



# HEALTH ALERT

26 OCTOBER 2015

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## JUDGMENTS

### Queensland

#### 22 September 2015 - *Metro South Hospital and Health Service & Leighton v Luthje* [2015] QCATA 145

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) allowed an appeal by Metro South Hospital and Health Service, and Karen Leighton, setting aside orders that prohibit them from requiring the respondent to undertake an independent medical examination (IME).

The respondent, an Endorsed Enrolled Nurse employed by Metro South Hospital and Health Service, lodged a complaint to the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commission alleging workplace discrimination because of his physical impairments, post-traumatic stress disorder and a hearing disorder. After lodging his complaint, the respondent successfully applied for an injunction under the *Anti-discrimination Act 1991* to restrain the appellants from exercising certain powers under the *Public Service Act 2008* that could result in his termination on medical grounds.

Particularly, the appellants were restrained from requiring the respondent to undertake an IME until his discrimination claim was heard. Under *the Public Service Act 2008*, upon consideration of an IME report, an employer is empowered to transfer, redeploy or retire an employee from the public service. Without an IME, the appellants were precluded from exercising this power.

In this proceeding, QCAT considered the interaction between the *Anti-discrimination Act 1991* and the employers' powers under the *Public Service Act 2008*. The Tribunal concluded that an employer should be given the opportunity to consider an IME and take appropriate action based on reasonable accommodations available for the employee once the IME report is at hand. The Tribunal therefore concluded that an IME is not, of itself, prejudicial such that an injunction is warranted under the *Anti-discrimination Act 1991*.

### Victoria

#### 20 October 2015 - *Inquest into the Death of Ian Chesney*

The Victorian Coroners Court has delivered findings into the death of Ian Chesney, who died from ST elevation myocardial infraction (heart attack).

Mr Chesney died during emergency transfer to Monash Medical Centre from the Emergency Department (ED) of Frankston Hospital where he had suffered cardiac arrest. Mr Chesney's condition deteriorated shortly after being moved into ED, having waited approximately two hours on the ambulance trolley in the care of the ambulance crew. Although Mr Chesney had been triaged as category 2, to be seen ideally within 10 minutes of presentation, the high volume of patients in ED at the time meant that he did not receive an electrocardiogram (ECG), nor did ambulance staff formally record his vital signs, until he was moved into an ED cubicle.

The sad circumstances of Mr Chesney's death highlight the potential impact of long waiting times in Victoria's EDs. While the findings concluded that Mr Chesney's death was unlikely to have been preventable, the Coroner accepted evidence that 'access block' to EDs posed the potential to have significant impacts on the health outcomes of presenting patients.

The Coroner made no adverse comments against any party, but did recommend that Ambulance Victoria reinforce to its staff that they have the responsibility to monitor patients until handover to ED has occurred. The Coroner also recommended that Ambulance Victoria and Peninsular Health collaborate to ensure that

patients with chest pain receive an ECG within 10 minutes of arrival if they cannot be admitted to ED immediately.

#### **20 October 2015 - *Singh v Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia* [2015] VSC 576**

APPEAL — Application for leave to appeal from decision and orders of Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal upholding allegations of professional misconduct and cancelling plaintiff's registration as a psychiatric nurse — Plaintiff contended that complainant had motive for fabricating allegation of misconduct — Whether Tribunal erred in applying requisite standard of proof in disciplinary proceedings — Tribunal hesitant to conclude that complainant would fabricate serious allegations — No error of law — Alternatively, any error not a vitiating error — Leave to appeal refused. Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

#### **19 October 2015 - *Pharmacy Board of Australia v Wang (Occupational Discipline)* [2015] ACAT 70**

Catchwords: OCCUPATIONAL DISCIPLINE – health practitioner regulation – pharmacist – unprofessional conduct due to dispensing of incorrect medication – consent orders reached - significant delay between conduct and hearing

