



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 30th June 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Australian** (page 2) reports Sydney Catholic church Archbishop Anthony Fisher has criticised voluntary assisted dying legislation proposed for the ACT as lacking, saying the laws lacked protection and risked setting the bar too low. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and opposition health spokesperson Anne Ruston both declined to comment, saying it was a Territory government matter. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Sky News](#)
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 5) reports more than 315,000 babies were born in Australia in 2021, new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has shown, the highest number ever recorded. The AIHW report also found women are giving birth later in life while 90 per cent are giving birth to healthy babies. *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Northern Territory News](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Mandarin](#), [9news](#), [SBS](#)
- The **Northern Territory News** (page 11) reports Northern Territory nurses are split on a proposed government EBA covering 2022 to 2026. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation said a survey of Territory members found 85 per cent liked the agreement, however some nurses said uniformity was needed with bonus payments offered in more remote parts of the state and in southern states.

- The **Herald Sun** (page 12) reports vitamin D could reduce the risk of heart disease for over 60's, new Australian research has found. Over 20,000 Australians participated in the study over five years, with those taking vitamin D found to be 19 per cent less likely to suffer a heart attack. *Also reported by: Canberra Times, Adelaide Advertiser, Courier Mail, West Australian, Geelong Advertiser, Cairns Post, Townsville Bulletin, Toowoomba Chronicle, The Guardian, 9News.*
- The **Herald Sun** (page 13) reports Melbourne will soon be host to Australia's first lung cancer biobank, to be funded by a \$3 million grant from the federal government's Medical Research Futures Fund and \$1 million from project partners. The facility will help spur global research into cancer therapies and explore the causes of resistance to existing cancer treatments. *Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser, Hobart Mercury.*
- **The Age** (page 15) reports slow-release opioids like OxyContin are no more effective at treating back pain than a placebo and may actually slow recovery, a new study by Australian researchers has found. A spokesperson for the Faculty of Pain Medicine at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists criticised the report, saying "The faculty is concerned about the robustness of the randomised placebo-controlled trial study particularly given the study's findings are based on a modified release opioid for acute pain which is an 'off-label' use of such medications and therefore not approved." *Also reported by: Sydney Morning Herald, ABC News.*
- **The Australian** (Online) reports the type 2 diabetes drug semaglutide will likely remain in short supply until the end of 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration said yesterday. The TGA said it would continue to ask medical professionals to limit prescriptions of Ozempic, which can also be used to assist weight loss. *Also reported by: 9news, Australian Doctor, Australian Journal of Pharmacy.*
- The **West Australian** (Online) reports health care workers in WA believe services remain understaffed and employees undervalued, an annual survey charting culture and environment across public hospitals and key services has found. More than 21,000 health care workers participated in the survey. Australian Medical Association president Michael Page said the survey revealed "disengagement and burnout" amongst health workers across WA. *Also reported by: ABC News.*
- **The Guardian** reports the Commonwealth must tighten rules around government grants with clearer reasons given for decisions that differ from department recommendations and less ministerial discretion offered for available projects, a joint committee of public accounts and audit has said in a report tabled on Thursday. In June health minister Mark Butler called for a new grant category for "explicit decisions of government".

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Fears of euthanasia on demand

The Australian, General News, 30/06/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 2

One of Australia's most senior Catholics has warned that a proposal being considered by the ACT Labor-Greens government to allow teenagers as young as 14 to access voluntary assisted dying could see assisted suicide become available to "anyone that wants it". [...] Health Minister Mark Butler and opposition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston said they would not comment on territory issues.

*Also reported by: The Australian (Online).*

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### Health Minister drops by to discuss Voice to Parliament

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 29/06/2023, Terry Collins, Page 28

Health Minister Mark Butler was on the Central Coast on Tuesday, June 27, to talk about the coming referendum on the Voice to Parliament and how it might affect health policy. Accompanied by Member for Robertson Gordon Reid, he toured the Yerin Eleanor Duncan Service at Wyong.

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## Youth committee advised to act on vaping across schools

Narrandera Argus, General News, 29/06/2023, Page 2

Narrandera Shire Councillor Narelle Payne believes youth vaping and its prevalence in schools should be referred to the Council's Youth Advisory committee to look at having presentations to warn students of its dangers. She was successful in having the issue referred to the committee at the Council's meeting last week. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said the government would also work to close down the sale of vapes in retail settings, ending vape sales in convenience stores and other retail settings, while making it easier to get a prescription for legitimate therapeutic use.

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## National Rural Health Alliance report finds \$6.5 billion funding shortfall

Wellington Times, Other, 29/06/2023

Regional Australians miss out on nearly \$850 a year in healthcare access, which equates to a total annual rural health spending deficit of \$6.5 billion, a new report has found. The National Rural Health Alliance, which commissioned the report, said the damning document provided clear evidence for the need to bring the country's scattered rural health initiatives under one umbrella. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government's recent healthcare measures would benefit regional patients, pointing to a \$6.1 billion investment to strengthen Medicare and a \$3.5b bulk billing incentive.

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## Rules should be tightened to stop 'unjustifiably partisan' grants programs such as car park rorts, review finds

The Guardian, Other, 29/06/2023, Paul Karp Chief political correspondent

Rules governing billions of dollars of federal grants should be tightened, with clearer reasons for departing from departmental recommendations and less ministerial discretion to choose from pools of eligible projects. [...] In June Guardian Australia revealed the health minister, Mark Butler, had called for a new grant category for "explicit decisions of government" which alarmed legal and transparency experts, who warned it could lower the bar for grants at "high risk" of corruption and pork barrelling.

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## Labor 'committed' to supporting rural pharmacy: Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2023, Megan Haggan

The Health Minister says Labor will support rural pharmacies through the 60-day dispensing change especially given they "aren't selling as much perfume" as metro stores Mark Butler has told journalists at a press conference at the Morayfield Health Hub, Queensland that the Government engaged with stakeholders "at the earliest opportunity" regarding 60-day dispensing.

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## New PBS listing for people living with the duo of diabetes and kidney disease

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 30/06/2023

"Today, I'm delighted to announce another new listing that will take effect on Saturday, the listing of an extraordinary new drug Kerendia, which is a great new treatment for the many Australians," said health minister Mark Butler. ...

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## Mark Butler announces \$73 million for 19 medtech and facility grants

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 27/06/2023

Health minister Mark Butler has announced \$73 million in grants for 19 projects to develop and implement new medical technologies or to build or upgrade facilities for cutting-edge health and medical research. The grants include \$2.9 million for a device that treats depression using closed-loop, non-invasive brain stimulation.

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## \$6.2 million to combat young people's body issues

With the announcement of Federal Government funding to support The Embrace Collective's work, Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt says having their message reach everywhere that kids live, learn or play is critical. The Embrace Collective, a health promotion charity led by Taryn Brumfitt and body image expert Dr Zali Yager, is on a mission to reach more than one million Australian children with their message to embrace every body'. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Health Minister Mark Butler announced a \$6.2 million funding package to support nine key initiatives of The Embrace Collective.

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## **SBS, World News Australia, 29/06/2023, Ricardo Goncalves**

The number of people living with diabetes in Australia is forecast to double by 2045 to 3 million. The condition can lead to life threatening but preventable kidney disease. A new report by Diabetes Australia highlights the impact of diabetes related kidney disease and related kidney failure, putting the economic cost at around \$2.6 billion a year, while dialysis to support people living with diabetes related kidney disease is estimated to account for 5% of hospitalisations. Health Minister Mark Butler says he's delighted at the opportunity to work with Diabetes Australia on this concept.

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## **ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 29/06/2023, Scott Levi**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler toured Yaron Eleanor Duncan, Aboriginal Health Services at Wyong. He was highlighting how an Indigenous voice to Parliament, in his opinion, would improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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## **2SM, 16:00 News, 29/06/2023**

Diabetes Australia has estimated the disease costs Australia \$2.68 billion a year, with the majority associated with people with diabetes experiencing kidney failure. They're now calling for a diabetes kidney disease screening programme to increase early detection, which is when treatments are most effective. However, only 23% of people are getting their kidneys checked within recommended timeframes with the report recommending diabetes databases be used to send reminders to encourage kidney checks and have better integrations with GP and pathology services. Health Minister Mark Butler says he'll examine the report.

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## **5AA, Breakfast, 29/06/2023, David Penberthy and Will Goodings**

Interview with SA Health Minister Chris Picton about difficulty in getting appointments with GPs. Picton says the states are encouraging the Federal Government to keep going with the additional things that they can put in place to boost the number of GPs bulk billing appointments available for people. He states they'll continue to work with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese as well through the National Cabinet.

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## **MINISTER WELLS**

### **Taskforce must get it right**

Lithgow Mercury, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 14

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: [Inverell Times \(Inverell\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Port Stephens\)](#), [Mudgee Guardian &](#)

## Young Canberra woman heads towards Homeless World Cup 2023

Canberra Weekly, General News, 29/06/2023, Anja De Rozario, Page 6

In about 10 days' time, a team of eight street soccer players, brought together by backgrounds in homelessness and disadvantage, will represent Australia at the 2023 Homeless World Cup. The Big Issue Street Soccerroos are heading towards Sacramento, California where the Cup will take place on 8 July. [...] With ruddy cheeks from the cold Canberra morning, and grinning ear-to-ear as Minister for Sport, Anika Wells MP, presented her with the national team's jersey on the lawns of Parliament House, one would never imagine the storms Caity has weathered to be here.

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

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## Aged Care Taskforce holds its first meeting to discuss sector funding

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

The Aged Care Taskforce has held its first monthly meeting, which was Chaired by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells and issued a Communique. The Taskforce was announced in the 2023-24 Federal Budget to review aged care funding arrangements, with a view to developing options for a "fair and equitable" funding system.

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## DEPARTMENT

### As influenza cases rise, COVID remains a danger

Bungendore Weekly, General News, 28/06/2023, Page 7

National Seniors Australia Experts recommend checking your vaccination status as the cold weather sets in. Winter has well and truly begun across Australia - and with it has come seasonal warnings about the flu. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care advises, "If you are 65 years or over, we strongly recommend you get a 2023 COVID-19 booster vaccine.

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**The big problem with planned Oz vape bans and nations you can't travel to packing an e-ciggie**

Border police don't have the resources or ability to detect and destroy nicotine vapes passing through Aussie airports, to enforce a planned vaping crackdown. It's also not their biggest priority. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care, through the nation's health regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is leading the promised reform, with the government pledging \$737 million to the cause.

