



Friday, 23rd June 2023

Minister Butler | Minister Wells | Assistant Minister McBride

| Assistant Minister Kearney. | Assistant Minister McCarthy. | Department

| Coronavirus | Ageing and Aged Care | Population Health

| Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions | Primary Care

| Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office

| Health Workforce | Technology Assessment and Access

| Medicare Benefits and Digital Health | Benefits Integrity.

| Health Systems Strategies | Sport | Health Economics and Research |

First Nations Health | Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management

| Therapeutic Goods Administration | Office for Drug Control | Food Standards

LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Australian (page 4) reports federal government aged care sector wage reforms risk disadvantaging workers under the Commonwealth Home Support Program, whose hourly wage will be boosted by half that of other aged-care workers, aged-care giant Uniting Care Australia says. A spokesperson for Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said home-care packages and CHSPs are funded under different mechanisms and both would be funded to meet the 15 percent increase to the minimum wage.
- The Australian (page 4) reports a national network of rural healthcare services is needed to
 make up a \$6.5 billion annual shortfall in spending, a report commissioned by the National
 Rural Health Alliance says. The report found a large uptick in payments to urban Australian
 patients through the Medicare Benefits Schedule and public subsidies to patients accessing
 private hospitals left over seven million rural and remote patients each nearly \$850 a year
 worse off.
- The Age (page 5) reports crossbenchers from the Greens and the Jacqui Lambie Network are calling on the federal government to recommence negotiations with the Pharmacy Guild over changes to medication dispensing rules. The change to 60-day dispensation will be registered by the Health Department on Friday and are set to impact around 100 medicines from

September 1. A spokesperson for Minister for Health Mark Butler said the Department of Health was open to continuing consultation with the pharmacy industry and the crossbench on the policy. *Also reported by:* <u>Sydney Morning Herald</u>

- The <u>Canberra Times</u> (page 1) a federal inquiry into the ACT government's takeover of the Calvary hospital will not delay the takeover process, ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith says. Independent ACT Senator David Pocock said the precedent set by the inquiry into what should be a Territory government matter was concerning. *Also reported by:* <u>The Australian</u>
- The <u>Daily Telegraph</u> (page 5) reports one in five Australians with weight or genetic risk factors
 for type two diabetes are likely to develop the condition after contracting COVID-19, a new
 survey by Defeat Diabetes has found. Some 40 per cent of survey respondents in remission for
 type two diabetes also reported relapsing after contracting COVID. Also reported by: <u>Adelaide</u>
 <u>Advertiser</u>, <u>Courier Mail</u>
- The <u>Courier Mail</u> (page 1) reports a recently mitigated shortage of obstetrics staff in north
 Queensland is again raising concern following a "critical" recruitment call for locums for
 Gladstone Hospital. Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentimen recently said the hospital
 had sufficient staff to cover leave and illness despite ongoing recruitment notices attempting to
 fill roles there.
- ABC News reports funding remains to be secured to cover more than 1,100 nurses employed
 in New South Wales during the COVID pandemic. State Health Minister Ryan Park blamed the
 former coalition government for employing the nurses on a temporary basis. A spokesperson
 said the Health department was "scrambling" to find money to secure the nursing staff roles in
 September's budget. Also reported by: Newcastle Herald, Northern Daily Leader
- The Guardian reports alcohol restrictions in the Northern Territory have seen a decline in
 instances of domestic violence, assault, property offences and anti-social behaviour, new police
 data has shown. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress acting CEO David Busuttil said the
 impact of the policy on Alice Springs had been stark, especially its impact on the rates of
 domestic violence. Also reported by: The Australian

MINISTER BUTLER

Limiting remit of Voice impossible: legal expert

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/06/2023, Tom McIlroy, Page 5

Parliament will not have the power to place guard rails around what areas of government policy or decision-making the Voice chooses to give advice on, legal experts say, as Labor insists its remit will extend only to matters affecting Indigenous Australia...

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)

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Campaign against 60-day dispensing pure self-interest

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 23/06/2023, Page 26

Sensible pharmacy reform to double the amount of medicine a person can collect with each script from chemists to 60 days and allow doctors to prescribe 12 months' supply is facing tough resistance as the opposition and crossbenchers push for the Albanese government to renegotiate the changes with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and community pharmacies. Health Minister Mark Butler announced the reforms in April - and the Pharmacy Guild has been screaming blue murder ever since, claiming they would result in the closure of 650 pharmacies and the loss of 20,000 jobs.

Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald (Online)

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Crossbench fears on 60-day scripts

Age, General News, 23/06/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 5

A popular budget measure to double the length of common medicine scripts is facing an unexpected hurdle, with crossbench senators joining the Coalition in pushing the government to go back to the

negotiating table with pharmacies. The Health Department will officially register the policy today, making an initial tranche of about 100 medicines eligible for 60-day scripts from September 1 - in effect halving their cost for consumers. But the Greens are yet to decide whether they support the change and the Jacqui Lambie Network says it wants the government to return to the drawing board, with senators from both parties accusing Health Minister Mark Butler of failing to consult pharmacies properly.

Also reported by: <u>Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney)</u>, <u>The Age (Online)</u>, <u>Sydney Morning Herald (Online)</u>, <u>Brisbane Times (Online)</u>, <u>WA Today (Online)</u>

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Voice of anger as leaders go for the throat

West Australian, General News, 23/06/2023, Katina Curtis, Page 8

Parliament ends ahead of its winter break with a win and a loss for the Government, and the need to ramp up a fight as debate got personal in the chambers. [...] Education Minister Jason Clare and Health Minister Mark Butler took opportunities during question time to outline the wide and widening gaps in outcomes for Indigenous people in their portfolios.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

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University joins project to close gap

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/06/2023, Matthew Kelly, Page 12

The University of Newcastle has received \$3 million in federal funding to establish new medical research infrastructure that will help close the gap in health outcomes for First Nations people. The project, which is being undertaken in partnership with the Lowitja Institute, will help ensure culturally safe health and medical research for First Nations people. [...] "We cannot close the gap in life expectancy and health outcomes, unless we consult First Nations people about the policies - and research projects - that affect them," federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said.

Also reported by: Newcastle Herald (Online)

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Mental health boost for outback

North West Star, General News, 22/06/2023, Jeremy Cook, Page 2

Queensland has been cautiously welcomed by Australia's peak psychology body who say stronger incentives are needed to grow locally-based regional workforces. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$1.5 million over three years in grant funding for Outback Futures, a not-for-profit mental health support organisation, to trial a program aiming to improve rural and remote access to mental health professionals in Cloncurry, Winton, Longreach, Blackall-Tambo and Barcaldine.

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New health service coming to Yanchep in fast-growing northern corridor Michael Palmer PerthNow - Wanneroo June 21, 2023 8:00PM

Perth Now, Other, 22/06/2023, Michael Palmer

A community health service centre will be established in Perth's northern suburbs to meet demand in the fast-growing region. It will be opened in Yanchep through a partnership between the Federal and State governments and ECU. [...] Read now Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the development would deliver a crucial health service.

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60-day dispensing policy could force job cuts, report finds

Star Weekly, Other, 22/06/2023

665 pharmacies may close and 20,000 jobs could be lost due to the federal government's proposed 60-day dispensing policy, a Griffith University report has found. The policy will allow patients living with a chronic condition to be able to buy two months' worth of common PBS-listed medicines for the price of a single prescription. [...] However, Health Minister Mark Butler said in parliament, this policy will help the hip-pockets of consumers.

Anthony Albanese says voice will help ensure taxpayer dollars are 'spent better and more efficiently'

The Guardian, Other, 22/06/2023, Josh Butler

The prime minister, Anthony Albanese, says a yes vote for the Indigenous voice to parliament will save money by helping to design more cost-effective programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, told the house about poorer wellbeing and life expectancy for Indigenous people; the education minister, Jason Clare, spoke of boosting school completion.

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Exclusive: AusDoc's interview with Mark Butler

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/06/2023, Paul Smith

Mark Butler has been here before. Back in 2008 he was a junior minister working under Nicola Roxon, the health minister who pushed for a fundamental shake-up of the health system: to get it to think with one brain. The language of the time will be familiar. Wraparound care for complex patients, block funding for chronic disease management, a move away from fee-for-service along with a now-forgotten revolution in sub-acute care to stop hospitals crumbling under the pressure.

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"We have the knowledge, the expertise and the solutions": International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference

Croakey, Other, 22/06/2023, Ruth Armstrong

If you had FOMO from all the tweetage that arose from the Lowitja Institute's conference on the lands of the Gimuy Walubara, Yidinji and Yirrganydi peoples in beautiful Cairns, strap yourself in. [...] Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler acknowledged in a pre-recorded message that the conference was a "showcase of the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and culture from all over the world".

