



# HEALTH ALERT

6 March 2017

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## JUDGMENTS

### Commonwealth . Administrative Appeals Tribunal

28 February 2017 - [Nairn and National Disability Insurance Scheme Agency \[2017\] AATA 242](#)

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME – characterisation of decision made by delegate of Chief Executive Officer – whether decision not to review plan or decision approving statement of participant supports – decision not to review plan. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – JURISDICTION – Tribunal's jurisdiction to review decisions under the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 limited to those made by a reviewer under s 100(6) and so to operative decisions described as 'reviewable decisions' in s 99.

### Commonwealth. Fair Work

2 March 2017 - [Aged Care Services Australia Group Pty Ltd \[2017\] FWCA 1201](#)

Application for variation of the Aged Care Services Australia Group Pty Ltd - Nurses and Aged Care Employees Enterprise Agreement 2014.

1 March 2017 - [St Vincents Health Australia \[2017\] FWCA 1173](#)

Application for approval of the St Vincent's Health Australia (Queensland Private Hospitals) Allied Health Employees Enterprise Agreement 2015.

28 February 2017 - [Powell v Calvary Health Care ACT Ltd T/A Calvary Public Hospital Bruce \[2017\] FWC 1160](#)

Application for relief from unfair dismissal harsh, unjust or unreasonable – serious misconduct – dismissal found to be fair – application dismissed.

27 February 2017 - [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation \[2017\] FWC 1137](#)

Application for alteration of eligibility rules

On 17 August 2015, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) made an application to the Fair Work Commission under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisation) Act 2009* for consent to alter its eligibility rules. It sought to add a new rule which provided that in Tasmania, employees who provide nursing services, but who are primarily engaged as cooks, cleaners, kitchen or laundry assistants, gardeners or maintenance employees would not be eligible for membership of the ANMF. Objections to the application were made by the Australian Services Union, Community and Public Sector Union, Health Services Union and Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation.

Following a conciliation attended by ANMF and the objecting parties and also a number of hearings, ANMF submitted an amended rule change for the consent of the Commission which provides that those engaged as non-direct care staff, technicians, orderlies, allied health professional assistants, therapists or therapy assistants or employees engaged in ambulance services in Tasmania, will not be eligible for membership of ANMF. In light of this amendment, the objections were withdrawn and Fair Work Commission provided its consent to the amendment.

### Queensland

27 February 2017 - [Covey v State of Queensland \[2017\] QSC 23](#)

MASTER AND SERVANT – SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK – PERSONAL INJURIES – NEGLIGENCE – BREACH OF DUTY – BREACH OF CONTRACT – DAMAGES – CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE – where plaintiff stumbled on a flight of stairs at work – where risk of injury reasonable foreseeable – where inexpensive remedial measures would have been avoided the foreseeable risk – where inadvertence or inattention on the part of the plaintiff contributed to the incident occurring

The plaintiff, a physiotherapist, brought a claim for damages against her employer for injuries sustained after falling in a stairway of Charters Towers Hospital. The Queensland Supreme Court found that the plaintiff's employer knew that employees regularly used the staircase and that the plaintiff's risk of injury had been aggravated by a lack of lighting.

The Court held that in the circumstances, reasonable care would have suggested that the stairway be examined by an expert and that an inspection by an intelligent layman would have suggested the installation of strips at the nose of the stairs and good lighting at the very least. Accordingly, the defendant was found to have breached its duty of care to ensure the safety of the stairway which required capping of the stairs in order to minimize dimensional inconsistency. The Court rejected an argument by the defendant that the plaintiff had been contributorily negligent and she was awarded a total of \$1,607,586 in damages.

## Victoria

28 February 2017 - [Medical Board of Australia v GFO \[2017\] VCAT 273](#)

Medical practitioner, sexual relationships with patients, Medical Practice Act, unprofessional conduct including professional misconduct, unprofessional conduct of a serious nature, Health Profession Registration Act, National Law, professional misconduct.

