



HEALTH ALERT

10 April 2017

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JUDGEMENTS

Key decisions

5 April 2017 - *Reckitt Benckiser (Australia) Pty Ltd v Australian Competition and Consumer Commission* [2017] HCASL 86 - The High Court of Australia refused Reckitt Benckiser's request to appeal a previous decision of the Full Court of the Federal Court. The proceedings concerned representations made by Reckitt Benckiser about four ostensibly different Nurofen pain medications that claimed to "target" back pain, migraine, tension headache or period pain. Despite being marketed as different, there was no difference between the products as they all contained the same active ingredient equivalent to 200mg of ibuprofen. They were sold at almost double the price of standard Nurofen which also had 200mg of ibuprofen. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) brought action against Reckitt Benckiser for misleading or deceptive conduct, and conduct that was liable to mislead the public as to the nature, characteristics or suitability for purpose, contrary to sections 18 and 33 of the *Competition And Consumer Act 2010* (Cth), respectively.

The Federal Court found Reckitt Benckiser had engaged in conduct liable to mislead the public as to the nature, characteristics or suitability for purpose of the Nurofen targeted pain range, and ordered a penalty of \$1.7 million. The ACCC appealed the penalty to the Full Court of the Federal Court, which ordered Reckitt Benckiser to pay to the Commonwealth a pecuniary penalty of \$6 million.

In the current proceeding Reckitt Benckiser appealed the decision to the High Court, but the Court rejected the appeal. This means they will have to pay the \$6 million fine for misleading consumers.

5 April 2017 - *Inquest into the Death of Adriana Donato* COR 2012/3465 - The coronial inquest investigated the mental health care received by James Stoneham, who pleaded guilty to the murder of Adriana Donato, in order to determine whether the death could have been prevented. Prior to committing the murder, Mr Stoneham admitted himself into North Western Mental Health and was seen by a clinical psychologist. During his sessions Mr Stoneham had expressed his anger towards Ms Donato and disclosed intentions to harm an unnamed person.

The inquest focused on Mr Stoneham's disclosures to his psychologist, and examined the existing obligations of confidentiality in the psychologist/patient relationship and the current threshold for breaching patient confidentiality under the *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic) (**HRA**), which requires "*a serious and imminent threat*".

The psychologist gave evidence that she had not reach the view that Mr Stoneham constituted a serious or imminent threat. However, the Coroner found that it would have been appropriate for the psychologist to question Mr Stoneham on his threats, such questioning should have made reference to Ms Donato and should have intended to verify whether he had developed a plan as to how harm would be inflicted. The response to these questions could have clarified whether she notify her employer and the police of the threats.

The Coroner recommended that the State of Victoria amend the HRA to remove the requirement that a "*serious risk of harm*" be also one which is "*imminent*". It also recommended that existing Code of Ethics and Guidelines should provide greater clarity of reporting obligations.

Commonwealth. Fair Work Commission

31 March 2017 - *Rebecca Brown v Dr Eric Colin Scott* [2017] FWC 1383 - Application for relief from unfair dismissal - jurisdiction - extension of time.

31 March 2017 - *Colleen Moody v TriCare Limited T/A TriCare* [2017] FWC 20 - Application for relief from unfair dismissal – Allegations of Misconduct – Finding Misconduct occurred – Dismissal not harsh, unjust or unreasonable – Application dismissed.

4 April 2017 - *Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute* [2017] FWCA 1900 - Application for approval of the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute Enterprise Agreement 2017.

6 April 2017 - [Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery Incorporated](#) [2017] FWCA 1965 - Application for approval of the Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery Inc Enterprise Agreement 2016.

5 April 2017 - [Armet Pty Ltd T/A Miles Witt Partnership](#) [2017] FWCA 1917 - Application for approval of the Hill View Aged Care Operational Staff Enterprise Agreement 2016.

New South Wales

3 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v DAC](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 48 - Suppression order – Consideration of effect on doctor’s professional career.

