



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 24th June 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(Online\)](#)** reports that Queensland Health has revealed a “sharp uptick in flu cases” over the seven days to June 18, and comes as the state government scraps its Covid-19 monitoring system. “It is not the time for complacency” Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said, adding that “The virus is still out there as well as influenza and RSV, so we need to take care.”
- **[The Canberra Times \(page 4\)](#)** reports that the ACT Minister for Health Emma Davidson has announced that a new inpatient mental health unit for teens will open in the coming weeks at Canberra’s women’s and children’s hospital. “We know that there are a lot of young people who really get a lot of value out of being able to access services but being able to do it in a space that is designed for them just makes it so much better,” Ms Davidson said.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 7\)](#)** reports that new research by the Queensland University of Technology has found complications after cosmetic breast augmentation are more common than other cosmetic plastic surgery - but women who undergo such procedures are often uninformed regarding the risks.

- [\*\*The Courier Mail \(page 6\)\*\*](#) reports that Queensland's Covid traffic light system is set to come to an end, with the virus expected to be monitored the same as any other respiratory illness. Chief health officer John Gerrard said Covid was still "very common" in the community, but the state was not seeing the same surges as last year. adding that "As the Covid pandemic evolves so does our response here in Queensland."
- [\*\*The Adelaide Advertiser \(page 3\)\*\*](#) reports that a shortage of midwives will result in birthing services at Whyalla Hospital being halted from Monday. Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network said it was seeking qualified staff and hoped to resume services as soon as possible. Antenatal and post-natal care is still available at the facility, as is the emergency department for maternal emergencies.
- [\*\*The Hobart Mercury \(page 1\)\*\*](#) reports that Calvary Health Care is considering expanding its services to cover a shortfall in mental health and maternal care following the closure of the St Helen's Private Hospital on Friday. The Tasmanian state government is in talks to establish a new mother-baby unit, including talks with Calvary.
- [\*\*NEWS.com.au\*\*](#) reports that experts are warning a new COVID strain called FU.1 detected in Asia and India may pose the next big threat to Victoria as it is now spreading worldwide at a 50 per cent faster rate than the Arcturus (XBB.1.16) strain. An average of 16 Victorians a day have died of COVID in the past week, up from nine the week before.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Rays of hope in rural health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 21

Medical smart glasses to aid diagnosis City specialists will be able to "see through the eyes" of rural health workers using smart glasses as they assess and treat patients' leg and foot ulcers under a University of Adelaide project. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the grants fund projects will provide the critical launch pads for researchers to discover and test better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat serious health conditions.

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### Speaking out on hepatitis

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

Pharmacy customers can now have a say on two important strategies that will guide Australia's action against hepatitis B and C to eliminate these viruses as public health issues by 2030. [...] The Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, shared, "ensuring Australians can live free from the impact of hepatitis B and C is an Australian Government priority.

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### Health solutions, not taxes, are needed reduce tobacco addiction

Green Left Weekly, Other, 23/06/2023, Isaac Nellist

Health Minister Mark Butler argues that the budget measure to raise the tax on tobacco products is about "harm minimisation" and discouraging smoking. In fact it's another attack on the poor. Labor plans to raise the tax on tobacco products by 15.8% over three years will hit poorer people, who are more likely to smoke, much harder.

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### Stage 1 medicines confirmed in 60DD policy

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/06/2023

Ninety-two medicines have been confirmed for stage 1 of the 60-day dispensing (60DD) policy. [...] This will halve the cost of medicines for millions of Australians, including pensioners, who are living with a chronic condition," says Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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## Stage one of 60-day PBS dispensing rollout to slash cost of medicines for gout, heart disease, high cholesterol

Sky News Australia, Other, 23/06/2023, Miriah Davis

The first stage of the Albanese government's 60-day prescriptions policy will make around one hundred common medicines cheaper for people living with chronic illnesses. [...] "Every year, nearly a million Australians are forced to delay or go without a medicine that their doctor has told them is necessary for their health," Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement.

