



# HEALTH ALERT

18 September 2017

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## JUDGMENTS

### Key Decisions

8 September 2017 - *Minister for Industrial Relations for the State of Victoria v Specialist Diagnostic Services Pty Ltd T/A Dorevitch Pathology; Health Services Union; Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation* [2017] FWC 4610 - Application to suspend or terminate protected industrial action endangering life etc. On 15 June 2017 the Fair Work Commission (Commission) granted an order for a protected action ballot with respect to those members of the Health Workers Union (HWU) employed by Dorevitch Pathology. The HWU and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation (ANMF) commenced industrial action in the form of, amongst other things, refusing to undertake any work outside rostered ordinary hours of work, campaigning during work hours, refusing to operate some of the employer's vehicles, refusing to clean non-clinical areas and stopping work for certain periods of time. The Minister for Industrial Relations for the State of Victoria (Minister) made an application to the Commission to terminate industrial action being engaged in by Dorevitch, the HWU and ANMF. The application could not be determined within five days as required by the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth). The Commission therefore issued an Interim Order suspending the industrial action (Suspension Order). In deciding whether to terminate the industrial action, the Commission had to determine if the protected industrial action threatened to endanger the life, the personal safety or health, or the welfare of a part of the population. The Commission found that the action taken did pose such a threat through the limitation on the availability of pathology services. It was apparent that if the Suspension Order were lifted, the industrial action would have re-commenced. Given the severity of the implications of the industrial action, the Commission decided that the industrial action should be terminated.

6 September 2017 - *Finding of inquest into death of Phillip William Michell* - Phillip William Michell died on 11 July 2015 at the Gandarra Palliative Care Unit in Ballarat aged 25. After attempting to take his own life in the presence of his family members, Mr Michell was admitted to the Ballarat Health Services Adult Acute Unit on 26 June 2015. Early the next morning he was found hanging from the external side of his ensuite door. After resuscitation he was diagnosed with hypoxic brain injury and transferred to palliative care where he was pronounced dead on 11 July 2015. The Coroner found that the location of a Yewdale Kestrel K508 Flexible Coat Hook on the back of his ensuite door at the Ballarat Health Services' Adult Acute Unit enabled Mr Michell to take his own life and that the absence of that hook would, on the balance of probabilities, have prevented Mr Michell's death on that night. The Coroner further found that there was clear and cogent evidence that the nursing observations were of inadequate form, frequency and quality, were contrary to Ballarat Health Services' policies and procedures and contributed to Mr Michell's ability to initiate action to take his own life. The Coroner noted that Mr Michell's family were entitled to believe that as an involuntary patient at the Adult Acute Unit, he would be closely monitored and safe from harm, and that no patient should be afforded any opportunity to take their own life in such an environment.

### Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

12 September 2017 - *Gisborne and District Community Health and Hospital Board Inc T/A Macedon Ranges Health Services* [2017] FWCA 4753 - Application for approval of the Macedon Ranges Health, Health Professionals Enterprise Agreement 2016.

11 September 2017 - *Thompson Healthcare Pty Ltd T/A Thompson Health Care* [2017] FWCA 4711 - Application for approval of the Thompson Health Care, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

11 September 2017 - *S. Antonio Da Padova Protettore Di Poggioreale Sydney Nursing Home Ltd T/A S. Antonio Da Padova Village* [2017] FWCA 4713 - Application for approval of the S. Antonio Da Padova Protettore Di Poggioreale Sydney Nursing Home Limited, NSWNMA, ANMF and HSU NSW Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

11 September 2017 - *Sir Thomas Mitchell Residential Care Facility Pty Ltd T/A Sir Thomas Mitchell Residential Care Facility* [2017] FWCA 4715 - Application for approval of the Sir Thomas Mitchell Residential Care Facility, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

11 September 2017 - [Queanbeyan Residential Care Facility Pty Ltd T/A Queanbeyan Residential Care Facility \[2017\] FWCA 4718](#) - Application for approval of the Queanbeyan Residential Care Facility, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

8 September 2017 - [Minister for Industrial Relations for the State of Victoria v Specialist Diagnostic Services Pty Ltd T/A Dorevitch Pathology; Health Services Union; Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \[2017\] FWC 4610](#) - Application to suspend or terminate protected industrial action endangering life etc.