28 February 2017 - [Medical Board of Australia v Alkazzali \(Review and Regulation\) \[2017\] VCAT 286](#)

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009, s 196; Previous finding of guilt in relation to four allegations of professional misconduct; contravention of paragraphs 8.2.2 and 8.10.2 of Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia and Parts 3 and 4 of Sexual Boundaries: Guidelines for Doctors; Sexually propositioned patient by telephone and text messages; Inappropriate advice to patient as to how to obtain a disability support pension; Attempt to deceive or mislead the Board; Tribunal not satisfied that practitioner displayed genuine insight and remorse; Practitioner poses continuing risk; Prior notifications; Cancellation of registration warranted; Disqualification for 18 months; Further recommendations.

## LEGISLATION

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

### Commonwealth

1 March 2017 - [Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses\) Rules 2017 \(No. 1\)](#) - F2017L00183 as made.

1 March 2017 - [Direction to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority on the performance of its functions under section 226 of the National Health Reform Act 2011 - No. 2/2016](#) - F2017L00179 as made.

1 March 2017 [National Health \(Botulinum Toxin Program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 1\) \(PB 8 of 2017\)](#) - F2017L00178 as made.

### Queensland

1 March 2017 - [Gene Technology \(Queensland\) Act 2016](#) - commenced.

1 March 2017 - [Public Health \(Medicinal Cannabis\) Act 2016](#) (No. 53 of 2016) - commenced.

28 February 2017 - [Health \(Abortion Law Reform\) Amendment Bill 2016](#) - withdrawn.

### Victoria

1 March 2017 - [Assisted Reproductive Treatment Amendment Act 2016](#) - assent.

### South Australia

28 February 2017 - [Gene Technology \(Miscellaneous\) Amendment Act 2017](#) - assent.

## REPORTS

### Australia. Department of Health

#### Media releases

3 March 2017 - **Dementia Support Services in Tamworth** - Federal Assistant Minister for Health Dr David Gillespie joined Local MP and Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce in Tamworth at a local event promoting dementia services available to the community.

3 March 2017 - **On World Hearing Day make a sound investment – get a hearing check-up** - The ability to hear is something many of us take for granted and on World Hearing Day we are reminded to take care of our hearing health.

3 March 2017 - **Providing certainty and funding for alcohol and drug treatment services** - The Australian Government will continue to support drug and alcohol treatment services across Australia with funding of more than \$75 million a year.

1 March 2017 - **Call for Indigenous skills to assist Primary Health Networks** - Primary Health Networks are being encouraged to consider the skills of the National Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisation and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health groups to assist delivering innovative health programs to Close the Gap in health outcomes.

1 March 2017 - **Thousands support Gift of Life DonateLife Walk** - Minister for Health and Sport, Greg Hunt, and Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt, today joined thousands of Canberra residents to show their support for organ and tissue donation by participating in the annual Gift of Life Walk around Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra.

27 February 2017 - **Older Australians to have more say in delivery of home care services** - The Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, AM, MP, has launched *Increasing Choice in Home Care*, which gives consumers more choice in home care services to suit their individual needs.

27 February 2017 - **Pathology providers guarantee to continue to provide Pap Tests for Australian women** - The Federal Department of Health has reached agreement with representatives of the Australian Pathology providers which will ensure that women will be able to continue to access the current Pap Test to screen for cervical cancer until a new testing program begins on 1 December 2017.

#### Private Health Insurance Circulars

2 March 2017 - **PHI 09/17 Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Rules 2017 No. 1**

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

3 March 2017 - **New Chiropractic Board vodcast stresses the importance of professionalism to patient care** - The Chiropractic Board of Australia has added to its recent vodcasts to help chiropractors understand their obligations as a registered health practitioner in Australia under the National Law.