#### **New South Wales**

#### **22 October 2015 - *Crickitt v Medical Council of NSW (No 2)* [2015] NSWCATOD 115**

Suspension order under section 150-appeal- medical practitioner charged with murder of wife-status of police charge sheet-corroborative evidence-protection of health and safety of any persons-public interest-held suspension of registration appropriate for 6 months-costs reserved

#### **19 October 2015 - *Heath Care Complaints Commission v Daly* [2015] NSWCATOD 113**

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Health Practitioner National Law 2014 (NSW). Where medical practitioner concedes her conduct in treatment of patients and failure to keep proper records constitutes unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct. Where practitioner disputes some particulars in the complaint. Whether or not practitioner's registration should be cancelled or suspended and or conditions imposed on her registration.

### **LEGISLATION**

#### **Commonwealth**

22 October 2015 - ***National Health (Australian Community Pharmacy Authority Rules) Amendment Determination 2015 (No. 1) (PB 89 of 2015)*** - F2015L01689 - PB 89 of 2015 as made

22 October 2015 - ***Amendment Statement of Principles concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary disease No. 129 of 2015*** - F2015L01688 - No. 129 of 2015 as made

22 October 2015 - ***Amendment Statement of Principles concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary disease No. 128 of 2015*** - F2015L01687 - No. 128 of 2015 as made

22 October 2015 - ***Statement of Principles concerning malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 121 of 2015)*** - F2015L01686 - No. 121 of 2015 as made

22 October 2015 - ***Statement of Principles concerning malignant neoplasm of the oesophagus (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 120 of 2015)*** - F2015L01685 - No. 120 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - ***Statement of Principles concerning discoid lupus erythematosus (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 127 of 2015)*** - F2015L01681 - No. 127 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - ***Statement of Principles concerning discoid lupus erythematosus (Reasonable Hypothesis) (No. 126 of 2015)*** - F2015L01680 - No. 126 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - ***Statement of Principles concerning loss of teeth (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 125 of 2015)*** - F2015L01679 - No. 125 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning loss of teeth \(Reasonable Hypothesis\) \(No. 124 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01678 - No. 124 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning dental caries \(Balance of Probabilities\) \(No. 123 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01676 - No. 123 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning dental caries \(Reasonable Hypothesis\) \(No. 122 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01675 - No. 122 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning pterygium \(Balance of Probabilities\) \(No. 117 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01674 - No. 117 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning pterygium \(Reasonable Hypothesis\) \(No. 116 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01671 - No. 116 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning pinguecula \(Balance of Probabilities\) \(No. 119 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01672 - No. 119 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Statement of Principles concerning pinguecula \(Reasonable Hypothesis\) \(No. 118 of 2015\)](#) - F2015L01670 - No. 118 of 2015 as made

21 October 2015 - [Food Standards \(Proposal M1012 – Amendments to Standard 1.4.2\) Variation](#) - F2015L01668 - as made

20 October 2015 - [Medical Research Future Fund \(Consequential Amendments\) Commencement Proclamation 2015](#) - F2015L01667 - as made

22 October 2015 - [Health Insurance Amendment \(Safety Net\) Bill 2015](#) - C2015B00183 - Introduced 21 October 2015

### **New South Wales**

21 October 2015 - [Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#) - Awaiting Assent

21 October 2015 - [Home Building and Duties Amendment \(Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Affected Premises\) Bill 2015](#) - Awaiting Second Reading Debate

### **Victoria**

22 October 2015 - [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(No Jab, No Play\) Bill 2015](#) - Passed both Houses

21 October 2015 - [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(Safe Access Zones\) Bill 2015](#) - Introduced

### **Western Australia**

22 October 2015 - [Liquor Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#) - Legislative Assembly Consideration in Detail

## **REPORTS**

### **Australia. Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)**

20 October 2015 - [ACCC report on the private health insurance industry](#) - The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has released a report on the private health insurance industry, highlighting concerns about the impact of complex information on consumers and the market.