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Patient group expresses concern over planned diabetes tender

HealthDispatch, Other, 22/06/2023

The CEO of JDRF Australia, Mike Wilson OAM, has expressed concern over the planned tender for continuous glucose monitoring products. Mr Wilson was appearing at the first public hearing of the House of Representatives inquiry into diabetes in Australia. Health minister Mark Butler recently referred the inquiry to the committee chaired by Labor MP Dr Mike Freelander.

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New northcoast health centre

Medical Forum, Other, 22/06/2023

A new \$20.7 million health centre is set to bring an array of health services to the extremities of Perth's northern corridor. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mr Mark Butler, said the facility would address the critical need for comprehensive health services in the fast-growing region.

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'A major public health crisis': Diabetes policy under scrutiny

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/06/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

Could a new Parliamentary Inquiry help address gaps in knowledge about the disease, as well as improve policy? The prevalence of diabetes has risen significantly in the past two decades. [...] The diabetes and obesity inquiry was referred to the House of Representatives committee by Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler last month.

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2GB, Breakfast, 22/06/2023, Ben Fordham

Interview with Children's Ground CEO Jane Vadiveloo. Ms Vadiveloo says Health Minister Mark Butler

and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese have had conversations with the NT based school about continuing federal funding. Ms Vadiveloo says the Health department is considering alternative funding options.

Also reported by: 2GB (Sydney)

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2GB, Breakfast, 22/06/2023, Ben Fordham

Report on the Children's Ground school in Northern Territory which is scheduled to lose federal funding. Mr Fordham said conversations have been held with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler in the wake of a segment on 2GB on Wednesday.

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MINISTER WELLS

Labor wage policy 'fundamentally unfair'

The Australian, General News, 23/06/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 4

The country's largest not-forprofit aged-care provider says the Albanese government's new wages policy will create a twotiered system that will disadvantage workers who provide parttime care for elderly Australians living at home. [...] A spokesman for Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the funding mechanisms for homecare packages and CHSPs were different, and the government was providing funding for both packages to meet the 15 per cent increase to the award minimum wage.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Webster calls for action

Stawell Times News, General News, 23/06/2023, Anne Webster, Page 12

The Albanese Labor Government continues to deny the unintended consequences of expediting aged care reforms recommended by the Royal Commission into Aged Care. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese have "made no apologies" for rushing the legislating of 24/7 Registered Nurses in aged care facilities despite the overwhelming evidence this is not possible.

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National Rural Health Alliance report: Rural practices struggling to remain open

Weekly Times Now, Other, 23/06/2023, Else Kennedy

When this rural town faced the loss of its only doctor, the local council stepped in. Advocates say the government must do more. As the only doctor in the rural NSW town of Nyngan was nearing retirement age six years ago, the local council faced a difficult choice. Glen Neill, who runs a local earthmoving business along with serving as Bogan Shire Council's mayor, said the town's 2200 residents were facing the prospect of travelling more than two hours to the closest regional centre of Dubbo to see a doctor, where health centres were often short-staffed.

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Advocates for older persons back controversial changes in aged care

Aged Care Guide, Other, 22/06/2023, David McManus

As the majority of residential aged care facilities continue to operate at a loss, face staffing shortages and retention issues, some rural and remote providers are wondering whether they will be able to make the July 1 deadline. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says that as many as one-in-20 residential care homes would be unable to meet the requirement by the July deadline, with New South Wales provider Wesley Mission closing three facilities due to the upcoming change.

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Aged care seeks sustainable funding solutions in White Paper submission

Aged Care Insite, Other, 22/06/2023, Elise Hartevelt

The submission process for the comprehensive White Paper is in full swing as Australia seeks to address the financial challenges plaguing its aged care system. Over 63 per cent of aged care providers are operating at a loss, highlighting the urgency of finding sustainable funding solutions. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells recently announced the department would explore a taxpayer levy to address the ageing population's needs.

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How can the solution be the same people having the same discussion about the same issues?

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 23/06/2023

A real problem is the absence of policy innovation over an extended period. Recent comments by health minister Mark Butler suggest the need for a new discussion driven by new voices.

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HSU calls for levy to fund aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/06/2023, Shushmit Pandey

The Health Services Union is calling on the Federal Government to make a 0.65% aged care levy part of its policy platform. Secretary of the HSU NSW, Gerard Hayes, told The Australian "There's an ageing population and where we are at today, it's going to be worse tomorrow, it's going to be worse in 10 years. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells told the ABC's Insiders program that the Aged Care Taskforce would consider a levy The Taskforce has been established to examine the aged care funding , with the aim of creating a fairer system and improving financial sustainability in the sector.

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Channel 9, Today, 22/06/2023, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen, and Brooke Boney

Interview with Anika Wells, Aged Care Minister and Le Marquand, Editor, Stellar. Wells says they are piloting new aged care quality standards at the moment that require more training of workers who work with people of dementia, She adds that dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia.

Also reported by: Channel 9 (Sydney)

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2CC, 12:00 News, 22/06/2023

The Federal Government is considering new measures to better assist people in nursing homes who are struggling with dementia. Multiple investigations including from the Federal Government, are now underway after Clare Nowland was tasered by police in her New South Wales aged care facility last month. The 95-year-old died from her injuries a week later. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says more needs to be done to better understand how to deal with these patients.

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4BC, 07:30 News, 22/06/2023

Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells congratulates the Queensland Maroons on winning State of Origin against the NSW Blues at Suncorp Stadium last night.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Future of food

Welcome Record, General News, 21/06/2023, Page 10

Whats on the Nothing is off the table from insects to cultured meat when it comes to feeding the world's population, estimated to be 10 billion people by 2050 a staggering two billion extra mouths to feed. [...] The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care Office of the Gene Technology Regulator has approved only four genetically modified (GM) crops for cultivation: cotton, canola, Indian mustard and safflower.

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Hunter pharmacists face methadone shortage

Newcastle Herald, Other, 22/06/2023, Michael Parris

Hunter pharmacists fear a methadone shortage could push patients into the hospital system and put staff at risk of violence from angry customers. Raymond Terrace pharmacist Tim Mizzi said he had run out of methadone on Thursday, while inner-city pharmacist James Reid was due to run out the same day but received an 11th-hour delivery. [...] The federal health department did not respond to a request for comment.

Also reported by: Newcastle Herald (Newcastle)

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The scientific case for reviving Indigenous languages

Cosmos Magazine, Other, 22/06/2023, Denise Cullen

I'm sitting cross-legged on a cushion on the floor inside the Laundry Gallery, an art space and cultural hub in suburban Darwin, as women from the Bininj Kunwok Regional Language Centre introduce us to 20 key words in Kunwinjku. [...] For instance, figures from Australia's Department of Health and Aged Care showed the burden of disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was more than twice that of non-Indigenous Australians; their rates of psychological distress were also higher.

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ICYMI: COVID responses, conference watch, occupational health, dangers of reality TV – and a rural health landmark

Croakey, Other, 22/06/2023, Melissa Sweet

The column this week brings advice on making workplaces COVID-safe and applause for COVID communications in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and also highlights inequalities in medical research, a new global commitment to refugee health, and #AusPol action on the commercial determinants of health.

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Valuable hospital beds taken by those awaiting limited aged care

placements

HelloCare, Other, 22/06/2023, Bianca Iovino

Winter is here which means more people will end up in our already overstretched hospital system but older people are taking up valuable beds in regional hospitals waiting to go into aged care. [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care Spokesperson also told The West Australian that the WA Department of Health is partnering with the Government and the aged care sector to trial a scheme to help fix the problem by "paying residential aged care providers one-off payments for delivering residential respite to patients who are waiting in hospital beds for a permanent aged care place".

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Triple M The Border, 12:00 News, 22/06/2023

There's another plea for border residents across the region to go and get a flu and Covid jab. The latest stats show there's dozens of cases across the region in recent weeks. Australia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Michael Kidd says we can't be complacent.

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CORONAVIRUS

Grubby smear on Entsch: Dutton

The Australian, General News, 23/06/2023, Sarah Elks and Michael McKenna, Page 2

Peter Dutton has declared his support for Warren Entsch, as Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick says claims about the veteran MP should be sent to the national corruption watchdog. Queensland Health has referred to the state Crime and Corruption Commission allegations the federal MP for Leichhardt organised a fast-tracked Pfizer jab for his billionaire party donor mate on the Torres Strait in July 2021, when the businessman was ineligible and there was a nationwide vaccine shortage.

