



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 2nd July 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
| [Coronavirus](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |
[First Nations Health](#) | [Office of Health Protection and Emergency Management](#)
| [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) | [Office for Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#)
| [AICIS](#)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Sunday Age](#)** (page 1) reports medical professionals have criticized changes to the Opioid Dependence Treatment Program, in effect from yesterday, that make opioid dependence medicines available under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Addiction specialists and pharmacists have said the changes make will dispensing the drugs financially unviable, and the rushed shift to 28-day dispensing could leave patients without prescriptions and vendors short on supply. Minister for Health Mark Butler stressed transition arrangements will be in place until November 30 to ensure patients continue to receive care. *Also reported by: [Sun Herald \(Sydney\)](#).*
- The **[Sunday Times](#)** (page 1) reports child vaccination rates in Western Australia have fallen by 60%, an estimated 50,000 children, contributing to a 458% increase in hospitalisations of children under 9 with influenza. "We know children are at higher risk of serious complications from the flu, which is why doctors recommend vaccinations from six months of age," said WA Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson. *Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).*
- The **[Sunday Age](#)** (page 8) reports the Victorian Department of Health will no longer count self-reported positive COVID-19 test results, saying the rate of self-reporting is too low to be meaningful. PCR tests performed by doctors or pathology providers will still be accepted. "The

department continues to monitor trends through a comprehensive surveillance system, which includes analysis of hospitalised COVID-19 cases, mortality, wastewater surveillance, PCR results and a range of other state and national surveillance systems," a Department of Health spokesperson said. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).*

- The [Sunday Telegraph](#) (page 13) reports Concord Hospital has a backlog of over 25,000 radiological scans which experts estimate will take a total of 4,000 hours to examine, potentially blowing out the wait time for cancer diagnoses. "The hospital has been actively pursuing other means to report these scans, such as outsourcing the scans to private radiology companies and establishing a district-wide medical image reporting service to clear the backlog," a spokesperson for Dr Teresa Anderson, chief executive of the Sydney Local Health District, said. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).*
- The [Sun Herald](#) (page 14) reports experts including Australian Skin Cancer Foundation founder Jay Allen and Melanoma Institute Australia chief executive Matthew Brown are calling for tanning beds to be banned in private settings after reports of home solariums being advertised for commercial use on social media sites. Commercial solariums have been illegal in Australia for eight years, authorities in Victoria recently seizing five illegal tanning beds and charging the alleged operators in a major crackdown. *Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).*
- The [Sunday Herald Sun](#) (page 23) reports an investigation of food provided at childcare centres has found children could be receiving an extra 8.55kg of added sugar a year. Nutritionist for preschool operator MindChamps, Mandy Sacher sampled menus from five locations "from different states and demographics represent[ing] the majority of childcare centres". *Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).*
- The [Sunday Mail Brisbane](#) (page 23) reports Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has signed off on an additional \$3.67 million in funding for the Wandi Nerida facility, Australia's only residential treatment centre for eating disorders, located on the Sunshine Coast. The centre is operated and part-funded by national eating disorder charity Butterfly and has received \$8.5 million from the federal government in construction and running costs and input from the NSW government to admit patients from that state.
- [OUTinPerth](#) (online) reports Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler chaired a meeting of Australia's HIV Taskforce in Melbourne on Friday to discuss approaches to reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and raising awareness and testing in key cohorts. The meeting was co-chaired by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney.

MINISTER BUTLER

Anger over opioid reforms

Sunday Age, General News, 02/07/2023, Melissa Cunningham and Lachlan Abbott, Page 1

Some doctors and pharmacists say they may no longer prescribe and dispense medicines for opioid addiction due to a chaotic and rushed federal government rollout of reforms aimed at making the drugs cheaper. The federal government has introduced changes which came into effect yesterday to the Opioid Dependence Treatment Program, making the medicines available for the first time under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stressed transition arrangements would remain in place until the end of November.

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

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Pharmacies to receive \$377m sweetener

Sunday Examiner, General News, 02/07/2023, Mibenge Nsenduluka, Page 10

Pharmacies across the country will be paid tens of thousands of dollars more to dispense medicines as part of a \$377 million government funding boost to cut the cost of prescribed drugs for patients. From July 1, payments to community pharmacies increase by about 7 per cent, meaning those in

metropolitan areas will get an average of more than \$41,000 extra a year. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Saturday said the changes would cut costs for millions of Australians.

