



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 28th June 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 1) reports government MPs have called for measures to ensure smaller pharmacies don't close following new dispensation regulations set to take effect in September, as the Pharmacy Guild of Australia launches a fresh campaign against the policy. Health Minister Mark Butler said "The truth is the government is delivering cheaper medicines through 60-day dispensing for more than six million Australians." *Also reported by: [Sky News \(Online\)](#).*
- The **Courier Mail** (page 1) reports researchers at Queensland's researchers at QIMR Berghofer are leading the world in development of an oral drug treatment for long COVID that could also prevent reinfection, even of new variants. QIMR Berghofer's epigeneticist Sudha Rao said "We believe it could be a highly promising adjuvant to boost the effectiveness of existing vaccines providing long-lasting protection against any variant of the virus that tries to enter the cells." *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#)*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 3) reports public hospitals would need to operate at 132 per cent of capacity to meet current patient demand, new analysis by the Australian Medical Association has found, without hundreds of thousands of Australians waiting for surgery and specialist appointments. The AMA has called for \$4.4 billion in funding to use private hospitals to ease waiting lists, and for the federal government to lift its share of hospital funding to 50 per cent,

and remove a 6.5 per cent cap on extra annual funding. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)*

- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 14) reports the Morrison government's \$2 billion health and hospitals funding program is on a shortlist of issues the Greens plan to refer to the National Anti-Corruption Commission as it begins operations on Saturday.
- The [Cairns Post](#) (page 1) reports Indigenous leaders in Far North Queensland have called for an inquiry into local health services conducted independently of Queensland Health following a meeting with state Opposition Leader David Crisfulli held on Monday. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said she would work closely with the Health Ombudsman on a review of Queensland Health announced in June, and planned to visit the area "in the next couple of weeks".
- The [Weekly Times](#) (page 20) reports federal health funding models have led to the closure of medical practices and a failure of health services in rural Australia, National Rural Health Alliance chief executive Susi Tegen says. Health Minister Mark Butler in a statement said rebuilding general practice was the highest priority of the Albanese government, and listed the government's \$6.1 billion investment in Medicare in this year's budget as key to building and maintaining the GP workforce.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (Online) reports Australians are living longer lives and exercising more than five years ago, but few Australians eat enough vegetables while the majority of the population still struggle with obesity and weight loss, new figures from the the Australian Institute of Health and Wellness has shown. Suicide, heart disease, breast cancer, lung cancer and dementia were found to be the leading causes of death for Australians. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [3AW](#), [6PR](#).*
- [ABC News](#) reports
- [The Guardian](#) reports Victoria's Police have rejected claims of racism after a report found African, Indigenous and Middle Eastern Australians were significantly more likely to receive infringements for breaching COVID lockdown rules. Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive Nerita Waight said "I don't think that Victoria police can credibly argue that there was no bias in any of the decisions made to issue over 50,000 Covid fines. That is not believable." *Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser](#), [Sunraysia Daily](#), [Warrnambool Standard](#), [ABC News](#), [National Indigenous Times](#), [News.com.au](#), [SBS](#)*
- [The Guardian](#) reports consultancy firm KPMG has launched an internal review following concerns of a conflict of interest over their handling of safety and quality audits for aged care facilities conducted for the government and raised by Greens Senator Barbara Pocock. Community and Public Sector Union assistant national secretary Michael Tull said "We're talking about aged care regulation, an area of serious public concern, where many people think profit motives stand in the way of quality care. There cannot be even the slightest room for people to doubt the independence of the aged care regulator."

MINISTER BUTLER

Bitter pill to swallow: backbench revolt over 60-day scripts

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 28/06/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 1

Labor senator Helen Polley has warned 60-day dispensing may force regional pharmacies to close, while Labor MP Mike Freeland has called for an increase in compensation for chemists. The push comes as 6000 pharmacies launched a nationwide blitz against the policy which will allow GPs to write scripts for two months of medicine from September 1 with the industry urging the federal government to keep negotiating in order to save 20,000 jobs. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler called it "the latest scare campaign from the pharmacy lobby group about the government's cheaper medicines policy".

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

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Health funding's big divide

Weekly Times, General News, 28/06/2023, Else Kennedy, Page 20

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 as well as serving as Bogan Shire Council's mayor, said the town's 2200 residents faced the prospect of travelling more than two hours to the closest regional centre of Dubbo to see a doctor, where health centres were often shortstaffed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement there was "no higher priority in health for the Albanese government than rebuilding general practice".

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Report highlights pharmacy fears

Myrtleford Times, General News, 28/06/2023, Brodie Everist, Page 3

A recent report has said more than 665 community pharmacies are at risk of closing due to the Federal Government's 60-day medication dispensing policy due to start this September, with one local pharmacist voicing his concerns. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler recently announced the first tranche of medicines to be under the new policy, consisting of 92 medications for a wide range of conditions to be available for 60-day dispensing from September 1.

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Alpine Health in aged care program rollout

Myrtleford Times, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 13

Alpine Health will be part of a new aged care planning program following an Australian Government announcement to provide \$1.3 million to Beechworth Health Service to roll out the Indigo 4Ms framework across North East Victoria and evaluate the program's effectiveness. [...] "The Indigo 4Ms tool has great potential in helping ensure that older Australians get coordinated and effective health care, without service duplication and without having to tell their medical history multiple times," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said.

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Unions will campaign for an Indigenous voice to parliament online and in workplaces

The Australian, Other, 27/06/2023, Sarah Ison and Rosie Lewis

Trade unions including the union of Indigenous land rights activist Eddie Mabo - are vowing to mobilise their members and actively campaign for a voice to parliament across social media, workplaces, universities and neighbourhoods, amid falling support for the advisory body. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said a new approach through a voice was needed in his portfolio more than any other policy area he could think of, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people could have longer, healthier and happier lives.

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Innovative ideas required to stamp out vaping in school bathrooms

Mount Evelyn Mail, Other, 27/06/2023, Shiloh Thurrowgood

Mount Lilydale Mercy College (MLMC) has introduced a new ID card system to help to prevent antisocial behaviour, bullying, vandalism and vaping in toilet facilities. [...] On 2 May the Australian Health Minister Mark Butler announced that new legislation would be used to stop the importation of non-prescription vapes, including introducing restrictions on flavours and colours.

Also reported by: [Lilydale Star Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Newcastle Labor councillors' appeal for endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/06/2023

A Newcastle councillor with "firsthand experience of the debilitating effects of endometriosis and pelvic pain" is leading the charge for a federally-funded clinic to be set-up in Newcastle. The city's Labor councillors will present a proposal to the June 27 meeting to advocate for an endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic, following a \$58. [...] The notice of motion calls for City of Newcastle to write to Newcastle MP Sharon Claydon, Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, asking for Newcastle to be included as the next location to receive a clinic.

'It's not a scare campaign': Opposition backs pharmacists against government plan to overhaul prescription rules

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Max Melzer

The opposition is backing a new campaign from pharmacists opposing the government's proposed changes to prescription medications, with Dan Tehan saying there is a "real fear" regional pharmacies may be forced to close if the plan goes ahead. Co-ordinated by the pharmacy guild, the campaign will be rolled out across radio, digital and television advertising beginning on Tuesday. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler dismissed the campaign, saying the policy would benefit "millions" of Australians.

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'New era' for older LGBTIQ+ people accessing healthcare in Australia

Aged Care Insite, Other, 27/06/2023, Elise Hartevelt

Australia will hold a first-ever public consultation exclusively for the LGBTIQ+ community to identify the greatest disparities affecting access to healthcare. [...] "Today is a landmark day for the future of LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing in Australia," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said.

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

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New ECU health centre to service Yanchep and surrounds

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 27/06/2023

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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Health minister under renewed fire amid claims of compassionate access U-turn

Cannabiz, Other, 27/06/2023, Steve Jones

Mark Butler has come under renewed fire for failing to back a nationwide medicinal cannabis compassionate access scheme, with the Labor health minister accused of saying one thing in opposition and backtracking now his party is in power. The Liberal chair of the cross-party Parliamentary Friends of Medicinal Cannabis, Warren Entsch, described the government's refusal to seed fund the scheme as "frustrating and disappointing".

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NBN Central Coast, NBN News, 27/06/2023, Natasha Beyersdorf and Gavin Morris

Health Minister Mark Butler has paid a visit to the Central Coast today, focusing on concerns of First Nations people. Butler says a Voice to Parliament is needed now more than ever to ensure the government fully understands and supports Indigenous health.

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 27/06/2023, Kenny Heatley

Interview with Anthony Tassone, Vice President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia about a new campaign by pharmacists targeting the Federal Government's double reforms on dispensing. Tassone says this measure is actually being funded by 6000 local community pharmacies and small businesses across Australia which would lead to job cuts in their industry. He states an independent report from economist Henry Ergas reveals it could lead to over 20,000 job losses nationwide and over 650 pharmacy closures. Heatley reads a statement from Health Minister Mark Butler's office dismissing it as the latest scare campaign from the pharmacy lobby group about the government's cheaper medicines policy. He

furtherers that every single dollar saved by the Government will go back into pharmacy services so pharmacists can play an even more central role in the health care of Australians.

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WIN Townsville, WIN News North Queensland, 27/06/2023, Lincoln Humphries

As the cost of living continues to rise, 30% of young Australians who are both working and studying are delaying a visit to the doctor, putting groceries before health care. GPs say while Medicare reform is welcomed, the system still has flaws that need correcting. RACGP Vice President Dr Bruce Willett says the Government's tripling of the bulk billing incentive still needs work. The Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was contacted for comment.