5 April 2017 - [Phillips v Osteopathy Council of New South Wales](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 50 - Osteopath-appeal from practice conditions imposed by Council under sec 150 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law - accusations of improper sexual conduct- practice conditions varied to permit treatment of female patients with chaperone in certain circumstances.

31 March 2017 - [Grygiel v Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) [2017] NSWSC 355 - DEFAMATION – imputations – whether reasonably capable of arising from the matter complained of –serious piece concerning alleged under-dosing of cancer patients – whether capable of giving rise to imputation of reducing patients’ chance of surviving cancer.

5 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Brunner](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 49 - Medical practitioner – admission of professional misconduct – finding of professional misconduct-public interest – proceedings not continued and dismissed-costs order.

6 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Cheng](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 51 - Medical practitioner – allegations of misconduct of a sexual nature – finding of professional misconduct – proceedings stood over for stage 2 hearing.

7 April 2017 - [Shinwari v Anjoul by her tutor Therese Anjoul](#) [2017] NSWCA 74 - TORT – Compensation to Relatives Act 1897 (NSW) – death of mother – dependency claim by daughter – mother’s death result of personal injury caused by medical practitioner’s negligence – proportionate liability – Civil Liability Act 2002 (NSW), Pt 4, s 34(1)(a) – concurrent wrongdoers – whether medical practitioner able to claim against other wrongdoers – whether dependency claim “apportionable claim” pursuant to Pt 4 – Compensation to Relatives Act 1897 (NSW), ss 3, 4 – Civil Liability Act 2002 (NSW), s 34(1)(a) STATUTES – interpretation – relevance of legislative history – use of extrinsic materials WORDS AND PHRASES – “apportionable claim” – “arising out of”.

7 April 2017 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Mayr](#) [2017] NSWCATOD 52 - Psychologist, Power Imbalance, Vulnerable Patient, Sexual Relationship, Negligent Treatment.

Queensland

5 April 2017 - [The Health Ombudsman v David John Levick](#) [2017] QCAT 88 - PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS – CONVICTION OF OFFENCE – where the respondent medical practitioner was convicted of 1 count of assault occasioning bodily harm contrary to subsection 339(1) of the Criminal Code (Qld) – where the conduct giving rise to the offence occurred during a patient consultation – whether the practitioner engaged in professional misconduct – level of sanction appropriate.

Victoria

31 April 2017 [Rein v Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(Human Rights\)](#) [2017] VCAT 452 - Application to reinstate claims under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) – whether Charter based claims may be made when discrimination claims summarily dismissed under section 75 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) – Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic), section 3 definition of ‘discrimination’, sections 7(2), 38(1) and 39(1).

LEGISLATION

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

Commonwealth

31 March 2017 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 2\) \(PB 20 of 2017\)](#) F2017L00378 • PB 20 of 2017 as made.

31 March 2017 - [National Health \(Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2017 \(No. 3\) \(PB 21 of 2017\)](#) F2017L00376 • PB 21 of 2017 as made.

31 March 2017 - [National Health \(Commonwealth Price—Pharmaceutical Benefits Supplied By Public Hospitals\) Determination 2017 \(PB 25 of 2017\)](#) F2017L00372 • PB 25 of 2017 as made.

Australian Capital Territory

[Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2017](#)

New South Wales

6 April 2017 - [Public Health Amendment \(Vaccination of Children Attending Child Care Facilities\) Bill 2017](#) - [Private member's bill] Second Reading Speech.

South Australia

3 April 2017 - [Controlled Substances \(Miscellaneous\) Amendment Act 2016](#) - This Act will come into operation on 1 April 2017 the day fixed by proclamation under section 2: see Gazette 8, 16 February 2017, p 549.

Tasmania

5 April 2017 - [Poisons \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2017](#) - Introduced.

Victoria

4 April 2017 - [Food Amendment \(Kilojoule Labelling Scheme and Other Matters\) Act 2017](#) Parts 2 and 3 commenced by proclamation: Gazette S 111, Tuesday 4 April 2017, p 1.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

6 April 2017 - [Community Awareness Grants to help increase donor registration](#) - The Australian Government has made available \$473,000 in Community Awareness Grants to support community-based initiatives to boost the number of registered organ donors and applications are now open.