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

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'Life-changing': Kidney disease drug added to PBS

9News, Other, 01/07/2023, Nick Pearson

A \$1000-per-year drug for kidney disease will now cost just \$30 per script after being added to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS). Kerendia slows the progressive decline of kidney function for people living with chronic kidney disease and type two diabetes. Health Minister Mark Butler described the addition of Kerendia to the PBS as "life-changing".

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Major \$3 million grant secured for Indigenous health research

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/07/2023, Joseph Guenzler

The University of Newcastle, in collaboration with the Lowitja Institute, has secured nearly three million in federal funding to establish a fresh committee aimed to enhance the health outcomes of First Nations people. This funding comes from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant, which is a component of the National Critical Research Infrastructure initiative initiated by the Federal Government. [...] Federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler, said the work being done by the University of Newcastle is a step in the right direction.

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HIV Taskforce hears about the effects of stigma and discrimination

OUTinPerth, Other, 01/07/2023

Australia's HIV taskforce met in Melbourne on Friday and heard about how stigma and discrimination still have a huge effect on the lives of people living with HIV. The meeting was Chaired by Mark Butler, the Minister for Health and Aged Care and supported by the Deputy Chair, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Centenarian club grows, Mark Yates says more help needed

Ballarat Courier, Other, 01/07/2023, Nieve Walton

A Ballarat aged care resident is about to make it to an important milestone next week. Dorothy Rice will be turning 100. [...] The federal government has said it would "build on" commission recommendations via the new taskforce chaired by aged care minister Anika Wells.

Also reported by: [The Hepburn Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Stawell Times-News \(Online\)](#), [The Ararat Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

The Age photos of the week, June 30, 2023

The Age, Other, 01/07/2023, Danie Sprague

[caption] Labor MP Ged Kearney and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Merri Community Child Care and Kindergarten in Thornbury to speak about changes to the childcare subsidy.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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HIV Taskforce hears about the effects of stigma and discrimination

OUTinPerth, Other, 01/07/2023

Australia's HIV taskforce met in Melbourne on Friday and heard about how stigma and discrimination still have a huge effect on the lives of people living with HIV. The meeting was Chaired by Mark Butler, the Minister for Health and Aged Care and supported by the Deputy Chair, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

COVID self-tests no longer counted

Sunday Age, General News, 02/07/2023, Bianca Hall, Page 8

Victoria will no longer count self-reported COVID-19 case numbers, in a major departure from the pandemic response of the past four years. Acknowledging most people have simply stopped reporting their positive test results, the Department of Health will no longer accept positive test results reported online or through the coronavirus hotline.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Hung out to dry

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 01/07/2023, Madeleine McNeil, Page 1

Adam Hill is one of several Terang business owners counting the cost of the May Noonan Aged Care Centre's sudden closure. Operators Lyndoch Living yesterday confirmed July 12 would be the facility's last day despite passing its most recent quality assurance audit.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

May as well be eating lollies at day care

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2023, Julie Cross, Page 23

Children in day care are being fed the equivalent of 1554 Snakes lollies a year, a damning insight into their nutrition has found. An investigation looking at sample menus from a number of childcare centres found kids in full-time daycare are being fed on average a shocking 8.55kg of added sugar a year.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Act now on the dicky ticker

Sunday Times, General News, 02/07/2023, Ben Harvey, Page 22

A few weeks ago I had to change my default text on Microsoft Word from Arial 11 to Times New Roman 14. It was the first sign that my eyesight is going. I'm 47 so it's hardly surprising but I am quietly gutted – not because I have a problem with wearing glasses, though.

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Annastacia Palaszczuk opens up on personal health battle after revealing she had a miscarriage

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/07/2023, Jade Hobman

Annastacia Palaszczuk has opened up about a personal health battle impacting millions of women and how it can make it difficult to conceive a child - after revealing she had a miscarriage. The Queensland Premier took to the airwaves on Saturday revealing she wished she had known about the help she could have gotten during her painful health battles with endometriosis.