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2MCE, 15:00 National Radio News, 27/06/2023

The Opposition has called the Minister of Health, Mark Butler, extraordinarily arrogant over planned changes to prescriptions which will double the medicine supply from its current 30 day maximum. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Industry body, which represents community pharmacies, have condemned the plan. Shadow Minister for Immigration Dan Tehan told Sky that Mr. Butler is not effectively consulting with pharmacies over the planned changes.

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ABC Newcastle, Breakfast, 27/06/2023, Dan Cox and Jenny Marchant

Interview with Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz, Newcastle City Council. Winney-Baartz says they're asking their fellow councillors to write to Federal Member and Deputy Speaker Sharon Claydon MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney advocating for Newcastle to be included in any subsequent funding around endometrial and pelvic pain clinics.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged care reform a 'risk'

Gannawarra Times, General News, 27/06/2023, Phoebe Doyle, Page 6

Aged-care reforms could spark a crisis in regional facilities and a regional aged-care summit is urgently needed to address them, Member for Mallee Anne Webster says. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recommended reforms in the sector, including having a registered on-site nurse 24 hours, which is set to be enforced from July 1. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells was contacted for comment.

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Taskforce must get it right

Mid-Coast Observer, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 6

The federal government taskforce will begin work on funding reforms to be included in a new Aged Care Act due mid-2024. It will also look at introducing additional taxes to fund aged care, as well as putting the people using aged care at the centre of funding arrangements. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has warned of both an ageing population and an ageing workforce. That's nothing new...

Also reported by: [Hawkesbury Gazette \(Richmond\)](#), [Blue Mountains Gazette \(Blue Mountains\)](#), [South Coast Register \(Nowra\)](#), [Camden Haven Courier \(Laurieton\)](#), [Bay Post \(Ulladulla\)](#).

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The State of Origin series NSW did win

Newcastle Herald, General News, 28/06/2023, Simon McCarthy, Page 15

The Cane Toads may have this year's State of Origin series all tied up after thrashing the Blues 32-6 at Brisbane on Wednesday night, but, to save New South Welshies some salt in the proverbial wound, let's not mention the war. [...] Member for Shortland Pat Conroy captained his NSW parliamentary Blues team to a fourth straight victory in the annual battle of the polties, organised by the NRL and Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League, after defeating Sport Minister Anika Wells' team of Queenslanders 3-2.

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Aged care taskforce – terms of reference

Inside Ageing, Other, 27/06/2023, Sean Mckeown

The previously announced Aged Care Taskforce will serve as a time-limited body, providing expert advice to the government through the Minister for Aged Care. Its primary objective is to advise on funding arrangements and propose reforms that ensure a fair, equitable, and sustainable aged care system for all Australians. [...] The Taskforce will be chaired by the Minister for Aged Care, who may appoint a proxy to chair meetings if needed.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Woolworths to replace confectionery aimed at kids with healthy snacks at checkouts

9News, Other, 27/06/2023, Lucy Slade

Woolworths will start removing confectionery marketed towards children from its checkout aisles nationally in an effort to make parents' lives easier. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said the Woolworths initiative was "really leading the way".

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Newcastle Labor councillors' appeal for endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic

Newcastle Herald, Other, 27/06/2023

A Newcastle councillor with "firsthand experience of the debilitating effects of endometriosis and pelvic pain" is leading the charge for a federally-funded clinic to be set-up in Newcastle. The city's Labor councillors will present a proposal to the June 27 meeting to advocate for an endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic, following a \$58. [...] The notice of motion calls for City of Newcastle to write to Newcastle MP Sharon Claydon, Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, asking for Newcastle to be included as the next location to receive a clinic.

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'New era' for older LGBTIQ+ people accessing healthcare in Australia

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Australia will hold a first-ever public consultation exclusively for the LGBTIQ+ community to identify the greatest disparities affecting access to healthcare. [...] "Today is a landmark day for the future of LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing in Australia," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said.

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

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 27/06/2023, Michael Thomson

Starting today, all Woolworths supermarkets will remove enticing kids confectionery, things that are directly marketed for children, whether it might have a cartoon character on it, or a smaller snack size for a child. [Segment with Assistant Minister Kearney]

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ABC Newcastle, Breakfast, 27/06/2023, Dan Cox and Jenny Marchant

Interview with Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz, Newcastle City Council. Winney-Baartz says they're asking their fellow councillors to write to Federal Member and Deputy Speaker Sharon Claydon MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney advocating for Newcastle to be included in any subsequent funding around endometrial and pelvic pain clinics.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Health expert backflip sparks call to end all vaccine mandates

The Norfolk Islander, General News, 24/06/2023, Page 16

Stunning evidence to a parliamentary hearing late last night has seen Australia's Department of Health Secretary Brendan Murphy admit that vaccine mandates are unjustified. The backflip comes after months of questioning over the efficacy of the vaccines ability to stop transmission.

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Will you ever turn off the fax machine at your practice?

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2023

The My Aged Care fax line is being decommissioned. Fax machines are in the firing line. The My Aged Care fax number is being turned off from 31 July, with the Department of Health and Aged Care saying it will move entirely to electronic referrals via HealthLink.

[Read More](#)

Kyndryl picks up aged care IT transformation contract

CRN, Other, 27/06/2023

Kyndryl will be paid \$13.2 million to bring Salesforce and Siebel skills to a rebuild of the aged care service provider management system run by the federal Health department. The services provider will also build some other unspecified "ICT services" on top of that management system.

[Read More](#)

Kyndryl lands role in aged care IT transformation

ITnews, Other, 27/06/2023, Ry Crozier

Brought in to supply CRM skills and build on new platform. Kyndryl will be paid \$13.2 million to bring Salesforce and Siebel skills to a rebuild of the aged care service provider management system run by the federal Health department.

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Senior Appointments

Blair Comley has been appointed Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, the five-year appointment beginning on 17 July. From 2011-13 Mr Comley (pictured) was Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

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Faxed referrals to My Aged Care to be decommissioned from July

Pulse+IT, Other, 27/06/2023

Faxed referrals to the My Aged Care system from GPs and community health services will be decommissioned from the end of next month in a long-awaited move by the Department of Health and Aged Care. Referrals by phone and through the My Aged Care website will continue, along with electronic referrals through practice management software.

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PBAC recommends Paxlovid eligibility change

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/06/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

The advice, which is yet to be put in place by the Department of Health and Aged Care, will expand eligibility to people aged 5059. Almost 300,000 treatments have been prescribed in Australia since the oral antiviral became available last year.

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Which July Medicare changes will impact GPs?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 27/06/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

With the new financial year almost upon us, newsGP sums up the key changes to MBS item numbers from the beginning of next month. A number of changes to MBS items will come into effect shortly. [...] It follows lobbying from the RACGP for their continuation The Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH) has also said the items will remain exempt from the established clinical relationship' rule, as is the case with GP nicotine cessation items and temporary COVID-19 related telehealth measures.

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID lab leak theory ends with a whimper

Age, General News, 28/06/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 10

US intelligence services the CIA, the FBI and other spooky types released a summary of the intelligence they had collected about the origins of COVID-19 this week. Read some of the news coverage and you'd think it entirely vindicated those who had spent the past few years loudly demonising science and scientists in service of a narrative of lab leak and cover-up.

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

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Where is the promised royal commission into the pandemic?

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 30

Recently, the Australian Medical Association joined the growing number of organisations, commentators, law professors, left- and right-wing think tanks, former and current government leaders and senators who have called on the Albanese government to honour its pre-election promises and subsequent statements to appoint a royal commission into assessing Australia's response to the pandemic.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#).

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A cure for long COVID

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Queensland scientists are leading the world in the development of a tablet that will not only treat debilitating long Covid but will stop reinfections of the virus. The breakthrough, by researchers at QIMR Berghofer has uncovered the pathway that the virus uses to induce the persistent inflammation which causes organ damage found in long Covid.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Home grown long Covid drug a game-changer

Courier Mail, Editorials, 28/06/2023, Page 52

While many of us are happy to put Covid in the rear-view mirror despite the occasional infection of course the virus remains a huge threat to public health. As well as the ever-present possibility of a new and more dangerous variant, there is also the toll of long Covid, thought to affect 10-20 per cent of those infected with the virus.

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Police accused of racial profiling in handing out COVID fines

Daily Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2023, Mibenge Nsenduluka, Page 10

Victoria Police officers have been accused of racism, with a damning report showing they disproportionately targeted people of non-Anglo appearance during the pandemic. African, Middle Eastern and First Nations people were up to four times more likely to be fined for COVID-19 breaches, given their proportion of the state's population.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Police deny COVID fine targeting claim

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 3

Victoria Police has rejected any suggestion that officers targeted First Nations people in issuing COVID-19 fines after a report found almost one in three fines issued in Mildura were to people of Aboriginal descent. The report, by Inner Melbourne Community Legal, found Mildura had the second highest percentage of COVID fines issued to Aboriginal people with 27.8 per cent of fines throughout 2020.

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African and Middle Eastern communities over-represented in COVID-19 fines in Victoria, data shows

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Casey Briggs and Ahmed Yussuf

Yusuf Mohamud was working at a community legal centre in Melbourne's north-east when the COVID-19 pandemic began. Along with the grim memories of long lockdowns, he recalls the regular patrols of police cars in his area, and the fear in the voices of his African-Australian clients, often young men, calling for legal help.