04 April 2017 - [Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games – one year to go](#) - On 4 April 2018 around 6600 athletes and team officials, from 70 nations and territories, will arrive on Queensland's Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

03 April 2017 - [Australian guidance values for assessing exposure to perfluorooctane sulfonate \(PFOS\) and perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\)](#) - The outcomes of a review by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), Perfluorinated Chemicals in Food, to determine the recommended tolerable daily intake values (TDI) for people potentially exposed to the contaminants collectively known as perfluoroalkylated (PFAS) substances, was released by the Australian Government on 3 April 2017.

03 April 2017 - [Free moves for girls at YMCA](#) - The Australian Government's *Girls Make Your Move* campaign and the YMCA have teamed up to give girls and young women a great opportunity to get active.

03 April 2017 - [Local Drug Action Teams rolling out across Australia to battle the scourge of ice](#) - Community groups across Australia are joining forces under an Australian Government plan to deliver targeted local action to help tackle drug use and addiction.

01 April 2017 - [Free continuous glucose monitoring devices for young Australians](#) - From today, the Turnbull Government is providing free continuous glucose monitoring devices to eligible children and people under the age of 21 years with type 1 diabetes.

Private Health Insurance Circulars

[PHI 16/17 Private Same-Day Hospital Information](#)

[PHI 15/17 Release of Final Data Specifications for HCP, HCP1 and PHDB 2017-18 Data Collections](#)

Consultations

30 March 2017 - [The National CALD Ageing and Aged Care Strategy Review Survey](#) - The Australian Government released the *National Ageing and Aged Care Strategy for People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Backgrounds* (the CALD Strategy) to respond to the needs of older people from CALD backgrounds and better support the aged care sector to deliver care that is sensitive and appropriate to their diverse needs.

Comments are now being sought on the Review of the CALD Strategy and the development of the Diversity Framework. Closes 28 April 2017.

30 March 2017 - [The National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategy Review Survey](#) - The Australian Government released the *National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Ageing and Aged Care Strategy* (the LGBTI Strategy) to respond to the needs of older LGBTI peoples and better support the aged care sector to deliver care that is sensitive and appropriate.

Comments are now being sought on the Review of the LGBTI Strategy and the development of the Aged Care Diversity Framework. Closes 28 April 2017.

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

3 April 2017 - [AHPRA successfully prosecutes NSW fake doctor and welcomes proposed new powers](#) Mr Shyam Acharya, who claimed to be UK based doctor Dr Sarang Chitale while practising as a medical practitioner, received a criminal conviction today in a New South Wales court.

31 March 2017 - The Chiropractic Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter. [Read full article](#)

6 April 2017 - [Communique published from Podiatry Board of Australia Forum](#) - In October 2016 the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) hosted a forum for key stakeholders in Adelaide, themed on *Changing the podiatry curriculum: a new pathway to safe prescribing*.

6 April 2017 - [Newsletter from the Board](#) - The Podiatry Board of Australia has published its latest newsletter.

4 April 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

3 April 2017 - [Renewing nurses and midwives reminded to read new standards](#) - Nurses and midwives due to renew their registration soon are reminded that they must meet the obligations of new registration standards which took effect last year.

3 April 2017 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Podiatry Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council

5 April 2017 - [TRIP Fellowships – Opening Wednesday 5 April 2017](#) - Applications for [2017 Translating Research into Practice \(TRIP\) Fellowships for funding commencing in 2018](#) are now open. [TRIP Fellowships](#) provide support for health care professionals, health care personnel, health systems personnel, health researchers and health policy makers to translate evidence into health care and public health improvements.

This scheme offers two year fellowships providing for 0.5 of a full-time equivalent position, to ensure time and support for future leaders to develop the range of skills needed for leadership in research translation and implement established evidence into practice.