8 September 2017 - [Linburn Nursing Home Pty Ltd T/A Linburn Nursing Home \[2017\] FWCA 4687](#) - Application for approval of the Linburn Nursing Home, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

8 September 2017 - [Trinity Aged Care Pty Ltd Trustee of N J Fung Family Trust T/A Fairlea Aged Care at Harris Park and Fairlea Aged Care at Rosehill \[2017\] FWCA 4689](#) - Application for approval of the Fairlea Aged Care (Rosehill & Harris Park) NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

8 September 2017 - [Homewood Care Pty Ltd T/A Homewood Care \[2017\] FWCA 4683](#) - Application for approval of the Homewood Care Pty Ltd, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

8 September 2017 - [Oreison Pty Ltd Trustee of EM Trust T/A Fairlea Aged Care at Penshurst \[2017\] FWCA 4684](#) - Application for approval of the Fairlea Aged Care Penshurst, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

8 September 2017 - [Apex Software Pty Ltd T/A Lark Ellen Aged Care & Gynea Bay Aged Care \[2017\] FWCA 4692](#) - Application for approval of the Apex Software Pty Ltd, NSWNMA, ANMF NSW Branch and HSU New South Wales Branch Enterprise Agreement 2017.

### New South Wales

13 September 2017 - [Five Star Medical Centre Pty Limited v Kempsey Shire Council \[2017\] NSWDC 250](#) - NEGLIGENCE – registered aerodrome operated by local council – collision between kangaroo and aircraft – wildlife hazard - NEGLIGENCE – Civil Liability Act 2002– s 5B – s 5C – s 5D – s 5R – duty of care – breach of duty of care – risk of harm – failure to take precautions – causation – contributory negligence - AVIATION – civil aviation – airports and air services – airports – ERSA – NOTAM – RCA LOCAL GOVERNMENT– powers, functions and duties of councils generally - Civil Liability Act 2002 - s 42 – distinction between functions voluntarily assumed and those imposed on the authority as an obligation.

12 September 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v De Saxe \[2017\] NSWCATOD 135](#) - Medical Practitioner: practitioner engaging in sexual conduct with patients – practitioner prescribing inappropriately for patient – practitioner prescribing for self-medication – practitioner failing to maintain proper records – practitioner failing to communicate with other treating specialists of patient – complaints of unsatisfactory professional conduct constituting professional misconduct established.

12 September 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Mercurio \[2017\] NSWCATOD 136](#) - Medical practitioner-refusal to terminate proceedings without enquiry- finding of professional misconduct consequent on admission by respondent-registration cancelled-costs order made.

### Victoria

6 September 2017 - [Finding of inquest into death of Phillip William Michell](#) - Phillip William Michell died on 11 July 2015 at the Gandarra Palliative Care Unit in Ballarat following a suicide attempt at the Ballarat Health Services Adult Acute Unit. The Coroner found that the location of a Yewdale Kestrel K508 Flexible Coat Hook on the back of his ensuite door, along with infrequent and inadequate nursing observations, enabled Phillip to take his own life.

### Western Australia (WA)

12 September 2017 - [St John of God Health Care Inc v Kezic \(No 2\) \[2017\] WASC 265](#) - Vexatious Proceedings Restriction Act 2002 (WA) - Meaning of 'tribunal' and 'proceedings' under Act - Whether

defendant pursued proceedings without reasonable ground or to harass or annoy - Numerous interlocutory applications and appeals - Where some applications successful - Whether defendant likely to pursue proceedings in the future - Turns on own facts.

8 September 2017 - [da Horta v Podiatry Board of Australia \(No 2\) \[2017\] WASC 264](#) - Judicial review - Registered health practitioner - Decision to caution - Reasonable belief that conduct is or may be unsatisfactory - Whether manifestly unreasonable - Turns on own facts.