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## **Six respiratory clinics in Melbourne set to close as government withdraws funding, in COVID-19 management shift**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Natalie Whiting

In a car park in Melbourne's west, medical staff are dressed in masks and scrubs as they treat their patients, many of whom remain in their cars. It is a familiar sight for those who have lived through the city's COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns a way to keep those potentially infected with the virus away from other patients in GP waiting rooms.

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## **NSW and QLD report alarming uptick in flu cases**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/06/2023, 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 the number of active Covid cases in Australian aged care facilities decreased by 35 per cent compared to last week, the rising flu cases pose a significant risk to older people.

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## **GP patient enrolment: Hundreds of practices will face three-year wait for 'frequent flyer' cash**

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/06/2023, Antony Scholefield

Initially, only practices in nine PHN areas will be eligible for the Frequent Hospital Users Incentive. New payments for GP practices that keep frequent flyer' patients out of hospital will be introduced over three years, leaving some practices ineligible until 2027, officials say. The federal Department of Health and Aged Care has revealed a handful of details on its long-promised patient enrolment scheme, dubbed MyMedicare, which officially starts in October.

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## **PBS ban on GPs giving buprenorphine injections could leave patients with 'nowhere to go'**

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/06/2023, Antony Scholefield

As drugs like buprenorphine are brought under the PBS, GPs who administer them directly will be forced to stop. An impending PBS ban on GPs administering buprenorphine will risk vulnerable patients falling through the cracks, says GP and addiction expert Dr Simon Holliday. [...] This approach was "not appropriate for the purpose of opioid dependence treatment reforms", a Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said.

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## **Companies face higher cost recovery fees with an increase of up to 20 per cent**

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 29/06/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed significant increases in PBS and National Immunisation Program cost-recovery fees from 1 July.

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## **So why are so many Australians dying? 'Excess deaths' are way above average again leaving doctors baffled - and it's not because of Covid**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, David Southwell

The rate of death in Australia remains well above the norm, with a rise in killer diseases other than Covid leaving doctors baffled. [...] A landmark Covid vaccine injury class-action lawsuit was filed in April against the Australian government, the TGA and the Department of Health.

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## **In Practice: COVID telehealth expansion**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/06/2023, Matt Woodley

More patients with a high risk of severe illness are now exempt from the pre-existing relationship rule. The definition of a person who meets the PBS criteria for COVID-19 antiviral therapy is expanding, which impacts telehealth rules. [...] An updated NIP schedule along with further guidance and advice on the upcoming changes will be published on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website on 1 July.

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## **GP aged care standards launched for the first time**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/06/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

New college standards set out minimum requirements' to provide high-quality care in residential aged care homes. GPs are at the forefront of healthcare delivery to residential aged care facilities. [...] The Standards do not seek to replace existing requirements for accreditation against the Aged Care Quality Standards as set by the Department of Health,' the authors wrote.

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## **CMO and Quality Commissioner write to aged care providers urging booster shots as COVID-19 deaths rise in residential care**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Professor Paul Kelly, and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Janet Anderson, have written jointly to aged care providers, urging them to ensure aged care residents are up to date with COVID-19 booster shots.

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## **The aged care reforms taking effect from 1 July 2023**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

1 July 2023 is a significant date in the aged care reform process that resulted from the Aged Care Royal Commission's Final Report in 2021. The two biggest changes will be: the Fair Work Commission's 15% pay rise for aged care workers, and the requirement for 24/ [...] There are several other reforms that take effect on this date: Responsibility for financial monitoring will transfer from the Department of Health and Aged Care to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC), as part of the ACQSC's expanded role as the prudential regulator; The Community Visitors Scheme will expand and from 1 July 2023 will be renamed the Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme; The Food and Nutrition Advisory Support Unit will be established and staffed by specialists within the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and dietitian experts; and; The Integrated Care and Commissioning trial in thin markets will expand progressively from four to 10 sites.

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## **2SM, 08:30 News, 29/06/2023**

The Federal Government has paused an aged care contract with the controversial consultancy firm PwC. It comes as the firm faces mounting scrutiny and consequences over the significant misuse of confidential tax policy. Discussions held between PwC and the Health and Aged Care Department did not lead to confidence being sufficiently restored in the firm, with the government holding its reservations. Department secretary Brendan Murphy has told estimates the department sought further information from PwC regarding conflicts of interest management, but no undisclosed conflicts of interest have been identified.

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## Keep your COVID-19 guard up

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 19

Are your COVID-19 defences as strong as they could be? If you're an adult and it's been six or more months since your most recent COVID-19 vaccination or infection, there's every chance they're not. All eligible adults are encouraged to consider topping up their protection for the cooler months by booking a COVID-19 booster.

Also reported by: [Daily Mercury \(Mackay\)](#).

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## Qld woman's battle with long Covid

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/06/2023

Theresa Sheppard, from Wynnum West in Queensland, shares her battle with long Covid

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## Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV cases jump in Qld, parents and carers warned to remain cautious

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Michelle Gately

As Montana Shortland's son Griffin giggles and hiccups from his rocker, he looks like a healthy newborn baby. [...] The symptoms of RSV, COVID-19 and influenza (the flu) can all overlap and health officials are warning that this year's wave of winter respiratory illnesses may be the worst in several years.

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## Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 28/06/2023, Angela Cox

A treatment tonight that could beat long Covid and protect against reinfection while restoring lung and kidney function. Queensland researchers are the first to trial an oral drug they believe stops the virus replicating.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Hand it to Boomers, victors in this generation game

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Antoinette Lattouf, Page 26

ny time i eat smashed avocado, it's a nutrient rich reminder of how my A generation endures a litany of compassionless cliches while government policy seems determined to keep us asset-poor and, worse, opportunity-poor. Now we're lumped with the suggestion that Millennials and younger generations should help foot the aged care bill for relatively prosperous Baby Boomers. [...] It's estimated we'll need to boost spending on aged care by \$10 billion a year to implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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### Staff, rebates fuel shortages in childcare

Age, General News, 30/06/2023, Angus Thompson, Page 7

Childcare shortages have been exacerbated by two Albanese government policies designed to slash costs and improve workforce quality. The severe lack of staff is adding to parents' costs and cutting access to placements, childcare providers say, and the government's plan to restrict international students' work hours from tomorrow will further hamper centres' ability to fill rosters just as higher government rebates of up to 90 per cent kick in from July 10, increasing demand.

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

## Watchdog to ensure childcare subsidies flow through

Canberra Times, Other, 30/06/2023, Paul Osborne

Parents have been assured the consumer watchdog will be keeping a close eye on childcare fees as the subsidy increases. [...] Aged-care workers will also receive an interim 15 per cent pay rise, meaning nurses can earn an extra \$10,000 a year on the award wage, and some personal care workers can earn an extra \$7000 a year.

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## Aged care providers, advocates and clients discuss a sector 'behind the eight ball'

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Molly Schmidt

Multifaceted, confusing, frustrating and convoluted these are the words Perth woman Samantha Leeman used to describe the aged care system after her family spent months getting her mother into care in 2020. [...] Ms Stoddard said the nurse shortage had made it impossible to for most providers to consistently meet the standards outlined by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. She said the age of people going into care was increasing, resulting in a more complex set of needs to be met by providers and that buildings and facilities were falling short.

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## How can being diagnosed help someone with dementia?

The Guardian, Other, 29/06/2023

The number of Australians with dementia is expected to double in the next two decades. Fortunately, life after diagnosis is improving. The word "dementia" conjures a grim image for many of us. But experts say the reality of life with dementia is changing. Dementia is an umbrella term that describes a group of illnesses.

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## On July 1, a range of changes will hit Australia with the new financial year. This is what you need to know

9News, Other, 29/06/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

The amount varies from state to state, from 2.5 per cent in Western Australia all the way up to almost 29 per cent in parts of Queensland although the actual amount you'll pay will depend on your provider and plan. [...] As part of the federal government's reforms to the aged care sector, at least one nurse will be required to be on-site at homes around the country 24/7 - although there are some exemptions permitted.

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## What are the changes to Australian visa and immigration effective July 1 2023?

SBS, Other, 30/06/2023, TJ Correa

Migration Consultant Elaine Caguioa explained the significant changes to visas in Australia for the 2023-2024 financial year. [...] The work restrictions for student visas will be capped at 48 hours per fortnight, while international students working in the aged care sector as of 9 May 2023 can continue until 31 December 2023.

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## Dark humour: guiding light in overcoming adversity as we age

Aged Care Insite, Other, 29/06/2023, Elise Hartevelt

Dark humour has been named as a guiding light for older people to tackle the complexities and trials of ageing, according to a philosophy professor. As people age, they face challenges such as loneliness, social isolation, disability, frailty, and losing friends and partners.

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## Help make aged care equitable

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/06/2023, Natasha Egan

Researchers from Monash University are calling on staff who work in or visit residential aged care facilities to complete a survey about how they communicate with residents with limited English. The research project which received a grant from the Medical Research Future Fund aims to support aged care residents who experience day-to-day life with a limited ability to communicate or understand English.

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## The future of care management

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/06/2023, Natasha Egan

A robust and holistic assessment tool, the aged care taskforce, technology, and provider innovation are key to quality care management in home care, an industry conference has heard. At the Aged Care Week conference in Sydney last week, Therese Adami Catholic Healthcare's general manager of Home and Community led a discussion with three provider executives about care management and its role in aged care.

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## 73-year-old woman dies in retirement village fire

HelloCare, Other, 29/06/2023, Bianca Iovino

Fire crews and the Coffs and Clarence Police District are still investigating the cause of the fire that broke out at a retirement village on the NSW North Coast where the 73-year-old woman died. The fire was flagged coming from a single-storey residence that is part of the Palm Lake Resort lifestyle village in Yamba at about 9.15pm on Tuesday. Fire crews were dispatched and found the woman unconscious outside her home.

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## Nursing boost for aged care

Medical Forum, Other, 29/06/2023

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) has placed its first 76 student nurses into aged care as part of a new program to recruit nurses into the residential aged care sector. The Commonwealth-funded scheme aims to place 140 students during its first month, eventually delivering clinical placement experiences in aged care for 1,800 second- and third-year nursing students nearly 13% of the additional 14,000 nurses needed by the sector to meet the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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## Crunch time: 1 July heralds more changes for aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

This week marks the next chapter in a long-running reform program for aged care providers and fewer executives will be left standing in two years' time. The Fair Work Commission's 15% wage rise for some aged care workers and the requirement for 24/7 Registered Nurses in most aged care homes will commence this Saturday, 1 July, despite continuing concern being voiced from aged care providers about how they will meet both requirements see this week's story about the regional providers seeking an extension for the supplement for 24/

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## About 15% or 400 aged care homes will fall short of 24/7 RN requirement: ACCPA

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

The peak body for aged care providers has told The Source that about 80% of residential aged care homes are likely to meet the incoming 24/7 RN requirement that becomes mandatory on 1 July 2023 and 5% will be eligible for the exemption but 15%, or about 400 homes are likely to be unable to comply.