[Read More](#)

Calls for Victorian government to scrap Covid fines as data shows minority groups more likely to be penalised

The Guardian, Other, 27/06/2023, Adeshola Ore and Benita Kolovos

African, Middle Eastern and Indigenous community leaders are calling for the Andrews government and Victoria police to review Covid fines after a report revealed ethnic minorities and First Nations people were more likely to receive infringements for breaching lockdown rules. Released on Tuesday, the report revealed people of African and Middle Eastern appearance were four times more likely to receive fines for breaching the state's lockdown rules in 2020, accounting for share of the population.

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Report claims Victoria Police engaged in racial profiling during pandemic

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Carla Mascarenhas

The media has failed to make the Andrews government's "incompetent" handling of COVID-19 the centre of the Victorian state election campaign, according to Sky News Digital Editor Jack Houghton. A concerning new report has claimed Victoria Police engaged in racial profiling when issuing fines during the first year of the Covid pandemic.

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Were some Victorian groups targeted for Covid fines?

SBS, Other, 27/06/2023

Victoria Police reject accusations of racial profiling, after a new report says African, Middle Eastern, Asian and First Nations Victorians were disproportionately given fines for breaches of COVID-19 restrictions.

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Police accused of racial profiling over COVID fines

In Daily, Other, 27/06/2023, David Eccles

Victoria Police officers have been accused of racial profiling after a damning report showing people of non-Anglo appearance were disproportionately targeted during the pandemic. Aboriginal, African and Middle Eastern people were up to four times more likely to be fined for COVID-19 breaches, when considering their share of the state's population.

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ABC, Late Night ABC News, 27/06/2023, Herlyn Kaur

Internal police records about the fines handed out during Victoria's Covid lockdowns have raised serious questions about racial profiling. The data, obtained through Freedom of Information requests, suggests Victorians of African and Middle Eastern appearances got four times as many Covid fines for breaking public health rules.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 27/06/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

The latest Queensland Health data shows it's almost twice as likely to be the flu as COVID-19. The 3-in-1 rapid antigen tests are now available, and they could save time and money. The tests are also available at several major chemists with families urged to stock up now ahead of the winter peak.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia (Late), 27/06/2023, Lin Evlin

Victoria Police have today rejected accusations of racial profiling. A new report says Africa, Middle Eastern, Asian and First Nations Victorians were disproportionately given fines for breaches of Covid 19 restrictions in 2020.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

'Send message': Dutton sets up Voice fight in Fadden byelection

Age, General News, 28/06/2023, David Crowe, Page 5

A national row over the Indigenous Voice to parliament has emboldened the Liberal Party in its bid to hold a key federal seat in a looming byelection, setting up the first test of popular support for the change among Queensland voters. [...] "Letitia has been on the front line of Medicare," he said. "So

she knows the difference it will make when we put nurses back into nursing homes and deliver a 15 per cent pay rise for aged care workers.

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

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Aged care services change

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 8

Swan Hill Council, which includes Robinvale, will begin to move away from community-based aged care services by next Friday following a major change in the Commonwealth program with councils no longer receiving funding to provide services. Mayor Les McPhee said the decision came as many councils across Victoria were deciding their future role and focus, in response to the national reform of the aged care service system.

Also reported by: [Sunraysia Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Meals on wheels changes

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 28/06/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 6

Moyne Shire has had to find a new provider for its 'meals on wheels program after Moyne Health decided it couldn't continue its contract with the council. The council has appointed South West Healthcare to take over the responsibility from July 3, with mayor Karen Foster saying staff would try to ensure a smooth handover. "Our meals on wheels clients rely on this service and will be pleased to know council has found a new provider," Cr Foster said.

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Release comms from day of tasering, NSW opposition says

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023

The public should be able to see all communication between Premier Chris Minns, his police minister and senior officials from the day a 95-year-old grandmother was fatally tasered, the state opposition says. The coalition on Tuesday called on the government to release information from May 17 and 18 as it doggedly pursues Police Minister Yasmin Catley over what she knew about the force's contact with the family of Clare Nowland.

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

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Older Australians strive for driving independence

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023, Anna Houlahan

Gretel Kempster is 94 years-old and she's going to keep her drivers' licence for as long as possible. She's held the licence for 60 years. Some seniors could be dangerous drivers but you'd rarely catch them tailgating on the freeway, Mrs Kempster said. Compared to older motorists, "some young drivers have dreadful road manners," she said.

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KPMG Australia launches internal review after potential conflict-of-interest concerns raised

The Guardian, Other, 27/06/2023, Henry Belot

Consultancy firm KPMG has launched an internal review to address concerns about potential conflicts of interest after sustained criticism from senators, unions and transparency advocates. The federal government has paid KPMG to conduct safety and quality audits of aged care facilities, while a separate division within the firm simultaneously charges providers for advice on audits and accreditation.

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All the changes coming to Australia in the new financial year on July 1, 2023

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Alexis Carey

Edwards Property Co. Buyers Agent Jake Edwards shares some advice for first home buyers navigating the tough housing market facing Australians. [...] The Australian Government is also committing \$11.3 billion to implement a 15 per cent pay rise for aged care workers.

[Read More](#)

IHACPA Conference 2023 – the future of funding

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/06/2023

What to expect: The IHACPA Conference series is an opportunity for professional development, knowledge-sharing and public discourse on the innovative work taking place in the health and aged care sector on funding activities. If you work in a hospital or aged care setting and are passionate about funding, classification, coding or value based care, attending the IHACPA Conference will connect you with like-minded peers to share ideas, knowledge and experience.

[Read More](#)

Power and potential of better consumer engagement

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/06/2023, Andrea Petriwskyj

Rethinking the roles of consumers, and the ways they can influence and shape care, must be a top priority if we are to realise the change we are all seeking in the aged care sector. Consumer engagement is a vital but unfortunately sometimes missing ingredient in the sector's transformation. Amongst the current uncertainty and pressure, there is an opportunity for change leadership from those who understand the incredible potential of engagement.

[Read More](#)

Caring for carers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 27/06/2023

A national television campaign has been launched to help carers of people living with dementia. Called Dementia affects us all and developed by Dementia Support Australia the hard-hitting campaign shines a particular focus on the increasing number of people living with dementia being cared for in their own homes.

[Read More](#)

Greater Bendigo adopts positive ageing plan

Australian Seniors News, Other, 27/06/2023

The City of Greater Bendigo has adopted a new Positive Ageing Action Plan which outlines its commitment to older adults in the community for the next two years. City of Greater Bendigo Mayor, Andrea Metcalf said the PAAP was an important piece of work for the city, given that over a quarter of the local population is aged over 60.

[Read More](#)

The cash boost coming for millions of Aussies on July 1 - but here's why many will be worse off next month

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Kylie Stevens and Brett Lackey

Australians are just days away from a raft of new rules which will impact their everyday lives. From industry reforms and electricity hikes to new superannuation rules, a wide range of changes come in effect from July 1. [...] There are also industry reforms to education, cosmetic and aged care, new rules for New Zealanders wanting Australia citizenship, and a newly-established disaster relief fund is days away from coming into effect.

[Read More](#)

Small household model of care providers form new global alliance

HelloCare, Other, 27/06/2023, Alex Jacobs

An Australian aged care provider has partnered with two international organisations to promote the benefits of small household living in the hopes it will inspire more providers to adopt the positive model of care. What you need to know New South Wales-based HammondCare, British care home provider

[Read More](#)

UniSA study finds Mediterranean diet good for seniors' budget and nutrition

The Senior, Other, 27/06/2023

We've heard it time and time again - the Mediterranean diet is great for our health. But despite the significant health benefits of this eating plan, a common deterrent is often the expected costs, especially when budgets are tight.

[Read More](#)

Retirement villages: "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The Weekly Source, Other, 27/06/2023, Ash Brissett

Jim Hazel is a retirement village and banking veteran. In his Honorary Life Member speech last Thursday he cautioned the sector to not be complacent about regulatory creep history shows bad things can happen.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Counting the cost of fertility treatment and childbirth

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 28/06/2023, Sophie Walker, Page 2

In Australia, one in six couples will seek fertility assistance to conceive a baby. Dr Violet Kieu, consultant gynaecologist specialising in fertility, reproductive endocrinology and fertility preservation at Melbourne IVF, says the first step she always takes with her patients is education. "I educate and empower my patients to understand their fertility because we know that your lifestyle choices affect fertility.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Outside the lunch box

West Australian, General News, 28/06/2023, Kate Emery, Page 13

US-style cafeterias could ensure kids are fed and ready to learn Anyone who grew up watching films set in US high schools will be familiar with the ubiquity of the cafeteria scene. In pop culture school, cafeterias are the backdrop for key character moments, a venue to introduce cliques or, if you're watching Grease, the perfect place for half the school to celebrate the summer hook-up of a girl they just met through the medium of song.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Alcohol spike

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/06/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 1

The number of Tasmanians reaching out to alcohol treatment services is at its highest in a decade, with almost half of all drug treatment episodes involving alcohol as a drug of concern. According to a new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing, in the past two years, the number of people seeking help for alcohol problems has spiked by 16 per cent, as many Tasmanians turned to alcohol as a way to cope with the stresses of the pandemic.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

We're living longer, are more active, but could be eating better

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/06/2023, Laura Banks

Men are living longer and exercising more than five years ago, but eating fewer vegetables and are more obese, new national data reveals. Released on Tuesday by the Australian Institute of Health and Wellness, the comparative report between men and women reveals an increase in life expectancy, with women now expected to reach an average age of 85.

[Read More](#)

Australian men's health card revealed with nearly half of men affected by chronic conditions

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Eli Green

New research has revealed that nearly three quarters of Australian men are at risk of suffering from one serious health condition. The health report for Australian men is not in good shape with half suffering from chronic health conditions. New research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed what issues men are suffering from including heart disease, dementia and mental health disorders.