## LEGISLATION

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

### Commonwealth

14 September 2017 - [National Health \(Immunisation Program – Designated Vaccines\) Variation Determination 2017 \(No. 2\)](#) F2017L01186 as made.

11 September 2017 - [Healthcare Identifiers Amendment \(Healthcare Identifiers of Healthcare Providers\) Regulations 2017](#) F2017L01153 as made.

### New South Wales

13 September 2017 - [Public Health Amendment \(Review\) Bill 2017](#) - Second reading speech (and passed 14 September).

### Queensland

13 September 2017 - [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017](#) - Assent.

### Victoria

12 September 2017 - [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2017](#) - Assent.

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

15 September 2017 - [Dishing up extra support for older Australians at home](#) - Older Australians living at home will benefit from an Australian Government investment of an additional \$8 million in funding for meals providers through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).

14 September 2017 - [6,000 extra high need home care packages and \\$20 million My Aged Care revamp](#) - The Turnbull Government has announced major initiatives in home care services and improved access to the My Aged Care system, as it releases the report of the Legislated Review of Aged Care 2017.

14 September 2017 - [Have your say on cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) - Optimising care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer is the aim of a national public consultation program.

13 September 2017 - [\\$4m grant as HealthInfoNet celebrates 20 years of making a difference](#) - Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, providing free access to an online repository of knowledge and research information, has received a \$4.06 million grant as the resource marks its 20th anniversary.

11 September 2017 - [Medical technology investment to improve lives](#) - The Australian Government will fund three medical breakthroughs to help people with severe disabilities walk again and support thousands of Australians facing crippling chronic back pain.

10 September 2017 - [Marking World Suicide Prevention Day](#) - September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day and this year's theme, 'Take a Minute, Change a Life', captures the idea that each of us has a role to play in suicide prevention.

9 September 2017 - [Remembering that alcohol and pregnancy don't mix](#) - The ninth day, of the ninth month of the year is International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Day – when we are reminded that there is no known safe limit of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

8 September 2017 - [League legends team up for new Deadly Kangaroos World Cup health campaign](#) - Members of the elite Australian Kangaroos Rugby League 2017 World Cup squad will headline the expansion of a successful grassroots campaign to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

#### Consultations

1 September 2017 - [Proposed changes to the infant pneumococcal vaccination schedule recommendations](#) - The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is consulting with stakeholders on proposed changes to the infant pneumococcal vaccination schedule recommendations, with an intention to submit the recommendation to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for its approval under section 14A of the NHMRC Act. Closes 2 October.

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

15 September 2017 - [National Boards fees published for 2017/2018](#) - Registration fees have now been published for 2017/2018 including eight professions for which fees have been frozen.

15 September 2017 - [Call for applications](#) - Call for applications for appointment to the Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee of the Optometry Board of Australia.

14 September 2017 - [NMBA asks nurses and students to 'take notice' as student nurse and registered nurse appear in court](#) - A Victorian woman has pleaded guilty to claiming to be a registered nurse when she was a student and a second woman has pleaded guilty of supporting her to do so.

14 September 2017 - [Early Career Optometrists SA networking event: Meet the Board](#) - Invitation to attend the Early Career Optometrists South Australia (SA) networking event: Meet the Board, on Thursday 9 November 2017.

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

13 September 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Dental Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

12 September 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board - meeting with the Australian Dental Association on notifications](#) - Senior leaders from the Dental Board, AHPRA and Australian Dental Association (ADA) met to discuss how notifications are managed in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

#### National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

14 September 2017 - [NHMRC New Grant Program Public Fora Series](#) - NHMRC is making improvements to its grant funding program to ensure it continues to support the best Australian health and medical researchers.

13 September 2017 - [Proposed changes to the infant pneumococcal vaccination schedule recommendations released for public consultation](#) - The Department of Health on behalf of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has released proposed changes to the infant pneumococcal vaccination schedule recommendations for public consultation between 1 September 2017 and 2 October 2017.