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Covid 'found to trigger' type 2 diabetes

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/06/2023, Eva Blandis, Page 5

One in five Australians with risk factors are likely to develop type 2 diabetes after contracting Covid, a new survey has found. The Defeat Diabetes survey of almost 1000 Australians found 17 per cent of people who had not previously had diabetes, but had weight or genetic risk factors, developed type 2 diabetes after contracting the virus.

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), Courier Mail (Brisbane)

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Report shows cases falling

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/06/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 11

Notifiable covid cases have fallen by 22 per cent in a week in the Hunter New England district, the latest NSW Health data shows. The data, released on Thursday, showed the district recorded 816 COVID cases, 304 flu cases and 190 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases in the week to June 17.

Also reported by: <u>Newcastle Herald (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Daily Leader (Online)</u>, <u>Northern Daily Leader (Tamworth)</u>, <u>Bathurst Western Advocate (Online)</u>

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COVID antiviral access easier if you're rich

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/06/2023, Nicole Allard, Page 26

When it comes to COVID, people living in disadvantaged communities are hit with a triple whammy. First, they're more likely to get infected, and when sick, are more likely to have serious disease. Second, they're more likely to develop long COVID. Third, our recent research suggests they're less likely to get antivirals and when they do, it's on average later.

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Keep your COVID-19 guard up

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 20

Are your COVID-19 defences as strong as they could be? If you're an adult and it's been six or more months since your most recent COVID-19 vaccination or infection, there's every chance they're not. All eligible adults are encouraged to consider topping up their protection for the cooler months by booking a COVID-19 booster. Boosters remain your best form of protection against COVID-19. They continue to play a vital role in preventing severe illness caused by COVID-19 infections.

Also reported by: Daily Mercury (Mackay)

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Greater understanding of dementia will help ease pain

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/06/2023, Steve MacFarlane, Page 13

In farewelling Clare Nowland, who died after being tasered by police last month in Cooma, her grieving family and community Iwere determined not to focus on these dreadful final days but on the rich and positive legacy of her full and generous 95 years. Is it then possible for us as a community, to take the family's admirable lead, and see that part of Mrs Nowland's legacy may be known as the moment Australia finally confronted its attitude and response to the behavioural changes of people living with dementia

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Doctor's orders

Border Mail, General News, 23/06/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 1

A doctor who opposed the takeover of Yackandandah Health says it is now time for the community to band together to find a solution to ensure its continued operation. Tess Goodwin was commenting after a takeover bid by private company Apollo Care was rejected in a vote on Wednesday night with a threshold of 75 per cent support not met.

Also reported by: The Border Mail (Online)

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Home's aged care audit 'a waste of time'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 23/06/2023, Jess Flint, Page 2

A family friend who spoke to auditors at the Yaraandoo aged care home has slammed the process for being a "waste of time," after the findings of the audit were released publicly. Southern Cross Care Tasmania's (SCCT) Yaraandoo aged care home was subject to an unannounced audit on May 11-19. The audit came following reports of understaffing at the centre and complaints of care standards.

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Pet project for elderly

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 11

There is an urgent need to support pet ownership for older Australians who choose to live independently, new research reveals. The Companion Animal Network Australia survey shows 61 per cent of older adults live alone, and 74 per cent of older adults with pets say their animals provide companionship and reduce loneliness.

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Complaints up, non-compliance down – again: quality report

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/06/2023, Christopher Kelly

The number of complaints about aged care services continues to rise while the number of providers failing to comply with standards continues to fall, according to the quality commission's latest performance report. In all, there were 2,446 complaints directed against aged care services during the

January-March 2023 quarter 1,316 residential care; 1,102 home care; 28 flexible care the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's sector performance report shows.

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Shocking neglect from aged care workers captured on camera

HelloCare, Other, 22/06/2023, Bianca Iovino

The neglect of an 82-year-old aged care resident in Queensland prompted her daughter to install a camera in her room and they were shocked by what they found. Steph Fitzgerald installed a camera in her mum, Fran Nilsson's, room at Ozcare Hervey Bay after Fran reported staff were being "rude to her" and calling her names.

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Residential aged care providers spending \$3 million a day on agency staff

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/06/2023, Shushmit Pandey

Aged care accountancy firm StewartBrown has released its latest Aged Care Financial Performance Sector Report this week and among its findings, there was one statistic that stood out. It's not the headline figure that 64% of aged care homes are currently running at an operating loss it's that providers are increasingly relying on agency staff and overtime for existing staff to bridge gaps in their workforce

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Decline in revenue utilisation erodes home care results: StewartBrown

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/06/2023, Shushmit Pandey

Home care providers' operating results declined in the March 2023 quarter, according to StewartBrown's latest Aged Care Financial Performance Survey Sector Report. Home care operators achieved on average a surplus of \$3.39 per client per day, down from \$4.29 pcpd at the same time the previous year.

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Saturday workforce issue: 15% pay rise and cost of living pressures are drawing workers to aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/06/2023, Shushmit Pandey

Lutheran Services, which provides home care services and operates 11 aged care homes in rural, remote, and metropolitan Queensland, is "very, very close" to achieving the incoming 24/7 RN and care minute requirements, according to Chief Executive Officer Nick Ryan.

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Disability workers are moving to jobs in aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/06/2023, Shushmit Pandey

Managing Director of recruitment agency Orchard Talent Group, Alex McDonald, has told The Australian that in the last three months there has been a 43% increase in the number of disability support workers seeking a new role in aged care. Disability support workers have generally been paid 25% more than aged care workers, but with the Fair Work Commission's 15% pay rise coming in on 1 July 2023, personal care workers are set to see their wages rise by up to \$5 per hour.

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Another 10 Victorian councils will quit home care from 1 July 2023

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/06/2023, Shushmit Pandey

10 regional Victorian councils will stop providing home care services from 1 July 2023, claiming the Federal Government's changes to home care services will make their operations unviable. The 10 councils to stop providing home care from 1 July 2023 are: Corangamite

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Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 22/06/2023, Narelda Jacobs

New South Wales Health is implementing a new workout program designed to strengthen and empower our older community members.

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6PR, 08:30 News, 22/06/2023

The aged care sector is piloting new quality standards that require more training for staff working with dementia patients.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Ozempic's 'an eating disorder': Itsines and tech entrepreneur clash

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/06/2023, Nick Bonyhady, Page 3

Kayla Itsines and Tim Doyle at odds over diabetic drug. One of the world's most recognisable fitness instructors, Kayla Itsines, has lashed the Ozempic slimming craze, calling its aesthetic use "an eating disorder".

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Youth ditch doctors and meals in cost battle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 23/06/2023, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 12

Like many young people, Sarah Cupitt is surviving the cost-ofliving crisis by skipping meals and delaying medical treatment. The 21-year-old used to live in a share house in Parramatta, but moved to the Lower Blue Mountains to afford her own place. "Living alone is a time bomb it's not sustainable the way the economy is heading," Cupitt said.

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School crackdown on loos

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 23/06/2023, Suzan Delibasic and Sarah Perillo, Page 11

Victorian schools are resorting to extreme measures to stop students from vaping and vandalising toilets, with some principals hiring a door person to record students entering and exiting bathrooms. An online forum containing a discussion between Victorian teachers reveals the strict policies state and private school principals are using to stop students from vaping in toilets and to curb vandalism such as graffiti.

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Vitamin D for better bones

Courier Mail, General News, 23/06/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 35

One of Queensland's top paediatricians and a global expert on rickets is calling for all babies to be given vitamin D supplements in the first year of life as a preventive measure against the debilitating disease that can buckle bones. Professor Craig Munns, director of the UQ Child Health Research Centre and paediatrician at Queensland Children's Hospital, said GPs need more education on the latest evidencebased global guidelines, so that prevention, rather than testing, is their first choice and patients get best-practice care.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online)

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Boy, 12, suffers for cut

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/06/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 13

A barely noticeable cut has sent a Cloncurry family's fortunes spiralling after their 12year-old son contracted a dangerous infection. After six operations and three months being treated for MRSA, Roman Purcell might still be facing a long road to recovery. But the harshest blows for Roman, his two

sisters and his parents have come away from the doctors and medicine, as his father, also named Roman Purcell, says.

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Cycle of poverty leaves thousands of children hungry

West Australian, Other, 22/06/2023, Aaron Bunch

Almost one in five children and young people in Western Australia are likely suffer food insecurity, an inquiry into the best ways to tackle the issue has found. Hunger is causing severe health problems, crime and poor school attendance in an intergenerational cycle of poverty in some communities, a report tabled in state parliament on Thursday says.