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## **Regional Victorian aged care providers would like to see 24/7 Supplement extended to include alternative models: David Reece**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

A consortium of 11 aged care providers in regional Victoria would like to see the 24/7 RN Supplement expanded to include aged care homes providing effective alternative arrangements' when 24/7 RN coverage cannot be achieved. David Reece is CEO of AdventCare, which owns a 42-bed home in Warburton, 76km east of Melbourne.

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## **90% of aged care providers prepared to undergo “significant transformation” to increase financial sustainability: Mirus Australia**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

A new survey by the advisory group suggests that aged care providers are looking to overhaul their business models as the funding gap continues to widen. The survey which gathered 276 responses from 207 aged care providers found that 85% of respondents thought that more funding was needed to provide aged care services.

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## **20 residential aged care workers banned in the March 2023 quarter: regulator report**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

20 staff were banned from working in aged care during the March 2022 quarter 14 permanently according to the March 2023 quarter Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's Sector Performance Report. You can see the full list of banned staff on the Aged Care Register of Banning Orders.

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## **9,500 Home Care Packages released from 1 July 2023**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

As outlined in the 2023-24 Federal Budget, 9,500 Home Care Packages (HCPs) will be released from 1 July 2023 at a cost of \$166.8 million. As of 30 March 2023, there were 257,124 consumers with HCPs.

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## **Regis Healthcare upgrades IT security**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

Publicly listed aged care provider Regis Healthcare has implemented Tanium's endpoint management platform as a patch management solution. Regis Healthcare has made new cyber investments every year since it was hit by a ransomware attack in 2020, IT News has reported.

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## **Regional NSW Council is spending \$600K to sponsor 10 overseas staff for aged care home**

The Weekly Source, Other, 29/06/2023, Ash Brissett

Coolamon Shire Council is sponsoring 10 overseas staff from the Philippines, training them to be nurses and building homes for them to live in because it has been unable to recruit staff locally. Allawah Lodge, the aged care facility in Coolamon, is operated by Coolamon Shire Council, and can only operate 22 of its 33 beds due to staff shortages.

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## **POPULATION HEALTH**

### **Hunger games**

On a recent tuesday morning at the gym, i began to notice something: everyone was thin. And not just thin, but a kind of thin that bordered on worrying.

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## Record baby numbers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 5

More than 315,000 babies were born in Australia in 2021 the most babies ever born in one year. It marks an increase of 20,000 births on the previous year, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The new data also confirms women are giving birth later in life and more than 90 per cent of these births bring healthy babies into the world.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Liquor delivery loophole warning

Courier Mail, General News, 30/06/2023, James Hall, Page 19

A loophole in Queensland laws allows rapid booze delivery companies to operate without holding a specific liquor licence, a leading alcohol harm advocacy group warned. The complicated structure of responsible service allows delivery companies such as Jimmy Brings to operate at "an arm's length from an arm's length" from licence accountability, according to the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education.

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

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## Pandemic babies spike: More of us had children in 2021

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/06/2023, Charmaine Manuel, Page 3

Launceston has followed the lead of the nation with a higher number of babies born in 2021. A record number of 315,705 babies were born nationwide, which was 20,000 more than the year before - an increase of 6.7 per cent, according to data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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

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## A record number of births in Australia but it's not a baby boom

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023

The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages released the data for births by suburb in 2022, with an apparent epicenter in Sydney's west. [...] It's a 6.7 per cent increase on the previous year, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

[Read More](#)

## Lockdown or loneliness? Covid brought on a 'kind of stressful' baby boom in Australia

The Guardian, Other, 29/06/2023, Tory Shepherd

A pandemic might not seem like the ideal time to have a baby, but new data backs up the idea that Covid precipitated a baby boom. According to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report Australia's mothers and babies a record 315,705 babies were born in 2021, while the birthrate itself was up to 61 per 1,000 women of reproductive age from 56 per 1,000 the year before.

[Read More](#)

## More babies born in Australia in 2021 as mothers getting older

The Mandarin, Other, 29/06/2023, Anna MacDonald

More babies were born in Australia in 2021 than the previous year, while mothers continue to trend older. According to the "Australia's Mothers and Babies" report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 315,705 babies were born in 2021, which is an increase of 6.

[Read More](#)

## Record number of babies born during pandemic, data confirms

9News, Other, 29/06/2023, Lucy Slade

A record number of babies were born in Australia during the pandemic, new data has confirmed. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data shows 315,705 babies were born while many were going in and out of lockdown in 2021, which is an increase of 20,000 babies (6.7 per cent) from 2020.

[Read More](#)

## The figures are in on Australia's COVID baby boom

SBS, Other, 29/06/2023, Aleisha Orr

An additional 20,000 babies were born in 2021 on top of numbers from 2020. Key Points There was a 6.7 per cent increase in the number of babies born in Australia in 2021 from the previous year. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report shows women are having babies later in life.

[Read More](#)

## Body mass index: why were doctors advised to use it in the first place?

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/06/2023, Dimitris Papamargaritis and David Stensel

Body mass index has long been used by doctors as the standard method for measuring health and often still is. But earlier this month, the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted a new policy that cautions medical professionals from using the body mass index (BMI) as a standalone clinical tool during patient consultations.

[Read More](#)

## 'Like Maya from the Netflix documentary, my daughter has CRPS. There is no known cure.'

Mamamia, Other, 29/06/2023, Laura Jackel

Four weeks ago, 10-year-old Bella Macey was having the time of her life swimming and snorkelling on a family holiday in Fiji. The happy-go-lucky girl who has a passion for judo, gymnastics and cooking had a few blisters on her right foot from wearing thongs that her mum Emma was concerned about.

[Read More](#)

## Pandemic baby boom

Medical Forum, Other, 29/06/2023

A report released by the AIHW, has shown that a record number of babies were born in Australia in 2021 with the national birth rate jumping back up to 6.1%. More than 315,700 babies were born in Australia in 2021 the highest annual figure on record.

[Read More](#)

## The gender-based health divide

Medical Forum, Other, 29/06/2023

The AIHW has just released its latest reports examining the health of Australia's men and women, revealing that 40% and 34% respectively, of their disease burden could have been prevented. COVID featured for the first time in the top 5 leading causes of illness and death for both men and women, though males were more affected.

[Read More](#)

## Sky News Live, Newsday, 29/06/2023, Ashleigh Gillon

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will be encouraged to provide free abortions and end offshore processing at Labour's upcoming national conference. It's part of a push from factions of the Labor Party to adopt a more left-wing stance. Women's group Emily's List is calling on the Government to make abortion services available at publicly funded hospitals.

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New figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show a record 315,000 babies were born across the country in 2021, about 20,000 more than in the previous year.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### World cancer bank in Victoria

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 13

Victoria will be home to the country's first lung cancer biobank, co-designed by patients, who will help researchers worldwide develop therapies and identify causes of resistance to existing treatments. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Australia and experts say treating metastatic or advanced disease, which accounts for about 80 per cent of cases, is an area of unmet clinical need.

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

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### Walking the Arrows to fight cancer

Cairns Post, General News, 30/06/2023, Kristina Puljak, Page 8

Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation is encouraging Cairns residents to strap on their hiking shoes and tackle inner-Cairns' most famous walking trails to raise money for cancer patients. The BDO Arrow Experience fundraiser is hosted by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation and is raising money for the foundation's Cancer Care Hub.

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### Calls for diabetes testing increase

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Rachel Ward, Page 8

There are calls for more diabetes testing over fears the number of patients with related kidney disease admitted to hospital will soar. One in 20 hospitalisations in Australia is a patient with diabetes who is also having dialysis, costing about \$2.68 billion a year. That figure is tipped to jump 45 per cent by 2040 unless early screening is rolled out, according to a report by Diabetes Australia.

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### 'One tragedy shouldn't turn into two for the rest of your life'

The Australian, Other, 29/06/2023, Jacquelin Magnay

In past the decade-and-a-half, countless women have opened up to Glenn McGrath about their breast cancer struggles. But the biggest surprise to the former international fast bowler has been the one question many men ask him. It has been 15 years since his beloved English-born wife Jane died of breast cancer, aged 42, in June 2008. In that time, the foundation set up when she was first diagnosed has supported more than 123,000 Australian families and employs 200 McGrath breast cancer nurses.

[Read More](#)

### Calls for more diabetes testing to stop hospital visits

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Rachael Ward

There are calls for more diabetes testing over fears the number of patients with related kidney disease admitted to hospital will soar. Currently one in 20 hospitalisations in Australia is a patient with diabetes who is also having dialysis, costing about \$2.68 billion a year. That figure is tipped to jump 45 per cent by 2040 unless early screening is rolled out, according to a report by Diabetes Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

### Living with a medical condition? Make a health plan

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/06/2023

Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) is encouraging people living with a serious health condition to make a health plan this flu season in case they become unwell. While anyone can get influenza, people with medical conditions including heart, kidney and liver disease, chronic lung conditions and diabetes may be at higher risk of needing hospital care.

[Read More](#)

## 'Urgent need' for kidney disease screening for people with diabetes

SBS, Other, 29/06/2023, Ciara Hain

The number of people living with diabetes in Australia is forecast to double by 2045, to around three million. The condition can lead to life-threatening but preventable kidney disease.

[Read More](#)

## More evidence for charting

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2023, Chris Brooker

Call for more widespread adoption of medication charting in cancer units following study findings Use of Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting (PPMC) in oncology units is associated with significantly lower rates of medication errors, say Australian researchers. A study conducted by researchers from the pharmacy department at Alfred Health, Melbourne, led by Dr Erica Tong, and

[Read More](#)

## 2SM, 17:00 News, 29/06/2023

From 1 July a new medicine will be added to the PBS to help patients suffering from type two diabetes and kidney disease. Medicine Kerendia will be added to the scheme designed to help slow damage to kidneys. Professor Genie Pedagogos from Epworth Internal Medicine Clinical Institute says it will help thousands of Australians.