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## First tranche of 60-day dispensing medications released

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/06/2023

Come hell or high water the DoHAC is intent on starting double dispensing as planned on 1 September. [...] "Every year, nearly a million Australians are forced to delay or go without a medicine that their doctor has told them is necessary for their health," said Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## ADHA announces 'coalition of the willing'

The Medical Republic, Other, 23/06/2023

The Council for Connected Care has been launched to accelerate healthcare data sharing. [...] The first meeting of the Council, on 7 June, saw the DoHAC, with the ADHA, confer the formal thumbs-up to accelerate health data sharing, as backed by the Minister Mark Butler, and the recent budget allocations to digital health.

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## Government stalls on compo for COVID vaccine injuries

Umbrella News, Other, 23/06/2023, Rebekah Barnett

David Fisher lodged a claim with the national COVID vaccine injury compensation scheme in February 2022, after contracting myocarditis from his Pfizer vaccination. [...] A letter to the Health Minister Mark Butler received an expression of sympathy but no action.

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## New ECU health centre to service Yanchep and surrounds

Yanchep News Online, Other, 23/06/2023

A new community health service for Yanchep and the surrounding areas has been announced by federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler. The ECU Health Centre Yanchep will include two co-located, integrated, multidisciplinary health facilities, providing services designed to meet the current and future health needs of the rapidly growing Yanchep area, while improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Cricket ACT calls on feds to intervene

Canberra Times, Sport, 24/06/2023, Cameron Mee, Page 64

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. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells is also keen to meet with Boorer to discuss the situation.

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### First PNG aged care workers arrive in Australia

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 23/06/2023

The first workers from Papua New Guinea drafted to help boost staff numbers in Australian aged care

homes have arrived in Queensland. [...] "Pacific and Timorese workers have earned a positive reputation in the aged care sector, and now we welcome the first workers from Papua New Guinea," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Crippling pain, crippling cost

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/06/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 65

One in nine Australian women suffer from crippling pelvic pain that is often dismissed by doctors and costing them up to \$30,000 a year in health costs and lost income. [...] Federal Assistant Health Minister in charge of women's health Ged Kearney said the government has set up a National Women's Health Advisory Council and introduced a Medicare rebate for a new 60 minute consultation in the May budget that "will particularly benefit women who often need more time with their GP to address complex health conditions."

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### Developers urged to act on manufactured stone

The Urban Developer, Other, 23/06/2023, Renee McKeown

The development industry is on notice with a new report finding nearly one in four stone workers could have silicosis or other dust related diseases. [...] Federal assistant minister for health and aged care Ged Kearney said silicosis had a devastating impact on workers and their loved ones.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### Nation's first cyber security coordinator appointed, as government reckons with HWL Ebsworth breach

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Stephanie Borys

Australia's first cyber security coordinator will be announced today, as the federal government reckons with a hack at a law firm used by the banks and the federal government. [...] "The Department of Health and Aged Care is engaging with HWL Ebsworth regarding the cyber incident they experienced and whether any department information has been affected," the statement said.

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### Want to educate yourself about palliative care? Here's what's on offer

HelloCare, Other, 23/06/2023, Bianca Iovino

It is no secret that the care sector is changing as industry reforms come into place and education and knowledge expands on the best practices when caring for vulnerable people. [...] Talk to your employer about accessing these training options or visit the Department of Health and Aged Care's website for more information.

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## Qld Dumps COVID 'Traffic Lights'

southburnett.com.au, Other, 23/06/2023

Queensland Health has dumped the "traffic light" system to warn residents about COVID-19 risks, opting to treat COVID now like any other respiratory disease. [...] According to Federal Health Department figures, on June 5, there was a rolling seven-day average of four deaths per day in Queensland.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### COVID watch dropped

Courier Mail, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 6

Queensland's Covid traffic light system is finished, with the virus set to be monitored the same as any disease. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said about 250 people were hospitalised with Covid most over the age of 65 who were not up to date with their vaccinations.

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### COVID numbers dwindle in the west

Central Western Daily, General News, 24/06/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

Notifiable COVID cases continue to fall in the Western district. The latest NSW Health data was released on Thursday, and it showed the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) recorded 227 COVID cases, 85 flu cases, and 110 RSV cases in the week to June 17.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#).

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### Experts rubbish claims COVID-19 vaccines are linked to a fall in births recorded in NSW

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023

This week, CheckMate asks the experts about a fall in the number of NSW public hospital births and whether there is any evidence linking it to COVID-19 vaccines.