Also reported by: The New Daily (Online), Daily Mail Australia (Online), Canberra Times (Online)

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How WA's proposed new abortion laws could have given Chloe more time to make a life-changing decision

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023, Keane Bourke

Last year, Chloe Seals made one of the most difficult decisions of her life. In a matter of weeks she'd gone from excitedly expecting a baby girl to finding out her pregnancy had gone awry and baby Ruby, if carried to term, would live for only around a month and suffer the entire time.

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Queensland artificial stone installer fined for exposing workers to dust linked to silicosis

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023, George Roberts

A Queensland manufactured stone installer who exposed employees to dust that can cause a deadly lung disease has been fined \$32,500 for breaching Workplace Health and Safety laws. Silicosis is linked to the inhalation of crystalline silica dust from cutting and grinding artificial stone products.

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South Australian town considers becoming a 'vape-free zone'

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023

Initiated by the Principal of the Yankalilla School, Christine Bell says a meeting was conducted to get collective ideas of what can be done to combat youth vaping.

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Half a million Australians need drug rehab and can't get it

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023

Waiting lists for drug treatment programs have reached epic proportions. Advocates say this is because we're treating drug use as a crime rather than a health issue and are calling for a new national approach.

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New study finds cooking with gas could be worse than secondhand smoke exposure

7news.com.au, Other, 22/06/2023, Hayley Taylor

A new study has found gas cookers emit dangerous levels of a cancer-causing chemical called Benzene. Cooking with gas has been found to produce a cancer-causing chemical in concentrations higher on average than that of secondhand tobacco smoke, a new study has found.

Read More

How safe are period tracker apps when it comes to privacy?

Body And Soul, Other, 21/06/2023, Holly Berckelman

Is your data really under lock and key? If you use a period tracker app to keep tabs on your flow, you're not alone. But damning new reports show these apps are collecting your data, with many of them

selling it to third parties. So, what does that mean for you? Should you care if your data is in someone else's hands? And can you ever get it back? Holly Berckelman investigates.

Read More

Channel 9, National Nine News, 22/06/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Doctors are worried Queensland patients are skipping the \$100 Meningococcal B vaccine due to the rising cost of living. It's reignited calls for the Government to subsidise the cost or to follow South Australia's lead and make Meningococcal B vaccines free.

Play Now

4BC, 09:00 News, 22/06/2023

There are fears Queensland parents are skipping the \$100 Meningococcal B vaccine due to the rising cost of living. Doctors and health experts want the Queensland Government to subsidise the vaccine.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'Best care and comfort' for cancer patients

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2023, Alex Gretgrix, Page 3

The need to ensure every patient has access to the right and most comfortable cancer care has brought a new oncologist to town. Dr Cameron McLaren has made it his mission to do just that and more when he begins work at St John of God Bendigo Hospital on July 14.

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Therapy call

Border Watch, General News, 23/06/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Radiation therapy is once again making waves across the Limestone Coast with three representatives of the working committee travelling to Parliament House this week. Deanne Carmody, Richard Harry and working group chairperson Lachlan Haynes will make a submission to the newly inducted Legislative Committee Review in regards to whether radiation treatment is needed in Mount Gambier/Berrin.

Read Plain Text Read More

How diabetes changed Corio woman's life; Deakin research reveals burden in Australia

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 22/06/2023, Michaela Meade

Corio woman Jax Saunders has detailed the "life changing" effect type 2 diabetes has had on her life, as new research reveals the increased prevalence of the condition. A woman living with type 2 diabetes has explained why the condition has been "life-changing in annoying ways", as new research reveals the increase in the prevalence of the disease.

Read More

Disasters hit bowel screening rates

Medical Forum, Other, 22/06/2023

The Government has urged eligible Australians to participate in bowel cancer screening as new data revealed that screening rates had dropped in 2020-2021. Australia's national bowel screening rate fell to 40.9% during this time, and while more than 6 million people were sent a test, only around 2.

Read More

Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 22/06/2023, Narelda Jacobs

Interview with Jayne Shaw, Co-founder and Chair, BCAL Diagnostics about a new blood test designed to detect breast cancer is said to be used in Australia by mid next year. The test is currently in its final stages of development and is expected to improve early detection rates, particularly in younger women who aren't eligible for mammograms. Shaw says it's a game changer for women and women's health outcomes for women who've got breast cancer.

Play Now

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 22/06/2023, Lish Fejer

Interview with Dr Penelope De Lacavalerie, Spokesperson, Bowel Cancer Australia. De Lacavalerie says over the last three decades, the number of Australians under 50 who are diagnosed has increased by 260%. She states about 1 in 10 people diagnosed with bowel cancer are under 50. She notes only 40% of people actually do i he screening test and return it. She calls for the screening age to be dropped to at least 45.

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PRIMARY CARE

Regional health \$6.5bn worse off

The Australian, General News, 23/06/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 4

Medical groups are calling for a nationwide network of rural health services after it was revealed governments spend \$6.5bn a year less on regional and remote patients despite higher burdens of disease. A report by the Nous Group commissioned by the National Rural Health Alliance showed that each person in rural Australia is missing out on nearly \$850 a year of healthcare access that is obtained by those living in the cities.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Senate probe of Calvary takeover

The Australian, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 7

The ACT Labor government's takeover of Calvary Public Hospital will be probed by a Senate committee after the acquisition drew criticism from many religious leaders for setting a dangerous precedent for faithbased institutions. The inquiry into the Calvary takeover was backed by the Coalition and Greens, after Nationals senator Matt Canavan had tried to introduce legislation to amend powers of the ACT government.

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Senate inquiry 'by stealth'

Canberra Times, General News, 23/06/2023, Karen Barlow and Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Queensland LNP senator Matt Canavan insists the newly referred Senate inquiry into the ACT government's forced takeover of Calvary hospital will not alone stop the acquisition, but he is expecting the territory government will be a "bit embarrassed". ACT independent senator David Pocock, who supports an inquiry at the territory level, said the referral of the bill effectively sets up a federal Senate inquiry by stealth and he is concerned about the precedent it sets.

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'Hospital in the home' program for kids

Canberra Times, General News, 23/06/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

A new "hospital in the home" program for children needing care will be funded in the upcoming ACT budget. The program is part of a nearly \$16 million package to fund paediatric services at Canberra Hospital. Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith said the money would be spent on the hospital at home program, more paediatric nurses and training to upskill paediatric and emergency department staff for the new critical services building at the hospital.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online)

Accessible changing places

Border Watch, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 55

The Federal Government is working with the Victorian Government to deliver new changing places across the state, ensuring all Australians can better enjoy and participate in their communities. The Victorian Government on 13 June announced \$2.3 million in funding for 13 new Changing Places facilities across Victoria with four of these facilities co-funded by the Commonwealth Government.

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Network seeking rainbow feedback

Daily Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 2

Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) wants members of the LGBTQIA+ community to offer guidance on their specific health needs as part of Pride Month. LGBTQIA+ people living in regional areas experience higher rates of mental health issues compared to their metropolitan peers, often linked to social isolation, limited opportunities for interactions with their peers, and pressure to keep sexuality, gender, and intersex variations hidden.

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\$75m to fix carpark

Daily Mercury, General News, 23/06/2023, Zoe Devenport;, Page 1

A \$75m pledge promises to soothe the years of parking rage that has afflicted patients and their families attending Mackay Base Hospital. Treasure Cameron Dick was in Mackay on Wednesday alongside Mackay MP Julieanne Gilbert to announce provisional funding to build a new 1000-space multistorey carpark at the hospital. "Julieanne tells me how difficult it was for her when her father was in hospital to secure a car park here," Mr Dick said.

Read Plain Text Read More

Hospital gains traction

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 23/06/2023, Keith Woods, Page 2

Work to start next year on facility after firm awarded tender Construction work will begin next year on a new public hospital in Coomera after it was announced on Monday that a major builder has been awarded the tender for stage one of the project.

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Queensland's first dialysis bus debuts on the GC

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 23/06/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 7

The Gold Coast will soon be home to the state's first mobile dialysis bus, providing lifesaving treatment to Gold Coasters and visitors across the city. On Wednesday, housing minister and Member for Gaven Meaghan Scanlon unveiled the Gold Coast Big Red Kidney Bus at Gold Coast University Hospital.