11 September 2017 - [NHMRC Audience Survey](#)

[NHMRC Research Tracker—8 September 2017](#)

[NHMRC Health Tracker—September 2017](#)

#### Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

14 September 2017 - [Confirmed 1 October 2017 Prices - 2017 October Cycle](#) - Confirmed 1 October 2017 prices resulting from the 2017 October Cycle of Price Disclosure have now been published on the Price Disclosure (SPD) web page.



## Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

13 September 2017 - [Codeine stock management for wholesalers, sponsors and retail pharmacies](#) - Supply of codeine-containing medicines after 1 February 2018.

13 September 2017 - [Breast implants and anaplastic large cell lymphoma](#) - Update - additional confirmed cases of anaplastic large cell lymphoma.

13 September 2017 - [Update to manufacturing principles for medicines, APIs and sunscreens](#) - Notification of intent to adopt the current PIC/S Guide to GMP, PE009-13 as Manufacturing Principles.

13 September 2017 - [Medicines Safety Update, Volume 8 Number 4, August-September 2017](#) - Lithium level monitoring and toxicity; New precautions for hyoscine butylbromide ampoules; Off-label prescribing.

12 September 2017 - [Annual performance statistics report: July 2016 to June 2017](#) - Detailed statistical information on our performance.

12 September 2017 - [Outcomes of advertising complaints - compliance following TGA intervention](#) - Commencement of the publication of outcomes of TGA investigations into advertising complaints.

12 September 2017 - [Terms of Reference: ACSS Consortium](#) - Endorsement of the ACSS Consortium Terms of Reference.

12 September 2017 - [TGA presentations: Industry information and consultation sessions on medicinal cannabis - Adelaide and Brisbane - July 2017](#) - Presentations given at Industry information and consultation sessions on medicinal cannabis - Adelaide and Brisbane - July 2017.

11 September 2017 - [GMP clearance process - compliance verification](#) - Australian sponsors must submit all required documents with a GMP Clearance application.

8 September 2017 - [Codeine information hub](#) - Tips for talking about codeine for authorised prescribers, pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

8 September 2017 - [Medical devices and IVDs: Cancellations of certain devices within an entry](#) - Cancellation of medical device - Philips HeartStart MRx - ARTG nos: 95661 and 261352.

8 September 2017 - [Reminder: Planned process improvements for GMP Clearance](#) - Reminder about planned process improvements for GMP Clearance in September.

## Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

1 September 2017 - [Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Clinical Care Standard – Draft Consultation Documents](#)

On the Radar – 11 September 2017 – Issue 338 ([PDF 232KB](#)) ([Word 170KB](#))

## Australia. National Mental Health Commission

11 September 2017 - [Marriage equality debate: national mental health commission concerns](#) - The National Mental Health Commission has expressed concerns about the detrimental mental health impacts of the marriage equality debate. The Commission's Co-Chair, Professor Allan Fels said the debate has heightened discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) people.

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

### Media Releases

14 September 2017 - [Tougher vaccination rules for child care](#) - Parents who refuse to vaccinate their children will no longer be allowed to enrol them in child care with the 'conscientious objector' option scrapped from January 2018. Minister for Health Brad Hazzard said the new rules will reduce the risk of children contracting potentially deadly diseases such as whooping cough and meningococcal.

11 September 2017 - [Expanded renal care services for Griffith](#) - More patients living with kidney failure will now receive treatment thanks to the NSW Government's \$647,000 expansion of the renal dialysis unit

at Griffith Base Hospital. NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the upgrade will provide for three additional nurses at the renal unit and two more specialised dialysis chairs.

11 September 2017 - **NSW Government \$3 million blitz for surgery** - People needing the common elective surgeries of hip and knee replacements and cataract extractions will benefit from a NSW Government \$3 million funding boost. Minister for Health Brad Hazzard said the investment – possible due to a record \$23 billion total health Budget – will help reduce wait times for patients right across NSW.

10 September 2017 - **Text message trial begins in bid to save lives** - Minister for Mental Health Tanya Davies has announced the landmark trial of an SMS SOS suicide prevention project for hospital emergency departments will begin this month. Text messages with words of support, and information on where to get help if needed, will be sent to patients to complement existing care and treatment programs in the months after their discharge from hospital.