Applications close **5pm AEST Wednesday 31 May 2017**. All applications must be submitted online through [RGMS](#).

3 April 2017 - [Insufficient evidence for the safety of e-cigarettes](#) - National Health and Medical Research Council CEO, Professor Anne Kelso AO, has today released a statement updating Australians on the latest evidence for the safety, quality and efficacy of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

The statement concludes that *'there is currently insufficient evidence to support claims that e-cigarettes are safe, and further research is required to enable the long-term safety, quality and efficacy of e-cigarettes to be assessed.'*

Australia. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

5 April 2017 - [Report on the Collection of Under Co-payment Data 2015-16](#)

5 April 2017 - Advice for approved pharmacists supplying PBS medicines to patients in areas affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie and subsequent flooding – March 2017 - Updated 4 April 2017 Pharmacists should note that the following arrangements apply in areas that have been affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie and subsequent flooding. These arrangements have immediate effect and apply until at least 30 April 2017.

1 April 2017 - [Biosimilar Awareness Initiative update - 1 April 2017](#) - The following information is now available on the [Biosimilar Awareness Initiative webpage](#); Biosimilar medicines - the basics for healthcare professionals brochure, Biosimilar medicines - the basics for consumers and carers brochure, Factsheet for healthcare professionals - Biosimilar etanercept on the PBS; Factsheet for consumers and carers - Biosimilar etanercept on the PBS; Updated Frequently Asked Questions for healthcare professionals; Updated Frequently Asked Questions for consumers and carers.

1 April 2017 - [PBS Website Update - 1 April 2017](#) - The Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 1 April 2017 and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration

6 April 2017 - [Data Management and Data Integrity \(DMDI\)](#) - TGA has published a statement regarding Data management and data integrity (DMDI) . This serves to provide clarification regarding the TGA's position regarding DMDI practices for industry.

6 April 2017 - [Medicine Shortages Information Initiative](#) - Updates - Bactroban ointment, Etopophos powder, GTN tablets and Metformin tablets medicine shortages.

5 April 2017 - [Withdrawal of "under review" GMP clearance applications that are no longer required](#) - Update on compliance verification GMP clearance applications - Withdrawal of "under review" GMP clearance applications that are no longer required.

5 April 2017 - [Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines \(AusPARs\)](#) - Added Nucala (Mepolizumab (rch)).

4 April 2017 - [Permissible Ingredients Determination: Forecast of updates](#) - Anticipated timeframe for updates to the Permissible Ingredients Determination in 2017.

4 April 2017 - [Complementary medicines reforms](#) - An online catalogue of ingredients approved for use in listed medicines and the requirements associated with their use now available.

4 April 2017 - [Annual charge exemption scheme](#) - The 2015-16 confirmed annual charge exemptions have been published.

3 April 2017 - [Updates to the Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy database](#) - Five new registered medicines added.

31 March 2017 - [Consultation: The Scheduling Policy Framework and Advertising of Pharmacist-only medicines \(Schedule 3 substances\)](#) - The TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on the options for the reform of the SPF and advertising controls of Schedule 3 medicines. Closing date: 28 April 2017.

31 March 2017 - [Consultation: Options for the future regulation of 'low risk' products](#) - The TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on the options for the future regulation of 'low risk' products. Closing date: 12 May 2017.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

5 Apr 2017 - [Life expectancy and disability in Australia: expected years living with and without disability](#)

5 April 2017 - [Autism in Australia \(web report\)](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Commission update e-newsletter, March 2017 ([PDF 987KB](#)) ([HTML](#))

3 April 2017 - On the Radar – Issue 317 ([PDF 167KB](#)) ([Word 142KB](#))

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

28 March 2017 - [Australian Defence Force Review](#) - The National Mental Health Commission has provided the Australian Government with its final report on the *review of services available to veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in relation to prevention of self-harm and suicide*. The final report and recommendations will now be considered by the Australian Government. The Commission's final report can be found [here](#).

Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate

6 April 2017 - [Update - Switchboard fail at Canberra Hospital](#) - For the latest information visit esa.act.gov.au

6 Apr 2017 - [Service changes at the Canberra Hospital](#) - The community are advised of important service changes at the Canberra Hospital on Thursday 6 April 2017 following an electrical fire in the Canberra Hospital switchboard.

6 April 2017 - [GIO's \\$82,000 donation supports Canberra's rehabilitation patients](#) - Minister for Health, Megan Fitzharris, said the donation would be used to purchase Advanced Functional Electrical Stimulation Devices, technology which sends low-level electrical stimulation to activate nerves and muscles. "These specialist devices are designed to help people with certain neurological conditions walk more naturally, with increased speed, improved balance and mobility," Minister Fitzharris said.

6 April 2017 - [Improved medical imaging choices for the Canberra community](#) - Canberrans will have better access to medical imagery services which help to treat cancers and tumors, with the Canberra Imaging Group officially opening its new scanning facility today. Minister for Health, Megan Fitzharris visited the Garran clinic to officially unveil the Positron Emission Tomography/Computer Tomography (PET/CT) scanner. "I am delighted to launch Canberra Imaging Group's new scanner, which will support better clinical outcomes for people in our community," Minister Fitzharris said.

4 Apr 2017 - [Food Recall](#) - A recall of Organix Finger Foods Baby Biscuits 54g is being conducted. The products have been available for sale at Coles and Woolworths Nationally.

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Media Releases

5 April 2017 - [NSW Health Alert: Measles outbreak in western Sydney](#) - NSW Health is warning the public of a measles outbreak in western Sydney following confirmation of six further cases in the community. Dr Vicky Sheppeard, Director Communicable Diseases, NSW Health, said the six latest cases follow four cases confirmed in western Sydney last week, many of whom were infectious while in the area. "Ten cases have now been confirmed in the past week, signaling an outbreak of measles in western Sydney particularly in the Auburn and Bankstown local government areas," Dr Sheppeard said. "This brings the total number of cases in NSW, with onset this year, to 19.

7 April 2017 - **Protect against mozzies this Easter** - Holidaymakers are being urged to safeguard against mosquito-borne viruses during the Easter break, particularly in Northern NSW where recent flooding has created ideal breeding conditions.

4 April 2017 - **Students offered free meningococcal W vaccine** - Parents of Year 11 and 12 students are being urged to check school bags this week for consent forms for a free meningococcal ACWY vaccine to protect their children against the rare but deadly disease. NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the State Government's \$9 million NSW Meningococcal W Response Program was introduced due to an unprecedented outbreak of meningococcal W disease in Australia.

3 April 2017 - **NSW backs nation's first young adult hospice** - The NSW Government will help establish Australia's first young adult hospice which will provide palliative, respite and end of life care for young people aged between 18 and their early thirties, Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Minister for Health Brad Hazzard announced today.

30 March 2017 - **NSW leading the way in HPV vaccinations** - NSW has the highest rates of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination among teenage girls in Australia, a new report reveals. NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said NSW had the highest HPV vaccination rates for 15-year-old females in 2014-15 at 81.5 per cent – compared with a national rate of 78.6 per cent.

29 March 2017 - **NSW hosts global forum on medicinal cannabis** - Leading health officials from around the world will today gather at the Museum of Sydney for an international forum on medicinal cannabis regulation. NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the government-funded Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research and Innovation will host talks with experts from Canada, Germany, Israel, The Netherlands and New Zealand on different approaches taken around the world so far.

New South Wales Health Care Complaints Commission

4 April 2017 - **Dr David Richardson – Unsatisfactory professional conduct** - Dr David Richardson – Unsatisfactory professional conduct.