[Read More](#)

The 'easy' solution to reduce obesity in men in Australia

3AW, Other, 27/06/2023

The Australian Institute of Health and Wellness comparative report between men and women shows 75 per cent of men are registered as obese, up five per cent from a year ago. Professor Andrew Wilson from the Menzies Centre for Health Policy says there's an easy solution.

[Read More](#)

Men living longer, exercising more... but eating worse?

6PR, Other, 27/06/2023, Julie-anne Sprague

The Australian Institute of Health and Wellness has revealed statistics showing that, while life expectancy continues to rise, it's not as rapid as it could potentially be. Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics Co-Director Andrew Wilson told Julie-anne Sprague the 20th century saw massive leaps in life expectancy which cannot be exactly replicated now so much change has occurred.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Drive, 27/06/2023

Interview with Terry Slevin, Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Association. The latest snapshot of Australia's health shows poor diet and exercise remains a significant health challenge, with three quarters of men either overweight or obese. New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows being overweight is also the second leading preventable cause of ill health and premature deaths in women. Slevin says 42% are overweight and 33% are obese. He notes there's a need for greater investment of effort in preventive health and public health especially for obesity. Compere says 27% of men and 13% of women are consuming more than those ten standard drinks of alcohol each week. Slevin notes they're seeing a very slow decline in the alcohol consumption in Australia, but it comes from a very high base. He says there is a very influential alcohol industry out there that resisted every turn the kind of policy recommendations that they make to try and turn the alcohol dial in the right direction.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Patients 'need navigators'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 15

Governments should fund cancer "navigators" to guide patients through the health system maze,

improving outcomes by reducing waiting times for diagnosis and treatment as well as potentially cutting healthcare costs, Flinders University researchers believe. The push is based on global research led by the university showing the benefits of having such helpers support patients with personalised care to help them understand their diagnosis, treatment options and relevant medical information.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

The Living Room star Barry Du Bois shares emotional revelation amid cancer battle

7news.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Pip Christmass

I had worked myself up so much that I brought myself to tears of fear and a night with no sleep.' TV favourite Barry Du Bois has shared an emotional message about learning how to overcome what he called "the dark dog" of negative thinking as he continues his cancer battle.

[Read More](#)

Sarcoma impacts childhood cancers

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 27/06/2023

With Sarcoma Awareness Month in Jul, the Australia and New Zealand Sarcoma Association (ANZSA) is highlighting the importance of ongoing research into rare and complex cancers to increase survival rates, as sarcoma accounts for 20% of cancers diagnosed in childhood. The above snippet is the first part of an article sent to subscribers in Pharmacy Daily's issue from 27 Jun 23

[Read More](#)

Breast Cancer Trials needs men and women Australia-wide to take part in the Together trail

The Senior, Other, 27/06/2023, Therese Murray

Australia and New Zealand's largest oncology research group, Breast Cancer Trials, has launched Together, a new trial for metastatic breast cancer patients which is recruiting participants. Metastatic breast cancer is a devastating diagnosis where the cancer cells have spread from the original cancer site to other parts of the body.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 27/06/2023, Michael Rowland and Emma Rebellato

A Flinders University study has underlined the importance of skilled support staff for cancer patients. Researchers found that if more navigators are available, then that can improve the quality of life that for those people who are going through a cancer treatment. Professor Raymond Chan said that having navigators can also reduce the socio-economic barriers that First Nations people experience when going through treatment.

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PRIMARY CARE

Budget powers up move away from gas towards electrification

The Australian, General News, 28/06/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 4

The ACT Labor government is accelerating its push towards electrification, unveiling a suite of measures to remove gas appliances from residential homes, schools, hospitals and government offices, in a move that has been criticised by the gas sector. The ACT budget, handed down by Chief Minister Andrew Barr on Tuesday, pushes the Territory's contribution towards the Sustainable Household Scheme to \$280m, in a bid to assist Canberrans move off gas and upgrade their electric appliances.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

PwC, Robert on referral wishlist

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 28/06/2023, Lisa Visentin, Page 14

Former Liberal Minister Stuart Robert's dealings with consulting firm Synergy 360 and the PwC tax scandal are at the top of the Greens' referral list for the National Anti-Corruption Commission when it opens its doors on July 1. [...] Other matters on the Greens' wishlist include a raft of issues dating back to the former Coalition government such as the Robodebt scandal, former prime minister Scott Morrison's secret ministries, the \$45 billion blowout in the Hunter-class frigate program, a \$2 billion Morrison government health and hospitals funding program and the sports rorts scandal.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Charting a path to surplus

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

A surge in locally generated revenue and a boost in the territory's share of GST has given the ACT government the tools it needs to plot a path back to surplus despite fast-rising health and education costs. While distant and vulnerable to changing circumstances, the projection of a surplus by 2025-26 will prove a useful political shield to Treasurer Andrew Barr, who has handed down his 13th budget.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

\$50 million cost to transfer Calvary, budget papers reveal

Canberra Times, General News, 28/06/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 7

There will be nearly \$50 million spent on the transfer of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce, budget papers have revealed. The ACT government will also spend \$64 million over the next two years on the design work for a new hospital for the Bruce site. The new hospital is a key commitment in the territory's 2023-24 budget, which is expected to cost \$1 billion and be finished by 2030. Over the next year, the government has allocated \$49.7 million to the transfer of the Bruce public hospital to Canberra Health Services.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Hidden wait list shame

Herald Sun, General News, 28/06/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 3

Nearly 700,000 Australians are waiting for surgeries, including hip and knee replacements, as public hospital performances plunge to their lowest level in a decade. The system, with patients stuck in ambulances and emergency department corridors, is in such crisis that it would need to operate at 132 per cent of capacity to meet demand.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Health boss backtracks

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 28/06/2023, Madura McCormack and Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

The head of Queensland Health has backed away from the department's audacious bid for new laws to muzzle journalists, saying the contribution hadn't come from him personally and that "stifling" the media wasn't the intent. And it comes as health experts, including the Australian Medical Association Queensland and emergency doctor Dinesh Palipana decried Queensland Health's controversial submission to a review of the state's whistleblower laws.

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

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Budget tour hits regional centres

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2023, James Hall, Page 8

Palaszczuk government ministers continued to tour the state on Tuesday to spruik the budget, with

Treasurer Cameron Dick travelling to the Sunshine Coast and Education Minister Grace Grace stopping by Rockhampton. [...] "This \$18.63 million investment will allow LifeFlight to build a new, purpose-built hangar, so they can house the larger and more modern helicopters required to deliver lifesaving care to Queenslanders in rural, regional and remote areas." Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said the cash injection would allow the health service to run smoothly from its Sunshine Coast base.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

ICU future-proofed for 15 years after upgrade

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2023, David Killick, Page 11

Upgrades to the intensive care unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital will future-proof the unit for the next 15 years, clinicians say. Premier and Health Minister Jeremy Rockliff declared the expanded unit open on Tuesday. The \$16m development increases the number of intensive care beds at the hospital by 12 to 33. Director of critical care Andrew Turner said the new facility was a major upgrade.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

From here to maternity for Carnarvon's expectant mums

West Australian, General News, 28/06/2023, Anna Cox, Page 7

More than 100 expectant mothers have been forced to give birth hundreds of kilometres from home since Carnarvon's maternity service shut down 16 months ago. The situation will be at the centre of talks this week between the Shire of Carnarvon council and Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Maternity service hits capacity

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2023, Olivia Shying, Page 1

Geelong's only private maternity ward reached capacity over the weekend and could not accept new patients. It comes just months after Epworth Geelong controversially closed its maternity unit, despite medical professionals raising concerns the region would be left with a shortfall of services. St John of God acting chief executive Taanya Widdicombe said the maternity ward was at capacity for six hours and bypass arrangements were enacted.

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Hidden crisis

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 1

Wollongong Hospital was so full of patients at the weekend that paramedics were left with no choice but to hold up a sheet over a patient in the emergency department's corridor to provide them with privacy. Local Health Services Union delegates shared a photograph of the rudimentary solution, which they say is becoming more and more common as the hospital continues to battle bed block.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Significant drop in overtime surgery wait in NSW

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023

A surgical taskforce has drastically reduced how many NSW patients are waiting too long for planned surgery. Since coming to office in March, the Minns government has prioritised tackling the planned surgery waitlist that had about 17,000 people waiting longer than clinically recommended. Health Minister Ryan Park says that figure has now dropped to 11,000.

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

[Read More](#)

Tender for new Blackwater Hospital awarded to Hutchinson Builders

Central Queensland News, Other, 27/06/2023, Geordi Offord

The tender to build Blackwater's new multi-million dollar hospital has been awarded with the new facility to replace the current. Work on a new multi-million dollar upgrade to Blackwater's new hospital

is getting closer to beginning with tenders for the project awarded.

[Read More](#)

Carnarvon hospital's staff shortage causing stress for local families hoping to get their children immunised

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Rosemary Murphy

Carnarvon's hospital service woes have deepened, with some families unable to get their children immunised due to a lack of community health nurses. Staff shortages at the hospital also led to birthing services being suspended last year. In the past 16 months 103 women have had to give birth hundreds of kilometres away from home. Carnarvon mother-of-three Casey Petera said in recent weeks she had not been able to get the required immunisations for her children, as there was no community health nurse at the local hospital.