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### Qld scraps COVID-19 alert system amid flu outbreak

Canberra Times, Other, 23/06/2023, Robyn Wuth

Queensland's traffic light advisory for COVID-19 will be scrapped as the state faces the threat of an early wave of flu cases. Influenza cases have spiked since the start of winter, with 200 people already being treated in hospital, and are expected to top COVID-19 admissions before the end of the month.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Victoria's Covid wave is slowing but a mutant sub strain called FU.1 in China, India is likely on its way

NEWS.com.au, Other, 23/06/2023, Mandy Squires

Fears are growing a new Covid strain called FU.1 detected in Asia and India may pose the next big threat to Victoria. Experts are warning the mutant Omicron recombinant is now spreading worldwide at a 50 per cent faster rate than Arcturus (XBB.1.16).

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Confronting commercial aims to destigmatise dementia, promotes carer support

HelloCare, Other, 23/06/2023, Bianca Iovino

A national campaign featuring a hard-hitting television commercial was launched last week to increase awareness about help available for people living with dementia experiencing symptoms. The "Dementia affects us all" campaign by Dementia Support Australia (DSA) features a sobering television with a focus on the growing number of people living with dementia being cared for in their own homes.

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### Corangamite Shire Council details plan for in-home aged care transition

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 23/06/2023, Jessica Greenan

Corangamite Shire Council has outlined its plan to transition 500 elderly residents to new providers as it plans to cease its in-home aged care service next month. A decision to withdraw was made following a six-month independent review in response to the federal government's aged care reforms following the Quality and Safety Royal Commission in 2018.

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### Channel 9, A Current Affair, 23/06/2023, Allison Langdon

The aged care sector remains a long way from being fixed, despite 18 major inquiries, including a Royal Commission. However, the vast majority of aged care workers are dedicated, compassionate, overworked and underpaid, and they hope things are changing.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Pretty rich

AFR Weekend, General News, 24/06/2023, Julie Hare, Page 32

The pursuit of optimal health and wellbeing has long been the preserve of the affluent. Now the sector has set its sights on the ultra wealthy...

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### Kayla lashes weight-loss drug

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Natalie Brown, Page 27

Adelaide fitness queen Kayla Itsines has slammed the offlabel aesthetic use of Ozempic, calling it an "eating disorder". The injectable drug intended to treat diabetes by regulating blood sugar levels has been co-opted in the last 12 months as a "magic pill" for weight loss, thanks to its ability to greatly suppress one's appetite and slow the rate at which the stomach empties.

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### Issue with diet drug

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 3

A shortage of a viral diet drug best known as Ozempic is about to end, and doctors are concerned Australians will rush to get their hands on it, leaving those who need it in the lurch. The "wonder drug"

semaglutide has gone viral as the latest controversial craze in celebrity diet culture, with rumours swirling of Ozempic parties attended by members of Hollywood's elite.

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## Why you crave junk food when stressed

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 24/06/2023, Sera Bozza, Page 77

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.

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## Family warns parents to keep cuts clean as 12yo suffers antibiotic-resistant infection needing bone surgery

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Rachael Merritt and Larissa Waterson

In the red dirt country of north-west Queensland, the local waterways are a popular refuge from the relentless summer heat. So it was not unusual when young Roman Purcell went for a swim with his friends in the local creek in their outback town of Cloncurry, this March.

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## Aubrey Gordon from Maintenance Phase on the 'ultra-skinny' look and debunking myths about weight

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Ange Lavoipierre

Celebrity culture and social media have reverted to overtly promoting thinness, with a reckless zeal not seen since the 1990s and 2000s. So what happened to the "body positivity" movement and the notion that we all deserve to feel good in our skin?

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## Shepparton man Allan Turner hopes daughter Zaidee's organ donation will inspire opt-out system

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Callum Marshall

When Allan Turner's seven-year-old daughter Zaidee died in 2004, she became an organ and tissue donor. Zaidee, from Shepparton in northern Victoria, was the only person aged under 16 to donate their organs in Victoria that year.

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## Starting soon Health Some people are having painful sex and they're suffering in silence — but help is available

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Bridget Judd

Sex can be a taboo topic but we need to talk about it. Dyspareunia, which translates to painful sex, is a condition that affects about 20 per cent of women and two per cent of men.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Genesis of collapse: Collins' rise and fall

AFR Weekend, Companies and Markets, 24/06/2023, Carrie LaFrenz and Jemima Whyte, Page 21

The recriminations have begun following the collapse of the cancer-care giant...

