



AMATAS
fortnightly eNews



Pictured here President A/Prof Tim Greenaway working continuously in advocating the rights and issues on behalf of all AMA Tasmania members.

**AMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
CANBERRA 2016**
27th–29th May

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Doctors for Rural Communities

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) has called on Australian governments to invest in rural specialty training pathways. AMSA has launched a proposal, 'Doctors for Rural Communities', which offers a practical solution to the maldistribution of medical graduates, and focuses on providing increased specialty training opportunities in regional centres. AMSA President, Elise Buisson, stressed the importance of considering innovative approaches to meet the needs of the rural population, rather than continuing to fund the establishment of new medical schools.

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**CommInsure scandal reminds
us commercial forces are
at play in medicine**

A [scandal](#) has [emerged](#) involving the insurance giant [CommInsure](#), following claims by the company's (now ex) chief health officer that they [purposefully sought](#) to avoid paying health-related claims by using outdated disease definitions; dishonestly used medical reports; and denied claims for frivolous reasons.

CommInsure has also been accused of deleting medical files and putting pressure on doctors to change their diagnoses so that claims can be rejected. The public reaction to the scandal has been [intense](#), including [calls for a royal commission](#).

This reaction undoubtedly signifies anger and distrust towards the insurance industry. But it seems likely some of the public reaction also concerns the behaviour of the doctors who were employed by, or paid by, CommInsure, as they appear to have put the interests of a multi-billion-dollar company above those of seriously and terminally ill patients.

Managerialism and conflicts of interest

What is perhaps most striking about this case is the degree to which the doctors involved seem to get caught up in the commercial interests of the insurance company, even to a point where it compromised patient care. They appear to have become embedded in a company that was acting to serve its own commercial interests, with no commitment to honouring its civil and moral obligations to those who have purchased insurance in good faith.

[Wendy Lipworth](#), Senior Research Fellow, Bioethics, [University of Sydney](#); [Ian Kerridge](#), Professor of Bioethics & Medicine, Centre for Values and Ethics and the Law in Medicine, [University of Sydney](#), and [Narcyz Ghinea](#), Research Associate, Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine, [University of Sydney](#)

This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#). Read the [original article](#).

Preventative Health Care Final Report

Improvement in health and wellbeing is important for all Tasmanians. Wellness promotion, illness prevention and chronic disease management are integral to quality health care. Health care has historically focussed on the provision of acute care. This Report focuses on preventative health measures and the need for a significant increase in funding as part of the overall State budget. As part of a long-term strategy, recurrent base funding is necessary for effective preventative health programs. Statistically Tasmanians experience poorer health and wellbeing outcomes than the national average. To address these poor outcomes, a preventative health strategy is required. Such a strategy should set short, medium and long-term goals to address a range of health related challenges and risk factors as outlined in the Committee's recommendations.

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AMSA demands Australian

universities to invest in improving student mental health

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) has called on all Australian universities to invest in new, evidence-based strategies, to improve student mental health. The Churchill Fellowship report, ['The Wicked Problem of University Student Mental Health'](#), authored by 2013 AMSA President Ben Veness, recommended seven key findings on how Australia can improve student mental health.

[READ MORE](#)

Funding Grants for Women in all Sectors National Scholarship Opportunity



**2016 NATIONAL INDUSTRY
SCHOLARSHIP GRANT INITIATIVE**
For the development of women's leadership across all industry

"I would like to acknowledge the Scholarship Grant Initiative for providing equitable access to leadership development across all sectors and regions."
Julia Gillard at the 2015 National Award for Excellence in Women's Leadership

**WOMEN & LEADERSHIP
AUSTRALIA**

The banner features a photograph of Julia Gillard speaking at a podium. To her left is a red sign that reads 'Australian Women's Leadership Symposium' and 'FRIGOLEUS SYMPOSIUM'.

In 2016, Women & Leadership Australia is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across all industry sectors. Due to an unprecedented response to the 2016 National Industry Scholarship Grant Initiative to support the development of women's leadership in the Health Sector, the National Scholarship Grant Committee have made the decision to provide further funding and extend the deadline for applications until 29th April 2016. As a result of the extended deadline, Scholarships that subsidise up to \$12,000 for Health sector employees to be able to participate are available until all funding is exhausted.