[Read More](#)

Queensland's hospital wait times are far too high

4BC, Other, 27/06/2023, Peter Gleeson

The wait times at Queensland's hospitals have been revealed, and people are waiting for up to 14 hours. Government data has unveiled that the Princess Alexandra Hospital had the longest wait time, with an individual waiting 13 hours and 37 minutes to be seen.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 27/06/2023, Jessica Harmsen

South Australia's hospitals have fallen far short of meeting key performance targets, leaving patients waiting for urgent treatment. Emergency patients are supposed to be seen within ten minutes at public hospitals, but state budget papers reveal four out of five patients weren't seen on time within the northern and southern Adelaide local health networks. The Government says it's hiring hundreds more doctors and staff, but the Liberals say things have never been worse.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Darwin , 11:00 News, 27/06/2023

The Northern Territory's Chief Minister says she won't rush legislation on voluntary assisted dying despite a grassroots push for the laws. Earlier this week, three branches within Territory Labor voted to push the Government to introduce a bill before the next election.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Facing the fear: How claustrophobia sufferers can escape their anxiety

Age, General News, 28/06/2023, Vivienne Pearson, Page 14

Reading the news in the past few weeks has frequently left me feeling nauseous, faint and panicked. If it wasn't the story of a woman from Ecuador knocking from the inside of her coffin during her wake, it was an article about the Titan submersible and its final journey, trying to reach the Titanic wreck 4000 metres below the ocean's surface. My feelings were real and unsettling but didn't extend as far as some people's more debilitating fear of confined spaces.

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

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Talking to each other is best done face to face

Daily Telegraph, General News, 28/06/2023, Paul Nicolaon, Page 13

Reverend Bill Crews has spent a lifetime working among the poor and marginalised in Sydney but he has never been more concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of our entire community. Bill's

message to the people of Sydney is we need to relearn the lost art of talking to each other to absorb the strength of people-to-people contact.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

PTSD learning for our GPs

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2023, Katie Hall, Page 14

A new training program to bolster general practitioners' knowledge of posttraumatic stress disorder has been launched. The WorkCover Tasmania program aims to improve patient outcomes and give GPs the knowledge and tools to support those living with PTSD. It comes as 376 reported PTSD workers' compensation claims across 59 occupational groups were recorded in Tasmania between 2012-22.

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Headspace hits milestone

Ballarat Courier, General News, 28/06/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 5

Over the past 10 years, the health needs of adolescents have become more complex, requiring more 'wrap around' services according to headspace Ballarat centre manager Janelle Johnson. The centre celebrates a decade of service in Ballarat next week and while some things are still the same, many have changed.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Mental health program The Men's Table to open second Ballarat group

Ballarat Courier, Other, 27/06/2023, Melanie Whelan

Walking through the door to have dinner with a bunch of blokes he had never met and share feelings was one of the toughest things Corey Nettleton has done. It was worth it. Even when the 46-year-old has a bad week, like his neurological condition playing up last week, he gets dressed and goes to dinner with The Men's Table in Ballarat.

[Read More](#)

Exercise should be compulsory for senior students, sports bosses say

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/06/2023, Christopher Harris

The nation's elite sport bosses say physical activity should be made compulsory in years 11 and 12 in a bid to bolster teenagers' mental health and force schools to emphasise wellbeing instead of fixating on performance in HSC league tables. Under current rules, every student from kindergarten to year 10 in a NSW school must complete at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week, but those requirements cease in year 11, which sport bosses say sends the wrong message to students.

[Read More](#)

Secretaries air pro-integrity ideas with psychologist weeks before robodebt report due

The Mandarin, Other, 27/06/2023, Melissa Coade

All department heads recently met at the offices of PM&C this month to understand how to give psychological safety in the APS a spit polish, following the reputational muck caused by revelations of the robodebt royal commission. The published communique of a secretaries board meeting convened in June has revealed the group received a presentation from Melbourne-based psychologist Professor Brock Bastian.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 27/06/2023, Hamish Macdonald, Georgie Tunny, Sam Taunton and Kate Langbroek

Australia's top sport bosses are calling for exercise to be compulsory in year 11 and 12 in order to bolster teenagers' mental health. They're hoping it will shift the focus in schools from academic results to health and wellbeing.

[Play Now](#)

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 27/06/2023, Kim Millar

Tasmania is now leading the way to improved diagnosis and treatment today, launching an online programme designed for GPs to build on their existing PTSD knowledge. That involves case by case discussions and case presentations and training in a more traditional form as well.

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ABC Radio Darwin , 16:00 News, 27/06/2023

The Federal Government has been urged to make treatment options for PTSD cheaper and more affordable. Today is National PTSD Awareness Day, and around three million Australians will suffer from it at some point in their lives. Psychological Society CEO Dr Zena Burgess says the Government subsidy is inadequate.

[Play Now](#)

6PR, 06:00 News, 27/06/2023

New alternative therapy is proving effective in reducing symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Transcranial magnetic stimulation can create new neural pathways in the brain especially when antidepressants aren't working. Infantry veteran and nurse Brody Moore says it's a pain free treatment option, which is becoming more common in Australia.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Overtime 'proof of lack of nurses'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2023, David Killick, Page 11

Tasmania's high nursing overtime expenditure was evidence the government has not employed enough staff to keep our hospitals fully-staffed, Labor says. Opposition health spokeswoman Anita Dow says budget estimates committee hearings revealed that nursing overtime hours cost the budget \$25.9m in the financial year to May 23.

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Too few nurses 'puts patient care at risk'

Launceston Examiner, General News, 28/06/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 5

Labor's health spokesperson Anita Dow claims the Liberal government's failure to employ enough nurses puts patient care at risk. According to 2022-2023 budget estimates, more than \$25.9 million was spent on nursing overtime, money that Ms Dow says could be better spent hiring new nurses to take the pressure off the existing workforce.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Northern Territory nurses and midwives' EBA vote closes on Friday

Northern Territory News, Other, 27/06/2023, Bethany Griffiths

A new pay offer for nurses and midwives more than 15 months in the making is open to vote on. But it has drawn mixed reactions from health workers. A Northern Territory nurse is urging their fellow health professionals to "vote objectively" on a new EBA. The proposed enterprise agreement covers 2022 to 2026 and is open for nurses and midwives to vote on until Friday.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News , 27/06/2023

Covering the gaps caused by a shortage of nurses has cost the Tasmanian Government more than \$25 million in less than a year. But even as Tasmania finds itself in competition with other states to attract staff, nurses are yet to receive an offer for a new pay deal before the current one expires. The Nurses' union estimates the unfilled vacancies to be in the hundreds statewide. Nurses' Union's Emily

Shepherd says the Government absolutely needs to put up a package that will support nurses and midwives.

[Play Now](#)

Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 27/06/2023, Kim Millar

The makeover of Royal Hobart Hospital has reached another milestone with extension of intensive care unit to open next month but finding staff remains to be a challenge. Vacancies are already plaguing the system with a heavy price; according to Tas Labor Leader Rebecca White the cost to nursing is now more than \$25 million in just over a period of nine months. The Opposition has called for a new approach to pay. The pay deal for publicly employed nurses expires on Saturday. The union representing them says it still hasn't received a formal offer, but it's firm in what it wants.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, 16:00 News, 27/06/2023

Tasmania's Opposition has raised concerns about patient care in the state's public hospitals because of a shortage of nurses. The Nurses' union estimates that vacancies in the state are in the hundreds. Paying nurses to work overtime has cost the Tasmanian Health Service more than \$25 million since last July. Labor's health spokesperson, Anita Dow, says the State Government must address recruitment and retention.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

International market 'a boon'

The Australian, Higher Education, 28/06/2023, Tim Dodd, Page 25

As foreign students return to Australia the international education industry has launched a campaign to showcase the benefits it brings. Called Help Australia Thrive, the three-month \$500,000 social media campaign focuses on three international students who have worked in areas where labour is in short supply agriculture, aged care and mental health.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Payroll tax amnesty for state's GP clinics

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 11

GP clinics will be given a year's amnesty on potential payroll tax liabilities and the state government will not seek retrospective payments for the past five years under a deal to ensure clinics do not close. It follows a landmark tax decision in NSW which sees clinics which have GPs contractors found liable for payroll tax on their income.

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Regional SA patients disadvantaged by small town GP clinic closures

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Josh Brine

The closure of small-town medical clinics in regional South Australia is putting pressure on services in population centres, with practices facing more demand and patients experiencing poorer care. In the state's South East, the reduction of services in smaller towns, including the closure of the Beachport Medical Clinic in December, has impacted practices in Mount Gambier.

[Read More](#)

Fears of crisis in disability care with 1 July re-introduction of cap on student visa work hours

SBS, Other, 27/06/2023, Esther Lozano

A loss of workers and a decrease in levels of care will result from the government's re-introduction of a

cap on student visa working hours, say some in the disability sector. The federal government will re-introduce a cap on student visa work hours as of 1 July. There are fears the cap will see a loss of workers and decrease in levels of care in the disability sector.

[Read More](#)

Just 4 in 10 doctors trust the medical board: AHPRA survey

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2023, Heather Saxena

COVID-19 contributed to a fall in trust, the results suggested. Doctors' trust in the Medical Board of Australia has plummeted, according to new data, which highlight concerns over the board's response to COVID-19 and vaccine mandates. A survey conducted by AHPRA in late 2021 and released on Tuesday found that just 38% of 1509 doctors trusted the medical board. This compared with 51% of doctors surveyed in 2020.