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Rural health reform call over \$6.5b shortfall claim

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2023, Stephanie Gardiner

Australia's leading medical organisations are calling on state and federal governments to revolutionise the rural health system, with research revealing a spending shortfall of \$6.5 billion. The National Rural Health Alliance, whose members include medical colleges, Aboriginal health organisations and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, commissioned the analysis that shows each rural Australian misses out on \$850 in health spending per year.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

Read More

Staff stunned as 19th-century Sydney hospital closes

A century-old public hospital caring for palliative patients in the heart of Sydney is closing. Staff and patients at St Joseph's Hospital in Auburn were told on Tuesday and Wednesday the ageing facility needed substantial renovations but funding requests had been rejected over the past decade.

Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia (Online), West Australian (Online)

Read More

New mother baby beds at Royal Hobart Hospital after closure of St Helen's

The Mercury, Other, 22/06/2023, Blair Richards

A new public mother baby unit has opened to patients at the Royal Hobart Hospital, as the state government works to fill gaps left by the closure of St Helen's Private Hospital. The three bed unit in Campbell St's K-Block will provide support for mothers experiencing mental health challenges, including postnatal depression and anxiety. Premier and Health Minister Jeremy Rockliff said the unit would provide comfortable and home-like facilities separate from the rest of the ward, designed to cater to the needs of mothers and infants.

Read More

23-year-old becomes youngest Australian to enact voluntary assisted dying laws

4BC, Other, 22/06/2023

Andrew Denton who runs Go Gentle Australia', an advocacy group that campaigns for end-of-life choices, joined 4BC Breakfast to discuss where Australia's at with voluntary assisted dying laws; it follows South Australian 23-year-old Lily Thai who became the youngest person in Australia to enact assisted dying laws.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

United in mental health push

Border Watch, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 17

Australia's two peak grain grower groups - Grain Producers Australia (GPA) and GrainGrowers - have joined forces to strengthen mental health awareness and suicide preventions to support Australian farmers and rural communities. Launched in 2022, Farmer Mates Mental Health initiative partners GPA with Nufarm, Rural Aid and Lifeline, as well as Australian cricketing legend Brad Hogg as the inaugural National Ambassador.

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'Devastating' for Geelong

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

The state government has pulled funding from a Geelong program supporting people battling mental health issues, in a move labelled puzzling and devastating. The Barwon Disability Resource Council (BDRC) delivers the Disability Support Fund (DSF). It says for almost three decades the fund has supported more than 10,000 people living with mental health conditions in the Geelong and southwest regions.

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Invisible doesn't mean it's not there

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 72

When you meet somebody, they may seem like they are well and have it together but they could have an invisible disability. Some invisible disabilities become more obvious once you get to know the person better while many of these disabilities may be completely hidden unless the person tells you. Some of these include: Mental health conditions Autoimmune diseases Chronic pain and fatigue

disorders Neurological disorders These disabilities can impair physical movement, interaction with others and career progression or just holding down a job.

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Mental health patients left in limbo: Labor

Launceston Examiner, General News, 23/06/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 16

The St Helen's Private Hospital mental health facility will close today, along with its 31 beds and multiple services, leaving patients with the "challenge" of finding alternative care. At the same time, the state is opening its replacement three bed mother and baby service at the Royal Hobart Hospital, which replaces the eight bed mother and baby service at St Helens.

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Cost of living crisis hits hard as calls to Lifeline soar

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/06/2023, Laura Banks

The number of people in crisis because of financial stress is soaring, Lifeline figures reveal, as the suicide prevention service answers almost 500 more calls each day than during the same period four years ago. The volunteer helpline answered almost 50,000 calls from January to May this year from people who specifically disclosed stress due to concerns over money.

Read More

My pregnancy was filled with a sense of doom, then I was diagnosed with anxiety

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/06/2023, Alexandra Feiam

The moment Elnaz found out she was pregnant, she didn't quite believe it. In fact, she had to do seven tests just to make sure it was real. Living in Victoria with her partner, she found out while he was away visiting family in Ireland for Christmas. Only a few weeks earlier, she was told to start considering freezing her eggs due to complications of PCOS.

Read More

Matthew Craig says esketamine (Spravato) treatment through Newcastle psychiatrist Stuart Saker helped him overcome depression

Newcastle Herald, Other, 22/06/2023, Damon Cronshaw

Matthew Craig says the drug esketamine helped him overcome severe depression after other treatments failed. "It's been a life-saving and life-changing experience," said Mr Craig, a University of Newcastle academic. Mr Craig shared his story with federal MPs at an event in Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday. In an emotional speech, he talked about living with a mental illness that made him suicidal.

Read More

Psychiatric patients in Tasmania fear mental health crisis as St Helen's Private Hospital closes

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Fiona Blackwood

In short: Former psychiatric patients at the St Helen's Private Hospital in Hobart fear for the future of their treatment now the facility is closing its doors What's next?: Calvary Hospital is looking at opening new mother baby and low-risk psychiatric beds and other services are moving to The Hobart Clinic

Read More

'Psychological debriefing' right after an accident or trauma can do more harm than good – here's why

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 21/06/2023, Richard Bryant

The recent tragic bus accident in the New South Wales Hunter Valley has again raised the issue of how we address the potential psychological effects of traumatic events. It is interesting we revisit the same debate after each disaster, and few lessons have apparently been learned after decades of research. After the Hunter Valley accident, immediate psychological counselling was offered to those affected

Read More

MIX 104.9, 360, 22/06/2023, Katie Woolf

Regional women are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety, compared to their city counterparts. The findings of a new study from the Lip Timber Foundation, who also says 1 in 3 women are not seeking mental health support because they can't afford it.

Play Now

ABC Radio Perth, 09:00 News, 22/06/2023

The WA Opposition has called for stronger protections for emergency service volunteers diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress disorder. The Government earlier this year introduced a bill to modernise workers compensation laws. The National's Emergency Services spokesman, Martin Aldridge, says the changes need to include expanding PTSD coverage to volunteers.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses face axe

Newcastle Herald, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 1

Hospitals across the Hunter New England Health District will be hit the hardest in the state by "shameful" nursing cuts, amid staff shortages that already have health workers at their wits' end. It can now be revealed the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) is set to lose 138.2 full-time equivalent temporary nursing positions when state E government funding is slashed in a y ear.

Also reported by: Northern Daily Leader (Tamworth), Newcastle Herald (Online)

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Over 1,100 temporary nurses faced with job losses as funding runs out in 2025

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023, Kenji Sato and Max Tillman Pixabay

More than 1,100 NSW nurses hired during the pandemic now stand to lose their jobs with no money set aside to cover their contracts past mid-2025. The shortfalls were raised by NSW Health Minister Ryan Park who blamed the coalition government for only hiring them on a temporary basis, but would not commit to extending the funding or making the positions permanent.

Read More

Nursing and midwifery tops Ahpra's criminal prosecutions

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 22/06/2023, Anmj Staff

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has racked up its 100 th criminal prosecution, with nursing and midwifery topping professions that have been involved in breaking the law the most. Ahpra's first criminal prosecution was finalised in January 2014 when a West Australian woman was sentenced to a \$20,000 fine for claiming to be a registered psychologist.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Healthcare foray by retailers alarms GPs

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 23/06/2023, Sue Mitchell, Page 27

Australia's major retailers have a long history of importing new ideas and strategies from overseas. Innovations such as private label groceries, inspired by Tesco and Aldi in the 1970s, everyday-low-prices, which Big W copied from Walmart in the '90s, au...

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Urgent call for locums

Courier Mail, General News, 23/06/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

A recruitment agency is advertising a "critical" need for locum obstetricians at Gladstone Hospital with name-your-price salaries, just days after assurances enough doctors had been employed to keep maternity services off bypass. Recruiters emphasised in the ads that pay rates were higher by negotiation.

Also reported by: The Courier Mail (Online)

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Ambulance service seeks helpers

Border Watch, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 11

The SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) is calling on South East residents to put up their hands for volunteer roles. SAAS Upper Limestone Coast regional team leader Sarah Malthouse said she hoped her experiences as a volunteer would help encourage others to get involved.

Read Plain Text Read More

Young doctors training to address shortage

Daily Liberal, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 3

The next-generation of doctors arrived the region this week for training amid a severe GP shortage. A two-day course developing the skills, knowledge, and contacts required to work as a general practitioner in the NSW regions ran over the weekend at the Remington Hotel in Orange.

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New face at MHHS

Daily Mercury, General News, 23/06/2023, Zoe Devenport, Page 8

More than six months after board members behind a major Mackay hospital were scandalously sacked, a new captain is ready to steer the ship. Susan Gannon, who has worked as a nurse, midwife, and in various management roles, has been appointed as Mackay Hospital and Health Service's new chief executive. The position was last held by Lisa Davies Jones, who made the shock decision to resign in August, just months before the entire MHHS board was sacked, to spend more time with family.