[Read More](#)

5 benefits to taking a break from alcohol for Dry July

Prevention, Other, 01/07/2023, Penny Carroll and Andrea Duvall

Are you thinking about cutting back on alcohol? Dry July is a great opportunity to reset your habits and at the same time feel you're working towards a simple, achievable goal. Just give up alcohol for 31 days and see what happens.

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Illegal solariums fuel calls for a crackdown on black market

Sun Herald, General News, 02/07/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 14

Dozens of illegal solariums are being advertised on social media, leading to calls for the tanning machines to be banned in private settings. [...] Emma Glassenbury, head of SunSmart at Cancer Council Victoria, said home solariums exposed people to high levels of ultraviolet radiation, significantly increasing their risk of skin cancer.

Also reported by: [Sunday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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Tragedy of small bump on mum's hand

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/07/2023, Chloe Whelan

An Aussie mum has recounted her shock after a tiny lump on her hand turned out to be a terrifying illness requiring amputation. A Gold Coast mum has spoken out after a tiny lump on her hand turned out to be a terrifying illness requiring amputation.

[Read More](#)

The two 'vague' symptoms a fit and healthy uni student ignored before she received a brutal cancer diagnosis at just 19 - and the incredible stroke of good luck that made her get tested

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/07/2023, Carina Stathis

Marnie Wills was two months into her dream nursing degree before her world was turned upside down. The 'fit and healthy' student, from Melbourne, was just 19 when she was diagnosed with stage-three cancer in April 2020.

[Read More](#)

Rob's bid to make a sarcoma diagnosis easier on others by sharing his story

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 01/07/2023, Kate McIlwain

A year ago, Robin Hatfield found out he had angiosarcoma - a cancer that forms in the lining of blood vessels and which has no cure. "It's very rare and it's terminal," the Tarrawanna great-grandfather said of his cancer diagnosis.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Backlog crisis at leading hospital

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 02/07/2023, Natalie O'Brien, Page 13

Patients are at serious risk as Concord Hospital struggles with a massive backlog of more than 25,000 radiology scans. The fear is cancers will spread while patients wait for a proper diagnosis. The revelations about the backlog come as experts warn it will take more than 4000 hours to clear the scans and that doesn't take into account the new scans being done every day.

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

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Staff in revolt as 'thousands of scans' go unchecked at Sydney hospital

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/07/2023, Angus Thomson and Carrie Fellner

The head of five inner-Sydney hospitals has stared down calls to resign after staff at one claimed they had suffered a "death from a thousand cuts", leading to a massive backlog of unreported scans. The Sydney Local Health District, a state government agency, defended chief executive Teresa Anderson on Friday, after a vote of no confidence in her leadership was carried at a meeting of the medical staff council at Concord Hospital.

[Read More](#)

Ambo cuts 'price to pay'

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 02/07/2023, Shannon Deery, Page 5

Victoria's embattled health system will be put under further stress after the Andrews government cut funding to two programs designed to reduce strain on ambulance crews and emergency departments. Health insiders warn ambulance response times will blow out and waits at emergency departments will increase to record levels following the controversial move.

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Pharmacies get \$377m medication sweetener

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2023, Mibenge Nsenduluka, Page 6

Pharmacies across the country will be paid tens of thousands more to dispense medicines as part of a \$377 million government funding boost to cut the cost of prescribed drugs for patients. From yesterday,

payments to community pharmacies will increase by about 7 per cent, meaning those in metropolitan areas will get an average of more than \$41,000 extra per year.

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Lyons MP rejects pharmacists' tactics on script changes

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 02/07/2023, David Killick, Page 13

Labor federal MP Brian Mitchell says he won't be intimidated by a campaign by the pharmacy lobby to tip him out at the next election. The Pharmacy Guild is angry at federal government plans to double the length of prescription renewals from 30 to 60 days.

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Boost for women's health

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 02/07/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 15

A groundbreaking project to improve the pelvic health of Tasmanian women, regardless of their financial circumstances, will be up and running by the end of the year. Family Planning Tasmania CEO Lalla Mackenzie said a \$50,000 grant would enable FPT to join forces with pelvic physiotherapists across the state to provide vital education, exercise sessions and digital resources.