[Read More](#)

API distribution workers return to work – for the moment

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/06/2023, David Rowley

Almost 200 workers at Australian Pharmaceutical Industries' Dandenong distribution centre have returned to work after four day of strike as their union seeks a 7% pay increase while fighting casual labour being paid less than permanent employees.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

New Queensland facility producing world-first needle free vaccine

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023, Millie Costigan

A brand new Australian facility is developing a needle-free vaccine patch that could be a "game changer" for global immunisation. Brisbane biotechnology company Vaxxas opened a new facility in Hamilton last week and are in the process of developing the vaccine patch for commercial use in a matter of years.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'NDIS participants will have to pay'

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 28/06/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 4

A company involved with the NDIS has called for co-payments and means testing to bring spending on the scheme under control and give clients a "sense of empowerment". Kismet chief executive Mark Woodland said the NDIS should follow the model of childcare, with the co-contribution that users must make to increase progressively for higher-income households.

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Joy of sight delights 'near-blind' Viktor

The Australian, General News, 28/06/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 6

Ukrainian refugee Viktor Olepir is lying on a bed with a patch over his eye. The 57-year-old is recovering from cataract surgery and has no idea how his life is about to change. [...] In Brisbane, the Mater Refugee Complex Care Clinic steps into the breach, providing healthcare at no cost to those seeking asylum who do not have Medicare and have complex healthcare needs. The service has since 2001 provided services to more than 300 patients from Ukraine, as well as caring for thousands of other refugees from more than 67 countries throughout its history.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#)

More pension money coming

Hobart Mercury, General News, 28/06/2023, Anthony Keane, Page 5

Changes to the age pension asset test will deliver many retirees more money from this weekend, prompting a warning for seniors to check if they are missing out. [...] "There is still great pride in being self-funded for many people but entitlements available to you like a Seniors Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card can help offset some of the rising costs retirees face," he said.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Age pension increase is just days away for many seniors

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Anthony Keane

Centrelink's age pension means testing will change on July 1 and deliver more cash to hundreds of thousands of retirees. [...] "There is still great pride in being self-funded for many people, but entitlements available to you like a Seniors Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card can help offset some of the rising costs retirees face," he said.

[Read More](#)

What in this year's ACT budget will help ease the cost of living for Canberra households?

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Georgia Roberts and Harry Frost

ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr is aware this year's budget comes at a time of global economic uncertainty, when many Canberra households are feeling the pinch of rising interest rates and the increased costs of everyday essentials. [...] According to the budget papers, the existing utilities concession for pensioners and veterans who need help with their electricity, gas, water or sewerage bill will be expanded to include those holding a Commonwealth Healthcare Card.

[Read More](#)

From pay rises to pension changes: Here's how 1 July will affect you

SBS, Other, 27/06/2023, David Aidone

Superannuation changes, childcare relief, pay rises, and an increase to the pension age here's what's happening on 1 July. [...] Older Australians will have to wait until they are 67 years old up from 66 years and six months before they can apply for the age pension. This increase also applies to the Commonwealth Seniors Healthcare Card.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists 'on the attack' with new campaign against reform

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/06/2023

Pharmacists on the attack' with new campaign against reform Sky News Political Editor Andrew Clennell discusses a new advertising campaign in eight marginal seats protesting the Albanese government's "cheaper medicines" reform. Mr Clennell said pharmacists are "on the attack" with the campaign which involves robocalls and signage at chemists.

[Read More](#)

Small business to 'pick up the tab' for government's 60-day dispensing changes

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/06/2023

Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Vice President Anthony Tassone says the government's 60-day dispensing allowance is being funded by 6,000 community pharmacies and small businesses making them "pick up the tab".

[Read More](#)

Older Australians could pay more for pharmacy services under 60-day dispensing policy

Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Vice President Anthony Tassone says the 60-day dispensing allowance could lead to older and more vulnerable Australians paying more for their pharmacy services which is a "perverse outcome".

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists 'scared' for patients under new 60-day dispensing allowance

Sky News Australia, Other, 27/06/2023

Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Vice President Anthony Tassone says pharmacies and pharmacists across Australia are "scared" for patients and access to services.

[Read More](#)

Patients 'disappointed with govt' as GPs explain limited impact of bulk-billing incentives

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Dr Maria Boulton said many of her patients misunderstood the changes. Doctors have launched a campaign to spread the facts of the Federal Government's budget centrepiece tripling bulk-billing incentives including posters for GP practices to explain "the true cost of providing frontline healthcare".

[Read More](#)

Webinar: Digital health update – responding to issues, incidents & patient queries

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/06/2023, Jan Decomps

Hear the latest from Australian Digital Health Agency representatives in conversation with PDL officers, covering electronic scripts, the Active Script List and My Health Record 18 July 2023 | 7-8.00PM AEST
Significant developments in the digital health space over the last few years mean that most pharmacies are now operating with hybrid workflows between paper

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Drive, 27/06/2023, Steve Austin

Interview with Chris Owen, President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland Branch about the campaign by Queensland pharmacies against 60-day scripts. Owen explains that the Guild is not actually against 60-day supply of medicines. He states the problem is that the people who are funding this policy are the pharmacists themselves.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Nurse banned for conduct

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 28/06/2023, Melissa Meehan, Page 3

A nurse who stripped and dragged a mental health patient into the shower has been suspended from nursing for five years. Francis Logan, known as Richard, has been suspended for five years after admitting to multiple allegations, including using unnecessary and unsafe physical force towards an involuntary patient at Bendigo Health Hospital.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Ophthalmologist performed risky surgery despite being put 'on notice' by GP's letter: coroner

Australian Doctor, Other, 27/06/2023, Heather Saxena

The doctor admitted he didn't consider comorbidities detailed in the referral letter, before performing cataract surgery on a woman with severe COPD. The death of a woman with end-stage COPD could

have been avoided if she had been adequately assessed before cataract surgery, a coroner has found.

[Read More](#)

Editorial: Buck stops with health department boss

The Courier Mail, Other, 27/06/2023, The Editor

The botched surgery of Jayant Patel, Gladstone maternity ward troubles and the DNA testing bungles are the kinds of stories that would not have been able to be told if Queensland Health had its way, writes the editor. The initial proposal was a shocking and, frankly, disgraceful move coming from a department which has been beset by crises, many of which have been exposed and fixed as a result of brave health workers coming forward with information.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Medibank hit with \$250m penalty for 'cyber weaknesses'

The Australian, Business News, 28/06/2023, David Swan, Page 17

Australia's largest health insurer Medibank has been ordered to hold an additional \$250m in capital and undergo a targeted technology review focused on its governance and risk culture, as fallout from the nation's largest data breach widens. The financial industry's prudential regulator on Tuesday announced it would increase Medibank's capital adequacy requirement by \$250m, reflecting "weaknesses" identified in the health insurer's information security environment.

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

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Capital call to Medibank over cyber 'weakness'

West Australian, Business News, 28/06/2023, Daniel Newell, Page 24

Australia's financial services watchdog has ordered Medibank to carry an additional \$250 million in capital following a probe into a massive cyberattack on the insurer late last year. The Australian Prudential and Regulation Authority said the demand reflected weaknesses identified in the company's information security environment.

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SPORT

Flyers out for \$2b Western Melbourne sports precinct

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 28/06/2023, Page 16

Melbourne could be one step closer to a new 15,000-seat football stadium in its western suburbs as flyers for Western Melbourne Group hit inboxes. The group, headed by Jaszac Investment's Jason Sourasis, is seeking investment to continue construction of i...

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Spoiler alert on toxic soil

Herald Sun, General News, 28/06/2023, Matt Johnston and Jonathan Potenza, Page 7

Thousands of tonnes of soil are likely to be dug up from a planned Commonwealth Games athletes' village site and dumped in landfill, due to concerns about contamination. A former livestock saleyard in Ballarat has been selected to house about 1800 athletes and officials for the 2026 Games, which is being hosted across five regional cities. Environmental testing has turned up concentrated levels of arsenic, nickel and other metals across three parcels of the Ballarat land.

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Sports Mecca?

Burnie Advocate, General News, 28/06/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 1

Devonport City Council has unanimously voted to prioritise investment in two key sports infrastructure projects that will make the city a regional sporting mecca able to host elite games. Councillors voted to seek additional funding for a new Devonport Indoor Sports Complex at the Devonport Oval and Byard Park listed as a top priority estimated to cost \$40 to \$50 million.

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Buyout giants from Carlyle to KKR draw up plays for Rugby, Ticketek

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/06/2023, Zoe Samios and Aaron Weinman

Several private equity firms have advanced talks over two of the most-watched transactions, a minority investment in Rugby Australia and the purchase of Ticketek-owner TEG. Permira, EQT, The Carlyle Group, Blackstone and KKR are pursuing TEG, while seven ...

[Read More](#)

Why builders in Brisbane are earning more than any other city

Australian Financial Review, Other, 27/06/2023, Michael Bleby

A surge in infrastructure work to prepare for the 2032 Olympic Games has given Brisbane the country's highest hourly construction rate, which will only rise if regional labour constraints don't ease, quantity surveying firm Turner Townsend warns. The Quee...

[Read More](#)

Socceroos keen to play more matches on home soil against quality opposition

The Australian, Other, 27/06/2023, Marco Monteverde

The Socceroos' 2022 World Cup squad has called for the national team to play more matches against the "right opponents", and the majority of them on Australian soil, to increase the side's exposure and ability to compete on the world stage. Players' union Professional Footballers Australia will on Tuesday release a report analysing the Socceroos' 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign.

[Read More](#)

'Culture of silence': Survey shows angst among players

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/06/2023, Marnie Vinall

Many afl and AFLW players feel a culture of silence pervades the industry and are reluctant to raise concerns about serious issues for fear of ramifications, a new report by the player union concludes. The AFLPA's Insights and Impacts Report is based on data collected from a survey of the game's male and female players, which had a 70 per cent response rate.