From February 10th, 2016 the initiative has provided women in all industry sectors with grants for leadership development. More specifically, grant applications are open to women employed in all sectors at two levels.

Please click on the preferred program link for details. The deadline for expressing your interest in this funding in your sector ends on April 29th.

1. Senior Management and Executive level Women Leaders can apply for \$12,000. [Individual Grants to undertake the Advanced Leadership Program](#).

2. Women Managers can apply for \$5,000 Individual Grants to undertake the [Accelerated Leadership Performance Program](#).

Should you wish to discuss the initiative in more detail, please contact Ian Johnson at the office of the National Industry Scholarship Program, Australian School of Applied Management on 03 9270 9016 or via ijohnson@wla.edu.au

Mental Health Commissioning Intentions Consultation Draft

Primary Health Tasmania is seeking feedback from the mental health sector in the next step towards the collaborative reshaping of a range of community-based mental health services and would like to ensure that all stakeholders are provided the opportunity to offer comments and feedback on the document.

The newly released a “Mental Health Services Commissioning Intentions 2016-2017 Consultation Draft” which provides a high-level overview of mental health services in Tasmania through a primary health lens details the organisation’s planned approach to commissioning community-based mental health services and seeks stakeholder input. The document can be accessed at [MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS CONSULTATION DRAFT](#) or a hard copy is available on request by phoning 1300 653 169.

The recently completed State-Government led Rethink Mental Health Plan presents the current views of the broad mental health sector in Tasmania. From a primary mental health care perspective, we at Primary Health Tasmania believe our role is to validate this work.

To this end, feedback is sought concerning the intentions in the consultation draft to ascertain:

- Does Primary Health Tasmania need to extend the scope and extent of stakeholder engagement? If so who with?
- What priority or further validation might be required concerning the information and intentions made in the document?
- Are there any gaps or issues that have not been adequately captured that could or should be considered?
- What are the priority primary mental health care outcomes for Tasmania? Submissions in the form of comment and feedback can be sent to Primary Health Tasmania by 31 March (see page 5 of the report for contact details)

**RACMA Autumn
Professional Development Forum**

In 2016, The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators established a new Learning and Teaching Centre with the aim of strengthening their range of CPD programs. As the professional development landscape for medical practitioners in Australia and New Zealand continues to change, RACMA recognises the need to provide increased support for all those working in medical management and for those aspiring to become medical leaders.

The RACMA Learning and Teaching Centre aims to host four key professional learning events ('seasonal forums') each year. The launch of the Autumn Professional Development Forum will take place 19 - 21 May 2016 in Melbourne. It will offer a range of practical workshops and plenaries in a flexible program and is open to all clinicians. A [PDF copy of the brochure for the Autumn Professional Development Forum is attached](#) and outlines the autumn professional development program. Members from all Australasian medical speciality colleges are welcome to participate. The Forum registration website is available for you to view the program and to register at www.racmacme.com.au.



Event - iDEA - April 15 - 17 2016 - Annual National Conference of Doctors for the Environment

Bringing together medical professionals and students from across Australia and beyond, iDEA unites people with one common goal – to address the human health impacts of environment and climate change. Delegates of the conference, over the course of a weekend, hear from engaging and knowledgeable speakers and engage with their peers to discuss how to address some of the biggest health concerns of our time. This year's theme is Protecting our Future - registration is now open at <http://ideaconference2016.com/registration/>

WWW.IDEACONFERENCE2016.COM

IDEA'16 BRISBANE

APRIL 15-17, 2016

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- PROF. ANTHONY CAPON**
Director of the International Institute for Global Health at United Nations University
- DR. FORBES MCGAIN**
Sustainability Researcher in Anaesthesia with the University of Melbourne
- PROF. IAN LOWE**
Emeritus professor of Science, Technology & Society, former ACF president
- JOHN COOK**
Climate Communication Fellow for the Global Change Institute at UQ

FOCUS AREAS:

- CLIMATE CHANGE
- GREENING HOSPITALS
- INDIGENOUS HEALTH
- CHILDREN'S HEALTH
- URBAN ENVIRONMENT
- POPULATION GROWTH
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

IDEA+ **Doctors for the Environment Australia**

Event: Medivision April 23-24, University of Tasmania Medical Sciences Precinct, Menzies Research Institute 17 Liverpool Street, Hobart. Medivision is an annual student-run medical research symposium held for two days in Hobart, tailored to both medical students, doctors and medical researchers. Designed to inspire delegates into research, and revolves around the theme "Humanity in research, research in action". The audience will hear from both domestic and international guests who have made an impact through their careers' work.