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Top SA Health bureaucrat Lesley Dwyer to leave in November after board decision

The Mercury, Other, 01/07/2023, Brad Crouch

Top SA Health bureaucrat Lesley Dwyer will leave the job later this year after five years as chief executive of the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN). CALHN board chair Raymond Spencer says the board and Prof Dwyer came to a decision "that Lesley will not continue in the role after the end of her contract in November."

[Read More](#)

Western NSW Local Health District's Mark Spittal praises speed of accreditation reinstatement

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 01/07/2023, Jacinta Carroll

The health district's boss has described the rapid reinstatement of crucial accreditation at Bathurst Hospital as "probably a record for NSW". Western NSW Local Health District announced on Friday afternoon that Bathurst Base Hospital had been re-accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), allowing it to once again train medical registrars.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, 07:00 News (Weekend), 01/07/2023

Tasmania's elective surgery wait list has continued to shrink, according to the latest health dashboard figures. Laura Beavis reports.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Eating disorder funding boost

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 02/07/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 23

More Queenslanders suffering eating disorders will find a place at the country's only residential treatment facility for the life-threatening conditions, with the state government paying for five extra beds. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman visited the Sunshine Coast facility Wandi Nerida this week to sign off on the \$3.67m funding boost.

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Cairns Hospital's new mental health unit to have a sensory modulation room

Cairns Post, Other, 01/07/2023, Sandhya Ram

A Queensland-first multi-sensory experience is being developed as part of the \$70m mental health facility at Cairns Hospital and is expected to open in the coming months. Mental Health clinical director Mike Tervit said Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service had been developing a sensory modulation room for patients as a potential wellness tool.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Tax cut bid for health workers

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 01/07/2023, Bernard Humphreys

Health workers who moved to the regions would pay much less tax than their city counterparts under a plan being partly formulated by Mallee MP Anne Webster, who wants to take it to the next election as Coalition policy. The plan is designed to create incentives for health professionals to move to regional areas and fill the chronic gaps in service provision experienced across the sector outside capital cities.

[Read More](#)

Burnout in medicine

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/07/2023, Dr Amy Imms

Burnout has increasingly appeared in the literature and media over the last five years, and particularly since the pandemic. More workplaces are recognising the impact of burnout, and are interested in staff wellbeing, although this commitment may now be declining.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Boost for type 2 diabetics

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2023, Rachael Ward, Page 8

Thousands of patients with type 2 diabetes and kidney disease will be able to access vital medication through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The drug, Kerendia, slows kidney function decline in adults and it's expected about 26,000 Australians will be eligible to take it.

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

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 01/07/2023, Chris Bath

Thousands of Australians with type two diabetes who face the prospect of kidney failure will now be able to access a first of its kind medicine. People with diabetes and kidney disease have new hope with the life-changing medicine Kerendia being made available on the PBS today.

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doctor takes hit over his relationship with patient

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 02/07/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 11

The man who once worked as Tasmania's chief psychiatrist will not be permitted to do so again, after hefty restrictions were slapped on his registration following revelations of a sexual relationship with a patient. Aaron Groves was temporarily suspended from practice by the Medical Board of Australia in October last year and was subsequently temporarily stood down but now his ultimate fate has been sealed. [...] In addition, in June last year, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) received a notification from a pharmacist that Dr Groves had prescribed two scripts to the woman, with her address listed as his residential address.

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

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Dr Graeme Reeves was a respected doctor. Behind closed doors, he was 'butchering' his female patients.

Mamamia, Other, 01/07/2023, Nikita Lee Fletcher

Mother-of-two Margaret Russell had always dreamt of having a big family, and was over the moon to be expecting a third son a baby boy she'd already named Langdon Frances. Throughout the pregnancy, her obstetrician, Dr Graeme Reeves, assured her that all was well, and Langdon would be born at the average 8 or 9lb.

[Read More](#)

Group home nurse Lisa Robson's registration cancelled for two years over assault

Newcastle Herald, Other, 01/07/2023, Gabriel Fowler

A disability support worker who was convicted of two counts of assault over her treatment of a patient but failed to report her crimes to health authorities, has been cancelled for two years. Lisa Margaret Robson was working for Life Without Barriers at an NDIS-funded group home in Green Point on the Central Coast as a registered nurse, looking after a woman with profound vulnerabilities. [...] However, she failed to advise the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency of those convictions as required by law.