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

Media releases

22 October 2015 - [New goals to improve Indigenous health](#) - Minister for Rural Health Fiona Nash has launched an Implementation Plan to help Close the Gap by improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

22 October 2015 - [Providing the helping hand for dementia severe behaviour](#) A new Government initiative will provide a helping hand to aged care residents who exhibit severe behaviour as a result of their dementia and assist them to manage their symptoms.

21 October 2015 - [Fairer, simpler Medicare Safety Net to help more patients](#) More Australians could have faster access to simpler safety net protections against large medical expenses under a Government proposal introduced into Parliament on 21 October 2015.

20 October 2015 - [The time for getting around to an active lifestyle is now](#) Minister for Health Sussan Ley is pleading with Australian women to 'put their health first' and get active to ensure they – and their families - live more healthy, happy and productive lives.

19 October 2015 - [\\$43 million to continue search for a cure to dementia](#) Seventy-six researchers will share in \$43 million to support bold and innovative new ideas to not only tackle the impacts of dementia but to find ways of preventing and curing the debilitating disease.

17 October 2015 - [Government support to allow the controlled cultivation of cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes](#) The Turnbull Government will seek parliamentary support to allow the controlled cultivation of cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes in Australia to deliver patients access to a safe, legal and sustainable supply of locally-produced products for the first-time.

#### Current Issues

13 October 2015 - [The cessation of funding to the Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney Cooperative \(AMSWS\)](#) The decision to cease funding the AMSWS was not taken lightly and was the result of the organisation's significant debts and the risks this posed to the organisation's ability to continue delivering primary health care services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Western Sydney.

#### Private Health insurance Circulars

20 October 2015 - [PHI 70/15 New Private Hospital Information](#)

14 October 2015 - [PHI 69/15 New Private Hospital Information](#)

#### Medical Benefits Schedule

[The 1 November 2015 MBS XML file is now available](#)

#### Publications

[Dementia - National Framework for Action, 2015-2019](#)

[Department of Health Corporate Plan 2015-2016](#)

[Discussion Paper: Review of the Specialist Training Programme](#)

[Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023](#)

[National Framework for Action on Dementia 2015-2019](#)

[Recommendations for Clinical Care Guidelines on the Management of Otitis Media \(Middle Ear Infection\) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations 2010](#)

#### [Australia. Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#)

22 October 2015 - [Commencement of Severe Behaviour Response Teams](#) - The Australian Government has announced the commencement of national Severe Behaviour Response Teams (SBRTs), expanding support for aged care residents experiencing extreme and severe Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD).

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

21 October 2015 - [AHPRA calls for more reporting to improve public safety](#) - AHPRA today called on Victorian health practitioners and services to report their concerns about poor quality care, so regulators can act when needed to keep the public safe.

16 October 2015 - [AHPRA widens investigation into practitioners at Victorian health service](#) - Australia's health regulators yesterday launched investigations into other doctors and midwives at the Djerriwarrh Health Service in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, after receiving an expert report raising concerns about obstetric and midwifery care at the service.

16 October 2015 - [Call for applications – Appointment to the Queensland Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#)

16 October 2015 - [Call for applications – Appointment to the Queensland Board of the Medical Board of Australia](#)

14 October 2015 - [Call for applications for appointment to the list of approved persons for appointment to panels for the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, and the Victorian Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#)

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

19 October 2015 - [\\$43 million to continue search for a cure to dementia](#)

16 October 2015 - [NHMRC Research Tracker](#)

16 October 2015 - [NHMRC Health Tracker - October](#)

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

22 October 2015 - [Medical devices and IVDs: Cancellations from the ARTG](#) Details of products cancelled from the ARTG

21 October 2015 - [VAIOS Total Shoulder Replacement System](#) Hazard alert - higher-than-expected revision rate

#### **Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)**

22 October 2015 - [Implementation Plan goals for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013–23: technical companion document](#)

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

On the Radar – 19 October 2015 – Issue 245 ([PDF 429KB](#)) ([Word 506KB](#))

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

22 October 2015 - [Canberra Hospital trial informs patient drug treatment regime](#) - The trial found that paracetamol used to treat fever did not reduce the amount of time patients spent in the Intensive Care Unit, nor did it improve any other relevant outcomes.

