



HEALTH ALERT

19 September 2016

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JUDGMENTS

Commonwealth. Federal Court

9 September 2016 - *Actavis Pty Ltd v Orion Corporation [2016] FCAFC 121* - PATENTS – validity of claims – whether relevant claims fairly based on the matter described in the specification – whether relevant claims clear

Queensland

8 September 2016 - *Yates v Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia [2016] QCAT 313* - The plaintiff, a corporate entity, initially alleged that the defendant misappropriated at least \$600,000 in cash from one of its pharmacy businesses between 2002 and 2010. It was later submitted that the amount had been recalculated to be approximately \$296,000. No one had actually seen the defendant physically take cash from the plaintiff. The plaintiff's case therefore relied upon the defendant being unable to justify the large sums of money that were discovered in her bank accounts from 2010.

The defendant was not employed by the plaintiff. Between 2002 and 2010, she was the wife of one director, and the sister-in-law of the other. In 2012, there was a bitter marriage breakdown between the defendant and the plaintiff's director. The Court considered that any determination that certain monies were misappropriated by the defendant would adversely impact upon her credit and reliability in the concurrent Family Court proceedings.

Both parties made submissions in relation to the origin of the large sums of money that were found to be in the defendant's bank accounts. The Court found that the question of how much had been misappropriated was an extremely difficult exercise given the contrasting evidence. Doing its best with the evidence, it concluded that a sum of \$170,000 had been misappropriated by the defendant. The Court ordered that there be judgment for the plaintiff against the defendant in the sum of \$243,000, which included interest in the amount of \$73,000.

South Australia

13 September 2016 - *Dang Pharmacy P/L v Dang [2016] SADC 106* - This is a review of a decision by the respondent (**The Board**) to impose conditions on the registration of an enrolled nurse (**Mr Yates**). The conditions were imposed after it was brought to The Board's attention by Mr Yates' employer, Townsville Hospital and Health Service (**THHS**), that he had falsified a medical record by entering visual observations of a patient that had not been carried out. The THHS had asserted that this misconduct was 'dishonest and negligent'.

The conditions included a requirement that he practice only under the supervisor of a registered nurse, and that he provide monthly written reports by the supervisor regarding his competence and fitness to practise in the profession. These conditions rendered Mr Yates unable to work for his employer as it was not prepared to provide the required supervision.

The Board had previously accepted that Mr Yates' conduct was 'dishonest and negligent'. However, upon review, The Board conceded that the allegation was not satisfactorily proven. It is now accepted that Mr Yates' entries were made upon the advice or instruction of another registered nurse. Given this, the parties formulated an alternative set of conditions.

The Tribunal found that the new conditions were an appropriate response to the circumstances. In its reasoning, the Tribunal stated that the new conditions were 'well fashioned to overcome what seems to have been an irresponsible and unacceptable approach' on Mr Yates' part. The twelve conditions proposed by the parties were to take effect from the date of this order.

LEGISLATION

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

16 September 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Complying Product\) Amendment Rules 2016 \(No. 4\)](#)

16 September 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Benefit Requirements\) Amendment Rules 2016 \(No. 5\)](#)

8 September 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Data Provision\) Rules 2016 \(No. 1\)](#)

New South Wales

15 September 2016 - [Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2016](#) - Introduced

Victoria

14 September 2016 - [Food Amendment \(Kilojoule Labelling Scheme and Other Matters\) Bill 2016](#) - Introduced

13 September 2016 - [Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Bill 2016](#) - Introduced

13 September 2016 - [Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016](#) - Certain provisions come into operation

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

16 September 2016 - [Advocating for better aged care services](#) - Advocates and consumers are being encouraged to have their say to help inform the design of future aged care advocacy services that focus on individual advocacy support.

16 September 2016 - [Improved dementia support through program redesign](#) - Two associations have been selected to deliver a national dementia behaviour management service and a streamlined training program to better support people with dementia and their carers.

16 September 2016 - [World First Cancer Centre Targets Childhood Leukemia](#) - A world-leading Australian research centre will analyse cancer proteins with the aim of improving diagnosis and treatment, initially focussing on childhood leukemia.

15 September 2016 - [Drowning takes fewer infants but more men](#) - Minister for Health Sussan Ley has urged Australians to take care around waterways, following the launch of the 2015-16 Royal Life Saving Society Australia's National Drowning Report.