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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## Diabetes rate set to soar

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 25

More than 1.3 billion people will be living with diabetes by 2050 without an effective mitigation strategy, according to alarming new estimates. Australia has diabetes rates among the lowest in the world for high income countries, but the gap between rates in the general population and First Nations Aussies is widening, the researchers say.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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## Debilitating condition dismissed as hysteria

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/06/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 65

Before modern surgical techniques allowed doctors to see the endometrial lesions causing women severe pain, sufferers were dismissed as "being hysterical". There was no research into its causes, and even today treatments are under researched, very basic and often ineffective. "Women's pain has not been taken seriously.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#)

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## Greig: We have to speak out

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 26

Endometriosis Australia ambassador Mel Greig wants to bring the "invisible pain" of the debilitating disease -which affects one in nine women - out into the open for good. "Partners haven't understood and have left me crumpled in the street crying because they are embarrassed," she said.

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## Alarm at diabetes rise

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Michaela Meade, Page 9

A Geelong woman living with type 2 diabetes says the condition has been "life-changing in annoying ways", as Deakin University research reveals an increase in the disease's prevalence and complications. Jax Saunders, 63, of Corio, was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in May 2018.

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## Self-collection cervical cancer screening gives patients the option to test themselves

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Janelle Miles

A new method of cervical screening allowing women to collect their own samples is improving participation among Queenslanders who have never been tested before, new data shows. Queensland Health's Jennie Haarsager said about 20 per cent of women undergoing cervical screening were choosing the self-collection method, introduced for most Australian women in July last year.

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## Bindi Irwin shares mental health woes amid debilitating health battle: 'Some days I couldn't get out of bed'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/06/2023, J. Peterson

Bindi Irwin has revealed that her ongoing battle with endometriosis has affected her mental health. Speaking to the Courier Mail, the Wildlife Warrior said that her symptoms 'snowballed' after the birth of her daughter Grace in 2021.

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## More than 1.3bn adults will have diabetes by 2050, study predicts

The Guardian, Other, 23/06/2023, Andrew Gregory

The number of adults living with diabetes worldwide will more than double by 2050, according to research that blames rapidly rising obesity levels and widening health inequalities. New estimates



predict the number will rise from 529 million in 2021 to more than 1.3 billion in 2050. No country is expected to see a decline in its diabetes rate over the next 30 years.

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## ABC News, ABC News at Noon, 23/06/2023, Gemma Veness

Interview with Jennie Haarsager, Queensland Health. Haarsager says it is important to reach out to underscreened women, because they know cervical cancers really happen mostly in that population. She notes according to research, women have a myriad of reasons for not screening, some of which are personal such as sexual trauma or a bad experience with a GP.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 23/06/2023, Peter Overton

Wollongong mother Brigitte Phillips has spoken about her remarkable recovery from breast cancer. The 33yo says a new medication changed her life, but it was so expensive she was forced to find tens of thousands of dollars to fund her initial treatment. McKell Institute CEO Edward Cavanough says they know that it'll take a lot longer for new and innovative medicines to be publicly subsidised and granted access to patients in Australia.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Australia at reproductive rights crossroads

Canberra Times, General News, 24/06/2023, Bonney Corbin, Page 39

This week marks one year since the overturning of Roe v Wade in the US. Meanwhile, the West Australian government has today tabled an abortion reform bill. WA is proposing to move abortion from the Criminal Code into the Public Health Act.

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### Too heavy a burden

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 24/06/2023, Page 68

Endometriosis has for too long been shrouded in shame and ignored by all levels of the health industry. After decades of research and lobbying it has been recognised as the serious condition it is, and the medical fraternity better understands what causes it and how to treat it successfully.

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### Not abreast of problems

Herald Sun, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 7

Complications after cosmetic breast augmentation are more common than other cosmetic plastic surgery - yet women who undergo such procedures are often in the dark about the risks, researchers say. New Queensland University of Technology research has found the need for earlier disclosure (and in much simpler terms) of those risks.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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### Protect all not just rich

Courier Mail, General News, 24/06/2023, Kylie Lang, Page 65

Governments are trying to save money where they "can, and you've now got an interesting situation where your health outcomes are directly linked to your financial ability to pay." I wouldn't call it "interesting", I'd call it "disgraceful".