The Commission prosecuted a complaint before a Professional Standards Committee (“Committee”) against Dr David Richardson, a general practitioner, practising at Richmond and specialising in what he described as “integrative medicine”. The complaint concerned his treatment of five male patients and in particular, prescribing for them the drug Clomiphene between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2014. Dr Richardson considered these five men to have androgen deficiency. Clomiphene is indicated for the treatment of women, as an estrogen inhibitor that is usually used to treat infertility.

Northern Territory. Department of Health

6 April 2017 - **Students get hands-on at health careers day** - High school students from across Darwin will be given the opportunity to experience what it is like to work in the health sector at this year's Interactive Careers Day at Royal Darwin Hospital.

3 April 2017 - **Commonwealth Releases PFAS Guidelines** - Northern Territory Health Minister Natasha Fyles has acknowledged the release of Commonwealth health-based guidelines for tolerable daily intake of Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

2 April 2017- **Project Tender for Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) Multi-storey Car Park** - The Territory Government is delivering on an important election commitment with the project tender announced for the new multi-storey car park at RDH. The Health Minister, Natasha Fyles said this is a significant milestone for the project.

31 March 2017 - **Important Steps to Improve Nurse Safety** - The Northern Territory Government has taken important steps to improve safety for nurses working in remote areas, implementing all of the high priority recommendations from Remote Area Nurse Safety; On-Call After Hours Security Review.

31 Mar 2017 - **Health Alert - New measles case confirmed** - The Department of Health has been notified of a new case of infectious measles with possible contacts around the Darwin/Palmerston area.

Queensland. Department of Health

7 April 2017 - **New action plan to improve refugee health** - A new action plan to improve access to health services for refugees was launched as part of a day-long Refugee Health and Wellbeing Showcase that 200 people attended in Logan today.

7 April 2015 - **New Mental Health Review Tribunal President appointed** - Queensland Health's Chief Legal Counsel has been appointed as the new interim President of Queensland's Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT). Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Cameron Dick, announced the appointment today. Annette McMullan replaces current President Mr Barry Thomas who was removed as MHRT President following a decision made by Executive Council today. Mr Thomas was issued a show-cause notice in late February.

6 April 2017 - **Resilient health and ambulance staff put patients first** - From helping mothers give birth while Cyclone Debbie raged to responding to emergencies in the community during the eye of the cyclone, more than 2000 Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) staff did not let a natural disaster get in the way of their life-saving.

4 April 2017 - **Independent person appointed to lead Wolston reconciliation process CSIRO and Queensland Government team up to save lives** - Queensland Health and the CSIRO have signed a five-year agreement extending the Australian e-Health Research Centre (AEHRC).

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

30 March, 2017 - **Japanese company to make Adelaide the birthplace of clinical trial SMOs in Australia** - Tokyo-based Irom Group Co Ltd has invested AUS\$10m for a 61% share in CMAX Clinical Research Pty Ltd, a Phase 1 clinical trials unit in Adelaide, and plans to fully acquire CMAX after June 2017.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

7 April 2017 - **Labor launch another medi-scare campaign** - Opposition leader Rebecca White has launched a dishonest 'medi-scare' style campaign which once again highlights Labor have no plan, no ideas when it comes to health.

6 April 2017 - **Labor want to plunder Mersey money** - The Hodgman Liberal Government worked hard to secure a \$730.4 million, 10-year deal for the Mersey Community Hospital – but it took only a few hours for Labor to say they would raid the hospital's coffers.

4 April 2017 - **Fixing Tasmania's health system: much achieved and still much to do** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is getting on with the job of fixing Tasmania's health system with record investment which is delivering better care and improved services.

5 April 2017 - **10-year, \$730 million deal for the Mersey hospital** - Tasmania will receive \$730.4 million following the successful conclusion of negotiations with the Federal Government for a new, fully funded, 10-year deal for the Mersey Community Hospital. The new deal will also see ownership of the Mersey return to the Tasmanian Government, giving long-term security for the hospital's future and removing the uncertainty which surrounds it every federal election cycle.

1 April 2017 - **NWRH helipad opens** - Patients requiring critical care on the North West coast will have access to a dedicated helipad at the North West Regional Hospital. This is the first hospital-based, purpose-built landing site that meets the very best in standards to be built in Tasmania.