15 September 2016 - [Reform of Regulation of Medicines and Medical Devices](#) - Cancer patients could potentially have access to some new medicines two years earlier than at present under changes to the regulation of medicines and medical devices announced by the Australian Government.

14 September 2016 - [Landmark medicinal cannabis legislation to be further strengthened](#) - The Australian Government has introduced important legislation to ensure security and law and order is maintained.

13 September 2016 - [Australia's health 2016 reports a healthy nation](#) - A new snapshot of Australia's health has found we are living longer than ever before, but the rise of chronic disease still presents challenges in achieving equal health outcomes for Indigenous Australians and people living outside metropolitan areas.

11 September 2016 - [New CEO for Mental Health Commission](#) - The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Sussan Ley, has announced that Dr Peggy Brown has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the National Mental Health Commission.

10 September 2016 - [Connect, Communicate and Care to Help Save a Life](#) - Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP said World Suicide Prevention Day, and this year's theme of 'connect, communicate and care', like RUOK? Day, highlights the importance of starting a conversation.

9 September 2016 - [Funding boost for Women's Health organisation](#) - Minister for Health Sussan Ley has announced funding of \$8.25 million until 2019 to women's health organisation Jean Hailes, to expand its education and outreach work.

9 September 2016 - [International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day](#) - The importance of not consuming alcohol during pregnancy is highlighted through International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day.

9 September 2016 - [Review of safety standards for PFAS chemicals released](#) - The independent report on the human health reference values for per-and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances in drinking water has been released.

9 September 2016 - [Review should allay fears on PFAS contamination standards](#) - Australia's Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Hobbs, today welcomed the findings of an independent evaluation of standards for water contamination by per- and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances.

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

14 September 2016 [Presentation: Chinese medicine regulation in Australia](#) Download the recent presentation on Chinese medicine regulation in Australia.

14 September 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

12 September 2016 - [Tribunal reprimands doctor for professional misconduct, imposes conditions](#) - The Victoria Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded a doctor and imposed conditions on his registration, after finding he engaged in professional misconduct by having an inappropriate personal and/or sexual relationship with the mother of his patient.

12 September 2016 - [Communiqué from the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia](#)

12 September 2016 - [Communiqué from the Physiotherapy Board of Australia](#)

12 September 2016 - [Communiqué from the Podiatry Board of Australia](#)

9 September 2016 - [Communiqué from the Dental Board of Australia](#)

9 September 2016 - [Full fee schedule published](#) - A full fee schedule, including the fee arrangements for psychologists whose principal place of practice is NSW, has been published on the Psychology Board of Australia's website.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

15 September 2016 - [NHMRC-NIH BRAIN - early notice of funding opportunity](#) - The [Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies \(BRAIN\) Initiative \(link is external\)](#) is being run through the United States of America's National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of a U.S. Presidential focus aimed at revolutionising our understanding of the human brain. The NIH and NHMRC have agreed to cooperate in the BRAIN Initiative to jointly support collaborative research involving Australian and U.S. scientists.

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

9 September 2016 - [Confirmed 1 October 2016 Prices - 2016 October Cycle](#) - The confirmed 1 October 2016 prices resulting from the 2016 October Cycle of Price Disclosure have now been published on the [Price Disclosure \(SPD\) web page](#).

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

15 September 2016 - [Prescription medicines: new or extended uses, or new combinations of registered medicines](#) - Added Alprolix (eftrenonacog alfa (rhu)) and Simponi (golimumab (rmc)).

15 September 2016 - [Scheduling delegates' interim decisions and invitation for further comment: ACCS/ACMS, July 2016](#) - Interim decisions and invitation for further comment. Closing date: 29 September 2016.

15 September 2016 - [Medicines and medical devices regulation review](#) - Australian Government Response to the Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation released.

14 September 2016 - [Prescription medicines: registration of new chemical entities in Australia](#) - Added registered new chemical entities for Odefey (emtricitabine / rilpivirine / tenofovir alafenamide) and Taltz (ixekizumab).

13 September 2016 - [Changing an OTC medicine: using the Changes Tables](#) - Include new code 'IHN' enabling sponsors to change names in accordance with the TGA's international name harmonisation project.

12 September 2016 - [Accu-Chek Connect Diabetes Management app](#) - Safety advisory - update app to correct programming error.