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## Birth services cut at Whyalla

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Birthing services will stop at Whyalla Hospital from Monday, with officials blaming a shortage of midwives while issuing a public plea to find more staff. As Premier Peter Malinauskas was on Kangaroo Island boasting about the return of birthing services there, Whyalla Hospital officials were telling local pregnant women they would need to find alternative options from Monday.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## Heavy cost of common disease

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 27

One in nine Australian women suffer from crippling pelvic pain that is often dismissed by doctors and costing them up to \$30,000 a year in health costs and lost income. Close to one million women have endometriosis a painful inflammatory disease where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows in the pelvis, the bowel and other organs.

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## My nights of hospital hell

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 32

While some patients complain about delays getting into hospital, one Adelaide woman has detailed her sleepless nights from hell which led her to get out as fast as she could. From duelling TV sets to Olympic farting, from a Star Wars-like airconditioner to a woman trying to get into bed with her, the woman's social media diary makes compelling reading part funny, part frightening.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Endometriosis sufferers left to wait too long

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 24/06/2023, Page 60

It's as common among Australian women as asthma, and more common than diabetes, but you may never have heard of endometriosis. This gynaecological condition affects 1 in 9 women and can cause pain, nausea, fatigue, organ damage and even infertility.

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## Warts and all view from a ward bed

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 24/06/2023, Page 60

A lot is said about healthcare, most of it from outside the walls of a hospital ward. Political press conferences, union protests, academic commentary, all have their place.

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## Cry for help

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/06/2023, Blair Richards, Page 1

The state government has offered further assurances on mental health and mother and baby services following the closure of St Helen's Private Hospital. St Helen's officially closed on Friday, less than eight weeks after owner Healthscope announced the closure.

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## Health risk still rising

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 24/06/2023, Ben Loughran, Page 7

A challenging road lays ahead for the Loddon-Mallee public health unit as the healthcare industry battles staff shortages, patients from a large patch of Victoria and the ever-increasing issues of climate change. It is predicted for the Loddon-Campaspe region that by the 2050s average temperatures will

increase by three degrees with twice as many 38-degree days and average rainfall to decrease by 20mm.

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## Work starts on new cancer centre in city

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 14

Work has started on a state of-the-art Toowoomba centre to support residents battling cancer. GFG Projects, a subsidiary of FKG Group, has turned soil on Hope Horizons' new Jenny Black Cancer Wellness Centre, which will be based on North Street in Wilsonton Heights.

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## Bush telehealth to push on despite looming restrictions

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

Country Australians are increasingly turning to technology to bypass long delays in seeing a GP for medical certificates and prescription renewals, as a crackdown on telehealth looms. Midnight Health, a start-up which offers online medical consultations, electronic prescriptions and pharmacy deliveries, says rural Australians make up 30 per cent of its 85,000 customers.

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## Kangaroo Island woman spent days fearing for daughter's life after alleged misdiagnosis at local hospital

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/06/2023, Kathryn Bermingham

A Kangaroo Island woman has emotionally told how she spent five days fearing for her daughter's life after her ruptured appendix was allegedly misdiagnosed as constipation at the local hospital. She is now calling for more specialty paediatric training and better access to diagnostic services like blood testing and ultrasound, which she said could have prevented her daughter's condition from becoming so serious.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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## Critical shortage of midwives forces indefinite closure of Whyalla Hospital birthing services

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023

South Australian health authorities have blamed a "critical midwifery workforce shortage" for the indefinite suspension of birthing services at Whyalla Hospital. Women due to give birth at Whyalla Hospital will have to deliver at other locations from Monday, June 26.

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## Breast cancer survivor wants \$7000-a-month wonder drug to be more readily available to patients

9News, Other, 23/06/2023

A young Wollongong mother has spoken about her "remarkable" recovery from a breast cancer that had little hope of a cure. The 33-year-old says a new medication changed her life but it was so expensive she had to find tens of thousands of dollars for her initial treatment.