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## 4ABC, 07:30 News, 29/06/2023

The drug Kerendia will be on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and will be available for those with Type 2 diabetes with damaged lungs caused by chronic kidney disease. Epworth Internal Medicine Clinical Institute Professor Eugenia Pedagogos says there are trials underway for the drug to be used for Type 1 diabetes.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Support for teen access to VAD: Cheyne

Canberra Times, General News, 30/06/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

The ACT is likely to allow people under 18 to access voluntary assisted dying, saying consultation showed strong community support for this. The territory's voluntary assisted dying laws may not include a requirement for a time frame for an expected death. Voluntary assisted dying laws are on track to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly later this year.

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

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### See you in the clouds: Lily's profound legacy

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/06/2023, Emily Olle, Page 7

Clouds by Zach Sobiech rang out at Centennial Park as friends, family and loved ones gathered to farewell 23-year-old Lily Thai, whose decision to end her life by voluntary euthanasia has left a lasting legacy. Inspirational Lily, 23, who had been crippled with illness and pain for most of her life, captured the hearts and minds of South Australians after sharing her story with the Sunday Mail earlier this month.

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

## Push to resume births at Whyalla

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/06/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 29

An external reviewer will be appointed to assess how birthing services can be re-established at Whyalla Hospital as soon as possible, after they temporarily ceased on Monday due to a midwife shortage. The reviewer will look into the operation of midwifery services at the hospital over previous years and will talk to both current and former staff.

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## Healthy plan

Cairns Post, General News, 30/06/2023, Peter Carruthers, Page 1

After months of silence, James Cook University has revealed what the institution's new health building could look like with the release of spectacular digitally-created images of the proposed Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre. Designed by Wilson Architects, the building will be an integral part of the university hospital precinct.

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## Big plans

Cairns Post, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 16

Another milestone ticked off, as university hospital precinct gathers momentum ealthcare is already the Far North's biggest industry - much bigger Hthan tourism. Throw into the mix an increasingly ageing population as the baby boomers move into their twilight years and the need for more healthcare services will only increase exponentially.

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## Blackwater's new hospital edges closer

Daily Mercury, General News, 30/06/2023, Geordi Offord, Page 10

Work on a multimillion-dollar upgrade to Blackwater's new hospital is getting closer to beginning with tenders for the project awarded. Hutchinson Builders was awarded the tender to build the \$26.5m facility. Tenders for the project were released in January for the new hospital in Blackwater and Moranbah.

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## Beaconsfield ambulance station near completion

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/06/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 10

The construction of a state-of-the-art ambulance station at Beaconsfield is nearing completion. The \$1.9 million project is expected to be completed this November and is one of six new rural and regional ambulance stations being built across the state.

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## Health boost

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/06/2023, Leighton Smith, Page 1

One of Australia's leading construction groups, St Hilliers, has been contracted to deliver the \$40m expansion of the Kirwan Health campus, which will feature a new two-storey building to expand capacity and deliver more specialist services, including pre-natal and post-natal care and oral health.

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## Brian cracked his final joke. Then he died: Qld marks six months of euthanasia

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/06/2023, Felicity Caldwell

Add articles to your saved list and come back to them any time. Brian Cameron Irwin had been a builder, a social man with green-grey eyes and Irish-Scottish ancestry.

## Blue healers: Inner-city police station to become health and housing hub

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 29/06/2023, Tony Moore

A Queenslander built in 1884 in one of south-east Queensland's homeless hotspots will become a health, housing and legal referral centre to directly tackle Brisbane's shortfalls in those areas. The Queensland government and multifaceted housing agency Micah Projects will renovate the old West End Police Station with a \$1.

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## Sky News hosts ask Australians if they would be 'in favour of euthanasia'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2023

Sky News hosts Liz Storer, Caleb Bond, and James Macpherson hit the streets to ask Australians if they would be in favour of euthanasia.

[Read More](#)

## There needs to be 'uniformity' on euthanasia laws

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2023

6pr host Oliver Peterson says there needs to be "uniformity" in laws around the country as the ACT government considers offering euthanasia for teenagers as young as 14. "It's just becoming ridiculous around Australia where we don't have uniformity," he told Sky News contributor Steve Price.

[Read More](#)

## 'I'll be with you in the clouds again': Lily farewelled at funeral she planned

Adelaide Now, Other, 29/06/2023, Laura Aubusson

The Adelaide woman who ended her life using SA's voluntary assisted dying laws was "very particular" about the items she took with her, including a locket of her parents' hair and her beloved soft toys. A 23-year-old woman will end her life on Wednesday under South Australia's voluntary assisted dying laws.

[Read More](#)

## Rural people missing healthcare access

Border Watch, Other, 29/06/2023, Sasun Bughdaryan and Aidan Curtis

People living in rural and regional areas are missing out on vital healthcare access, according to a national report. The report, commissioned by the National Rural Health Alliance, found regional people each miss out on close to \$850 a year of healthcare access. [...] Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) rural chair Michael Clements said there was a lack of spending on regional healthcare as people had less access to services.

[Read More](#)

## Gareth Ward's outrage Shellharbour hospital helipad 'disingenuous': Anna Watson

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 29/06/2023, Kate-Mcilwain

Shellharbour MP Anna Watson has accused Gareth Ward of being "disingenuous", after he raised concerns about the lack of an onsite helipad in the plans for the new Shellharbour Hospital Ms Watson said the Kiama MP was seeking attention by calling on the Labor Government to reverse a government decision not to build a helipad at the \$700 million hospital, for which early works are underway at Dunmore.

[Read More](#)

## Euthanasia needs to be handled 'carefully' and 'respectfully'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 29/06/2023

Ipa Executive Director Scott Hargreaves says voluntary assisted dying needs to be handled very carefully and respectfully, as the ACT government considers offering euthanasia for teenagers.

[Read More](#)

## **Lily Thai farewelled at Adelaide funeral with friends and family**

7news.com.au, Other, 29/06/2023, Sowaibah Hanifie

The 23-year-old used South Australia's voluntary assisted dying program after having struggled with extreme pain from a terminal illness. Lily Thai, a young woman who captured the hearts of many for sharing her battle with a terminal illness, has been farewelled at a funeral in Adelaide, after ending her life through a voluntary assisted dying.

[Read More](#)

## **Should public hospitals be able to provide CTG medicines?**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2023, Megan Haggan

Stakeholders are addressing the exclusion of public hospital pharmacy from providing PBS medicines, under the Close the Gap scheme The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia is continuing its advocacy for better medicines access for First Nations people, with a recent trip to Canberra to discuss the issue with Labor and the Greens.

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## **Teenagers as young as 14 could get voluntary assisted dying in Australia - after 23-year-old Lily Thai took her own life because of illness that left her in excruciating pain**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, Freddy Pawle

New legislation could allow for children as young as 14-years-old to receive voluntary assisted dying in the nation's capital. A community consultation report is set to be released by the ACT government on Thursday with a final model for an assisted dying framework to be revealed later in the year. The framework is being headed by the state's Human Rights Minister, Tara Cheyene, who is considering to allow children as young as 14-years-old to be eligible for VAD.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC News, ABC News Tonight, 29/06/2023, Manny Tsigas**

People living with dementia are largely excluded from laws that enable voluntary assisted dying. As the ACT Government prepares to legalise euthanasia, it's committed to considering how they might be included in the future. But it won't happen in the initial laws, which could pass by the end of the year. One submission from the Australian Psychological Society argued that having dementia does not automatically render the person incapable of making an informed decision and should not automatically negate their right to voluntary assisted dying.

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## **ABC News, Mornings, 29/06/2023, Karina Carvalho**

Six specialised respiratory clinics in Melbourne will close this week in a move that doctors say will put staff and patients at risk. The GP clinic set up to help tackle Covid 19 are no longer receiving Victorian government support.

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## **Sky News Live, Chris Kenny Tonight, 29/06/2023, Steve Price**

Panel discussion with Oliver Peterson, 6PR host and Caleb Bond, Sky News about ACT Government considering euthanasia for 14 years of age. Peterson believes there needs to be uniformity in laws when it comes to voluntary assisted dying.

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## **ABC Radio Sydney, 17:00 News, 29/06/2023**

The Upper House inquiry focused on the impact of ambulance ramping and access block on

emergency departments after the health system strained under surging demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minns Government tabled its response in Parliament this morning, offering full or in-principle support for ten of the inquiry's 12 recommendations. It supports dedicated paramedic work zones at hospitals with bed blocks, the abolition of the wages cap for public health care staff and system wide monitoring of patient flow. It noted a recommendation to reduce patient occupancy and did not support removing location limits for specialist paramedics.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### School refusal is no way to combat kids' anxieties

The Australian, General News, 30/06/2023, Claire Lehmann, Page 11

At the end of the winter school holidays, thousands of teenagers across the country will decide they do not want to go back to school. Their parents will inquire about bullying and find that no such problem exists. For many, grades will not be the problem either, leaving parents scratching their heads. The problem is not rare. Last year, more than half of students across Australia were chronically absent, defined as missing more than approximately 20 days of school in a single year.

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### Government ill-equipped to deal with mental health crisis

Canberra Times, General News, 30/06/2023, Melanie Poole, Page 64

Australians are unwell. We are anxious. We are depressed. We are literally dying of loneliness - now one of the leading causes of death in this country, along with suicide, alcohol and a range of preventable diseases linked to mental wellbeing. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that 44% of us will experience a serious mental health condition at some point in our lives.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#)

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### Just gotta glove fight in this mum

Herald Sun, Sport, 30/06/2023, Gilbert Gardiner, Page 82

Stepping into a boxing ring for the first time to fight for a mental health charity is nothing compared to what mother-of-two Tracey Johnson, a Lindsay Park track rider, has endured the past 18 months. Johnson was sitting next to daughter Chelsea, 8, in the Royal Children's Hospital Cancer Centre last year, as her brave little "fighter" receive chemotherapy for a rare and aggressive medulloblastoma, a brain cancer, when she read about the Behind The Barriers Boxing Challenge.

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### 'She was only 13'

West Australian, General News, 30/06/2023, Bethany Hiatt, Page 1

The grieving father of a girl who took her own life aged just 13 is imploring parents to be alert to any personal problems, no matter how trivial, raised by their kids. Dellilah Downey, a bright teenager who loved skateboarding and drawing, should still be going to school. Instead, her friends and teachers attended her funeral last week.

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### Xavier steps up for mental health, cancer support

Shepparton News, General News, 30/06/2023, Jay Bryce, Page 3

"Step up or shut up" was Murchison firefighter Xavier Reilly's motto when he decided to sign up for the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb this year. Having joined the CFA at just 16, it wasn't long before Mr Reilly's idealistic concept of his new career was met with the harsh realities of his profession.