12 September 2016 - [Tandem Bipolar Hip System](#) - Hazard alert - potential need for revision surgery due to parts becoming detached.

12 September 2016 - [Class 4 in-house IVDs: using the online application form](#) - New guidance to assist sponsors of class 4 in-house IVDs fill out the online application form in TGA Business Services.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

13 September 2016 - [Australia's health 2016](#) and [Australia's health - in brief](#)

13 September 2016 - [85 out of 100 Australians say they're healthy—but are we really?](#)

16 September 2016 - [AIHW Access no. 40, 2016](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

13 September 2016 - [New standard to improve hip fracture care](#) - Patients with hip fracture should receive surgery within 48 hours of arriving at hospital and start moving around the day after surgery, if possible, according to a new care standard launched by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

On the Radar – 12 September 2016 – Issue 290 ([PDF 135KB](#)) ([Word 176KB](#))

8 September 2016 - [National Infection Control Guidance Non-tuberculous Mycobacterium associated with heater-cooler devices](#)

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

11 September 2016 - [National Mental Health Commission has new CEO](#) - Minister for Health, Sussan Ley, announced today the appointment of Dr Peggy Brown as the new Chief Executive Officer of the National Mental Health Commission.

New South Wales (NSW). Ministry of Health

Media Releases

15 September 2016 - [Partnerships to deliver hospital upgrades sooner](#) - Five major regional hospital redevelopments will be delivered faster and provide even more state-of-the-art health services under a new plan to partner with established non-government hospital operators.

8 September 2016 - [\\$8 million to support people at risk of suicide](#) - Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward has announced that people at risk of suicide will receive more local support as the NSW

Government opens expressions of interest for an \$8 million suicide prevention program to run over the next four years.

Publications

15 September 2016 - [RHD Information Brochure](#) - Information for patients with Acute Rheumatic Fever (**ARF**) or Rheumatic Heart Disease (**RHD**) and their families

Policy Directives & Guidelines

13 September 2016 - [ComPacks Program Guidelines](#)

12 September 2016 - [Managing for Performance](#)

Information Bulletins

12 September 2016 - [Cannabinoid Containing Products Authorisation, Prescribing and Dispensing](#)

9 September 2016 - [Staff Specialists' Training, Education and Study Leave \(TESL\) New Funding Entitlement 2016 - 2017](#)

Queensland. Department of Health

15 September 2016 - [Changes set to help advance health of Queenslanders](#) - State Parliament today passed the *Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*, amending a number of Queensland's laws.

15 September 2016 - [Queensland's age of consent laws standardised](#) - The age of consent for all lawful sexual activity in Queensland will be standardised to 16 years after the Queensland Parliament voted today to remove a longstanding source of discrimination in Queensland's Criminal Code.

15 September 2016 - [\\$1.5 million funding to advance early detection of cerebral palsy in babies](#) - A major University of Queensland research project that aims to detect cerebral palsy in infants has received major funding from the Palaszczuk Government.

15 September 2016 - [Queenslanders thank ambos during Ambulance Week](#) - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick is calling on Queenslanders to pause and say thanks this week to the Queensland Ambulance Service staff and volunteers that work to keep the community safe every day.

14 September 2016 - [Review identifies improvements in mental health processes](#) - The Queensland Government will increase training for frontline professionals in recognising mental health issues as part of its response to a major report into serious events involving people with a mental illness.

14 September 2016 - [World-beating Queensland Health project wins International Excellence in Health Improvement Award](#) - Queensland Health's Accelerated Chest Pain Risk Evaluation Project was awarded the International Excellence in Health Improvement Award at the APAC Forum Gala Dinner in Sydney overnight.

13 September 2016 - [Seven Things You Need to Know About the Bowel Cancer Screening Process](#) - One in every 23 Australians will develop bowel cancer in their lifetime, with the odds increasing dramatically after you turn 50. The lifetime risk of developing bowel cancer before the age of 75 is one-in-19 if you're a male, and one-in-23 if you're female. Bowel cancer kills around 1,000 Queenslanders every year.

12 September 2016 - [Mozzie monitoring? Look in your own backyard!](#) - Forget catching Pokemon, it's trapping mozzies that will soon be sweeping through the suburbs south of Brisbane! But, while you can't train these creatures, you can help Queensland Health conduct important research to confirm that mozzies that can spread Zika and dengue have not invaded South East Queensland.

