

Healthcare Excellence Institute Australia - 18 July 2017

ABC 7:30 Report on the National Medical Regulator

What wasn't said!

Regarding the **ABC 7:30 Report** on the failure to protect the community from healthcare practitioners. Two stories were linked, one related to baby deaths in Bacchus Marsh and the other to sexual misconduct by a neurologist who committed suicide.

What was not said is also important:

1. The story of James Peters, who was found to have infected dozens of women with hepatitis while under the watch of the Victorian regulator, should have been linked.
2. Who are the individuals within the regulator who should be held accountable for the failures?
3. The Victorian upper house, in the investigation of AHPRA found a lack of transparency and accountability of AHPRA – March 2014
https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/file_uploads/Final_version_AHPRA_report_30314_nnVxPmWJ.pdf.
4. The Australian Senate, in two recent reports, has highlighted the underperformance of AHPRA, and noted the need to deal with vexatious complaints and compensate those who have been unfairly treated by AHPRA.
http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/ComplaintsMechanism/Report
5. Those involved in the Senate investigation, notably Nick Xenophon, were not interviewed.
6. There are not appropriate accountability mechanisms for AHPRA investigators, committees and Boards within the regulator was not highlighted.

With a lack of action to regulate the dysfunction of the regulator, rogue practitioners will still be able to function, and the more extensive problem of the vilification of good healthcare providers, who make human-error mistakes, will continue.

The regulator is distracted by chasing false claims by vexatious public members, administrators and competitors, and do not have systems to identify practitioners from whom the public should be protected.

Under the current healthcare regulatory paradigm both patients and good providers are at unnecessary risk. The public needs to be better protected.