1 February 2016 - [Smoke-free outdoor dining providing a breath of fresh air to diners](#) - Since the start of the ban on 6 July 2015, NSW Health Inspectors have inspected over 1880 hospitality businesses with outdoor dining areas and have found 98 per cent compliance across NSW.

##### Publications

5 February 2016 - [Guide to the Role Delineation of Clinical Services \(2016\)](#)

1 February 2016 - [OHMR Innovator - Issue 4](#)

29 January 2016 - [Snapshot of Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017](#)

6 January 2016 - [Translational Research Grants Scheme - Guidelines for Applicants](#)

17 December 2015 - [NSW Mental Health Reform 2014 – 2024](#)

##### Policy Directives & Guidelines

4 February 2016 - [Infants and Children Insertion and Confirmation of Placement of Nasogastric and Orogastric Tubes](#) GL2016\_006

4 February 2016 - [Infants and Children: Acute Management of Seizures](#) GL2016\_005

29 January 2016 - [Humidified High Flow Nasal Cannula Oxygen Guideline for Metropolitan Paediatric Wards and EDs](#) GL2016\_004

##### Information Bulletins

3 February 2016 - [NSW STI Strategy 2016-2020](#) IB2016\_005

2 February 2016 - [NSW Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program](#) IB2016\_004

29 February 2016 - [United Hospital Auxiliaries of NSW - Subsidy to delegates attending the Annual General Conference](#) IB2016\_003

## Health Care Complaints Commission

4 February 2016 - **Mr Claude Fakhouri prohibited from providing massage services** - The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission completed its investigation into a complaint against non-registered health practitioner, massage therapist, Claude Fakhouri.

4 February 2016 - **Mr Richard Stoupel prohibited from providing massage services** - The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission completed its investigation into a complaint against non-registered health practitioner, massage therapist, Richard Stoupel.

## Queensland. Department of Health

4 February 2016 - **Queensland boosts Zika virus response** - Queensland will boost measures to combat mosquito breeds responsible for the spread of Zika virus and Dengue fever. Minister for Health and Ambulance Service Cameron Dick announced the measures following a specially convened roundtable of public health and infectious disease experts today. "Expert advice is that Zika virus is not currently circulating in Queensland," Mr Dick said. "We want to keep it that way." Mr Dick said the roundtable had agreed to two immediate measures to help boost Queensland's response. The State Government will spend \$400,000 to increase the capacity of its laboratories – including one in Townsville – to rapidly test for Zika virus in humans.

3 February 2016 - **New orthopaedic surgery service for South West Queensland patients** - Fewer South West residents will need to travel to Toowoomba or Brisbane for care with the introduction of a new orthopaedic surgical service for public patients at Roma Hospital. The general orthopaedic surgical service will be delivered by Brisbane orthopaedic surgeon Dr David Bade. Dr Bade said the service would be offered every two months initially but would increase in frequency to monthly as it became better known. Procedures including carpal tunnel, trigger finger releases, simple foot and ankle cases, as well as arthroscopic surgery of the lower limb, including ACL reconstruction, will be performed at Roma. The new service will not offer hip or knee replacement surgery, which is more complex.

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

2 February 2016 - **Annual report on government health services published** - The annual National Report on Government Services for health was published today, providing comparative data between South Australia and the rest of the country. SA Health Chief Executive David Swan said the 2016 Report on Government Services shows areas where South Australia is doing well, and highlights areas for improvement. "Each year, the Report on Government services provides a snapshot of how our health system is tracking against the rest of Australia," Mr Swan said. "On average, we are living longer than our interstate counterparts with non-indigenous South Australian men living to 80.3 years and women until 85.8 years.

## Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

5 February 2016 - **TIC decision** - The Government welcomes this morning's decision by the Tasmanian Industrial Commission's full bench to grant the Tasmanian Government's application relating to the Private Practice Scheme. We support the long-standing arrangement for doctors to retain earnings from treating private patients in our public hospitals, but not at the expense of public patients and services. However, we believe Commissioner Abey's original ruling erred in law when he said the PPS arrangement should be included in the award. For this reason we had to challenge the ruling. Today's suspension means the issue can be heard.

2 February 2016 - **Rebuilding Tasmania's health system** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is rebuilding Tasmania's health system. The latest Report on Government Services (ROGS) confirms what Liberal Government's reforms are needed to fix our health system and get better results for all Tasmanians. The Report highlights where we are doing well in delivering health care and where improvement is required. The report shows Tasmanian public hospitals admitted two per cent more elective surgery patients in 2014-15 than the year prior. On Monday, three new surgical theatres opened at the Launceston General Hospital and the Royal Hobart Hospital. The new theatres will increase capacity across the public system in the second half of this financial year. Recent data on elective surgery



activity, not collected in the latest ROGs report, show that we saw wait times fall across 2014-15, with a drop of 214 days in the average overdue wait time for non-urgent patients. Statewide breakdown below.