12 September 2016 - [Palaszczuk Government supporting stroke survivors on the road to recovery with \\$1.87 million investment](#) - More stroke survivors across Queensland will have access to support when they leave hospital thanks to funding from the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

10 September 2016 - [New annual plan to tackle Indigenous ear disease released](#) - For the first time in Queensland, the health, education and early childhood sectors will combine in a joint annual plan to fight ear disease and associated hearing loss impacting Indigenous children.

9 September 2016 - **New campaign launched to drive up bowel cancer screening rates** - Queensland Health will use iconic Australian actor Shane Jacobson in a new bowel cancer screening campaign to encourage over 50s to 'make No. 2 their No. 1 priority'.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

16 September 2016 - **Report recommendations accepted** - A new report has highlighted significant clinical governance errors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) associated with the incorrect dosing of 10 Acute Myeloid Leukaemia patients at the RAH and Flinders Medical Centre between June 2014 and January 2015. SA Health Interim Chief Executive Vickie Kaminski said SA Health has accepted, and begun to implement, all of the recommendations in the Australian Safety and Quality Commission's report.

15 September 2016 - **New measles case** - South Australians are being urged to make sure they are fully immunised against measles prior to travelling to South East Asia after another case of measles was confirmed today.

15 September 2016 - **Meningococcal case** - A case of invasive meningococcal disease has been notified in a 31 year old male from metropolitan Adelaide. He has been admitted to hospital and is in a stable condition. SA Health has identified multiple people who had contact with the patient, of which nine people have been directed to receive antibiotic chemoprophylaxis.

9 September 2016 - **Two new measles cases** - South Australians are being urged to make sure they are immunised against measles following two separate measles cases this week. SA Health's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paddy Phillips said both cases were contracted overseas and people with holiday plans should ensure they have had two measles vaccinations prior to travel.

7 September 2016 - **Early detection is saving lives** - New data released this week has shown that the mortality rate from some of South Australia's most common cancers, including colon, lung and prostate cancer, is declining. Senior Medical Oncologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Centre Professor Dorothy Keefe said that the Cancer in South Australia 2013 report highlights that the rates of colon cancer and lung cancer in both men and women, as well as prostate cancer in men, are reducing

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

16 September 2016 - **Making bus travel easier for hospital patients and the public on the North West** - Today we joined with Metro Tasmania CEO Stuart Wiggins to launch the first stage of *Hospital Link*, Tasmania's first subsidised bus service linking two of our state's hospitals - the North West Regional and Mersey - and major hubs on the North West. The Hodgman Liberal Government is proud to see this direct bus service, which also delivers on an election promise to better connect North-West communities, hit the road, providing \$300,000 each year for its operation.

13 September 2016 - **Another \$7 million awarded to local business as RHH Redevelopment progresses** - Three respected Tasmanian businesses will be part of the state's biggest construction project after they were awarded sub-contracts for the \$689 million Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) Redevelopment. Through our Buy Local Policy, which was implemented in this redevelopment, the Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to maximising participation of Tasmanian businesses and workers in this project.

11 September 2016 - **Northern Tasmanians walking together for Kidney Health** - Today I took part in the Kidney Health Research Walk, an event for kidney support group members and the general community to come together to raise funds and awareness for kidney disease.

10 September 2016 - **Gearing up for K-Block** - Works on the \$689 million RHH Redevelopment are progressing well, with another 10 tenders for construction work to be advertised on the ICN Gateway in September.

Victoria. Department of Health

16 September 2016 - **Faster, better care with more funding for new health projects** - The Andrews Labor Government is investing in 15 ground-breaking projects that will give patients across Victoria better access to higher quality health care, sooner and closer to home.

16 September 2016 - **Safer mental health workplaces for staff and clients** - The Andrews Labor Government is helping our mental health workforce provide safer environments for staff, patients and their families.

15 September 2016 - **Supporting LGBTI communities leading up to the plebiscite** - The Andrews Labor Government is preparing to provide additional mental health support to the LGBTI community if the Turnbull Government's unnecessary marriage equality plebiscite proceeds. With the proposed plebiscite scheduled to take place on February 11 next year, the Labor Government will provide \$500,000 to support the LGBTI community over the next six months amid public debate and scrutiny. The package will include a range of measures for young people, an awareness campaign to support LGBTI Victorians and other vulnerable groups and a funding increase to key LGBTI agencies to provide support.