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## Only the most stable patients will be on 60 day scripts: AMA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/06/2023, Chris Brooker

"We've heard from pharmacists... that this will free up their time", an AMA leader says about 60 day script move, while dismissing Guild report on financial hit to pharmacies The most important factor around 60 day dispensing is that it will "halve the cost of medicines for many Australians across the country, particularly people on

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## Rural Australians missing out on \$6.5 billion in healthcare access, report finds

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/06/2023

Every person living in rural Australia is missing out on nearly \$850 a year of healthcare access, equating to a total annual rural health-spending deficit of \$6.5 billion, a new report has revealed. According to the National Rural Health Alliance, which commissioned the independent Nous Group report, the data reflects the urgent need for an overarching National Rural Health Strategy to unite fragmented rural health initiatives under the one umbrella.

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## New \$60m multi-storey car park for Hervey Bay Hospital

Fraser Coast Chronicle, Other, 23/06/2023, Carlie Walker

A new \$60 million multi-storey car park will be built at Hervey Bay Hospital to reduce stress for patients and visitors. Member for Hervey Bay Adrian Tantari and Queensland treasurer Cameron Dick were outside the hospital on Friday to make the announcement.

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## A 'wake-up call' for rural health after \$6.5b shortfall

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/06/2023

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.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Afternoons, 23/06/2023, Georgia Stynes

Interview with Kylie Ward, CEO, Australian College of Nursing. Ward comments on the ACT Government's announcement that they will establish a paediatric hospital in the home program for sick children in Canberra. She notes there are advantages, and it is not a new idea. She says the initiative has been around for a couple of decades now.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Companies 'wellbeing washing' on health

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/06/2023, Helen Trinca, Page 37

Companies are "wellbeing washing" ticking the boxes on their mental health policies to abide by new work health and safety regulations that require them to build safe "psychosocial" workplaces. That's the view of Jamie MacLennan, senior vice-president and managing director APAC at TELUS Health, who says in most cases the "washing" is innocent enough it's simply that many employers find it hard to implement and measure actions to create safe spaces.

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### Mental health unit to open soon

Canberra Times, General News, 24/06/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 4

An inpatient mental health unit for teenagers, allowing overnight stays, is expected to open in the coming weeks, the ACT's Minister for Mental Health has said. Emma Davidson said there would be an announcement soon about the unit, at Canberra women's and children's hospital, which will allow young people with mental health issues to be treated in a dedicated space.

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## Leaders tackle mental health

Border Mail, General News, 24/06/2023, Sophie Else, Page 13

Tackling mental health and encouraging young people to take action was part of a week-long program involving a group of university students. The Rural Health Sprint is a youth mental health program aimed at addressing those "difficult questions".

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## Mental health day program for young people opens in Canberra, offering alternative therapy

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Niki Burnside

From the age of seven, Josie has struggled with her mental health. Isolated and bullied at school, she felt like she had no one to turn to.

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## Psychological monitoring should be routine post-ICD, cardiologists say

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

Adults with ICD shocks were at particular risk of anxiety and depression, researchers found. Patients who have received implantable cardioverter defibrillators regardless of indication should be closely monitored for mood disorders, results from a large meta-analysis suggest.

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## Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 23/06/2023, Dougal Beatty

Interview with Jason Trethowan, CEO, Headspace. Trethowan notes Headspace research has found people have a complex relationship with social media and they're experiencing that problematic use. He adds half of young people want to disconnect from social media, but experienced that fear of missing out.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### ABC Radio Adelaide, Afternoons, 23/06/2023, Sonya Feldhoff

Interview with Melanie Dunstan, President, Australian College of Nurse Practitioners. Dunstan discusses how she is a nurse practitioner herself. She notes they are nurses as they've all done a Bachelor of Nursing to begin their nursing career. Dunstan says they can all legally request and review diagnostic tests.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Pharmacy strike for 7pc pay rises

AFR Weekend, General News, 24/06/2023, David Marin-Guzman, Page 6

Warehouse workers supplying Wesfarmers' newly acquired Priceline pharmacies have walked off the job in support of inflation-matching 7 per cent pay rises and "same job, same pay" rules for labour hire.

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### Employer alarm at workplace 'perfect storm'

Weekend Australian, General News, 24/06/2023, Ewin Hannan, Page 2

Employers have expressed alarm that unions will increasingly demand inflation-linked wage rises and higher pay for labour hire after distribution centre workers in Melbourne went out on strike calling for

annual 7 per cent pay rises for the next four years. The 190 workers at the Wesfarmers-owned Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, which makes emergency medical supplies including rapid antigen tests and masks for the Priceline retail chain, are also calling for "same job, same pay" increases for agency casuals.