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## No Talk Day to open up conversation

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 6

Triple m microphones will stay silent on Monday for the station's fifth annual No Talk Day. There'll be no breakfast show banter, no announcers, no news or traffic reports and no ads. From 6am to 6pm, Triple M, with support from Beyond Blue, will create space to encourage listeners and friends to have a conversation around men's mental health and suicide.

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

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## New data reveals shock number of Victorians in cost of living distress who think government won't help

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, Mandy Squires

A horror number of Victorians in cost of living distress have no faith federal budget measures will help them, leading to fears suicides will spike "alongside inflation and interest rates". Victorians experiencing cost of living distress have no faith in the Albanese government's ability to reduce their pain through Budget measures , leading to fears suicides rates could further rise.

[Read More](#)

## How to get started with your mental health care plan

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/06/2023, Sera Bozza

A definitive guide to getting started If you have a mental health issue you need some help with, you and your doctor can create a plan to treat it. Here's how to get started. The mental health of Australians has been severely impacted by the tidal wave of global events and stressors we've experienced over the past few years.

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## The hidden world of incels: Men who hate women, normalise violence and joke about rape

SBS, Other, 29/06/2023, Michelle Elias

A group of young men have convinced themselves women will never desire them. And they're bitter about it. Meet some of Australia's incels. This story contains distressing themes and references to sexual violence and suicide I'm in a pub in Sydney having lunch with five incels or "involuntary celibates", and as their self-imposed name suggests, these young men define themselves by their inability to attract a sexual or romantic partner.

[Read More](#)

## You might have heard ADHD risks being over-diagnosed. Here's why that's not the case

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 29/06/2023

This concern dovetails with calls from GPs to be able to help provide wider access to diagnosis and for the condition to be added to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Public hearings for the Australian Senate's inquiry into "consistent, timely and best practice assessment" of ADHD and support services begin today.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### New pay offer divides nurses

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/06/2023, Bethany Griffiths, Page 11

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. One Darwin nurse, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the current offer on

the table was nothing like interstate nurses got. "It's being touted as the 'best offer anywhere in Australia', well that's bulls-t," they said.

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## Lack of staff to fill shifts: nurses

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Anna Falkenmire, Page 8

Nurses are demanding answers after claims that departments at John Hunter Hospital are being left with shift vacancies despite being told they are "fully staffed". Members of the nurses union say that in the hospital's theatre and recovery services, there is a seven-day period where 40 rostered shifts need covering.

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## Nursing students are up in arms and use petition to take action against Charles Darwin University

Northern Territory News, Other, 29/06/2023, Sierra Haigh

The Territory's nursing students have voiced their outrage and taken action against Charles Darwin University for what they say are alleged teaching failures. A petition has been circulated among students studying CDU's Leadership for Nursing Practice, calling for an automatic pass, rounded out grades and a 50 per cent refund on tuition fees. An anonymous nursing student writing under the alias of Sara Smith launched the petition online to address six alleged breaches against the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency's higher education standards framework.

[Read More](#)

## Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 29/06/2023, Kim Millar

Late this afternoon the Government announced its agreement with Orca Health will continue, with the provider committing to establishing a private practise within the next three months. These commitments yet to be fulfilled as unions call for a focus on more pressing issues.

Also reported by: [Seven Tasmania \(Hobart\)](#)

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## ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 29/06/2023, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Emily Shepherd, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation - Tasmanian branch. Shepherd says they're six months down the track and members are yet to receive an offer from the Tasmanian Government. She notes nurses demand for better pay and safer staffing levels. She states Tasmania isn't offering recruitment incentives that other states and territories are, and the working conditions and overall package offered during the recruitment process isn't as attractive as other states and territories.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#)

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Conversation Hour, 29/06/2023, Nic Healey

Interview with Karen Booth, President, Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association. Booth says nurse practitioners are not being utilised properly skill set wise. She notes their own survey of 4,000 nurses shows that third to 35% said that they're underutilised. She notes one of the biggest constraints are not being able to do those more complex activities due to the current funding model.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Greater transparency for ACT doctors' fees

Canberra Times, General News, 30/06/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 22

The ACT government will promote the use of services which highlight doctors who bulk bill, as part of a push for greater transparency for health consumers. Bulk billing rates in the territory are among the lowest in the nation and only about five per cent of general practitioners bulk bill all patients, an online directory, Cleanbill, has found.

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## New pathways for allied health

Border Watch, General News, 30/06/2023, Tyler Redway, Page 14

Mount Gambier's Flinders University campus has landed a specialised allied health course which will aim to strengthen the struggling industry. The new education pathway is set to kick off in 2024 and will include three optional areas of allied health; Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology and Physiotherapy.

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## Nomination highlights his medical passion

Border Watch, General News, 30/06/2023, Aidan Curtis, Page 14

A Limestone Coast doctor is feeling grateful after being nominated for a South Australian Community Achievement Award. Harry James Gaffney has been nominated for the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Community Health and Wellbeing Award for his contributions to the medical community in the Limestone Coast Local Health Network.

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## Rural medicine skills day

Border Watch, General News, 30/06/2023, Aidan Curtis, Page 54

Medical students and early-career doctors took a deep dive into rural medicine through a training day focused on rural-related incidents. The Flinders University, Limestone Coast Regional Training Hub (LCRTH) teamed up with Rural Doctors Association of South Australia (RDASA) for Farmageddon, a training event for country clinicians.

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## Emergency call for staff to ease pain

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Duncan Murray, Page 9

New urgent care clinics and virtual consultation services will be rolled out across NSW to help ease pressure on over-crowded emergency departments. A mainstay health union says tackling the issue requires having more qualified boots on the ground. On Thursday the government revealed it either fully or partially supported 10 of 12 recommendations made by a parliamentary inquiry into emergency departments being forced to make patients wait in ambulances - a practice known as ramping.

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

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## Teachers vital to transition

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Stephanie Gardiner, Page 12

Australian coal mining regions need a steady supply of teachers, healthcare workers, volunteers and entrepreneurs to adapt and prosper as the world moves away from fossil fuels. A greater focus on tourism, agriculture and the arts could also lead regional Australia's mining communities through the green energy transition, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Development.

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## Minister 'surprised' by premier revealing resignation

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, John Crouch

Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman denies tensions with her director-general led to his resignation but concedes the premier announcing his exit took her by surprise. Ms Fentiman made the comments about Shaun Drummond quitting as she announced the return of a former Queensland Health boss as his temporary replacement.

[Read More](#)

## **Dr Peter Scott Education and Training Centre officially opened in West Timor**

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Megan Doherty

His name is on the building. And his legacy lives on. The Dr Peter Scott Education and Training Centre has been officially opened at the Muder [Mother] Ignacia Hospital in West Timor. Dr Scott's widow, midwife Ann-Maree Parker, and Canberra obstetrician, Dr David O'Rourke, held hands as they did the honours opening the centre, which became a reality a little over a year since Dr Scott's death.

[Read More](#)

## **WA health workers give scathing survey results in first engagement poll since COVID**

West Australian, Other, 29/06/2023, Caitlyn Rintoul

Scathing survey results by WA health workers have uncovered widespread frustration and concern about the culture and environment across public hospitals and key services. Results of the Your Voice in Health 2023 engagement poll revealed sentiment in the more than 21,000 respondents had shown little improvement from when the department last gauged opinions in 2021.

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## **WA Health survey lays bare frustration over worker shortages, staff burnout and patient delays**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, James Carmody

A government-commissioned survey of WA Health staff has laid bare critically low staffing levels and long patient wait times, which were leading to "burnout" among the state's nurses and doctors. It comes after the health department skipped its 2022 Your Voice in Health poll, in a heavily criticised move that was blamed on the high number of COVID cases in WA at the time.

[Read More](#)

## **Will director-general Shane Drummond's exit from Queensland Health let the light in?**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Janelle Miles

Sunshine is a powerful disinfectant bacteria and mould often grow in the shadows. And so it is with the metaphorical sunlight created by whistleblowers who highlight problems in the Queensland health system.

[Read More](#)

## **Rural, regional workforce insufficient**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2023, Megan Haggan

Funding to improve emergency department access in Queensland has been welcomed, but more has to be done to improve quality use of medicines, pharmacists say This month (June 2023) the Queensland Government announced a \$764m plan to tackle the problem of ambulance ramping, and improve patient access to emergency departments.

[Read More](#)

## **WA healthcare summit announced**

Medical Forum, Other, 29/06/2023

The Cook Government has announced that it will hold a summit in Perth on August 7 to focus future proofing WA's frontline health and mental health workforce. Industry leaders including peak bodies, unions, clinician training colleges and registration bodies will be invited to participate in the summit followed by a series of roundtables focusing in on areas of high need to deliver practical solutions.

[Read More](#)

## **ABC Radio Hobart, 15:00 News, 29/06/2023**

Campbell Town Hospital board chairman David Gatenby says a lack of doctors is having a huge impact on the community. The Campbelltown doctor's surgery closed in January, leaving the town without a

single GP and the 26 bed Campbelltown Hospital without a doctor. The Tasmanian Health Service's attempts to hire a new GP have been unsuccessful, with people required to travel to Longford, Perth or Launceston for an appointment.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Conversation Hour, 29/06/2023, Nic Healey

Interview with Peter Rutherford, CEO, Rural Doctors Association of Australia. Rutherford says there's an imbalance in distribution of medical workforce and GPs in the rural areas. He notes funding models and proper training for nurses are key to address the issue. He adds their pitch to the government over the last 12 months or more has been around getting the funding model right to sustain rural general practise.

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## ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 29/06/2023, Jo Trilling

Interview with Michael Page, State Secretary, WA Australian Medical Association. Compere says results of survey of WA health workers reveals less than half of them felt their employers cared about their health and wellbeing, while more than half said the organisation didn't support their goals. Page says a recent survey of the state's health staff shows they're not being supported by the system. He states there hasn't been a lot of improvement in the last couple of years in the WA hospital system as far as staff are concerned.

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# TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

## Loving Lyndall

West Australian, Today, 30/06/2023, Lauren Higham, Page 1

After a mismatched TV romance, Lyndall Grace is casting her net wider and gender isn't a criterion. [...] When miracle drug Trikafta was made available on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme, it gave Grace a second shot at life.

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

## Fears over 60-day dispensary

Border Watch, General News, 30/06/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 13

A local not-for-profit pharmacy is expecting to lose about \$200,000 per year in profits after the Federal Government announced a 60-day medicine dispensary benefits scheme. The scheme - which is expected to come into effect in September - allows patients to receive two months worth of common pharmaceutical benefits scheme listed medicines for the price of a single prescription rather than the current one month's supply.