8 September 2017 - **Coraki welcomes \$4 million health hub** - The \$4 million Coraki Campbell HealthOne was given the official seal of approval today when NSW Minister for Health Brad Hazzard and Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis formally opened the new health hub. Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis said: 'The community and clinicians came together to plan and deliver a wonderful health facility with improved services which will benefit thousands of people. 'Families no longer have to travel great distances to access a variety of allied health services including speech pathology and physiotherapy as it's all under the one roof.'

8 September 2017 - **Bright paediatric unit opens at Lismore** - Bright play areas, a parents' lounge and an adolescent retreat feature in Lismore Base Hospital's Paediatric Unit, now open as part of an overall \$320 million redevelopment.

#### Publications

11 September 2017 - **Maternity - Prevention, Detection, Escalation and Management of Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH)** - Document number: GL2017\_018

10 September 2017 - **ED Mode of Separation Code Set Update 2017/18** - Document number: IB2017\_028

10 September 2017 - **Remuneration Rates for Visiting Medical Officers** - Document number: IB2017\_029

#### Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

14 September 2017 - **Talking up about health and happiness survey** - Northern Territory Health is urging all young Top End and Central Australian people to help improve youth services in the Territory by taking part in a key new survey. The aim of the survey is to hear from 15-24 year olds, who currently make up 15% of the NT population, to make sure their voices are included in the development of the NT Government's child and adolescent health and wellbeing strategic plan.

14 September 2017 - **Investing in territory children** - The Territory Labor Government is urging all young Top End and Central Australian people to help improve youth services in the Territory by taking part in a key new survey. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said the CLP cut funding for education and other youth services, but the Territory Labor government is committed to changing that.

9 September 2017 - **BDR Handheld Devices Rolling Out Across NT** - The Territory Labor Government is expanding its pilot program of portable scanning devices for the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) with a roll out across Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area today. The Attorney-General Natasha Fyles said all 27 Territory drive through bottle shops will be fitted out with the supplementary BDR devices next week, after this week's successful trials in Darwin.

#### Queensland. Department of Health

14 September 2017 - **\$7 million Bundaberg fire and emergency services facility gears up** - Bundaberg residents will soon benefit from a new fully-equipped \$7 million Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) facility.

13 September 2017 - **Security of Maryborough frontline services in doubt under LNP government** - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick has called on LNP Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls to assure Wide Bay residents that no Maryborough Hospital frontline services would be sold off under an LNP government.

13 September 2017 - **Nicholls should apologise to 297 health workers sacked** - Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick has called upon Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls to use his trip to Far North Queensland to apologise to the 297 Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service workers sacked when he was Treasurer of the former LNP Government.

13 September 2017 - **New technology transforms Maryborough Hospital into medical imaging leader** - Maryborough Hospital patients now have access to new state-of-the-art digital medical imaging technology, meaning less waiting time and more efficient diagnosis.

12 September 2017 - **\$44.6m Hervey Bay Hospital Emergency Department enters next construction phase** - Hervey Bay Hospital's new \$44.6 million Emergency Department is steaming ahead, with Stage 1 of the project now complete and commencement of Stage 2 announced today.

12 September 2017 - **Would you know if your child had sepsis?** - Queensland mum Anita Douglas knew something wasn't right with her daughter Lily when the 18 month old started to experience worsening flu-like symptoms. Two hospital visits later, the little girl was diagnosed with sepsis, a life-threatening condition. Sepsis, commonly known as septicaemia or blood poisoning, is a life-threatening condition. Caused by the body's over-response to an infection, which produces widespread inflammation across the body rather than just at the infection site, sepsis can damage tissue and organs, leading to shock, organ failure and death.

12 September 2017 - **When should you worry about a headache?** - Even though it's so common, if you've got a headache that's sudden, severe or lasting, you might be worried that there's a serious problem. So how do you know when a headache is something you can treat at home, or when you should see your doctor?