[Read More](#)

Pressure on Australia to host five-day women's Test

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023, Scott Bailey

England captain Heather Knight has put the heat on Cricket Australia to schedule a five-day Test for their next Ashes tour, desperate for the era of four-day internationals to end. Australia's 89-run win over England in Nottingham snapped a run of six straight draws in women's Tests dating back to 2017.

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

[Read More](#)

Fifa Women's World Cup rules for fans: leave your ladders, frisbees and politics at home

The Guardian, Other, 27/06/2023, Caitlin Cassidy

Fans lucky enough to score tickets to the Women's World Cup have been instructed to leave their ladders, rolls of paper and hard hats at home under lengthy instructions outlined by Fifa. Accepting the extensive terms of use and stadium code of conduct is mandatory for football fans prior to accessing their tickets, which requires the downloading of a separate app. The Guardian has pored over the 10,000 words so you don't have to.

AFLPA set to launch whistleblower service after staggering survey results

7news.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Sarah Burt

The afl Players' Association will launch a whistleblower service to allow players to report issues anonymously in an effort to encourage players to come forward. This comes after a new report by the players' association revealed many AFLW and AFL players are not confident to discuss problems openly for a fear of rocking the boat, with a prime example being the recent Hawthorn racism scandal that came to light many years later.

[Read More](#)

Welcome to the dopers Olympics: Depressing plan for 'Enhanced Games' next year with no drug-testing... and there's interest from British athletes

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 28/06/2023, Riath Al-Samarrai

The man with the most troubling of plans has a few thoughts to share. Our chats have focused on a disruptor's wish for shock and awe but one particular revelation is glowing within the details of those helping him. The speaker is Aron D'Souza, an Oxford-educated, Kensington-based lawyer who prior to the past week was more widely known for making Hulk Hogan a fortune in court.

[Read More](#)

Almost one in 10 AFL players hide concussions and many stars feel 'gagged' from speaking out on league's huge racism problem, bombshell survey reveals

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Josh Alston

AFL and AFLW players have ranked the biggest issues the sport's stars face, but it was their answers on racism and concussions that provided the biggest shocks in a recently released AFLPA survey. Almost one in 10 AFL players said they hid a concussion in the last year while a broader 'culture of silence' is preventing players from speaking out about the league's racism problem, the Players' Association survey revealed.

[Read More](#)

What is 'heteroactivism'? How sports became a battleground for opposing LGBTIQ+ progress

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Ryan Storr

Sports have become a flashpoint for these issues, too. Globally, international sports federations have introduced bans to exclude trans and gender diverse athletes from sporting competitions. FIFA even banned teams and players from wearing the "one love" armband. The armbands were to be worn by players in the men's World Cup in 2022 to protest against the treatment of LGBTIQ+ people in Qatar, where it is illegal to be gay.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Hopes for Parkinson's treatment in the bag

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 15

An important breakthrough in understanding the role of a protein that builds "garbage bags" to dispose of damaged cells offers hope for new Parkinson's disease treatments. Parkinson's affects about 10 million people worldwide, including 80,000 Australians.

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

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Federation Uni chancellor says we need to keep research in our regions

The Australian, Other, 27/06/2023, Terry Moran

Who is best placed to deliver taxpayer-funded research that benefits our nation? This is one of the many challenges facing the federal government as it embarks on an ambitious journey to improve the quality, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of higher education. As the University Accord process unfolds, some are strongly advocating for research funding to be concentrated amongst a few big metropolitan based universities.

[Read More](#)

'I lose sleep at night': Experts fight to expose science fraud in Australia

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 27/06/2023, Liam Mannix

A leading scientist behind a bid to track scientific fraud and misconduct in Australia hopes it will shine a light on the issue. Online tool Retractions Australia is tracking scientific papers that have been retracted or pulled by peer-reviewed journals. Professor Simon Gandevia. "I thought I was part of a river that was going in the right direction. But it is totally clear now there are major forces that are distorting all that." Credit: Steven Siewert

[Read More](#)

New Australian AI tech predicts hospital patient deterioration

The Senior, Other, 27/06/2023, Rowan Cowley

New Australian technology can reduce hospital deaths and intensive care admissions, new research has found. The breakthrough Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology can forecast whether a patient will need intensive care or is at risk of dying more than 24 hours in advance, giving clinicians the chance to intervene early.

[Read More](#)

Edith Cowan University research reveals vaccines can reduce chance of cancer recurrence

The Senior, Other, 27/06/2023

They have helped us regain a semblance of normalcy in the wake of COVID, but could vaccines also change the way skin cancer is treated? Researchers from Edith Cowan University say trials have indicated mRNA vaccines tailored to suit an individual's "tumour genetics" can significantly increase survival rates and decrease the chance of recurrence.

[Read More](#)

Anaemia risk for older low dose aspirin users say Monash researchers

The Senior, Other, 27/06/2023, Eileen Wood

Prolonged daily aspirin use increases the risk of anaemia by 20 per cent in people mostly aged 70 and over according to a major study. The results have prompted researchers to suggest that regular monitoring for anaemia be considered for older adults who take low-dose aspirin, and if older adults have concerns about their health or medications they should discuss them with their GP.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Cape Neglected

Cairns Post, General News, 28/06/2023, Kristina Puljak, Page 1

First nations community leaders from across the Cape and Torres Strait have joined forces to demand an independent review of the "neglect" of essential primary healthcare services after a meeting held on Monday. The meeting, which involved a Coalition of Torres Strait First Nations leaders and Opposition Leader of the opposition David Crisafulli, heard calls for an independent review of local health services, held at arms-length from Queensland Health.

How hospital failed Charlie

Cairns Post, General News, 28/06/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 9

A health service says it addressed systemic failures leading to the death of a six-year-old boy at Bamaga Hospital, just nine months before the sudden death of a two-year-old girl in the remote town. Little is known about the tragic passing of the two-year-old in the Cape York township of Bamaga, with a coronial investigation under way and a community in mourning. Former Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service CEO Bev Hamerton said Bamaga Hospital staff worked hard to save the child's life when the family presented to hospital, and "all appropriate care was provided".

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Cape region wants answers

Cairns Post, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 14

The death of any child is in so many ways incomprehensible. It's difficult to imagine a life being cut short when their lives are yet to truly begin. So it goes without saying that today's spread on pages 8-9 of the Cairns Post makes for uncomfortable reading.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Stop the housing games: advocates

Shepparton News, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 6

Indigenous advocates are calling on politicians to stop playing games with housing. As the national homelessness crisis continues to bite, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has released data from the 2021 Census estimating more than one in five people experiencing homelessness identifies as Indigenous.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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'Egregious breach': Teen's sentence cut after isolation

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023, Rudi Maxwell

Locking up children, ignoring their human rights and focusing on punishment rather than rehabilitation is turning young people into criminals. That's the opinion of Indigenous rights adviser Rodney Dillon, who believes it's exactly what has been happening in Queensland for at least the last decade.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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NT coronial inquest hears domestic violence victims can be left waiting for hours for police response

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Melissa Mackay and Hamish Harty

A senior Northern Territory Police dispatcher broke down in the witness box, telling the NT coroner "all we do for 12 hours is prioritise", as the incessant pressure on emergency call-takers was laid bare at a coronial inquest. Dispatch Sergeant Wolfgang Langeneck fronted the inquest into the death of Ngyego Ragurk off the back of an overnight shift supervising at the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre (JESSC), where he said call-takers deal with up to 900 requests for emergency services during a 12-hour shift.

[Read More](#)

Report finds Victoria Police targeted First Nations people when issuing COVID fines

SBS, Other, 27/06/2023, Madison Howarth

Data showed First Nations people made up nearly three per cent of all fines in the state despite representing just one per cent of the population. A damning report has found Victoria Police officers disproportionately targeted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as people of non-Anglo backgrounds, during the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

Locked in a cell for 20 hours a day: Queensland youth detention centre accused of 'torture'

SBS, Other, 27/06/2023

An Aboriginal teenager in Queensland has been regularly locked in his cell for 20 hours a day, over 744 days on remand in a youth prison, a court was told. Indigenous rights adviser Rodney Dillon says children's human rights are being ignored.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous people disproportionately targeted by Victorian police over COVID rules, report finds

National Indigenous Times, Other, 27/06/2023

A damning report released Tuesday found Indigenous people and other Victorians of non-Anglo appearance were disproportionately targeted for breaking public health rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. First Nations, African and Middle Eastern people were four times more likely to be fined for breaches, factoring in their proportion of the state's population, according to data from Inner Melbourne Community Legal.

[Read More](#)

Government needs to be a spotlight on communities for better outcomes

The Mandarin, Other, 27/06/2023, Anna MacDonald

Government should be a spotlight on communities rather than control the spotlight, according to the Healthy Communities Foundation Australia CEO. Speaking to The Mandarin, Mark Burdack said government should move away from focusing on delivery to focus more on outcomes.

[Read More](#)

NITV, NITV News, 27/06/2023, Breanna Holden

A new report says the lack of support for First Nations people with a disability is a national crisis published by the Disability Royal Commission. The research found First Nations NDIS participants are 28% less likely to receive care compared to non-Indigenous members. The report, compiled by Audit firm Deloitte, highlighted how some NDIS services were described as unsafe, traumatising and inequitable. It made 22 recommendations to improve the NDIS and build a First Nations workforce. Around 13,000 more workers will be needed in the First Nations disability sector by 2031.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Two test positive for serious virus in city

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 28/06/2023, Rhylea Millar, Page 3

Two confirmed cases of Hepatitis A have been reported in the Toowoomba community. The two people, who are currently under the care of the Darling Downs Public Health Unit, have been active in the community since they became infectious this year from May 14. Both patients, including a child who reportedly attends Darling Heights State School, reside in the Toowoomba region.