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## Pay rises must not fuel inflation

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 24/06/2023, Page 14

The strike by 190 workers disrupting operations at Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, which makes emergency medical supplies including rapid antigen tests and masks for the Priceline retail chain in Melbourne, will be bad for productivity, for customers, and for the general economy. Workers at the Wesfarmers-owned enterprise are demanding annual 7 per cent pay rises for the next four years and "same job, same pay" increases for agency casuals, in line with the Albanese government's upcoming second round of workplace relations changes.

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## Blame game won't help, but nurses do

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 45

A looming cliff ahead of funding for more than 130 Hunter nurses seems farcical after the last few years. While the profession earned an overdue moment in the sun during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, that appreciation has failed to translate into higher pay or improved conditions.

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## Nursing jobs were part of COVID 'army'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2023, Anna Falkenmire, Page 2

The former government has stood by its decision not to fund more than 1100 temporary nursing positions as the state moves into a different stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Shadow health minister Matt Kean hit back at claims hospitals and health workers would be left high and dry, saying it was now up to the new Labor government to extend the funding.

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## NSW paramedics take strike action in attempt to boost staff

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 23/06/2023, Rachel Gray

Paramedics across Tamworth are refusing to work "on call" between their shifts unless the NSW government hires more staff to ease the pressure on first responders. The industrial action is set to continue for as long as it takes to increase staff from 36 full time equivalent (FTE) positions to 48, Tamworth paramedic and Health Services Union (HSU) delegate Brian Bridges said.

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## Hunter New England health district to lose most nursing positions in NSW in government funding cuts

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 23/06/2023, Anna Falkenmire

Hospitals across the Hunter New England 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 government funding is slashed in a year.

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## ABC, ABC News, 23/06/2023, Jessica Harmsen

Women due to give birth at Whyalla Hospital will have to have their deliveries elsewhere from Monday. SA Health says a critical shortage of midwives has caused the temporary shutdown of the birthing service.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Push for 'out of reach' medication for rare form of epilepsy Dravet syndrome to be added to the PBS

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Tamara Clark and Emma D'Agostino

A young family is fighting a rare form of epilepsy which causes their two-year-old daughter to have life-threatening seizures every two days. Skyler Coghlan, from Mildura in Victoria, suffers from Dravet syndrome, which has no cure and requires drugs that can cost more than \$100,000 a year for adults and \$40,000 for children.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### 'How can anybody afford this?': Your stories of the patients battling for an ADHD diagnosis

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/06/2023

Patients are facing upfront costs of \$1500 or more to see a psychiatrist, GPs report. For weeks AusDoc has been collecting GPs' stories of battling to secure ADHD diagnosis for their patients.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Tied down for 5 days

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/06/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 1

A Mayfield man with dementia suffered "mistreatment, abuse and torture" after he was tied to a bed for five days at John Hunter Hospital, says his wife. David Stevens, 61, was hospitalised in May last year for abdominal pain and bleeding. His wife Linda Stevens said hospital staff used restraints around his ankles and wrists because they believed he was aggressive.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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## SPORT

### Matilda, the nickname that 'just fit'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/06/2023, Vince Rugari, Page 28

For the duration of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Matildas will be based in Brisbane and training at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre. It's a fitting choice because the facility holds a special place in the team's mythology. In the opening ceremony for the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, a 13-metre tall, six-tonne animatronic kangaroo built on top of a forklift rolled around what was known, back then, as the QEII Stadium.

## Game changer: Behind AFL crackdown over tackles

The Saturday Age, General News, 24/06/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 14

Tackling is at the heart of Australian football, as intrinsic as the crowd crying "baaall" at the umpire whenever a player is grabbed. A well-applied tackle at a critical moment can turn a game. It can change momentum, lift a team and thrill a crowd. But when a tackle goes wrong, the result can be devastating, leaving a player with serious head or neck injuries.