Read Plain Text Read More

Nurses and doctors attacked by mental health patient at Port Pirie Hospital

7news.com.au, Other, 22/06/2023, Tim Dornin

The patient stepped on the foot of a nurse, punched her in the head, and then chased four of her colleagues around a ward. Two nurses and three doctors at South Australia's Port Pirie Hospital have been injured in an incident involving a mental health patient, which has prompted a security investigation and counselling for staff.

Read More

Senior SA cardiologist Dr Tideman, named AM, reduced mortality in country hospitals by 21 per cent through work

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023, Selina Green and Becc Chave

Dr Philip Tideman is a Senior cardiologist who has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia as part of the King's Birthday honours. With nearly 30 years of cardiovascular research under his belt, Rural Support Service iCCnet Clinical Director and senior cardiologist, Dr Tideman has dedicated his life to improving the equity of access to cardiovascular care for rural populations through his work in the South East.

Lack of doctors sees Berry Springs medical clinic shut its doors

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023, Jo Laverty, Cameron Carr and Stephanie Doole

Visiting the doctor in Darwin's rural area is about to get more difficult, with the imminent closure of the Arafura Medical Clinic at Berry Springs. The last day for the clinic is Friday June 30, leaving patients to travel to Palmerston, Zuccoli or Humpty Doo for their medical appointments.

Read More

Aussie GP treated as an IMG reveals her battle with the college to work in her own country

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/06/2023, Heather Saxena

Dr Corinne Glenn's decision to do her GP training in New Zealand for family reasons had unexpected consequences. As an Australian medical graduate, Dr Corinne Glenn says she was staggered by the IMG bureaucracy she was forced through to work as a specialist doctor in this country.

Read More

Cruise, 06:00 News, 22/06/2023

There's been more violence in our regional hospitals. The latest incident has taken place in Port Pirie. Elizabeth Dabars from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation SA branch explains what happened on Saturday night. The patient approached a nurse in the corridor, stepped on her foot and then punched her in the head. The patient then chased staff around the ward. They injured two nurses and three doctors who all had to be treated in the emergency department.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Aussie needle-free vaccines

Medical Forum, Other, 22/06/2023

An Australian healthcare company has announced the opening of a new manufacturing facility that will produce needle-free vaccine patches, which they (and all needle phobes) hope will be the future of vaccination. Vaxxas released the interim results from its phase I clinical study of the first needle-free COVID vaccine using its proprietary high-density microarray patch (HD-MAP) earlier this month.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Age cut-off under review for MBS-funded bone density tests

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/06/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Funding tests for 60-69-year-olds would improve access to early treatment, says Associate Professor Peter Wong. Lowering the age cut-off for Medicare-funded bone mineral density tests from 70 to 60 is a potential "game changer" for preventing fractures, a leading rheumatologist says.

Read More

PBS overhaul will 'mainstream' opioid dependence treatment, GPs say

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/06/2023, Sarah Simpkins

But Dr Paul Grinzi says practical elements of the update may need tweaking. Patients paying \$150 a month for opioid dependence treatment will see their out-of-pocket costs slashed to \$30 a month under major PBS changes, the RACGP says.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Hospital CEO resigns

Cairns Post, General News, 23/06/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 1

The head of the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service has quit for "personal reasons" amid community concerns over the provision of health services after the sudden death of a two-year-old girl. The girl, whose name cannot be released for cultural reasons, died on June 15. Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council Mayor Patricia Yusia has called for a coronial inquest into the death of the girl, saying it was due to systemic TCHHS failures.

Also reported by: Townsville Bulletin (Townsville), The Courier Mail (Online)

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Medicare fraudster stays out of prison

Cairns Post, General News, 23/06/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 13

A woman who was convicted of \$178,558 Medicare fraud but walked free from court has escaped being re-sentenced and sent to prison. Erin Kate Waters, 27, pleaded guilty last August in Cairns District Court to obtaining financial advantage by deception, with Judge Dean Morzone, KC, citing her mental health issues as a moderating factor and sentencing her to two years and nine months' imprisonment but releasing her on \$1000 recognisance and a two-year good behaviour bond.

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Scientist fights SCUH

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 23/06/2023, Elizabeth Neil, Page 10

A Queensland Health scientist who accused his workplace of racism and corruption after he was rejected from a role at a Sunshine Coast hospital has spoken out. Yajuvendrasinh Parmar, who worked at the Caboolture Hospital but now works in Brisbane, applied for a job at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital in 2022 and was short-listed for the role, but later found out he was not the successful candidate.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Conversation Hour, 22/06/2023, Richelle Hunt

Interview with Peta Rutherford, CEO, Rural Doctors Association of Australia. Ruhterford says while telehealth is a fabulous addition to the Australian health care system since Covid, their position is that telehealth is supplementary care and not a replacement care.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

4BC, 11:00 News, 22/06/2023

The Australian Dental Association Deputy Chief Executive Eithne Irving welcomes the release of an interim report into public dentistry. Around 98% of the community is supportive of expanding free dental care services as they only seek it during emergencies.

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SPORT

Suited and booted: The man with a plan to remake Australian rugby

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/06/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 1

Phil Waugh has a plan to revive rugby. The former Wallaby and Waratahs centurion, who will take the helm of Rugby Australia next month, says he may turn to debt instead of private equity to finance a turnaround of the sport, which has lost key talent to o...

Also reported by: Australian Financial Review (Online)

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Healy gives thumbs up to multi-format series expansion

Age, Sport, 23/06/2023, Page 46

Alyssa Healy says she would back any move to expand women's multiformat series into a world championship event. The Test between Australia and England that began last night at Trent Bridge kicked off the seventh multi-format Ashes between the teams. It was introduced in 2013. The winner of the Test match will collect four points on the overall head-to-head leaderboard, while three Twenty20s and three one-day internationals are worth two points each.

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The Snow Dome can end a stadium war

Canberra Times, Sport, 23/06/2023, Caden Helmers, Page 79

It's easier to spend someone else's money while you're scraping the bottom of the centre console for loose change. So let's throw some of the \$1.5 billion Canberra Airport owner Terry Snow has at a new stadium in the city and call it the Snow Dome. The Canberra stadium saga has burst through the walls of Parliament House this week as the NRL renews calls for a new venue to improve the city.

Also reported by: Canberra Times (Online)

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AFL's concussion blow

Herald Sun, General News, 23/06/2023, Wendy Carlisle, Page 12

The afl has been urged by one of Australia's top head knocks experts to stand down its concussion adviser, Andrew Gardner, while the NRL investigates allegations he was involved in unethical conduct. The NRL's governing body has announced it will launch a probe in the wake of Newcastle Knights great Robbie O'Davis alleging he was not told he had brain damage after taking part in an NRL-funded research project led by Associate Professor Gardner and another consultant, Professor Chris Levi.

Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide), Herald Sun (Online)

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Finishing post for RV chief steward

Herald Sun, Sport, 23/06/2023, Gilbert Gardiner, Page 82

Racing Victoria chairman of stewards Robert Cram has announced his retirement, effective on July 31, after 41 years as an integrity official. Cram, who was first employed by the Victoria Racing Club as a cadet stipendiary steward in 1982, rose through the ranks to assume the role of chairman of stewards in 2018 following Terry Bailey's move to Robert Cram Singapore.

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Opportunity to transform Brisbane 2032 Olympic precinct

Courier Mail, General News, 23/06/2023, Hunter Higgins, Page 70

As the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games approach there will be once in a lifetime opportunities to invest in projects that will leave a lasting legacy for Brisbane. The Olympics is the accelerator for urban renewal across precincts including Woolloongabba, Northshore Hamilton, South Bank and Roma Street, and the catalyst for creating a next generation of inner-city economic hubs.

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Games camp?

Ballarat Courier, General News, 23/06/2023, Nieve Walton, Page 1

With fewer than 1000 days to go, the Ballarat community is still in the dark on what will be left of the athletes' village after the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Since the former saleyards site was announced

as the "home away from home" in October 2022 for 1800 athletics and officials, it was established some of the buildings would be temporary. But there is growing concern the home - for those involved in track and field, boxing and mountain bike riding - will be predominately, or even entirely, portable units, leaving little on the site post-Games.