11 September 2017 - **5 things you might not know about dementia** - Dementia is a banner term for a collection of symptoms. Different names for types of dementia including Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia and vascular dementia. Not everyone with dementia will have the same symptoms or long term experience.

10 September 2017 - **Take a minute, change a life** - The Queensland Mental Health Commission and Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick are encouraging Queenslanders not to shy away from conversations about suicide this World Suicide Prevention Day.

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

12 September 2017 - **Media release: New plan to ease hospital demand** - SA Health has today announced a new plan aimed at reducing pressure on busy hospital emergency departments. Under the plan, ambulances will only attend urgent cases, all non-urgent elective surgeries will be postponed and some patients will be admitted directly to hospital wards, bypassing hospital EDs.

11 September 2017 - **Media release: Meningococcal case - September 2017** - A case of invasive meningococcal disease has been notified in a 68-year-old man from metropolitan Adelaide. The man has been admitted to hospital and is in a stable condition. The strain has been identified as serogroup W. SA Health has identified numerous people who had contact with the patient, of whom four people have been directed to receive clearance antibiotics.

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

14 September 2017 - **Plantation sale to benefit health** - Health will be the big winner from the Hodgman Liberal Government's plantation timber sale deal announced today. The deal is expected to deliver around \$15 million extra to our record \$658 million boost to the health Budget. This will ensure Tasmania's frontline health services are better resourced – with more staff, more beds and more services.



14 September 2017 - **Day for pregnancy and infant loss deaths** - October 15 will officially be recognised as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Each year, it is estimated that one in 135 births are stillborn, and one in four women will experience a miscarriage.

14 September 2017 - **R U Ok? Day** - Today is R U Ok? Day and it's an important opportunity for each of us to check on the mental health of those we care about, including family, friends and work colleagues. Not just today, but each day. It is a simple question, but one which can do far more to help someone than you might think. The Hodgman Liberal Government has a strong commitment to supporting Tasmanians with their mental health.

We have implemented a range of significant initiatives over the past three and a half years including the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, the state's first ever Youth Suicide Prevention Plan and the Suicide Prevention Workforce Development Training Plan 2016-2020.

13 September 2017 - **Major gaffe shows how Rebecca White is out of her depth** - In a major embarrassment for rookie Opposition Leader Rebecca White, she's been found out peddling conspiracies, once again. Ms White claimed in Parliament today that a so-called 'secret' interdepartmental team had been assembled to work with Royal Hobart Hospital staff.

Ms White proudly boasted that she had uncovered a significant conspiracy today, that the Government had been rumbled and that clearly she was an intimidating opponent to be feared by all. Sadly, Ms White didn't realise that the 'secret' team was actually publicly announced in June this year. Ms White literally turned white in Parliament when the Premier held up the media release that clearly showed the interdepartmental team had well and truly been announced as a positive measure to safely commission the new beds as rapidly as possible.

12 September 2017 - **Labor admits no answers on health** - It is becoming increasingly obvious that Labor leader Bec White is just a facade, with nothing behind her – no policies or plans for Tasmania's future. Ms White asked seven questions on health today - but didn't offer a single solution. It is particularly embarrassing that Ms White quoted extensively from submissions to the Legislative Council inquiry but failed to put in a submission of her own.

11 September 2017 - **Labor has no solutions on health** - Even a high ranking Labor party official has admitted what we've been saying for months - Labor has no solutions when it comes to health. At a media conference yesterday Tim Jacobson, who is Vice President of the Labor Party made a startling admission. *'...whilst clearly Labor is out there saying that health is the biggest issue on voters' wish list, they're not fundamentally addressing the issue.'*\*

10 September 2017 - **World Suicide Prevention Day** - Today is World Suicide Prevention Day for 2017, with this year's theme urging the community to *'Take a Minute, Change a Life'*. World Suicide Prevention Day is an important reminder for us all of the need to, as a community, support and look out for our colleagues, friends, family and loved ones.

10 September 2017 - **Health Paper - Government is acting, Labor has no policy** - The Government welcomes the release today of a joint Health Paper, which contains a number of measures and recommendations the Government is already acting on.