2 February 2016 - **Head of THS commences** - Tasmania's new unified health system, the Tasmanian Health Service, took a significant step forward yesterday with the commencement of its new Chief Executive Officer, Dr David Alcorn. Dr Alcorn starts at an exciting time, with the Tasmanian Government investing a record amount in our health system and implementing important reforms designed to provide safer and sustainable statewide health services. With the economy growing and the Budget coming back under control, we can now invest the dividends of this into the core business of government, such as health. Just at the weekend, I announced more Tasmanians will get their elective surgery sooner as a result of the opening of three new theatres at the Launceston General and Royal Hobart Hospitals. Two theatres at the LGH and one at the RHH have opened this week. The new theatres will increase capacity across the public system in the second half of this financial year. It's expected that more than 1250 additional elective surgical cases will be completed with the opening of the operating theatres. The Mersey 23 hour surgical service will be fully implemented in July this year.

1 February 2016 - **Health alert for floodwaters** - Extensive flooding has occurred in the north and east of Tasmania and floodwaters are potentially contaminated with sewage, particularly in the Invermay area. Dirty water, mud and silt that floods create can cause a range of conditions, including gastroenteritis and skin and soft-tissue infections. Public Health Services advises that where possible people avoid contact with flood surface waters. Public Health Services also advises people not to swim at recreational sites for at least three days after the end of the current rainfall because of floodwaters contaminated with sewage potentially entering these areas. Swimming in flooded areas themselves is never safe.

31 January 2016 - **Three new theatres for Tasmanian hospitals** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is continuing the work rebuilding Tasmania's health system. We have invested a record amount in our health system, but to get better outcomes more needs to be done. With the economy growing and the Budget coming back under control, we can now invest the dividends of this into the core business of government, such as health. Today I can announce more Tasmanians will get their elective surgery sooner as a result of the opening of three new theatres at the Launceston General and Royal Hobart Hospitals. Two theatres at the LGH and one at the RHH will open from Monday. In addition a new short stay surgical unit (SSSU) at the LGH will begin operation as part of the LGH Support Plan announced late last year. The new theatres will increase capacity across the public system in the second half of this financial year.

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

4 February 2016 - **Recall for lettuce products linked to Gastro illness** - Consumers have been warned against eating a selection of pre-packed lettuce products grown and distributed by the Victorian-based company Tripod Farmers following confirmation of a number of cases of salmonella infection. The lettuce is sold through both Coles and Woolworths supermarkets and includes brands such as; Coles 4 Leaf Mix, Woolworths salad mix, SupaSalad Supamix and Wash N Toss salad mix. All these products have best before dates leading up to and including February 14. The Department of Health and Human Services Senior Medical Advisor Dr Finn Romanes said people with these products should either return them to the place of purchase or discard them.

3 February 2016 - **Labor delivers \$20 million to reduce mental health violence** Mental health patients and staff across Victoria will benefit from new safety measures to reduce and prevent violence, with the first round of the Andrews Labor Government's \$10 million Health Service Violence Prevention Fund. Visiting Box Hill Hospital today, Minister for Mental Health, Martin Foley, said eight metropolitan and six rural mental health facilities will share in the funding. In Melbourne's east, the funding will buy 90 state-of-the-art "3G Safety Watch" devices for mental health teams who work out in the community. Worn on the wrist, the 3G safety watch allows staff managing a crisis to quickly notify Emergency Services via "000" of their exact Global Positioning System (GPS) location via a 24-hour security monitoring centre.

3 February 2016 - **Australian first clinical trial for kids with epilepsy starts in Victoria** - Victoria will take part in a ground-breaking international clinical trial of a new medicine to treat paediatric patients with refractory epilepsy. Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced that Austin Health had signed on to be part of a clinical trial of synthetic cannabidiol developed by a US pharmaceutical company, Insys Therapeutics Inc. The international clinical trial is investigating whether

the medicine will be effective in treating certain types of childhood epilepsy. It is made from a synthetic version of a therapeutic compound usually found in the cannabis plant, with the trial to investigate appropriate dosages within a small group of patients.

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

#### Media Releases

4 February 2016 - [Prepare for hot days ahead](#) - With hot temperatures expected across Perth in the coming days, Western Australians are being encouraged to take the necessary precautions to avoid heat stress.

3 February 2016 - [Minister for Health: Fiona Stanley Hospital celebrates first year](#) - The busy emergency department at Fiona Stanley Hospital has treated 100,000 patients since it opened a year ago this week, including a record 347 patients in one 24-hour period.

2 February 2016 - [Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development: Improvement grants for aged care services](#) - Aged care organisations are invited to apply for one-off grants aimed at helping older people living in regional towns, remain independent and engaged in their community.

#### Operational Directives

4 February 2016 - [OD 0655/16 - SMS Patient Reminders in WA Public Health Services Policy](#) - The SMS Patient Reminders in WA Public Health Services Policy outlines the business requirements for staff using SMS technology to remind patients of their upcoming appointments or booked admissions.

2 February 2016 - [OD 0653/16 - Use of the State Government Badge Policy \(Revision\)](#) - All WA Health communication materials are required to display the State Coat of Arms as a key element of the Department of Health State Government Badge.

2 February 2016 - [OD 0652/16 - Use of the Locked State Coat of Arms Policy](#) - The Locked State Coat of Arms is to be used when services/projects/goods events, provided by the State Government, are delivered in conjunction with non-State Government third party providers.

### New Zealand. Ministry of Health

4 February 2016 - [Indicators for the Well Child/Tamariki Ora Quality Improvement Framework – September 2015](#) - The Framework has three aims: focusing on family/whānau experience; population health and best value for the health system; and setting quality indicators to audit health system performance.

## 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.

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