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World Cup countdown

Daily Mercury, General News, 23/06/2023, Matthew Benns, Page 38

Kick off for the FIFA Women's World Cup is one month away with more than two billion people - a quarter of the world's population - expected to tune in. The four week festival of football will see 1.5 million fans watching 64 games live in nine cities across Australia and New Zealand pumping \$568m into the Australian economy alone. "It's a springboard for the sport," Football Australia chief executive James Johnson said. "Right now our brands for the Matildas and Socceroos are as high as they've ever been."

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Ambitious AFL plan

Daily Mercury, General News, 23/06/2023, jake garland, Page 39

Queensland would become the first state to be the home of three elite Aussie rules football clubs outside of Victoria under an ambitious proposal to make Cairns the centrepoint of the next AFL expansion club. With the growth of junior participation across Queensland overtaking Victoria and South Australia in 2023, a potential third Queensland team is more prominent than ever. North Queensland could be the next area the AFL will look to tap into, with the base of the new side located in Cairns.

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GV businesses urged to enter the race for Games contracts

Shepparton News, General News, 23/06/2023, Murray Silby, Page 8

On Wednesday, it was officially 1000 days until the 2026 Commonwealth Games in regional Victoria, known as Victoria 2026, but businesses are being told their race starts much earlier. Shepparton will host cycling events, including the road time trial and the BMX racing competition, during Victoria 2026, and also a cultural event.

Also reported by: Shepparton News Online (Online)

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New Australian crowd record will watch Matildas' final World Cup warmup match

The Australian, Other, 22/06/2023

Matildas captain Sam Kerr is adamant she and her teammates won't be "overawed" by expectations or big crowds in pursuit of their dream World Cup on home soil. The superstar striker will get a chance to test that notion, with the Matildas set to play in front of an Australian record crowd before the World Cup even starts. Ticket sales for the "send-off" match against France, the world's fifth-ranked team, at Marvel Stadium in Melbourne eight days before the World Cup opener against Ireland have already passed 40,000.

Read More

Federal government exploring governance change at Cricket Australia

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2023, Cameron Mee

Federal politicians are considering the extraordinary step of intervening in the makeup of Cricket Australia to facilitate historic changes to the organisation's governance structure. The national governing body currently has six member organisations representing the six states.

Read More

Sarah Cook named Rowing Australia's first female chief executive

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2023, Chris Dutton

Two-time Olympian Sarah Cook says Rowing Australia needs to be "ambitious and innovative" to take advantage of a golden decade opportunity as she prepares to make history in the sport she loves. Cook is poised to become the first female chief executive in Rowing Australia's history when she's officially announced as the new boss on Friday.

Read More

Healy backs expansion of women's multi-format series

Canberra Times, Other, 22/06/2023, Scott Bailey

Australia captain Alyssa Healy says she would back any move to expand women's multi-format series into a world championship event. Thursday's Test between Australia and England at Trent Bridge will kick off the seventh multi-format Ashes between the teams. It was introduced in 2013. The winner of the Test match will collect four points on the overall head-to-head leaderboard, while three Twenty20s and three One-Day Internationals are worth two points each.

Also reported by: Daily Mail Australia (Online), West Australian (Online)

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University of Queensland to partner with Paralympics Australia ahead of 2032 Games

The Courier Mail, Other, 23/06/2023, Toby Crockford

Queensland's world-leading sport science researchers will focus on breaking down barriers for current and future Paralympians ahead of Brisbane's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A multi-gold medal Paralympian says the obstacles that still exist for people with a disability is "sad", particularly in "sport-crazy Australia". She said clubs or communities generally don't have the knowledge, awareness or funding to be more inclusive and accessible.

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The E-Sports World Cup returns to Sydney!

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023, James-Valentine

The world's best esports teams and athletes will compete over three packed days in the epic Intel Extreme Masters Counter-Strike: Global Offensive tournament. The battle will take over the Aware Super Theatre in the SXSW Sydney event precinct from October 20th to 22nd.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Why you crave junk food when stressed

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/06/2023, Sera Bozza, Page 37

While junk food can help you relax short term when stressed, new research shows combining stress with calorie-dense comfort food is a bad idea Stress has become the new normal in today's fast-paced world, but the negative impact of stress on our health is frequently underestimated. A recent Garvan Institute of Medical Research study discovered a previously unknown link between stress and our eating habits.

Also reported by: <u>Northern Territory News (Darwin)</u>, <u>Hobart Mercury (Hobart)</u>, <u>Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</u>, <u>Courier Mail (Brisbane)</u>

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Study to see how health is tracking

Border Mail, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 4

Evidence of lower mental wellbeing and cancer screening rates in the Border and North East has prompted research to learn more. Albury Wodonga Health's Ovens Murray Public Health Unit is asking residents to take part in a health survey to provide information about how people are feeling and increase understanding about any barriers to cancer screening.

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Checks on promoting drinking

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 12

A new study from Deakin University's Institute for Health Transformation (IHT) will explore young people's participation with alcohol marketing and user-generated content in Victoria. Funded by VicHealth and led by IHT's Dr Matthew Dunn, the study will investigate the extent to which people aged 16-20 from groups that are disproportionably affected by alcohol-related harm, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQA+ people and regional Victorians, engage with alcohol marketing and user-generated content on social media.

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Surgeons' perfect 10

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 13

Surgeons who perform shoulder surgeries should do them at least 10 times a year to give each surgery the best chance of success, according to international researchers. Previous studies have shown evidence that performing a certain number of hip and knee replacements a year improves patient outcomes, so the researchers looked at data on shoulder replacements in England to compare.

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Spider's venom brings hope for motor neurone sufferers

The New Daily, Other, 22/06/2023

A molecule found in the venom of a rare Peruvian tarantula could be a treatment for motor neurone disease. The spider had proved useful for medical research before. In 2016, researchers at University of Queensland were investigating whether the spider's venom could be a potential treatment for pain. The University of Queensland Institute for Molecular Bioscience said it had received funding from the US Department of Defence.

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Strict rest 'not beneficial' after concussion: updated guidance

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/06/2023, Rachel Carter

The global consensus statement added there was a 'potential association' between head knocks and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. New guidance for sport-related concussion says light physical activity with reduced screen time is better than strict rest' for early management.

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Fixed-duration combo therapy shows promise for leukaemia

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/06/2023

Fixed-duration ibrutinib plus venetoclax is beneficial for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, including those with high-risk features, according to a study in Clinical Cancer Research Dr John Allan, from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City, and colleagues reported outcomes of fixed-duration ibrutinib plus venetoclax for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia in patients with high-risk genomic features del(17p), TP53 mutation, and/or unmutated immunoglobulin heavy chain (IGHV) from the CAPTIVATE study.

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4BC, 13:00 News, 22/06/2023

University of Queensland researchers are developing a vaccine and treatment for the highly infectious Langya virus from Eastern China before a potential pandemic occurs.

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Grog bans put brake on Alice Springs violence

The Australian, General News, 23/06/2023, Sarah Ison and Liam Mendes, Page 1

Incidents of domestic violence and assault have plummeted by more than a third in Alice Springs since alcohol restrictions were put in place earlier this year, following outcry from locals demanding for months that the Territory government implement grog bans. The fresh figures which showed total recorded assaults dived from more than 260 in January to 170 in April come after The Australian revealed the extent of the crime wave gripping the town following the expiry of alcohol restrictions in July 2022.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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A sober Alice Springs starts to get its life back on track

The Australian, Editorials, 23/06/2023, Page 10

Not one community chose to opt out of the new alcohol restrictions The turnaround in violence and drunkenness in Alice Springs provides valuable lessons for dealing with the complex issues that afflict many remote communities. At the top of the list is the fact that given the choice, not one community elected to opt out of alcohol restrictions that were reluctantly and belatedly reintroduced by the Northern Territory government.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online)

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Minister in retreat on two deaths

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/06/2023, Zizi Averill, Page 6

Territory Families Minister Kate Worden has walked back comments in which she described the deaths of two Territory teens from a suicide and a horror car crash as "medical" incidents. At her estimates committee appearance last week, Ms Worden confirmed three children had died while in the care of Territory Families over the past 12 months. She said the three deaths were "through medical reasons not misadventure".

Also reported by: Northern Territory News (Online)

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Children at risk after tragedy

Cairns Post, General News, 23/06/2023, Isaac McCarthy, Page 1

Support workers and teachers on the outer islands of the Torres Strait fear for the wellbeing of the region's children after the death of a dedicated disability support worker. Wendy Richardson, a renowned speech pathologist, intended to travel from Badu to Mabuiag Island on Thursday, June 8, to visit children she had started therapy with. But after CASA, Australia's aviation regulator, began enforcing a new safety standard in November, regular flight services to Mabuiag were stopped.