8 September 2017 - **New beds at RHH opening next week** - Eight new beds and treatment recliners will open at the Royal Hobart Hospital next week.

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

13 September 2017 - **More Treatment And Research For Youth Mental Health** - More treatment options for young people and greater research into youth mental health will become a reality with construction commencing on a state-of-the-art facility and additional funding announced today.

10 September 2017 - **'Spring Into Action' During First-Ever STI Testing Week** - The Andrews Labor Government will roll out a \$1 million package to mark the start of Victoria's first-ever STI Testing Week to encourage more Victorians to 'spring into action' this spring and get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses. Victorians are being encouraged to visit their GP to get tested,

and if required, treated, in a bid to reduce surging rates of STIs including gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia, and blood borne viruses among at-risk populations.

9 September 2017 - **Done Deal: Casey Hospital Expansion Set To Begin** - The final contracts have been signed and a builder appointed to start work on the Andrews Labor Government's world-class \$135 million expansion of Casey Hospital.

Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced the Plenary Health consortium, including Plenary Group, Watpac Limited and Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions (BGIS), would be responsible for work on the project that will meet soaring growth in demand for acute healthcare in Melbourne's booming south east. The Casey expansion will deliver 160 new beds, the hospital's first intensive care unit, six new operating theatres, a new day surgery unit, and will include an upgraded pharmacy, pathology, back-of-house areas and expanded parking facilities.

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

13 September 2017 - **Meningococcal disease in an adult** - The Department of Health today reported that a middle-aged adult is recovering in hospital after being diagnosed with serogroup Y meningococcal disease.

13 September 2017 - **Minister for Health: Robotic surgical system a first for WA's public hospitals** - Minister for Health: Robotic surgical system a first for WA's public hospitals.

13 September 2017 - **Ross River and Barmah Forest virus disease risk warning** - The Department of Health is reminding residents and travellers in the south-west region of Western Australia, including the Perth metropolitan area, to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites over the coming months.

8 September 2017 - **Minister for Health: Let's Prevent pilot program to tackle chronic conditions** - The McGowan Government has delivered on its promise to fund the Let's Prevent pilot program designed to support people at high risk of developing chronic conditions, including diabetes.

### **Policy Framework**

13 September 2017 - **Information Security Policy** - The Acceptable Use of ICT and Information Security policies are two high risk policies that, together, provide a framework underpinning many of the digital security strategies employed in the WA health system. The Information Security policy outlines the security controls required to be implemented, monitored and reviewed across the WA health system. It aligns to the principles of the Australian Standards for information security management which support a risk-based approach to information security that is appropriate to sensitivity, risk profile and business need. It outlines actions that all staff need to take and additional actions for ICT staff, including those at HSS. Policy framework: **Information and Communications Technology Policy Framework**.

13 September 2017 - **Acceptable Use of Information and Communications Technology Policy** - The Acceptable Use of ICT and Information Security policies are two high risk policies that, together, provide a framework underpinning many of the digital security strategies employed in the WA health system. The Acceptable Use of ICT policy sets out the acceptable behaviour required by staff, including contract and third party providers, across the WA health system when using WA health system resources. It covers general obligations and responsibilities, outlines reasonable personal use limits and strategies to minimize risk. Policy framework: **Information and Communications Technology Policy Framework**.

6 September 2017 - **Aboriginal Cultural eLearning Policy** - The purpose of the Aboriginal Cultural eLearning (ACeL) Policy (Policy) is to build the cultural knowledge of the WA health system workforce and strengthen its capacity to provide health care that is culturally respectful and non-discriminatory. ACeL training is one step towards improving the cultural effectiveness of the WA health system and its interaction with Aboriginal clients and colleagues.

The WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030 (Framework) provides the guiding principles that underpin the requirement for this Policy. The Framework recognises a culturally respectful and non-discriminatory health system is a key strategic enabler for improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people. This Policy is also directly aligned to priority four of the WA Health Strategic Intent 2015-2020, which is Aboriginal Health Services.