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

## Polley talks up 60-day dispensing policy

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/06/2023, Benjamin Seeder, Page 5

Tasmanian Senator Helen Polley has dismissed as "rubbish" reports of an internal Labor split over the federal government's 60-day medications dispensing policy. The government's new rules allowing consumers to take home 60 days' worth of medicine treating certain chronic illnesses will begin to take effect from September.

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

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

## Pharmacists a critical link in healthcare chain, says Walsh

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/06/2023

Leader of the Nationals and Member for Murray Plains Peter Walsh says legislation, the medical

profession and wider community need to recognise pharmacists are "an increasingly critical link in the primary healthcare chain". The Nationals spoke about the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances amendment in Parliament last week, highlighting the importance of clear regulation changes.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Seeking a fair go for the bush

The Australian, General News, 30/06/2023, Paul Garvey, Page 2

Anthony Albanese will use an upcoming national bush summit to argue for a "better deal" for the regions, as The Australian steps up to take the event nationally. [...] "Everything that our government wants to achieve from becoming a renewable energy superpower, to strengthening Medicare is about creating better opportunities for people in the bush," he said.

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

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

### 'Better deal' for regional Aussies

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/06/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 10

Delivering a "better deal" for regional Australia is the only way to improve the nation, Anthony Albanese has warned ahead of a major summit to improve economies and livelihoods in the bush. [...]

"Everything that our government wants to achieve from becoming a renewable energy superpower, to strengthening Medicare is about creating better opportunities for people in the bush," he said.

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

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### 'Lack of care nearly killed me'

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 30/06/2023, Chelsea Heaney and Elizabeth Neil, Page 9

A young mum says she has missed weeks of precious moments with her newborn after spending a horror 34 days in two Sunshine Coast hospitals. Veronica Spittles, 29, suffers from a chronic pain disorder and spent more than 30 days in hospital in the first few months of her baby boy's life. Ms Spittles alleges neglect and medical mistreatment at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) and -Nambour Hospital, with the ordeal starting after a traumatic -labour complication that caused her to haemorrhage three litres of blood.

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### Cause of newborn's death at Queensland hospital referred to state coroner for review

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/06/2023, Taylah Fellows

A clinical review into the treatment of Queensland mother who lost her baby boy during a harrowing 18-hour obstructive labour at a hospital in February has been referred to the coroner. A clinical review into the treatment of Queensland mother Rebecca Spreadborough who lost her baby boy during a harrowing 18-hour obstructive labour at Emerald Hospital in February, is now in the hands of the state Coroner.

[Read More](#)

### Coroner's Court inquest into death of Rozalia Spadafora 'not interested

## in vilifying individual'

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Hannah Neale

An inquest into the death of a child at Canberra Hospital will not be "particularly interested in vilifying an individual", instead focusing on the systems in place, counsel assisting the coroner has said. The ACT Coroner's Court has so far been unable to identify the author of a handwritten sticky note related to the death of Rozalia Spadafora, Michael Fordham SC said during an administrative hearing on Wednesday.

[Read More](#)

## Sydney health district CEO Dr Teresa Anderson under scrutiny: What we know

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, Natalie O'Brien

Teresa Anderson, the chief executive of the Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) who is facing a proposed vote of no confidence tonight is a trained speech pathologist who grew up in country NSW. Dr Anderson has been at the helm of the SLHD since 2011 and she has previously said in interviews she has no plans to go anywhere else. Sydney Local Health District chief executive Dr Teresa Anderson is facing a vote of no confidence.

[Read More](#)

## Victorian public health unit cuts 'unfathomable'

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023

Melbourne Mornings Job cuts at Victorian public health units have been described as "unfathomable" by the Public Health Association of Australia. Association CEO Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin says "the blunt truth is Victoria is still behind the eight ball" after being "caught with its pants down" at the start of the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

## Surviving the butcher of Bega

Mamamia, Other, 29/06/2023

In the later months of 1995, 28-year-old Jane Mansfield found herself in need of an obstetrician. She was pregnant with her first baby and, as most first-time mums do, she put her trust in the medical professional her GP had referred her to - a doctor named Graeme Reeves at The Hills Hospital in Sydney's Baulkham Hills.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## SPORT

### Add ducks to the bill, Dan

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 6

The boss of Victoria's powerful sparkies' union has warned work on Victoria's major infrastructure projects will come to an abrupt halt if the Dan Andrews government bans duck hunting. Electrical Trades Union state secretary Troy Gray fronted a parliamentary committee into the future of native bird shooting on Thursday where he threatened to run a multimillion-dollar campaign, citing his membership's "unprecedented" support for the controversial practice.

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## You can call that a load of rubbish

Courier Mail, General News, 30/06/2023, Stephanie Bennett and Taylah Fellows, Page 6

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has slammed reports the government is in talks to change the name of Brisbane to its Indigenous name Meanjin as "absolute nonsense". Unfounded reports have been swirling that the government has been in talks with First Nations groups to change the name of the River City to its traditional name.

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

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## Cairns leading NRL pack

Cairns Post, General News, 30/06/2023, Catherine Duffy, Page 5

Cairns has put its best foot forward in a bid to be a home base for a potential 18th NRL team. According to Advance Cairns chairman Nick Trompf, the decision to base an NRL team, whether it be a Pacific Islander or Queensland team, in Cairns would be a "shot in the arm" for the economy and the city's national and international profile.

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## All bets are off: time for true reforms

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 63

There is no surer thing than a promotion for gambling appearing in almost any advertising space connected to sport. The alignment between athletics and games of chance has always been there, but it has perhaps never been as egregious as in recent years. It is perhaps unsurprising, then, that a parliamentary inquiry has recommended banning all ads for online gambling in a final report released on Wednesday.

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## Palaszczuk government pondering changing the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games to traditional indigenous name of Meanjin

The Australian, Other, 29/06/2023, Jacquelin Magnay

Eyebrows were raised when Cindy Hook, the chief executive of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, told the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne on Wednesday that people in Queensland and Australia do not know what "the Brisbane brand" is. If the locals are uncertain, what do the big international companies think?

[Read More](#)

## ACT government reveals new Canberra Stadium plan in infrastructure priority list

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Chris Dutton

The ACT government wants to spend more than \$500 million to build a 30,000-seat stadium at Bruce by 2033, committing to another location feasibility study in the hope of ending a 14-year debacle. In a fatal blow to those still clinging to a Civic stadium dream, ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr will announce a new infrastructure plan on Thursday and a vision to reinvigorate the AIS campus

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## ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr reveals reasons for new Bruce stadium

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Chris Dutton

Chief Minister Andrew Barr says stadium ownership looms as a deal-breaker for his Bruce renewal plan, adamant the ACT government must own a new facility and declaring there were too many red-flag problems to justify pursuing Civic as a location option. In an attempt to ease tension between ACT government officials and stadium users, Barr has already reached out to Civic supporters at the NRL, Rugby Australia and the A-Leagues to flag his desire to work together to build a new venue at Bruce before 2033

[Read More](#)

## ACT government wants to build new \$500 million Canberra Stadium by

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Chris Dutton

A new stadium within 10 years ? You beauty! But you might have to forgive me for not doing cartwheels, yet. We've had that timeline before, and a worldwide tour of stadiums over the past 14 years has landed us back in the same place we started: Bruce. Somewhere along the way, ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr sidelined his own pursuit of a stadium in the city, wary of ballooning cost and hidden problem red flags he says kept popping up

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## ACT infrastructure plan: Canberra basketball, netball, soccer to benefit

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Chris Dutton

The ACT government has unveiled a new infrastructure plan for the next decade, giving several Canberra sports the biggest boost in more than 20 years. A new stadium at Bruce is the big-ticket item and is expected to cost more than \$500 million. But the grassroots sporting community is set to benefit as well, with new facilities flagged for basketball, netball, soccer and ice sports. Here's a snapshot of how your sport will benefit from about \$50 million in funding.

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## Loo beauty: Manuka Oval gets 100th birthday present from ACT government

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, David Polkinghorne

Happy 100 th birthday Manuka Oval. This present will hopefully help the picturesque oval avoid the same embarrassing fate as Canberra Stadium. Iconic Australian comedians "Rampaging" Roy Slaven and HG Nelson said Canberra Stadium's toilets were "in crisis" after an NRL executive highlighted the embarrassing state of the facilities to a senate inquiry.

[Read More](#)

## Rebuilt Ballymore back in business as home of Wallaroos

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Murray Wenzel

The beating heart of Queensland rugby union is officially back in business. Ballymore's \$31.5 million rebuild, featuring a new McLean Stand, high performance, administration and corporate facilities was opened on Thursday. It will be the new home of women's rugby as the Wallaroos' training base, while also housing the Queensland Reds' Super Rugby, Super W, Academy and 7s programs.

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

[Read More](#)

## 2032 Olympics organisers look to put Brisbane on map

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Laine Clark

Does Brisbane have an identity problem? Becoming an Olympic host was supposed to put it on the map but a 2032 Games boss concedes the Queensland capital still doesn't stand out in Australia, let alone internationally. "I don't think it'll surprise anyone in Brisbane to know Brisbane is not particularly well known globally," 2032 Olympic CEO Cindy Hook told world media at an on-line briefing from Switzerland.

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

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## Vic duck hunting ban to 'cause infrastructure walk-off'

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, Adrian Black

Any ban on duck hunting in Victoria would trigger a multi-sector walk-off on infrastructure projects across the state, a parliamentary inquiry has been told. Speaking at a hearing into Victoria's native bird hunting arrangements, Electrical Trades Union state secretary Troy Gray said seven unions and member organisations would demonstrate against a ban.

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

[Read More](#)

## **Townsville sporting clubs benefit from \$15m in anti-crime spending by council**

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/06/2023, Leighton Smith

After seeing their field destroyed by hoons nine times in the past year, a Townsville sporting club was delighted by council's plans to help crack down on crime. Here are the details. A sporting club that had its field destroyed by hoons nine times in the past year is one of the next in line to be protected by boulders

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## **With Kerr and her Matildas on home soil, Australia has high expectations for Women's World Cup**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023

Sam Kerr's Matildas will have more than 80,000 fans in the stadium and much of Australia watching when they get their Women's World Cup campaign started against Ireland, making it the hottest sports ticket Down Under at a time usually dominated by men playing rugby league or Aussie rules.

[Read More](#)

## **Brisbane Olympics boss has some big news for fans at the Aussie Games after Paris 2024 slapped a booze ban on everyone except VIPs**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, Dan Cancian

Brisbane has seemingly no intention of following Paris in banning alcohol for spectators attending the Olympic Games. Fans at the 2024 Games in the French capital will have to make do with alcohol-free beer, water and soft drinks as French law bans the sale of alcohol in stadium to the general public. The restriction, however, does not apply to VIP guests in hospitality areas, who can expect the full range of beer, wine, champagne and spirits.