Also reported by: Cairns Post (Online)

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Chief's leadership to be missed

Cairns Post, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 5

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service is looking for a new chief executive after Beverley Hamerton announced her resignation. "It is with deep regret that I announce the resignation of our long-time health service chief executive Ms Beverley Hamerton," TCHHS chair Ella Kris said.

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Health issues

Cairns Post, General News, 23/06/2023, Page 18

While the Voice debate rages on, the case for change in Indigenous communities is plain It seems everybody and their dog has a voluminous opinion on Voice to Parliament the referendum Ion Indigenous constitution recognition and establishment of an advisory body that will be held sometime before October. There are self-appointed Indigenous leaders shouting the loudest in favour of the Voice, saying without it, any hopes of reconciliation will die.

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Specsavers is calling on locals to help improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples eye care

West Australian, Other, 23/06/2023, Rachel Green

Specsavers Busselton is calling on the local community to help reach its goal of \$1 million donations towards The Fred Hollows Foundation this year. Ninety per cent of vision loss experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is treatable or preventable

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Beverley Hamerton announces resignation, Torres and Cape Hospital seeks new CEO

Cairns Post, Other, 22/06/2023, Andrew McKenna

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Serviceis looking for a new Chief Executive Officer after Beverley Hamerton announced her resignation. The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service is looking for a new chief executive after Beverley Hamerton announced her resignation.

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Coroner investigating Bamaga toddler death

Cairns Post, Other, 22/06/2023, Bronwyn Farr

Northern Coroner Nerida Wilson is investigating the sudden death of a two-year-old as Cape York communities implore the state government for better health services. Northern Coroner Nerida Wilson is investigating the sudden death of a two-year-old as Cape York communities implore the state government for better health services.

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'Incredibly noticeable': alcohol bans have cut family violence and crime in Alice Springs, advocates say

The Guardian, Other, 23/06/2023, Sarah Collard

Alcohol restrictions in the Northern Territory are having a positive impact, advocates say, as police statistics show a drop in family violence callouts, property offences and other antisocial behaviour. Earlier this year, the NT government faced pressure over rising crime and antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs after Intervention-era bans on alcohol in remote Aboriginal communities came to an end, making liquor legal in some communities for the first time in 15 years.

Read More

Aboriginal deaths in custody to be reported in real time

National Indigenous Times, Other, 22/06/2023

The Australian government has implemented a new national system to report the deaths of Aboriginal people in custody in real time, beginning Wednesday 21 June. Monitored by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the new dashboard will provide up'to-date information on all deaths occurring in police and prison custody as well as in youth detention.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Doctors on high alert

Daily Mercury, General News, 23/06/2023, Duncan Evans and Zoe Devenport, Page 5

A typhoid fever outbreak in Queensland is "possible", an expert has warned, as the source of a confirmed case in Mackay remains unclear. Public Health Physician Dr Steven Donohue said officials were conducting contact tracing to locate the source of the disease that struck down a man in his 30s

last week. The man, who was born overseas but has lived in Mackay for more than a year, had not travelled abroad recently, which Dr Donohue said meant he likely caught it somewhere in Australia.

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WHO prepares for El Nino-linked spread of viral disease

Canberra Times, Other, 22/06/2023, Leroy Leo and Jennifer Rigby

The World Health Organization is preparing for an increased spread of viral diseases such as dengue, Zika and Chikungunya linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon. El Nino, a warming of water surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean, has officially returned after three years of the La Nina climate pattern.

Also reported by: West Australian (Online)

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Recall to action

Retail World, General News, 01/06/2023, Page 46

Suppliers and manufacturers must act swiftly when actioning product recalls, to minimise the risk of harm and injury to consumers, mitigate reputational damage and ensure that they're compliant with regulatory time limits. [...] Depending on the type of consumer good in question, a recall may be regulated by the ACCC, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) or both.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

The drug pipeline

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/06/2023, Stephen Drill, Page 31

Sneaky shipments of ice sent from the Golden Triangle are being transported to Australia through a new route in Asia's Andaman Sea. Seizures of ice plummeted last year as the drug cartels' clever tactic of using fishing boats to meet with cargo ships carrying the drugs delivered tonnes more drugs to Australia's ports.

Also reported by: <u>Courier Mail (Brisbane)</u>, <u>Northern Territory News (Darwin)</u>, <u>Hobart Mercury (Hobart)</u>, <u>Adelaide</u>, <u>Advertiser (Adelaide)</u>, <u>Herald Sun (Melbourne)</u>

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Radio National, Life Matters, 22/06/2023, Hilary Harper and Michael Mackenzie

Interview with Melanie Walker, CEO, Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Council. Waiting lists for drug treatment programs have reached epic proportions. Advocates say this is because we're treating drug use as a crime rather than a health issue and are calling for a new national approach. Walker says there are 500,000 Australians need drug rehab and can't get it in 2014 and she estimates it could be worse now.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Food research is vital, and often unreliable, inaccurate or dubious

Australian Financial Review, Review, 23/06/2023, Nutrition Anupam Jena and Christopher Worsham, Page 2

The World Health Organisation recently advised people to avoid using artificial sweeteners for weight loss or to reduce their risk of health issues like heart disease and diabetes. This was based on the agency's review of available research on artificial sweeteners to date.

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Ban food for thought

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/06/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 6

New research reveals three in four adults support a blanket ban on targeting kids online with unhealthy food and drink marketing. The Cancer Council Victoria also shows the majority do not believe unhealthy food and drink companies should be permitted to collect children's personal information for marketing.

Also reported by: Herald Sun (Online)

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US approves lab-grown chicken for sale

The Australian, Other, 22/06/2023

The United States has granted its first ever approvals to two companies to sell chicken grown directly from animal cells, paving the way for lab-grown meat to be eaten by consumers. The US Department of Agriculture reviewed and approved food safety systems at the facilities of Upside Foods and Good Meat, a spokesperson for the agency told AFP Wednesday, with the companies adding the products would be available soon at restaurants.

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Why your protein bars and powders may not be as healthy as they claim

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/06/2023, Sarah Berry

So-called "sports foods" like protein powders, bars, ready-to-drink beverages and snacks come with many claims: bulk, shred, energise, perform, recover, guilt-free, gold-standard. [...] A spokesperson for Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) says they are currently reviewing Formulated Supplementary Sports Foods and expect the findings to be released in 2024: "The review aims to ensure regulation within the code regarding formulated supplementary sports foods is clear, functions well and considers possible future innovation.

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This town in WA banned energy drinks four months ago and they aren't coming back

ABC Online, Other, 22/06/2023

Earlier this year, a 4 month trial kicked-off in the South West town of Bridgetown, to ban the sales of energy drinks to people under the age of 18. It's part of a study being run by the Telethon Kids Institute, aimed at measuring the impact of energy drinks on kids' health.

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US regulator allows first sales of lab-grown meat

The New Daily, Other, 22/06/2023

Two companies, Upside Foods and Good Meat, say they have received final US Department of Agriculture approval to sell lab -grown meat, paving the way for the country's first-ever sales of the product. With the approvals, the United States will become the second country after Singapore to allow the sale of so-called cultivated meat, which is derived from a sample of livestock cells that are fed and grown in steel vats.

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Junk food advertising ban

Medical Forum, Other, 22/06/2023

Former GP and ED doctor, Independent MP for Mackellar Dr Sophie Scamps, has tabled a Private

Members bill calling for a ban and time restrictions to be placed on junk food advertising. The Healthy Kids Advertising Bill 2023 seeks to have junk food adverts off TV and radio between 6am and 9.

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'Insane' amount of fresh produce 'rejected' by Aussie supermarkets

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 21/06/2023, Carly Bass

A Melbourne business has lifted the lid on food wastage in Australia thanks to policies of the likes of Coles and Woolworths. In this article: Shopping Two men from Melbourne are on a mission to stop food waste in Australia and have revealed the "insane" amount of fresh produce they claim is "rejected" by major supermarkets.

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2GB, Afternoons, 22/06/2023, Deborah Knight

According to research by the Cancer Council 75% of adults in Australia support a blanket ban on junk food and soft drink advertising aimed specifically at kids.

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AICIS

EPA goes fishing for PFAS

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 23/06/2023, Miles Kemp, Page 27

Potentially cancer-causing pfas pollution could have entered the food chain and the Environment Protection Authority has launched a catchand-test of fish stocks to find the extent of the problem. The plan has been revealed by the EPA as part of a change in thinking, from testing when new projects happen to identifying, mapping and dealing with the problem beforehand.

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