22 October 2015 - [\\$2 million in grants to make Canberra healthier](#) - Six organisations will share in \$2 million over the next three years to combat the concerning rates of overweight and obesity, reduce alcohol and tobacco related harm and promote healthy active ageing in the ACT, Minister for Health Simon Corbell announced today.

21 October 2015 - [Electronic cigarette restrictions to protect public health](#) - The ACT Government will prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes to children and place restrictions on their promotion, Minister for Health Simon Corbell announced today

20 October 2015 - [University of Canberra Public Hospital \(UCPH\) Consultation](#) - The *University of Canberra Public Hospital Service Delivery and Care Summary* has been released and will be available for public comment until 01 December 2015.

19 October 2015 - [New program casts breast cancer recovery in new light](#) - The retreats take people away from their everyday lives for a weekend and are open to women of all ages, in all stages of recovery and are free to participants.

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

Media Releases

22 October 2015 - **Health Care Complaints Commission powers strengthened to protect patients in NSW** - The NSW Government has acted to provide further protection to the community by strengthening the regulation of non-registered health practitioners and increasing the power of the state's healthcare watchdog, the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).

20 October 2015 - **NSW Health Warns Of Deadly Lyssaviruses** - With Start Of Bat Breeding Season With the start of the bat breeding season, NSW Health has urged people not to approach or handle injured bats and flying foxes to avoid the risk of exposure to potentially fatal lyssaviruses.

19 October 2015 - **Non-Emergency Patient Transport fleet transition** - Minister for Health Jillian Skinner today announced a new plan to free up ambulances and improve non-emergency patient transport in greater metropolitan Sydney

17 October 2015 - **NSW looks at sites to grow medicinal cannabis** NSW Minister for Medical Research Pru Goward and NSW Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair today joined the Federal Minister for Health the Hon. Sussan Ley MP in Sydney to welcome the Federal Government's announcement to allow controlled cultivation of cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes.

16 October 2015 - **NSW Government secures and enhances vital perinatal mental health service** - The NSW Government has today secured the future of a specialist perinatal mental health service for pregnant women and mothers across the state.

#### Publications

16 October 2015 - **Health Service Delivery in Western Sydney Community Information Meeting Minutes**

#### New South Wales (NSW). Health Care Complaints Commission

20 October 2015 - **Dr Christine Daly - finding of professional misconduct - reprimand and conditions imposed** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Christine Daly, a general practitioner, before the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

16 October 2015 - **Dr Jenson Mak - unsatisfactory professional conduct** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Jenson Mak, a consultant geriatrician, before a Medical Professional Standards Committee on 25 and 26 August 2015.

14 October 2015 - **Dr Christoph Camphausen - unsatisfactory professional conduct - reprimand and conditions** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Christoph Camphausen, a paediatric cardiologist, before a Medical Professional Standards Committee on 1 and 2 September 2015.

14 October 2015 - **Mr Qing Cai (David) Wang prohibited from providing any health services for seven years** - The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission completed an investigation into the professional conduct of Mr Qing Cai (David) Wang, a massage therapist working in Lane Cove NSW.

14 October 2015 - **Updated Media Release - Dr Mohammad Rahman Shinwari – Reprimand and Conditions on registration**

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

20 October 2015 - **Your say on support services for children** - Territory service providers are being asked to contribute to the development of a new service model to support children of sexual abuse or neglect.

16 October 2015 - **On track to deliver Palmerston Regional Hospital** - Please find attached a joint Media Release from the Federal Member for Solomon Natasha Griggs and Northern Territory Health Minister John Elferink, in regards to the works at Palmerston Regional Hospital including the initial concrete pour.