[Read More](#)[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Dirty tactics used by drug cheats

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 02/07/2023, Jamie Pandaram, Page 77

A black market dealer who helps cheating athletes beat drug testers has revealed that peptides have surpassed steroids as the most sought after performance-enhancer. The underworld figure, who says he clears \$200,000 a year selling a range of illegal and prescription drugs, is supplying television personalities, budding sports stars and everyday mums and dads who want to look younger.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Evidence grows that vitamin D aids seniors' cardiac health

The New Daily, Other, 01/07/2023, John Elder

Two new studies suggest that vitamin D supplements are protective against heart conditions in older people. An Australian study found that long term use of vitamin D is associated with a small reduction in the risk of major cardiovascular events such as heart attacks among people aged over 60.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Saturday Edition, 01/07/2023, Tim Gilbert and Jaynie Seal

Interview with QIMR Berghofer group leader Professor Sudha Rao. Qld scientists are developing an oral drug that will not only treat long COVID but has the potential to stop reinfections of the virus even if new variants emerge. The breakthrough by researchers at QIMR Berghofer is the biggest discovery in the fight against Covid since 2020. Rao explains how the drug works, explaining the drug stops the virus from entering since it puts a lock on the surface where the virus normally enters.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Alec Doomadgee says inquest into deaths of Doomadgee women Betty, 18, Ms Sandy, 37, and Kaya, 17, vindicates community concern

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 01/07/2023, Bronwyn Farr

The brother and uncle of two of three women whose deaths were subject to a coronial inquest said the community felt vindicated by Northern Coroner Nerida Wilson's findings handed down in Cairns on Friday. Northern Coroner Nerida Wilson made 19 recommendations in her report into the deaths of Doomadgee women Betty, 18, Ms Sandy, 37, and Kaya, 17, who all died as a consequence of rheumatic heart disease (RHD).

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, 10:00 News (Weekend), 01/07/2023

Researchers from Melbourne's La Trobe University say pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are more likely to achieve significantly greater health outcomes with culturally modified midwife care. The study involved 213 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women at three maternity facilities in Melbourne.

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[Back to Top](#)

Kids' flu vax crisis

Sunday Times, General News, 02/07/2023, John Flint and Joe Spagnolo, Page 1

Abysmal child vaccination rates are driving one of WA's worst flu seasons, with jab rates for children under five down a massive 60 per cent since 2020. So far this year 445 kids aged under nine have been hospitalised with the flu, up from 97 in the same period last year - a staggering 458 per cent increase.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

We're all sick of over-regulation

Sun Herald, General News, 02/07/2023, Parnell Palme McGuinness, Page 29

It's flu season and there's at least one nasty virus going around. If the over regulation bug hasn't bowled you over yet, it will as soon as you get sick. In my lifetime, the incredible advances of Western medicine have delivered the perfect preparation to ameliorate the worst symptoms of a cold or flu: a combination of paracetamol, which reduces fever, pseudoephedrine, which clears stuffy noses, and codeine, which treats the aches and can help suppress the body-racking dry cough that makes it hard to rest and recover.

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Are psychedelics the new frontier of women's health?

Sunday Telegraph, Body and Soul, 02/07/2023, Ruby Feenley, Page 4

If you've been prescribed the pill to manage cramps or meds for PMS, you'll know treatment options for women are frustratingly limited. Now, promising research is indicating brand-new horizons.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Discrimination stemming supply

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2023, Rodney Croome, Page 11

The lifting of restrictions on people with tattoos giving blood has again raised the question, should gay men be allowed to donate. From this week, people with new tattoos can donate a week after being inked, not four months as was the case. But gay men, and bisexual men and transgender women who have sex with men, must still be sexually abstinent for three months before we can donate. [...] In Australia, the plasma-only option has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and now goes to the nation's health ministers and the private, blood product business, CSL, for approval.

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Heavy-duty feeding frenzy

Sunday Times, General News, 02/07/2023, Kate Emery, Page 29

A triptych of recent news stories you may have missed if you weren't paying attention or simply if you have a fulfilling life that doesn't involve a crippling media addiction and an obsession with the rise of semaglutide weight-loss drugs.