2 March 2017 - **Tribunal reprimands pharmacist for unprofessional conduct** - A pharmacist has been reprimanded with conditions imposed on his registration for unprofessional conduct.

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

2 March 2017 - **Quarterly registration data released** - The National Optometry Board has released its quarterly registration data.

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

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

2 March 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Dental Board has released its quarterly registration data.

2 March 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Podiatry Board has released its quarterly registration data.

28 February 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Nursing and Midwifery Board has released its quarterly registration data.

28 February 2017 - [Quarterly registration data released](#) - The National Occupational Therapy Board has released its quarterly registration data.

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

24 February 2017 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

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

1 March 2017 - [PBS Website Update](#) - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits for February 2017 will remain effective until the April 2017 Schedule is published. Additional information about the March 2017 PBS Schedule is available on the following [PBS News](#) page.

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

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

1 March 2017 - [Medical Devices Safety Update, Volume 5, Number 2, March 2017](#) - Recall documentation vital; Practice Points: Topical creams as devices; New committee takes over from ACSMD.

28 February 2017 - [Documents released under Section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) - Added FOI 209-1516 documents.

28 February 2017 - [Clinical evidence guidelines documents for medical devices](#) - Clinical evidence guidelines: Medical devices have been finalised and are now available.

27 February 2017 - [Medicines Safety Update, Volume 8, Number 1, February 2017](#) - Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, aripiprazole and vemurafenib.

### **Australian Digital Health Agency**

28 February 2017 - [Rural and remote clinicians webinar recording and presentation now available](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency held a webinar on Wednesday 1 February 2017, with rural and remote clinicians to gather feedback on how data and technology can be used to improve health, care and the quality of life for Australians in rural and remote communities. The webinar can now be watched on our website and presentation slides are now available for [download in the Webinars area](#).

28 February 2017 - [Australian Digital Health Agency will be in Alice Springs, NT!](#) - The Australian Digital Health Agency will visit Alice Springs, Northern Territory on Friday 10 March to discuss the role of digital health in the future of health and care in the community of Central Australia.

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

28 February 2017 - [National key performance indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care: preliminary results from May 2015 \(data tables\)](#)

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

27 February 2017 - On the Radar Issue 312 ([PDF 216KB](#)) ([Word 150KB](#))

## **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)**

1 March 2017 - [ACCC welcomes reporting of payments to individual healthcare professionals](#) - The ACCC welcomes transparency reports published by Medicines Australia member companies in accordance with the Code of Conduct authorised by the ACCC in April 2015.

The Code sets the standards for the marketing and promotion of prescription pharmaceutical products in Australia by member companies. The reporting regime requires identification of 'transfers of value', such as speaking fees, advisory board fees, and sponsorships to attend conferences, made by member companies to individual healthcare professionals since October 2015.

## **Australia. National Mental Health Commission**

27 February 2017 - [Government grants extension for final report](#) - The National Mental Health Commission has sought and been granted an extension of time to submit the final report to government on the review of self-harm and suicide prevention services, provided by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), available to current and former serving members of the ADF and their families.

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

2 March 2017 - [Expressions of Interest now open for Medicinal Cannabis Advisory Group](#)

24 February 2017 - [Dangerous Drug Warning for Canberrans](#) - ACT Health are warning Canberrans to be aware of a dangerous and illicit substance that has been distributed to young people as an ecstasy-type 'MDMA' drug.

23 February 2017 - [Food Recall](#) - A food recall is being conducted for sesame flavoured wheat puffs in the ACT and NSW due to undeclared peanut allergen.

28 February 2017 - [New funding to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation in Canberra](#) - The ACT Government is delivering on a 2016 election commitment by providing new funding to Gift of Life to help raise awareness of organ and tissue donation. The funding announcement comes ahead of the annual Gift of Life DonateLife Walk around Lake Burley Griffin and will go towards promoting the Australian Organ Donor Register amongst Canberrans and supporting other community awareness activities.