#### Queensland (QLD). Department of Health

23 October 2015 - **New shelter strengthens DV support network** - A new women's shelter has opened in Yarrabah, east of Cairns, as the Queensland Government continues its campaign to end domestic and family violence.

22 October 2015 - **Doors swing open at new Dysart medical centre** - The people of Dysart now have better access to health services with a new medical centre thanks to a \$780,000 Queensland Government grant.

22 October 2015 - **Townsville residents to have their say on domestic and family violence** - Townsville residents will have an opportunity tomorrow to have their say on how North Queensland can tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence.

21 October 2015 - **\$3.6m disability housing opens its doors in Mitchelton** - A \$3.6 million innovative housing project for people with disability, who have ageing parents, was officially opened in Mitchelton on Brisbane's north side today.

17 October 2015 - **Next steps to smoke free Queensland** - Childcare centres and organised children's sporting events as well as bus stops will be off limits to smokers under new laws being proposed by the State Government.

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

21 October 2015 - **Construction starts on new Oakden ambulance station** - Construction of the new \$3.6 million SA Ambulance Service station in Oakden has commenced. Health Minister Jack Snelling said the new station demonstrated the Government's commitment to providing quality health infrastructure for the community.

18 October 2015 - **Parents warned of button battery danger** - Doctors are urging parents to keep button batteries secure, saying they continue to see cases of young children having swallowed the tiny items, which can be fatal. Minister for Health Jack Snelling said these small batteries may look harmless, but ingestion by a young child can result in them becoming extremely sick, and there is even a risk of death. 'In the past year, 16 calls were made to the South Australian Poisons Information Centre from worried parents of children under five who had swallowed a button battery,' Mr Snelling said.

### **Tasmania (TAS). Department of Health & Human Services**

21 October 2015 - **Funding for Community Legal Centres and Shelters to help women affected by family violence** - The Tasmanian Liberal Government is taking action on family violence through Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Act

17 October 2015 - **Community Rapid Response Service** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is changing the way our health system operates so we can get better results for all Tasmanians.

17 October 2015 - **Medicinal Cannabis** - This is great news for Tasmania, and what we've been working towards. As I have said consistently, the only way medicinal cannabis could be administered or grown in Tasmania was with change at a Federal level, and this is now happening.

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

#### Media Releases

23 October 2015 - **Minister for Health: Leading cardiologist wins health award** - Professor Peter Thompson AM, Director of Research Development at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Deputy Director of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, has won the 2015 Minister for Health Award.

23 October 2015 - **Riley's light shines brightest at WA Health Excellence Awards** - A program to vaccinate pregnant women against pertussis has taken out the Director General's award at this year's WA Health Excellence Awards.

21 October 2015 - **Launch of life-saving registry** - A National Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Registry has been launched and WA Health has been the driving force in getting it off the ground.

16 October 2015 - **Meningococcal disease in a child** - The Department of Health today reported that a young child is recovering in hospital after having been diagnosed with meningococcal disease.

16 October 2015 - **Milestone for regional health service** - Five hundred people across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern have now received help from the innovative Health Navigator service, the free telephone



and video-conferencing scheme offered by the WA Country Health Service and the Silver Chain Group since 2013.

9 November 2015 - [Food Standards Australia New Zealand \(FSANZ\) food labelling seminar – Perth](#) - A seminar for environmental health officers, food industry and public health groups on the labelling requirements of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards code - (Event)

Operational Directives (OD)

22 October 2015 - [IC 0230/15 - National Core Maternity Indicator Interactive Web Portal](#) - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) web portal provides data displays and clinical commentary for 12 National Core Maternity Indicators, including the most up to date information from 2013.

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

22 October 2015 - [Health and Independence Report 2015](#) - The Health and Independence Report 2015 provides an overview of the state of New Zealander's health, including how well the health and disability system is performing. We focus on a number of high profile areas for the health and disability system, including pregnancy and early childhood, mental health and well-being, and vulnerable groups.