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## Australian sport's transgender policy is still as clear as mud

The Saturday Age, Sport, 24/06/2023, Darren Kane, Page 46

There's this adage misused by elite athletes with big egos, that nobody is bigger than the game itself. Individual athletes, arrive on the scene and then they depart.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Commonwealth Games Ballarat 2026 questions about saleyard site

Ballarat Courier, Other, 23/06/2023, Nieve Walton

With less 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.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Leading research program targets the biology of eating disorders

Northern Rivers Times, General News, 22/06/2023, Page 48

A revolutionary Monash University-led eating disorder research program launched tonight (Sunday 11 June) will target biological causes and possible new treatments including novel drugs, brain stimulation and hormones. The world class Li Transformative Hub for Research in Eating Disorders (THRED) will be coordinated through Monash University's HER Centre Australia, which was launched in 2022 to consolidate and expand research into and treatment of women's mental illness.

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### Ban bad food aimed at kids

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 24

New research reveals three in four adults (76 per cent) support a blanket ban on targeting kids online with unhealthy food and drink marketing. The Cancer Council Victoria also shows the majority (81 per cent) do not believe that unhealthy food and drink companies should be permitted to collect children's personal information for marketing purposes.

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### Bridgetown keeps energy drink ban for under-18s in place, as other communities watch on

ABC Online, Other, 23/06/2023, Jacqueline Lynch, Sam Bold and Dominique Bayens

A small town in WA which stopped the sale of energy-drinks to people under 18 has vowed to keep the ban in place, as other communities look to follow suit. Retailers in the South West town of Bridgetown, 260km south-east of Perth, banned the sale of energy drinks to young people earlier this year, as part of Telethon Kids Institute research project.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Qld reveals sharp uptick in cases of one infectious disease

The Australian, Other, 23/06/2023, Madeleine Achenza

The latest health data has revealed an interesting trend ahead of the peak season for flu and Covid-19 infections. A "sharp uptick in flu cases" was reported by Queensland Health over the seven days to June 18, with the number of flu infections amounting to double those with Covid-19.

*Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).*

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### 'Part of our reality': Flu joins COVID in Qld's winter illness wave

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/06/2023

Queenslanders have been urged to get vaccinated this winter as the number of people sick with influenza and other respiratory illnesses continues to rise. With almost as many people hospitalised with the flu as with COVID-19, Chief Health Officer Dr John Gerrard and Health Minister Shannon Fentiman urged people to take precautions.

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### Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 23/06/2023, Alison Ariotti

A new highly infectious virus with a potential to spark a worldwide pandemic has been discovered in China. University of Queensland scientists are right now working to understand the Langya strain, which comes from the same family as the Nipah and Hendra viruses.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Things could be looking up for Viagra challenger

AFR Weekend, General News, 24/06/2023, Jill Margo, Page 8

Manufacturers of a novel gel designed to treat erectile dysfunction are about to apply for the product to be approved in Australia.

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### Is this the wonder drug to send CSL shares back over \$300?

Weekend Australian, Business News, 24/06/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 27

A patient in the US has become the first person to receive the world's most expensive drug, Hemgenix, as CSL begins to commercialise its treatment for haemophilia B. [...] An Australian launch is understood to be several years away, with the drug currently before the Therapeutics Goods Administration.

*Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).*

## Sydney suburbs vie for pot luck

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/06/2023, Jordan Baker and Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 10

Eidan Havas is ready to go. His Bondi shop is kitted out with frosted glass to protect patients' privacy, a warren of doctors' suites and a heavy safe, still empty, for the medicine. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration has been cracking down on cannabis advertising, which is banned for all types of prescription medication including those not covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, such as cannabis.

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## Supporting pharmacists around medicinal cannabis

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/06/2023

When medical cannabis was legalised in Australia, doctors struggled to navigate complex regulations, while pharmacists grappled with where and how to order products. [...] Auto-matching functionality for products and dosage forms based on TGA approvals.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Union calls for government intervention after maggot-filled steak served to WA mine workers

9News, Other, 23/06/2023

Footage of a maggot-filled steak served at a Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) mine site in Western Australia's Pilbara region has prompted mass outrage across the state. The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) slammed the conditions workers are forced to live with, and is now calling on the government to investigate.

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### FIFO workers in WA 'dished up maggots and breathing mould-filled air'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 23/06/2023, Elena Couper

Horrifying footage has emerged of a West Australian-based FIFO worker being served a steak dinner covered with maggots, sparking unions to call for stricter food codes in the industry. The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has slammed Fortescue Metal Group (FMG), calling the living conditions at its Pilbara-based camp "appalling".

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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