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

Policy Directives & Guidelines

27 February 2017 - [Accreditation of Pathology Laboratories in NSW Health](#) - PD2017\_005

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

2 March 2017 - [Growing Our Own Nurses and Midwives](#) - Applications are open to two key schemes supporting Territorians studying nursing and midwifery. The Minister for Health Natasha Fyles said the Northern Territory Nursing and Midwifery Studies Assistance Grants Scheme and Northern Territory Ministerial Nurse Practitioner Scholarships were important initiatives.

## **Queensland. Department of Health**

2 March 2017 - [Queensland's ambulance service celebrates 125 years with funding injection](#) - The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is celebrating a significant milestone this year with 2017 marking 125 years since ambulance services began in Queensland.

1 March 2017 - [Now easier for doctors to prescribe medicinal cannabis](#) - Queensland continues to lead the way with the nation's most progressive medicinal cannabis laws, with today marking the start of new legislation that will see some patients in the State legally able to access medicinal cannabis.

1 March 2017 - [Green light for Caboolture Hospital car parks](#) - Much needed extra car parks adjacent to the Caboolture Hospital are one step closer, with an important agreement reached between the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

2 March 2017 - **Funding set to improve sexual health and combat STIs** - Sexual health services will receive a \$5.27 million injection over four years to promote good sexual health and fight sexually transmissible infections across the state.

25 February 2017 - **Another QLD first for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital** - Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick has revealed the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) will be the first hospital in Queensland to use intelligent logistic robots to lift and transport meals and supplies when the facility opens next month.

28 February 2017 - **Autumn in Queensland: Some things to consider** - Autumn in Queensland can provide welcome relief after a long, hot summer, with cooler temperatures and lowering humidity.

The days begin to shorten and we get ready to settle into our, albeit quite mild, winter months. But the fact that the air temperature is dropping doesn't mean we can let our guard down about the health conditions that can be associated with living in Queensland all year round.

27 February 2017 - **Why is immunisation important?** - Immunisation is one of our most significant human achievements. It saves around 3 million lives world-wide each year and helps to prevent outbreaks and hospitalisations from vaccine preventable diseases. Protect your child by ensuring vaccinations are given on time.

25 February 2017 - **Mental Health Review Tribunal update** - Queensland Health has been notified a former legal member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal did not meet the statutory criteria required by the *Mental Health Act 2000* for appointment as a legal member. The Tribunal member in question holds a law degree, but has never been admitted to practise law in Queensland or in any other jurisdiction. The former member served from 2002 until 2016 and was involved in Tribunal hearings for about 5600 individuals.

A Tribunal hearing panel consists of a psychiatrist, a lawyer, and person with other qualifications and experience considered relevant. The intent of this mix of qualifications and experience is to ensure there is a balanced review of each person's rights, liberties as well as physical and mental wellbeing.

While there is no evidence anyone has received inappropriate mental health care, Queensland Health is implementing a process to examine the outcomes of the hearings for which the person was a panel member. Queensland Health will contact people affected.

24 February 2017 - **Art imitates life: RBWH patient channels cancer recovery into wooden art** - Using the cancer recovery as the catalyst for his artwork, Mr Cheshire created a piece titled 'The Cure' as a thank you gift to the RBWH, which incorporates significant stages of his cancer journey.

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

1 March 2017 - **Media release: Overnight doctor at mount barker hospital** - In a major boost for Adelaide Hills residents, an overnight onsite doctor will be trialled at Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. The move, which will come into effect from 6 March, is designed to meet the growing needs of the people of Mount Barker and the wider region.

1 March 2017 - **Media release: Privacy Breach Quarterly Update** - Over the past three months, two SA Health staff have had their employment terminated for inappropriately accessing patient records. From 1 December to 28 February, another three staff were disciplined and one resigned prior to the completion of misconduct investigations into serious allegations being finalised.