22 October 2015 - [Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2015](#) - The publication fulfills the requirement to report annually on financial and non-financial performance for all appropriations.

21 October 2015 - [Independent Review of New Zealand's Electronic Health Record Strategy](#) - The Minister of Health has requested an independent report on the benefits of a single electronic health record in New Zealand.

16 October 2015 - [Living Well with Diabetes](#) - Living Well with Diabetes: A health care plan for people at high risk of or living with diabetes 2015–2020, aims to address the needs of people with a high risk of developing diabetes, including those with pre-diabetes and existing diabetes.

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

22 October 2015 - [Improving children and young people's mental health care](#) - Speech

21 October 2015 - [Lord Carter: reducing variation in care could save NHS £5 billion](#) - News story

16 October 2015 - [Providing high quality mental and social care services](#) - Speech

15 October 2015 - [Restrictions on nurse recruitment from overseas changed](#) - News story

22 October 2015 - [Minimise transmission risk of CJD and vCJD in healthcare settings](#) - Guidance

16 October 2015 - [NHS Primary Medical Services Directions](#) - Guidance

16 October 2015 - [Annual accountability review: MHRA](#) - Transparency data

16 October 2015 - [Nutrition legislation information sources](#) - Guidance

### **United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**

21 October 2015 - [HHS awards \\$2.2 billion in grants for HIV/AIDS care and medications](#)

20 October 2015 - [HHS Secretary Burwell announces new members of Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services](#)

19 October 2015 - [HHS awards up to \\$22.9 million in Planning Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics](#)

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

19 October 2015 - [AMA backs codeine call as deaths rise](#) - The AMA has backed calls for codeine be withdrawn from chemist shop shelves amid evidence of a rise in the number of overdose deaths involving the painkiller. A Therapeutic Goods Administration expert committee has recommended that from 1 June next year medicines containing codeine, which currently include Panadeine, Codral Cough and Cold

Tablets and Mersyndol, be re-classified as Schedule 4 drugs, meaning they could no longer be sold over-the-counter and would instead be only available by prescription.

19 October 2015 - **Medicare review taken off course** - The AMA has demanded the Federal Government recast its approach to the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review as medical researchers have distanced themselves from claims doctors are routinely ordering ineffective and potentially harmful tests and procedures that are costing the nation hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

### British Medical Association (BMA)

22 October 2015 - **GP partnerships: beware gentlemen's agreements** - Many GPs aspire to join a partnership one day. One doctor's experience emphasises the importance of obtaining expert legal advice when entering a partnership and not relying on a verbal agreement in such a crucial matter.

21 October 2015 - **Call to cut target bureaucracy ignored** - GP quality targets look set to stay in Northern Ireland, despite calls for their abolition from doctors leaders.

20 October 2015 - **Immigration debate draws on BMA briefings** - The BMA's work in highlighting the contribution of overseas doctors to the NHS was cited in an immigration debate in Parliament.

20 October 2015 - **BMA secures patient data confidentiality** - The BMA has secured a court victory to protect the confidentiality of all patient data, including non-clinical information.

19 October 2015 - **Overseas doctors are boon to UK, MPs told** - Overseas-trained doctors enhance the NHS by coming to work in the UK, the BMA told MPs ahead of a debate on immigration today.

### American Medical Association (AMA)

21 October 2015 - **AMA Partners with the Administration to Halt Nation's Opioid Crisis** - 'We are extremely pleased that President Obama is undertaking initiatives to halt the nation's opioid crisis.'

## ABOUT US

### Mark Williams



Mark is a partner in the Litigation and Regulatory team at DLA Piper.

Mark's focus is on public liability and professional indemnity insurance and associated litigation. He has particular experience with medical negligence claims and the complex insurance and indemnity arrangements prevalent in the resources, mining, building and construction industries.

Mark also acts for the regulators of the medical and other health professions.

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