Victoria. Department of Health

6 April, 2017 - **Funding Boost For Metro Mental Health Services** - Patients across Melbourne will receive better mental health support thanks to a \$1.71 million funding boost provided to eight health services.

5 April 2017 - **Funding Boost For Regional Victoria's Mental Health** - Ballarat is receiving more than \$410,000 in grants to improve mental health and rehabilitation facilities, as part of upgrades across the state. Facilities Renewal Grants help existing mental health and alcohol and other drug services to improve facilities for consumers, carers, visitors and staff.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

7 April 2017 - [New campaign to combat rising number of sexually transmitted infections](#) - Aboriginal youth are the focus of a new campaign that aims to reduce the rate of sexually transmitted infection rates.

4 April 2017 - [Ethics for research seminar](#) - The Ethics for Research seminar will be taking place on Friday, 7th of April 2017.

7 March 2017 - [Finalists announced for 2017 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards](#) - A total of 33 of Western Australia's most dedicated nurses and midwives were chosen as finalists for the 2017 WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards, to be announced in May.

Policy Framework

5 April 2017 - [WA Health System Policy Governance Policy](#) MP 0046/17 - The purpose of the *WA Health System Policy Governance Policy* is to provide the WA health system with a standardised, consistent approach to the governance, development, implementation, review and maintenance of policy documents.

4 April 2017 - [Elective Surgery Access and Waiting List Management Policy](#) MP 0050/17 - This Policy aims to ensure a consistent, patient-focused approach to the efficient, timely and equitable provision of elective surgery services.

3 April 2017 - [WA Health System Language Services Policy](#) MP 0051/17 - The WA Health Language Services Policy ensures the provision of interpreting and translating services to facilitate effective and consumer- focussed communication between consumers and carers and HSP staff, and promotes fundamental consumer rights such as access to high quality care, safety, respect, communication and participation. Policy framework: [Communications Policy Framework](#).

3 April 2017 - [Women requesting immersion in water for pain management during labour and/or birth policy](#) MP 0049/17 - This policy is to assist, educate and enable midwives and medical practitioners to care safely for healthy pregnant women who choose to use the bath and / or pool during all stages of their labour and birth. The policy is applicable to all relevant Health Service Providers and contracted health entities. Compliance with this policy is also recommended for private and non-government facilities and private practicing midwives.

3 April 2017 - [Centralised Intern Application and Allocation Policy](#) MP 0048/17 - To ensure fair and timely processing of applications and appointments to intern positions the PMCWA coordinates the centralised intern application process in Western Australia (WA), in collaboration with the Primary Employing Health Services (PEHS) who are accredited to employ and train interns; and with other Australian Postgraduate Medical Councils. This policy is applicable to all Health Service Providers (HSPs) accredited as PEHS and relates to the recruitment of interns into accredited intern positions in W A through the annual centralised intern application process as coordinated by PMCWA.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

04 April 2017 - [Consultation on Electronic Cigarettes: Analysis of submissions](#) - This publication summarises the submissions received on the consultation document Policy Options for the Regulation of Electronic Cigarettes, which was released for public consultation between August and September 2016.

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

1 April 2017 - [Release of the AuMA Private Health Insurance Report Card 2017](#) - The AuMA has released its second annual Private Health Insurance Report Card, urging people to check their policies carefully to ensure that they are covered for their current and anticipated health needs.

ABOUT US

Dr Gerry Bean



Gerry is a Corporate Partner and provides corporate and commercial advice to the health sector and the not for profit sector. He has over 20 years' experience as a partner. He acts for hospitals, primary healthcare networks, aged care and retirement villages, charities and health insurers. Gerry has acted on several mergers in the health and non-for profit sectors including the merger which created cohealth. Gerry is an active contributor to our pro-bono practice. Gerry is also a director of the Law Institute of Victoria and a director of DLA Piper's International Board.

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