26 February 2017 - **Pregnant women warned as Whooping Cough cases rise** - A spike in whooping cough cases in South Australian babies has prompted the state's Health Minister to issue an urgent warning to pregnant women to make sure they are vaccinated.

24 February 2017 - **More health services closer to home in Southern Fleurieu** - The \$10 million Southern Fleurieu Health Service redevelopment was officially opened today, providing even more services closer to home for locals.

## Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

1 March 2017 - **8 new beds for the North West Regional Hospital** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is opening eight new beds at the North West Regional Hospital.

1 March 2017 - **15 more permanent beds at the LGH** - Today I am announcing we are permanently opening and funding 15 more beds at the Launceston General Hospital.

28 February 2017 - **RHH support package announced** - Health is a key priority of the Hodgman Liberal Government, which is why we are redeveloping the Royal Hobart Hospital which will increase bed capacity by 250 beds. This is an important part of our long term Plan to ensure all Tasmanians get the health services they deserve. But we also recognise there are very real demands on the hospital being faced right now. That is why we are announcing 27 new beds to open over the next two months across three locations in the South.

27 February 2017 - **Next stage of Patients First** - Tomorrow, I will be announcing the next stage of the Government's 'Patients First' initiative for the Royal Hobart Hospital, which is made possible because we have brought the Budget back into balance. The health of Tasmanians is a key priority for the Hodgman Liberal Government. In response to addressing concerns in the state's Emergency Departments, last year we rolled out the Patients First initiative which includes measures to initiate a whole of hospital response and patients who are able to go home, released.

24 February 2017 - **Tasmanian Health Service clinical redesign unveiled** - The Tasmanian Health Service (THS) has today released *Building a Statewide Clinical Service Delivery Structure, First Steps* that will help deliver better health care to all Tasmanians and provide opportunities for clinical leaders to aspire to one of the statewide leadership roles. The structure follows extensive consultation with clinicians and THS employees and their professional and industrial organisations over the last few months.

The structure will see clinical services grouped into six statewide streams, with a dedicated clinician management team to lead each stream. The streams will provide the necessary clinical leadership to support sustainable and meaningful reform and improve the delivery of health services in the state.

## Victoria. Department of Health

3 March 2017 - **Major Revamp For Ararat's Community Health Services To Provide Better Care For More Families** - More Ararat families will get easier access to the vital community health and family services they need – all under one roof – thanks to an Andrews Labor Government funding boost for East Grampians Health Service.

2 March 2017 - **New Fund To Fast-Track Medical Breakthroughs Now Open** - The Andrews Labor Government's new research fund to fast-track the latest breakthroughs in health and medical research into everyday care and treatment for patients is now open. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today called for applications for the inaugural Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund, with two levels of funding available of up to \$100,000 and \$500,000.

1 March 2017 - **\$5 Million Palliative Care Boost To Support More Victorians To Die At Home** - A new \$5 million fund for community palliative care agencies to provide at home palliative care will support more Victorians with a terminal illness to be cared for, and die, in their place of choice. The new fund will provide grants of up to \$50,000 for equipment and information technology that allows nurses and other direct care staff to provide care in people's homes.

1 March 2017 - **Fast-Tracked Medicinal Cannabis For Kids With Severe Epilepsy** - Twenty-nine critically ill children have become the first in Victoria to legally access medicinal cannabis, with the Andrews Labor Government this week importing product from Canada ahead of local product becoming available in the middle of the year.

1 March 2017 - **A Better Sense Of Identity For Donor-Conceived Victorians** - All donor-conceived Victorians can now access available identifying information about their donors and heritage regardless of when they were born, under new laws that come into effect from today. Previously, only people born from sperm or eggs donated after 1998 could automatically find out available identifying information about their donors.