[Read More](#)

## **Plans for a possible 30,000 seat stadium in Bruce**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023

The ACT Government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Sports Commission an important step toward plans for a 30,000 seat stadium. The government has long ruled a stadium in Civic and says it will instead build a music and concert venue to hold at least 7,500 in the city centre.

[Read More](#)

## **International Olympic Committee told 2032 Brisbane Games and Gabba redevelopment plans are 'on track'**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Sally Eeles

The controversial Gabba redevelopment plan appears to have a tentative thumbs up from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which has heard plans for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics are "on track". The IOC held its first coordination commission meeting for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics late yesterday, Queensland time.

[Read More](#)

## **Canberra's city stadium dream over as ACT government backs new Bruce venue, plus large concert and convention centre in Civic**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Markus Mannheim

The ACT government has killed off hopes for a new stadium in the city centre, saying it wants to keep using the sports precinct in Bruce. The ACT's long-term sports and arts plan, released today, includes a schedule to build, replace or improve dozens of venues over the next 15 years.

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## **A video on Brisbane's Games preparations shown to the IOC**

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023

The presentation shown to the IOC on Brisbane 2032 preparations.

## Political survival is the real contest in Solomon Islands as Sogavare prepares for Pacific Games

The Guardian, Other, 29/06/2023, Meg Keen

There's excitement in the air when you ask about the Pacific Games coming to Honiara this November. Everyone loves sport, a party and time with friends and family. Yet, having just returned from Solomon Islands, it seems that the real contest involves the political games occurring in the run up to the next elections, likely early next year. Last year, prime minister Manasseh Sogavare postponed national elections, claiming that the financial drain of an election and the Games in one year was too great. Not all were convinced, but parliament passed the deferral.

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## Duck hunters accused of burning culturally significant trees

The New Daily, Other, 29/06/2023, Adrian Black

Live Duck hunters are camping on Aboriginal cooking mounds and cutting culturally significant trees for firewood, a parliamentary inquiry has been told. Speaking at a hearing into Victoria's native bird hunting, Boort historian and museum owner Paul Haw showed pictures of duck carcasses left to rot around Boort Lake.

[Read More](#)

## 'We'll serve beer because we can': Brisbane Olympics boss pulls rank on trending 'booze bans'

7news.com.au, Other, 29/06/2023

An unwanted trend is threatening to fizzle out fans' excitement for years to come. The Brisbane Olympics organising committee has clarified its stance on alcohol bans' for the 2032 Games.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Study casts doubt over opioids to treat back pain

Age, General News, 30/06/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 15

Slow-release opioids are no more effective at treating acute back and neck pain than a placebo, anew study published in leading journal The Lancet has found. Almost 30 years after Purdue Pharma launched OxyContin, the blockbuster drug that began the opioid crisis, the study raises questions about how effective opioids actually are at killing pain.

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

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### Heart help in vitamin D

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 30/06/2023, Page 12

Taking vitamin D supplements later in life can cut the risk of heart attacks, research suggests. In the largest trial of its kind, 21,315 Australians aged 60 to 84 were either given a monthly tablet containing a high dose of vitamin D or a placebo for five years. This was then compared against the number of deaths or admissions to hospital with heart problems, including heart attacks and strokes.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#). [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#). [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#). [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#). [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#). [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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### Study links HRT with dementia

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 28

Taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to relieve menopause symptoms may increase the risk of

dementia, a study has concluded. Danish scientists held a survey of 61,000 women with an average age of 70, including 5589 who had been diagnosed with dementia.

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## Put a zipper on genes

Herald Sun, General News, 30/06/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 31

Australians want new laws to protect them from life insurance discrimination if they have genetic testing or take part in genetic research. The findings are in a federal government-funded report to be released Friday that is also calling for the laws to be introduced as a matter of urgency. The A-GLIMMER (Australian Genetics and Life Insurance Moratorium: Monitoring the Effectiveness and Response) report found DNA discrimination in life insurance happens in Australia and is stopping many from wanting to have genetic testing or participate in research.

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## Heart-core pill

West Australian, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 20

A major clinical trial has found vitamin D supplements may reduce the risk of heart attacks in people over 60. QIMR Berghofer researchers emphasised the findings are not conclusive, but that they warrant further investigation, particularly for patients who take heart disease medications such as those used to treat high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

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## HRT link to dementia risk

West Australian, Edition Changes, 30/06/2023, Kate Pickles, Page 67

Taking hormone replacement therapy for as little as a year can raise the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's, a study suggests. Those who used HRT were almost a quarter more likely to develop the disease later in life, according to research involving more than 60,000 Danish women.

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## Opioids don't help acute back and neck pain — and could be harmful, Australian research finds

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Olivia Willis

Australian researchers are calling for an end to the use of opioid drugs for the treatment of acute back and neck pain after finding the pain-relieving medicines are no more effective than a placebo but have the potential to cause harm. Key points:

[Read More](#)

## Vitamin D supplements may cut risk of heart attacks, trial suggests

The Guardian, Other, 29/06/2023, Andrew Gregory

Vitamin d supplements may cut the risk of serious cardiovascular events such as heart attacks in older people, according to the largest study of its kind. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is one of the main causes of death globally. The number of cardiovascular events is predicted to surge as populations continue to age and chronic diseases become more common.

[Read More](#)

## Vitamin D could help reduce heart attack risk for people aged over 60, study finds

9News, Other, 29/06/2023, Adam Vidler

A new study has found vitamin D supplements could reduce the likelihood of heart disease for people aged over 60. The QIMR Berghofer D-Health Trial was held from 2014 to 2020 and involved more than 21,000 Australians aged between 60 and 84 who randomly received either vitamin D or a placebo which was taken monthly for up to five years.

[Read More](#)

## Melbourne scientists involved in major MS discovery

Scientists from The Florey in Melbourne are among an international team which has identified a genetic flag for multiple sclerosis (MS). A study of 22,000 people with MS has revealed a genetic marker that's associated with disease severity for the first time.

[Read More](#)

## **Taking vitamin D supplements 'could slash your chance of a heart attack by a fifth'**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, Kate Pickles

Scientists gave 21,315 Australians vitamin D tablets or a placebo for up to 5 years The rate of coronary revascularization was also 11% lower in the vitamin D group Advertisement Advertisement Taking vitamin D in your 60s could reduce the chances of a heart attack by up to a fifth, new research suggests.

[Read More](#)

## **Taking HRT for just a year may raise risk of dementia, warns shock study**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, By Kate Pickles Health Editor For The Daily Mail

Experts stressed the study involving 60k women was merely observational READ MORE: Your ultimate guide to hormone replacement therapy (HRT) Taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for as little as a year can raise the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's , a study suggests.

[Read More](#)

## **Opioids don't relieve acute low back or neck pain – and can result in worse pain, new study finds**

Medicine Today, Other, 29/06/2023

Opioids are the one of the most prescribed pain-relief for people with low back and neck pain. In Australia, around 40% of people with low back and neck pain who present to their GP and 70% of people with low back pain who visit a hospital emergency department are prescribed opioids such as oxycodone. But our new study, published today in the Lancet medical journal, found opioids do not relieve "acute" low back or neck pain (lasting up to 12 weeks) and can result in worse pain.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 29/06/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella**

One of the world's largest studies conducted in Australia has found that vitamin D supplement could prevent heart attacks in over 60s. More than 21,000 Australians aged 60 to 84 were recruited for the QIMR Berghofer D-Health Trial.

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## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 29/06/2023, Peter Overton**

A world first study by Sydney researchers is casting doubt on the effectiveness of some opioid medications, questioning whether they are doing more harm than good.

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## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 29/06/2023, Peter Overton**

Research into vitamin D has found the supplement could reduce the likelihood of heart disease in people over 60. The largest study of its kind, conducted by Queensland researchers involved 21,000 people who took either a vitamin D supplement or a placebo monthly for five years.

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## **ABC Radio Adelaide, 09:00 News, 29/06/2023**

A group of Melbourne scientists have partnered with international researchers to identify the first genetic marker for multiple sclerosis. The study, published in Nature, involved more than 20,000 people

with MS from North America, Europe and Australia. It found a genetic variant associated with the disease, which researchers say could help to prevent long term disability in MS patients. Associate Professor Justin Rubio from the Florey Institute says it's the first real progress in helping to fight the disease.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Five-month-old boy's death in Doomadgee health facility under investigation

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Julia André

Police are investigating the sudden death of a five-month-old boy at a health facility in a remote Indigenous community in Queensland on Wednesday. In a statement to the ABC Queensland Police said the investigation was ongoing after the incident in Doomadgee, in the state's north-west.

[Read More](#)

### Diabetes patients in remote Balgo will soon be able to receive dialysis on country

ABC Online, Other, 29/06/2023, Elsa Silberstein

Eric Moora holds a rifle with his elbow sticking out of the passenger seat window. The traditional owner and former ranger is aiming at the far-off shrubs along a vast escarpment of red land outside the remote Aboriginal community of Balgo in north-east Western Australia.

[Read More](#)

### Update from inaugural ATSI ageing forum

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/06/2023, Ellen Finlay

Respectful collaboration between Elders, service providers and specialists enables better aged and end-of-life care, write Ellen Finlay and Dr Meg Polacsek. Across the country, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations are ageing at a faster rate than the rest of Australia's population.

[Read More](#)

### NITV, NITV News, 29/06/2023, Matty Mills

There are calls today for a national screening programme to be established to enable early detection of diabetes related kidney disease. Authorities have labelled the situation a crisis and say rates will continue to spiral unless proactive measures are taken. Indigenous Australians are three times more likely to have diabetes than non-Indigenous Australians and five times more likely to be living with kidney failure.

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### NITV, NITV News, 29/06/2023, Matty Mills

Torres Strait leaders are calling for an independent review into health services in Queensland's far north amid weekly deaths which they say are avoidable. In a letter to Queensland's Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, leaders raised concerns about the region's declining health and the withdrawal of culturally safe frontline services.

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### ABC Radio Brisbane, 15:00 News, 29/06/2023

Dual investigations are ongoing into the sudden death of a baby at the Doomadgee Hospital yesterday in the Gulf Country. Both Queensland Police and Queensland Health are looking into the incident. Traditional owners in the community are calling for calm as the five-month-old boy's family grieves.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Vaccinating babies: landmark study on preventing infant flu death

6PR, Other, 29/06/2023

Parents are being urged to take part in a landmark study on vaccinating babies in an effort to keep their children safe from influenza and other serious infections. Vaccination Director at the Telethon Kids Institute Professor Chris Blyth told Jo McManus on 6PR Afternoons the study was attempting to plug a gap that lead to many tragic infant deaths every year.