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

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NSW and QLD report alarming uptick in flu cases

Nursing Review, Other, 27/06/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Australia is facing a sharp rise in influenza cases across several states, including New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland, putting health authorities on alert. While Covid cases in Australia have

decreased by 20 per cent compared to last week, there's been a significant increase in influenza cases across NSW and Queensland.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 27/06/2023, Angela Cox

There could soon be protection for newborns from influenza. Babies are at the greatest risk of hospitalisation, yet there's no licenced vaccine for them. Researchers in two states are hoping to change that, launching a new trial tonight. 160 children are needed in Perth and Adelaide for tests.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#).

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

'Fit and active' mum-of-two left wheelchair-bound after suspected Covid vaccine injury

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Frank Chung

Liberal MP Russell Broadbent is advocating on behalf of the thousands of Australians who have experienced an adverse reaction after getting a Covid vaccination. A previously "fit and active" mum of two has been left wheelchair-bound and "progressively losing function" in her limbs after a suspected reaction to the Pfizer vaccine. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) most recent , there have been a total of 138,932 adverse event reports from nearly 67.8 million Covid vaccine doses, a rate of 0.2 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Skerritt's successor slips in unannounced

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 27/06/2023, David Rowley

Professor Tony Lawler was formerly CMO with Tasmanian health department The new head of the Therapeutic Goods Administration has made his way into the role with not even an announcement from the body he will lead. Professor Tony Lawler has just quietly taken up the role of Deputy Secretary of the Health Products Regulation Group,

[Read More](#)

New leadership and a new era starts for Australia's regulator

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 27/06/2023

Professor Lawler succeeded John Skerritt, who recently retired from the Department of Health and Aged Care, having led the TGA since 2012.

[Read More](#)

How to boost your immunity this winter

Body And Soul, Other, 26/06/2023, Peta Bee

What works and what doesn't From vitamins to raw garlic, most of us have bought food, drinks or supplements in the hope they'll keep us fighting fit. But is there any science behind these popular fixes? [...] Overstating the purported benefits of immune enhancing' ingredients has also raised the hackles of the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

New TGA boss revealed

Pharma In Focus, Other, 27/06/2023

A new head of the TGA has been quietly appointed, with the Department of Health and Aged Care updating its organisational chart to reflect the change. Professor Tony Lawler is the new Deputy Secretary of the Health Products Regulation Group, filling the shoes of Professor John Skerrit, who retired in April after 10 years in the job.

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Growth plan

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/06/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 1

CANN Group has reached out to shareholders to further expand cultivation and production at its \$120 million Mildura facility. The company is seeking to raise \$11.7 million to bring the medicinal cannabis cultivation and research site to a full operational capacity of 12.5 tonnes of dried biomass annually. The facility recently completed its first annual commercial crop, where about 3.1 tonnes of dried biomass was produced, for a range of dried flower and oil products.

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Aussies are the biggest users of cocaine and ecstasy in the world

Canberra Times, Other, 27/06/2023, Layton Holley

Watch: Wastewater monitoring: Which Australian states tops the country for drug use Australians are the most prolific users of cocaine and "ecstasy" in the world, according to the United Nations World Drug Report 2023. The report says the use of cocaine in Australia and New Zealand remains the "highest worldwide", while ecstasy (MDMA) use remains "by far the highest worldwide".

[Read More](#)

When will Victoria set up drug checking services?

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023

A drug policy researcher says Victoria can no longer "ignore" the need for drug checking services to prevent overdoses across the state. Facilities like one already operating in Canberra allow users to check whether illicit drugs for personal use contain potentially fatal ingredients.

[Read More](#)

6PR, The Nightshift, 27/06/2023, Tod Johnston

Interview with Mind Medicine Australia executive director Tania De Jong. Ms De Jong says medical professionals are excited about the use of MDMA and psilocybin to treat mental health conditions.

Also reported by: [6PR \(Perth\)](#).

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FOOD STANDARDS

Check out healthy options

Courier Mail, General News, 28/06/2023, Hayley Goddard, Page 7

They were designed for the last-minute impulse buy and the scene of many toddler tantrums. But the days of the confectionery stands at the check-outs are numbered, with major supermarket Woolworths bowing to public feedback. The lollies and chocolates will be replaced with food items that have a health star rating (HSR) of at least 3.5.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Huge hazard in popular yoghurt

Northern Territory News, Business News, 28/06/2023, Blake Antrobus, Page 39

A popular brand of yoghurt sold across Aussie supermarkets has been urgently recalled over fears that it could contain traces of a deadly bacteria. Shoppers who purchased Jalna Dairy Foods' 1kg tubs of

Jalna Lactose Free Vanilla and Jalna Sweet & Creamy Greek Coconut have been asked to immediately return the products and seek medical advice if they feel unwell after consuming the food. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand issued the recall for the products over fears that the yoghurts were contaminated with E.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Caffeine hits 'bad for kids'

Border Mail, General News, 28/06/2023, Sophie Else, Page 7

Border health professionals have warned that children's consumption of energy drinks can lead to an increase in behavioural and sleep issues. Their fears have been heightened by the popularity of Prime Hydration and Prime Energy drinks, released last year.

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ABC Rural Lab produced meat could be on Australian shelves as soon as next year

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Fiona Broom

Would you pay \$5 for a lab-grown hamburger? You might get the chance if a plan to have cultured meat on Australian shelves as soon as next year becomes a reality. [...] The regulator expects to consult on that application in August and decide by March, Glen Neal, general manager of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) risk management and intelligence, told the ABC.

[Read More](#)

Lab meat could be coming soon to Australian restaurants

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Fiona Broom

Meat grown in a lab could be available in Australia as soon as March, the food regulator has revealed. It comes after the US agriculture department recently approved a Californian-based company to sell chicken meat labelled as "lab-grown" or "cell-cultivated". [...] Local regulator Food Standards Australia New Zealand is assessing the application and will start public consultation in August and hope to make a decision by March.

[Read More](#)

How to make your food last longer: Food scientist Gary Kennedy settles the fridge versus cupboard debate

ABC Online, Other, 27/06/2023, Kristy Reading

The cost of living is sky high at the moment and included in that fold -- grocery bills. How much has your shop gone up by of late? Gary Kennedy is a famed food scientist and owns one of Australia's leading independent food safety consultancy businesses, so we thought we'd bring him in to tell us where things should or shouldn't go.

[Read More](#)

Nationwide recall for popular yoghurt range

The New Daily, Other, 27/06/2023

Two varieties of one of Australia's most popular yoghurt brands have been recalled, amid fears they are contaminated with E. coli. Food Standards Australia New Zealand said Jalna Dairy Foods was recalling its one-kilogram tubs of Lactose Free Vanilla and Jalna Sweet & Creamy Greek Coconut.

[Read More](#)

Woolworths removes popular products from checkouts

NEWS.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Rebekah Scanlan

Woolworths is removing children's confectionary from checkouts in a bid to help customers make healthier choices. The supermarket giant has announced products aimed at children, such as Chupa Chups, Kinder Surprise and Caramello Koalas, will no longer be available beside tills. Instead, the

supermarket is increasing its offering of healthier food choices with a Health Star Rating (HSR) of 3.5 and above, stating 80 per cent of shelf space will be dedicated to these items.

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Jalna yoghurt sold at Woolworths, Coles, and IGA recalled due to E. coli contamination

7news.com.au, Other, 27/06/2023, Hayley Taylor

The products could cause illness if consumed, with customers warned to return them immediately. Jalna Dairy Foods Pty Ltd is recalling two of its products due to a potential E. [...] Jalna Lactose Free Vanilla Yoghurt and Jalna Sweet & Creamy Greek Coconut Yoghurt, both sold in 1kg tubs, could cause illness if consumed, Food Standards Australia New Zealand warns The yoghurts are sold in Woolworths, Coles, IGA and Independent Grocery Stores across Australia.

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Popular yoghurt sold at Woolies, Coles recalled after traces of dangerous bacteria found

9News, Other, 27/06/2023

Two flavours of a popular yoghurt brand sold at both Woolworths and Coles are being urgently recalled over fears they may contain traces of a dangerous bacteria. [...] "Any consumers concerned about their health should seek medical advice. and should return the products to the place of purchase for a full refund," Food Standards Australia and New Zealand said.

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Check your fridge now: Popular yoghurt sold at Woolworths and Coles is pulled off the shelves due to dangerous contamination

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 27/06/2023, Jade Hobman

Jalna yogurt products sold at Coles and Woolworths have been recalled due to a 'potential contamination' with deadly E. [...] The 1kg Jalna Lactose Free Vanilla and the Sweet & Creamy Greek Coconut Pot Set Yogurts were recalled on Monday by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

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Chemical found in popular artificial sweetener may cause cancer

Prevention, Other, 25/06/2023, Madeleine Haase

Here's what nutritionists recommend instead. Sucralose, a chemical found in the popular artificial sweetener Splenda, may cause DNA damage and cancer, according to a new study. [...] Food Standards Australia and New Zealand says an acceptable daily intake (ADI) of sucralose is 0 to 15mg per kilogram of body weight per day.

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2SM, 15:00 News, 27/06/2023

The Global Sugar Alliance has welcomed the latest caution from the World Health Organisation over the use of artificial sweeteners. The WHO found artificial sweeteners don't help with weight loss and also express concerns about potential harmful effects on blood sugar levels, heart health and mortality. Global Sugar Alliance chair Greg Beashel says it's a win for health experts for the WHO to come out and say that artificial sweeteners have.

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