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Psychedelics to help treat mental illness

Sunday Examiner, General News, 02/07/2023, Katelyn Catanzariti, Page 10

As a tablet, it's ecstasy. In crystal form, it's molly. But for some Australians, MDMA is now simply

medicine. As of Saturday, authorised psychiatrists in Australia will become the first in the world able to prescribe doses of MDMA to treat post traumatic stress disorder and psilocybin, or magic mushrooms, for treatment-resistant depression. The Therapeutic Goods Administration flagged the inclusion of the psychedelics on its list of approved medicines from July back in February.

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

In a world first, MDMA and psilocybin have been reclassified as medicine in Australia

SBS, Other, 01/07/2023

Australia has become the first country in the world to recognise two different psychedelic substances as medication. From today, 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine - better known as MDMA - and psilocybin - the active ingredient in 'magic mushrooms' - can legally be used for specific mental health conditions. [...] As of 1 July, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has moved MDMA and psilocybin from Schedule 9 (prohibited substances) to Schedule 8 (controlled substances) in limited circumstances for medical use.

[Read More](#)

SBS, World News Australia (Saturday), 01/07/2023, Anton Enus

Australia has become the first country to legalise the use of psychedelics to treat mental health conditions. Approved psychiatrists can prescribe MDMA to people with post-traumatic stress disorder and psilocybin for some types of depression.

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Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 01/07/2023, Mark Ferguson

Australia has become the first country to classify psychedelics as medicine, with a series of changes coming into effect today. A chemical found in magic mushrooms can now be used to treat medication resistant depression. Ecstasy can be used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. Access to the drugs will be limited and expensive.

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Sky News Live, Saturday Edition, 01/07/2023, Tim Gilbert and Jaynie Seal

Interview with Professor Richard Harvey, chair of the Psychedelic Assisted Therapy Steering Group. From today, authorised psychiatrists are allowed to prescribe medicines containing the psychedelic substances, psilocybin and MDMA for the treatment of certain medical health conditions. Harvey says what's been scheduled by the TGA is the use of MDMA for PTSD and psilocybin for the treatment of treatment resistant depression.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 07:00 News (Weekend), 01/07/2023

Australian psychiatrists are now able to apply to become registered to provide clinical treatment using psychedelic drugs. Those offering treatments using MDMA and psilocybin will need to submit a clinical protocol to an ethics committee and follow strict laws for obtaining and storing the drugs.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Customers warned after recalled poppy seeds end up on supermarket shelves

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 01/07/2023, Angus Thomson

Australians are being asked to check their pantries for potentially poisonous poppy seeds after a batch made its way to supermarket shelves despite at least 32 people previously becoming ill from the product. Several poppy seed products were recalled in November, but Coles has since identified it had continued to sell affected products packaged by the company Basfoods after the recall date, prompting NSW and Victorian health authorities to issue urgent public health alerts on Friday night. [...] State authorities are working with Food Standards Australia and New Zealand to determine whether the poppy seeds have been sold elsewhere.

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Poppy seeds alert by Coles after customer falls ill

Canberra Times, Other, 01/07/2023

Australians have been put on alert over potentially poisonous poppy seeds after a supermarket customer fell ill after consuming them. The Coles supermarket chain said it had recalled Royal Fields poppy seeds from its stores and warehouses in November.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 7, Weekend Sunrise, 01/07/2023, Matt Doran and Edwina Bartholomew

Interview with Dr Ginni Mansberg. The World Health organisation is poised to label the artificial sweetener aspartame as a possible carcinogen. Dr Mansberg says there have been a few studies, mostly in rodents, linking it to a potential increased risk of blood cancers.

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Channel 9, Today on Saturday, 01/07/2023, Clint Stanaway and Jayne Azzopardi

Interview with general practitioner Dr Jamal Rifi. The World Health Organization is set to label the additive sweetener aspartame as a potential cancer risk. Dr Rifi says aspartame is known to be safe.

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AICIS

Priority for Canberra's most toxic sites

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 02/07/2023, Peter Brewer, Page 6

To head off potential litigation, earth-moving equipment will roll into eight emergency services sites around Canberra over the next 12 months to drag out or cap off soil contaminated by the high toxic "forever chemical" PFAS. The ACT government committed \$2.1 million in last week's budget for the next financial year, and a further \$12.4 million over the following three years, to either remove or encapsulate the PFAS health threat.

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