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### Mum's urgent warning after six-week-old boy with runny nose is rushed to intensive care unit: 'I thought he was going to die'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, Antoinette Milienos

A mum whose six-week-old baby was rushed to hospital with a very common virus has issued an urgent warning for parents. Queensland woman Montana Shortland feared her son Griffith would not be coming home when he was airlifted to specialist intensive care after she took him to hospital with what she believed to be a common cold in May.

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### 6PR, Afternoons, 29/06/2023, Julie-anne Sprague

Interview with Professor Chris Blythe, Director, Telethon Kids Institute Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases about a landmark study looking at vaccinating babies below six-months old. Blythe states their study is looking at giving children a influenza vaccine with their first lot of vaccines at 6 to 8 weeks. She states they also recommend vaccinating pregnant women for influenza.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Would you pay \$30,000 to treat your depression?

Australian Financial Review, Other, 30/06/2023, Lucy Dean

Authorised psychiatrists will be able to prescribe psychedelics to eligible patients as of July 1, but the path ahead is far from straightforward. For thirty years, cognitive neuropsychologist Susan Rossell has worked with patients with treatment-resista...

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### TGA provides update on popular diabetes medication shortage

The Australian, Other, 29/06/2023, Anthony Anderson

A popular brand of the type 2 diabetes drug semaglutide will remain in short supply is set to continue until the end of the year. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on Wednesday provided an update on the shortages, saying they'll continue asking medical professionals to limit their Ozempic prescriptions. Ozempic has been hard to get since April 2022, after doctors started prescribing the weekly injection for its off-label use managing other conditions like obesity.

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### Opioids 'no benefit' for back pain, could cause harm

Canberra Times, Other, 29/06/2023, joanna guelas

Taking opioids for back or neck pain could cause more harm than good. A world-first trial led by the University of Sydney has found opioid pain-relieving medicines are no more effective than a placebo in

relieving pain. [...] But nearly 150 hospitalisations and 14 emergency department admissions involve issues relating to opioid use every day in Australia, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

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## Jaden reveals he's more 'empathetic' after mum introduced him to psychedelics

The Courier Mail, Other, 29/06/2023, Laura Aubusson

"Siblings can argue so much and fight so much But the level of love and empathy that I can feel for them inside of the (psychedelic) experiences and outside... has been something that's profound and beautiful." [...] Most psychoactive substances are illegal in Australia however, in February 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced from July, approved psychiatrists would be able to prescribe MDMA (ecstasy) for post-traumatic stress disorder and psilocybin (found in magic mushrooms) for treatment-resistant depression.

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## Ozempic, popular diabetes drug popularised for weight loss treatment, to remain in shortage until 2024

9News, Other, 29/06/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

Ozempic , a brand of the popular type 2 diabetes drug semaglutide that has gained popularity online for its use as a weight loss treatment, will remain in shortage in Australia until the end of the year. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said while stockpiles of the

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## Semaglutide supply will remain unstable until end of 2023, warns TGA

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/06/2023, Rachel Carter

Risk of further supply disruptions makes it difficult to start new patients on the drug just yet, says Dr Gary Deed. Semaglutide could remain in short supply until the end of the year despite increased stock, the TGA has warned, amid concerns a rise in off-label prescribing for weight loss could spark another shortage.

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## Ozempic shortage pain to continue until year's end

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2023, David Rowley

There will be continued "limited availability" of diabetes drug Ozempic until 31 December 2023 due to "unexpected increase in consumer demand" the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced on its website.

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## Ordine to be discontinued

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/06/2023, Megan Haggan

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has provided advice regarding the discontinuation of all Ordine oral liquid medicines in Australia Mundipharma has advised that it will discontinue all four strengths of its Ordine (morphine) oral liquid. This includes: ORDINE morphine hydrochloride trihydrate 1mg/

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## Modern Etiquette: The 12 things your pharmacist really wishes you'd stop doing.

Mamamia, Other, 29/06/2023, Erin Docherty

In 2023, there's one thing that's become alarmingly apparent: No one knows how to behave anymore. And it's not our fault. [...] "Generic medicines go through extensive assessment by the TGA to ensure they meet the same standards of quality, safety, and effectiveness as the original brand."

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## Psychedelic medicine is on its way. But it's not 'doing shrooms with your shrink'. Here's what you need to know

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 29/06/2023

Many people in Australia, including psychiatrists, were surprised when earlier this year the medicines regulator down-scheduled MDMA, known colloquially as ecstasy, and psilocybin, from magic mushrooms. [...] Beware the hype The Therapeutic Goods Administration decision has left a lot of questions unanswered about how the new scheme will be implemented and operated, both effectively and safely.

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### ABC Radio Melbourne, Drive, 29/06/2023, Rafael Epstein

Interview with Bronwyn Sacks, Paediatric Palliative Care Specialist, The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital. Epstein says the Therapeutic Goods Administration put out a statement today saying the discontinuation of production of liquid morphine Ordine is a problem. Sacks states they frequently use the drug in their work and to look after a very vulnerable group of babies and children from birth through to adolescence.

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### ABC Radio Perth, Drive, 29/06/2023, Jo Trilling

Interview with Professor Susan Rossell, cognitive neuropsychologist, Swinburne's Centre for Mental Health about some patients getting access to treatment for PTSD and treatment resistant depression using a psychedelic drug and psychotherapy by 1 July. Rossell says there seem to be enormous pressure from lobbyists hence TGA approved it.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Decriminalising drug use will save lives, experts tell inquiry

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 67

The federal government is facing calls to decriminalise drug possession as experts warn hospitalisations and deaths are on the rise. Representatives from research centres fronted a parliamentary inquiry into law enforcement dealing with illicit drug use on Thursday. The experts said prohibition was not working and the Commonwealth should explore other ways to tackle the problem of illicit drug use.

*Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).*

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### NSW Crimes Commissioner warns Australians there is no way to take illicit drugs ethically

The Australian, Other, 29/06/2023, Catie Mcleod

Australians have been warned there is no way to take illicit drugs ethically and even people in well-heeled suburbs who do so recreationally are participating in a toxic supply chain rife with exploitation. NSW Crime Commissioner Michael Barnes on Thursday said there was no such thing as "free trade cocaine" as he called for improved public messaging around the realities of how drugs were made and shipped to Australia.

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

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## The average medicinal cannabis user is a woman over 50

The push to legalise cannabis in Australia The regulation of marijuana could put a dent in profits by organised crime gangs that have reached \$8 billion a year and spare innocent Aussies a criminal record, advocates say. This comes as the Legalise Cannabis Party introduced a bill into Victoria, NSW and Western Australian parliaments that would facilitate the legal regulation of cannabis and allow sharing between adults.

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## Legalising drugs 'needs the right health and education'

Shepparton News Online, Other, 29/06/2023

Police say legalising marijuana could work as a policy if the right health and education services are in place, as experts urge federal leaders to decriminalise drug possession. Representatives from research centres and policing bodies on Thursday fronted a parliamentary inquiry into law enforcement on illicit drug use.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### WHO to label sweetener possible cancer risk: sources

Adelaide Now, Other, 30/06/2023

One of the world's most common artificial sweeteners is set to be declared a possible carcinogen next month by a leading global health body, according to two sources with knowledge of the process, pitting it against the food industry and regulators.

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### Aspartame sweetener to be declared possible cancer risk by WHO, say reports

The Guardian, Other, 30/06/2023, Andrew Gregory

A popular artificial sweetener used in thousands of products worldwide including Diet Coke, ice-cream and chewing gum is to be declared a possible cancer risk to humans, according to reports. The World Health Organization's cancer research arm, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), has conducted a safety review of aspartame and will publish a report next month.

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### Type of mushroom recalled in Victoria amid listeria risk

9News, Other, 29/06/2023, Sarah Swain

Packages of a type of mushroom are being recalled over concerns of a disease-causing bacteria. Food Standards Australia issued a recall of Enoki Mushrooms packaged by Concordia Traders (Aust) Pty Ltd which have an incorrect use by date, which means there's an increased risk of a bacteria that causes listeria forming. The impacted packets, which originate from China, were sold at Asian grocery stores in Victoria and have a use by date of 20/07/2023.

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### Consumers, food-makers face choice as WHO cancer agency set to warn on aspartame sweeteners

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/06/2023

Consumers, food companies, retailers and restaurants need to decide whether to fight back or find alternatives to one of the world's most common artificial sweeteners, as a leading global health body prepares to declare it a possible carcinogen.

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### Will Diet Coke now carry a cancer warning? How much aspartame is

## safe to consume? And what products is the sweetener found in? Everything you need to know after bombshell WHO ruling

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/06/2023, John Ely

Artificial sweetener aspartame could be declared cariogenic by WHO experts READ MORE:  
Sweetener in Diet Coke to be declared 'possibly carcinogenic' Aspartame will be declared a potential cancer risk to humans, a bombshell report claimed today. The artificial sweetener, used in a multitude of soft drinks including Diet Coke and Dr Pepper, will be listed as 'possibly carcinogenic to humans' in a World Health Organization reclassification within the next few weeks, insiders said.

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## AICIS

### Proposed Forest Hill payout 'poor compensation': resident

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/06/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 9

PFAS compensation for Forest Hill residents whose properties have been contaminated by firefighting foam used on the city's air force bases is not good enough according to Wagga businessman Greg Semple. About 1000 Forest Hill landowners from 2016 onwards are eligible for a payout of about \$12,000 each, but Mr Semple said the compensation no where near amounts to the damages caused. [...] The ADF completed a detailed site investigation at the Forest Hill RAAF Base in November 2018 with the results detecting PFAS in surface water, groundwater and sediment off base.

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### The scars of Wreck Bay

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 30/06/2023, Grace Crivellaro, Page 1

The calm, turquoise waters of Wreck Bay once breathed life into the quiet Aboriginal village. Its creeks, lagoons and beaches have been intricately woven into the community's identity and culture for millennia. [...] PFAS was a key ingredient in the legacy firefighting foams used by naval recruits on the nearby HMAS Creswell and Jervis Bay Range Facility bases from the 1970s.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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### Sometimes words are just not enough

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 30/06/2023, Page 63

The story of the Wreck Bay community has been told by various media outlets over the last few weeks and months. A community exposed to PFAS which has leached its way through the land and water.

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