14 September 2016 - **Chain food outlets to show kilojoules by 2018** - Large Victorian chain food outlets and supermarket chains will be required to display kilojoule contents on their menus by 2018, with the Andrews Labor Government today introducing legislation into the Parliament to implement Victoria's first ever mandatory kilojoule labelling scheme.

13 September 2016 - **Giving Victorians certainty on end-of-life care and wishes** - Victorians have overwhelmingly backed the Andrews Labor Government's historic new laws giving people greater powers to set directives about future medical treatment, including end-of-life care and wishes. The Government will today introduce the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Bill* that will recognise advance care directives in legislation for the first time in Victoria, delivering on a key election promise.

12 September 2016 - **Learning about dementia this September** - Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley today marked Dementia Awareness Month by joining children at Carlton North Library to raise awareness of dementia.

12 September 2016 - **State of the art school for Monash children's hospital** - Children and young people with chronic medical or mental health issues will be able to continue their education and keep in touch with classmates at a state of the art school to be built at the new Monash Children's Hospital.

9 September 2016 - **Better care with new Waverley ambulance station** - The Andrews Labor Government will build a new state-of-the-art home for Waverley ambulance service, giving local paramedics the larger and modern facilities they need and deserve.

9 September 2016 - **Doors open at new Healesville ambulance station** - Paramedics in Healesville now have the facilities they need to quickly respond to local medical emergencies with the opening of a state-of-the-art ambulance station.

9 September 2016 - **New Ferntree gully ambulance station works full steam ahead** - Paramedics in Ferntree Gully will soon have the facilities they need to quickly respond to local medical emergencies with construction underway on a new state-of-the-art ambulance station.

7 September 2016 - **GP e-referrals rolling out in the Loddon Mallee for better patient care** - A new, secure electronic medical referral system for GPs that will make it easier and safer to share patient health information will be piloted at selected health services in the Loddon Mallee region.

7 September 2016 - **GP e-referrals rolling out in Melbourne's north for better patient care** - A new, secure electronic medical referral system for GPs that will make it easier and safer to share patient health information will be piloted at selected health services across Melbourne's north.

7 September 2016 - **GP e-referrals rolling out in Melbourne's east for better patient care** - A new, secure electronic medical referral system for GPs that will make it easier and safer to share patient health information will be piloted at selected health services in Melbourne's east.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

15 September 2016 - **Mosquito numbers predicted to rise** - Western Australians are being reminded that with the onset of warmer weather there will be more mosquito activity and therefore a greater risk of mosquito-borne disease. Residents in metropolitan Perth and the South West are urged to be alert and to take extra precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes over the coming spring and summer months

14 September 2016 - **Gonorrhoea increase sparks safe sex warning** - Western Australians are being reminded about the importance of practising safe sex, following a significant rise in the number of people diagnosed with the sexually transmitted infection, gonorrhoea. Over the past five years, notifications of gonorrhoea in the metropolitan area have more than doubled, increasing from 684 notifications in 2011 to 1432 notifications in 2015.

14 September 2016 - **Meningococcal infection notification** - The Department of Health today reported that a young child has died from meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease is an uncommon, life-threatening illness caused by a bacterial infection of the blood and/or the membranes that line the spinal cord and brain, and occasionally of other sites, such as large joints. The Department of Health has identified the close contacts of the case and provided them with information, and, where appropriate, antibiotics and a vaccine that minimise the chance that the organism might be passed on to others.

14 September 2019 - **Minister for Health: New WA study confirms fluoride dental benefits** - An extensive new Western Australian study highlights the positive impact of water fluoridation on children's oral health. Releasing the *Dental Health Outcomes of Children Residing in Fluoridated and Non-Fluoridated Areas of Western Australia* report today, Health Minister John Day said it revealed children from unfluoridated areas were at 1.6 times the risk of having one or more decayed, missing or filled permanent teeth, compared with children drinking fluoridated water.