Speakers will talk not only about their research but more importantly what motivated them into research and the paths they took to get involved. We hope that delegates leave feeling educated, inspired, and with a new-found sense of purpose to their actions. In addition to inspirational talks, Medivision 2016 will play host to two workshops, a rapid-fire thesis session from early-career researchers, and a cocktail evening to provide delegates with an opportunity to meet the speakers. We are excited to announce that 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner Ada Yonath (Israel) will be delivering a keynote address. Joining her will be, among others, Professor Merlin Thomas (The Baker Institute), Professor Mammen Chandy (India), and Tasmania's Dr. Joy Rathjen. Tickets on sale from March 1. Any enquiries can be forwarded to Medivision.Hobart@utas.edu.au

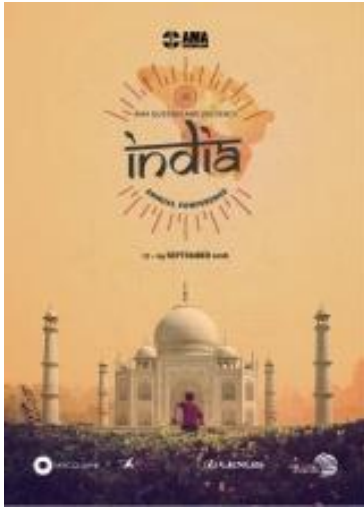
Event: Saturday 30th July 2016 - Tasmanian Health Conference.

Communities of Health – It takes more than an apple a day'

After the success of the 2015 Tasmanian Health Conference, we are once again providing the Tasmanian health sector with the opportunity to meet and discuss current issues in 2016. The

Conference will be held at the Medical Sciences Precinct (Menzies Centre), Hobart on Saturday 30 July 2016.





A promotional poster for the 2016 AMA (WA) Clinical Conference. A red banner at the top right reads "SAVE THE DATE". The main text includes "2016 AMA (WA) CLINICAL CONFERENCE" and "BOSTON WASHINGTON POST CONFERENCE NEW YORK" in large, bold letters. Below this, the dates "8 - 21 OCTOBER" are displayed. The background features a dark blue sky with white stars and a photograph of the US Capitol building. At the bottom, the following text is listed: "BOSTON - HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL", "WASHINGTON - CAPITOL BUILDING, THE WHITE HOUSE, SMITHSONIAN", and "NEW YORK - GROUND ZERO". Contact information for the conference and travel is provided at the bottom: "Conference & Travel: Sanyo Convent - AMA (194) 14 Stirling Way Melville WA 6009, PO Box 113 Melville WA 6009, P: 08 9473 2808 F: 08 9473 2873, E: Sanyo.Convent@ama.wa.com.au, www.ama.wa.com.au".



Splash of Pink - long table dinner

Friday 29 April, 2016 - 6pm for 6.30pm start

Brown Brothers Wines in conjunction with Gasworks Cellar Door invite you to be the first to berth for an exciting dinner featuring 4 courses of premium food matched to wine.

There will be the chance to sample some special wines, as well as 13 to the dozen plus an additional mystery wine for all wine orders of 12 bottles or more when placed at the event.

It's a small intimate affair, so RSVP to reserve your seat
by 8 April on 6228 9289 to avoid missing the boat!

\$110 per person

All enquiries to eventstas@gmail.com



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AMATAS e-newsletter is compiled and distributed on a fortnightly basis to all AMA Tasmania members. We welcome contributions from members and others to make this newsletter lively, informative and successful.

Contributions can be emailed to comms@amatas.com.au. All submissions require the authors name and contact details.

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