27 February 2017 - [Virtual Reality Training To Protect Paramedics From Violence](#) - All Victorian paramedics will undertake new 'virtual reality' training to better protect themselves from violence when responding to real-life volatile medical emergencies. Minister for Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy today launched Ambulance Victoria's new Occupational Violence Prevention Education Program – which is the first of its kind for emergency services.

24 February 2017 - [Warragul Hospital Revamp To Treat More Patients Sooner](#) - More Gippsland patients will get the emergency care and surgeries they need sooner thanks to an Andrews Labor Government funding boost to revamp Warragul Hospital. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy and Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing today visited Warragul Hospital to announce West Gippsland Healthcare Group would receive \$9.3 million for two projects through the first round of the Labor Government's new Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

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

#### Media Releases

2 March 2017 - [Grad Program team at Curtin Uni](#) - The WA Health Graduate Program team are at Curtin University today to provide students and upcoming graduates with information about opportunities with the Department.

#### Policy Frameworks

2 March 2017 - [Sponsorship Policy](#) (MP 0047/17) - The Sponsorship Policy replaces the previous WA Health Sponsorship Policy OD 0266/10. It more clearly defines process requirements for establishing sponsorship arrangements, and caters to both incoming and outgoing sponsorships.

### New Zealand. Ministry of Health

1 March 2017 - [Disability Information and Advisory Services and Needs Assessment and Service Coordination Review – A Proposed Design and Framework](#) - This is the final conclusion and recommendation paper in the independent review of the framework for disability information advisory services (DIAS) and needs assessment service coordination (NASC) for disability support services.

28 February 2017 - [Māori Provider Development Scheme \(MPDS\) Funding Information, 2013/14 to 2016/17](#) - This publication summarises funding to Māori health providers by DHBs and information on Māori health providers from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

### Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

2 March 2017 - [Importance of a trusted regular GP emphasised](#) - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, was interviewed recently by a new online publication for baby boomers, *Startsat60*, about the importance of [having a regular and trusted GP](#). Dr Bartone told *Startsat60* that patients becoming familiar with their GP helps both the patient and the doctor when it comes to keeping them as healthy as possible.

2 March 2017 - [National standard medication charts – new free online learning course](#) - In partnership with NPS MedicineWise, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed an online learning course to support prescribers to use the National Standard Medication Charts. The course content reflects current best practice and is tailored to suit the main role of the participant in the medication management continuum.

2 March 2017 - [Medicare billing assurance toolkit](#) - GPs and general practices wanting to reduce the risks of incorrect MBS billing and increase the efficiency of their practice may be interested in the Medicare Billing Assurance Toolkit. The toolkit includes a range of checklists, templates and suggestions to make it easier for GPs and their practices to manage risks that inadvertently cause incorrect billing under Medicare.

2 March 2017 - [New guidelines for electronic discharge summaries](#) - GPs may be encouraged by the prospect of improved discharge summaries with The Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care's release of new *National guidelines for on-screen presentation of discharge summaries*.

2 March 2017 - [Australian Prescriber now published online](#) - GPs wanting to keep abreast of the latest information to inform their prescribing can subscribe free to the bi-monthly online journal *Australian Prescriber*. This national and independent journal provides peer-reviewed, critical commentary on drugs and therapeutics for health professionals.

## ABOUT US

### Caroline Atkins



Caroline Atkins is the Office Managing Partner for the Canberra office of DLA Piper and has worked extensively in the health sector for Australian Government agencies. Her experience includes the conduct of major technology projects for the health sector, such as in the e-health and aged care sectors, and in advising the Commonwealth on the implementation of policy programs in contractual arrangements (including for medical indemnity insurance and for CSO arrangements for PBS funding). She has also advised the National Blood Authority on major Commonwealth contracts for the supply of blood products including with the Red Cross and CSL. Caroline's commercial experience extends over 30 years and also includes significant experience in ICT outsourcing, whole-of-government technology procurements, intellectual property rights licensing, contract management, procurement strategy and dispute resolution.

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