12 September 2016 - **Campaign aims to reduce blood-borne virus rates in Aboriginal people** - The Department of Health today launched a 10-week advertising campaign to raise awareness about prevention, testing and treatment options among Aboriginal people at risk of blood-borne viruses. The campaign – which consists of television, radio, online and social media advertising – uses key messages such as 'Look after your blood' and 'Never share needles' to help reduce the rates of HIV and hepatitis C in the Aboriginal population

12 September 2016 - **Minister for Health: Doctor's actions honoured in Ghana donation** - A chance meeting that led to life-saving treatment by a Royal Perth Hospital surgeon on the side of a road in rural Western Australia, has prompted further support from the Liberal National Government for health care in Africa.

Publications

13 September 2016 - **Water Fluoridation and Dental Health of Children in WA**

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

16 September 2016 - **Review into the Treatment and Management of a Mason Clinic Special Patient** - This is the report of an external review into the treatment and management of a Mason Clinic based special patient commissioned by the Director of Mental Health, Dr John Crawshaw.

16 September 2016 - **Healthy Food and Drink Policy for Organisations** - The Healthy Food and Drink Policy for Organisations policy provides an example of how organisations can improve the food and drink environment within their workplace.

15 September 2016 - **Code of Practice for Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology: A consultation document** - This consultation document relates to the use of X-rays for diagnostic and interventional radiology.

14 September 2016 - **National Healthy Food and Drink Policy** - The National Healthy Food and Drink Policy provides an example of how the food and drink environment within health workplace settings can be improved.

13 September 2016 - **Pathways to child health, development and wellbeing: Optimal environments for orchids and dandelions. An overview of the evidence** - This review discusses the findings of a rapid review of some of the latest evidence on the pathways to optimal health and wellbeing for children from birth to age 14 years, through the developmental periods of infancy, early and middle childhood and early adolescence.

12 September 2016 - **Guide to Getting Hearing Aids: Hearing Aid Funding Scheme** - If you have a hearing loss, hearing aids may be part of the solution to improve your hearing. This booklet gives you information about the Ministry of Health's Hearing Aid Funding Scheme, how you could get hearing aids, the benefits of hearing aids and what you can expect from audiology services.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

16 September 2016 - **AuMA submission on the inquiry into Medical Research Future Fund Bill 2015 and the Medical Research Future Fund (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2015** - The AuMA submission noted a conflict would be created with the objective of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) if the Fund included savings from any measure that is perceived to worsen the health and wellbeing of Australians. The AuMA therefore recommends that funding from any such savings measure should not be allocated to the MRFF.

16 September 2016 - **AuMA submission on the structural review of the NHMRC grant program** - The AuMA looks forward to publicly-funded medical research that demonstrably improves the health of Australians, including through preventive health and population health research. The NHMRC Grant Program should be designed to foster and enable a robust medical research culture, creating an expanding body of completed medical research as well as increasing medical research capacity.

15 September 2016 - **Draconian PIP requirements another hit to general practice** - AuMA Vice President, Dr Tony Bartone, said this week that tough new changes to the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Digital Health Incentive requirements could leave many individual general practices more than \$20,000 worse off.

15 September 2016 - **AuMA submission to the Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation Review** - The AuMA's submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation supports the quality use of medicines and the important contribution of pharmacists. The AuMA therefore supports many Community Pharmacy Agreement programs. The AuMA also supports changes to pharmacy location rules that would allow more pharmacies and medical practices to be co-located. However, the AuMA opposes any expansion of pharmacist activities beyond their scope of practice and funding of additional pharmacist activities that are not first assessed for safety, efficacy and cost effectiveness.

15 September 2016 - **MBS Review: AuMA says GPs should not be the target** - AuMA President Dr Michael Gannon has dismissed claims that GPs are blowing out health costs by issuing sick certificates, ordering prescription repeats, and writing specialist referrals.

15 September 2016 - **Parents over-medicating with over-the-counter drugs** - A new poll shows that parents are overusing over-the-counter medicines, leading AuMA President, Dr Michael Gannon to say it may 'take a generation' to educate people about giving their young children over-the-counter cough and cold medicines.

15 September 2016 - **EOI for PBAC positions – GP members** - AuMA general practitioner members are invited to submit an expression of interest for a position on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

15 September 2016 - **Veterans' Mates: Antipsychotic use in dementia** - The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans' MATES program team recently released the latest topic in the Veterans' MATES program, Antipsychotic use in dementia.

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.

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