This Policy demonstrates a whole-of-organisation approach and an ongoing commitment to grow and sustain a culturally responsive WA health system. This Policy is a mandatory requirement under the Employment Policy Framework and supersedes Operational Directive 0599/15 Aboriginal Cultural eLearning - 'A Healthier Future'. Policy framework: [Employment Policy Framework](#).

### **New Zealand (NZ). Ministry of Health**

12 September 2017 - [Interim Evaluation Report: Healthy Families NZ](#) - This report describes the establishment and implementation of the Healthy Families NZ from 2014 until March 2016.

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

13 September 2017 - [New improvements to help fight sepsis](#) - Jeremy Hunt announces measures to improve sepsis identification, tracking and prevention.

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

14 September 2017 - [AuMA Appearance in Senate Medicare card Inquiry](#) - The AuMA has provided a submission in response to the Senate Inquiry being conducted by the Finance and Public Administration Committee regarding the circumstances in which Australians' personal Medicare information has been compromised and made available for sale illegally on the 'dark web'.

14 September 2017 - [GPs play vital role during pollen season](#) - Hayfever sufferers have been advised by Vice President of the AuMA, Dr Tony Bartone, to talk to their GP about how best to manage their allergies this pollen season. Dr Bartone acknowledged the importance of a management plan as allergic rhinitis can be disabling for some patients. 'The symptoms may vary from simple sneezing to a runny nose, to quite an intractable amount of nasal congestion and interference with daily routine, including sleeping patterns. It's a condition that needs to be managed effectively. It's something you should talk to your doctor about, so you have a plan that's managed accordingly,' Dr Bartone said.

14 September 2017 - [AuMA rejects report suggesting parents lack confidence in GPs](#) - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, has appeared in the media advocating for parents to consult their family doctor when their child is in pain. While hospital emergency departments can assist, a trusted and known GP may be better placed to address the problem.

14 September 2017 - [Incentives News Update from the Department of Human Services](#) - The Department of Human Services (the Department) provides a quarterly update on the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) and Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) which GPs may find useful.

The Incentive News Update (INU) can be found on the Department's website in the Health Professionals section under 'News'. This page contains information about the ongoing eligibility for PIP Incentives and has a tailored page for GPs.

14 September 2017 - [MJA Insight: Research updates](#) - The latest issue of Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) Insight features new research relevant to GPs, covering topics including uptake of childhood vaccines and the alcohol industry's misrepresentation of the alcohol-related risk of cancer. A study from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute has found that first-time mothers are more hesitant about childhood vaccines compared to mothers with children. This research aimed to uncover how information regarding childhood vaccines was delivered, what mothers' attitudes were towards childhood vaccination, and maternal immunisation uptake. There was a positive correlation between vaccine uptake post-delivery and knowledge of the safety of vaccines during pregnancy. For more information about how to talk to patients about childhood vaccines, see this [previous article in GPNN](#).

14 September 2017 - [New stroke guidelines for GPs](#) - The Stroke Foundation has released the Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management 2017. In accordance with the NHMRC Standards, these guidelines provide best-practice recommendations to assist decision-making for GPs in the management of stroke in adults.

14 September 2017 - [AuMA Queensland Private Practice & Medico-Legal Conference](#) - Discounts are available for AuMA members to attend the Private Practice and Medico-Legal Conference 2017. The focus of the program on offer is on future-proofing your practice. Join practitioners and other health care professionals to address some of the most challenging decisions doctors face in the workplace. Issues to

be discussed include e-health, passing accreditation, exploring new income streams for private practice, digital marketing and managing emerging risks in practice.

12 September 2017 - **Welfare Testing is Mean and Unfair** - [AuMA president] The Coalition Government delivered its best health budget for many years in May. Sadly, there was a major stain on what was an otherwise positive package of health-related initiatives – the proposal to introduce drug testing for welfare recipients. This policy is mean, unfair, and totally unnecessary, especially when there are so many positive things the Government could be doing in the health and social policy sectors. Drug testing is not an evidence-based measure. It is poor policy. It is divisive. It is a wedge. It is a distraction. It is most unlikely to work. The AuMA strongly opposes it.

## 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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