



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 3rd July 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports wealthier, older Australians should pay more for aged care, and new taxes to help fund the sector should be fair to younger Australians, several major providers say. Uniting NSW ACT executive director Tracey Burton said she believed the Aged Care Taskforce, established last month by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, could recommend a combination of a new tax and consumer contributions so as not to adversely affect elderly Australians unable to pay more. *Also reported by:* [**The Age**](#)
- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 1) reports the New South Wales government will end a decade-long wage cap on pay rises for public sector workers, including nurses and paramedics, in September. The caps expiry will allow a complete overhaul of government industrial relations.
- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 1) reports SA Health has begun an urgent investigation into a security breach by a 22-year-old impersonating a mental health nurse. Brandon Chesney acquired fake identification and gained access to patients, health records and restricted areas at Royal Adelaide Hospital while working as a disability support worker. *Also reported by:* [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#)

- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 2) reports Queenslanders are at risk of extreme levels of suicidal behaviour, mental health organisation Suicide Prevention Australia has warned. A new report from the organisation found the state is suffering from the highest levels of cost of living distress on Australia's east coast, while almost a quarter of report respondents from Queensland said they had engaged in suicidal behaviour in the past 12 months. *Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)*
- [The Australian](#) (page 5) reports cameras in aged care homes will be useful to record future integrity incidents in aged care homes, but could also help carers better assist patients, National Seniors chief advocate Ian Henschke says. Mr Henschke said an incident of an elderly patient abused by a carer in a Bendigo facility in 2020 was proof new aged care integrity reporting systems were working, but said "significant cultural change" is still needed to move the sector towards human rights-based aged care.
- The [West Australian](#) (page 7) reports WA has become only the second state to screen newborns for severe combined immunodeficiency disorder ahead of a national rollout of an expanded newborn screening program expected to take effect by the end of the year. Health Minister Mark Butler said "We want parents to be confident that no matter which hospital their child is born, their baby will be appropriately and consistently screened for rare conditions, that the screening result is accurate and that they will be connected to support and services wherever they live."
- [ABC News](#) reports the supplier of acute pain relief drug Orphine has told the Therapeutic Goods Administration they will be phasing out supply from the end of this year following the loss of a third-party manufacturer. In a statement, the TGA said the discontinuation of Ordine is being treated as high priority and discouraged panic buying.
- [The Guardian](#) reports patients using diabetes medication semaglutide say it has also decreased their use of cigarettes and alcohol, but doctors are calling for more research to confirm the benefits through human medical trials. Monash University obesity researcher Dr Priya Sumithran said "There is some data showing that the GLP-1-based drugs do reduce intake of alcohol and certain drugs, but those are almost entirely studies conducted in rats and mice. We certainly don't have high-quality data in humans, but it's plausible."

MINISTER BUTLER

It's a game changer

West Australian, Edition Changes, 03/07/2023, Jessica Page, Page 7

WA's new screening program in babies will save lives, experts say Western Australia has become just the second State to screen for a rare but deadly genetic condition in newborns, ahead of a national program to expand critical checks in babies. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the national rollout would "end the newborn screening postcode lottery".

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Palliative care doctors warn of 'terrible pain' if liquid morphine Ordine discontinued in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Rosa Ritchie and Rafael Epstein

A drug that is considered exceptionally effective for treating acute pain in palliative care and oncology patients may not be available in Australia for much longer. The fast-acting liquid morphine helps people with chronic illnesses live fuller lives and eases terminal patients with a less painful death. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has been approached for comment.

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'Man-made disaster': Doctors, pharmacists sound alarm on 'rushed' new opioid program

Brisbane Times, Other, 02/07/2023, Melissa Cunningham and Lachlan Abbott

Doctors and pharmacists say life-saving reforms that will make it cheaper to access medicines for opioid addiction are being threatened by a chaotic and rushed federal government roll-out. Some who

have prescribed and dispensed drugs including methadone or buprenorphine for decades say the change has been so poorly managed that they may no longer provide the service. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler stressed transition arrangements were in place until the end of November.

Also reported by: [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Federal Health Minister visits Yerin

NBN News, Other, 02/07/2023

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

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MINISTER WELLS

Technology can lighten the load for aged care

The Australian, Business News, 03/07/2023, Greg O'Loan, Page 17

The Aged Care Minister is right: The baby boomers are coming! In her recent speech to the National Press Club, Anika Wells summarised the challenges faced by Australia as our population ages: how to provide affordable, high-quality aged care for baby boomers. Minister Wells warned that Australia would have to look at alternative funding models if we are to have a financially sustainable aged care system, and her warning could not have come any sooner, with the latest figures from aged care auditors Stewart Brown finding that seven out of 10 aged care homes in Australia are operating at a financial loss.

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Boomers should pay more: care providers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/07/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 1

Older Australians with large superannuation balances or high-value properties should be paying more for aged care, several major providers say, while warning that any new tax to help fund the ailing sector must be fair to younger generations. [...] A taskforce established last month by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has been charged with considering whether options such as taxpayer levies and consumer contributions could lift quality in a system already costing the government more than \$30 billion a year.

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

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If you can afford to pay for aged care, you should

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 03/07/2023, Rachel Clun, Page 25

I have had the immense privilege of knowing three of my great-grandparents. One of them - known as Nana Smith to the great-grandchildren taught me how to knit, and could thoroughly beat me in Scrabble. [...] In her recent speech to the National Press Club, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said a new taskforce should consider a levy as well as other funding proposals to pay for the needed reforms.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

NAIDOC achievements in spotlight as research takes centre stage at Lowitja

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023

As Australia marks NAIDOC Week, the importance of translating Indigenous research into practice has been discussed at a recent conference. Aboriginal researchers are increasingly "in the driver's seat" of research into Aboriginal health, which advocates say will lead to better health outcomes for Indigenous people, as Australia marks NAIDOC Week. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health, Yanyuwa woman Senator Malarndirri McCarthy told InSight+ it's a time for celebration but also a time to listen and learn.

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DEPARTMENT

Nation building advertising dollars

Canberra Times, General News, 03/07/2023, Sarahbas Ford Canales and Miriam Webber, Page 12

Where do the government's advertising dollars go? To mark the end of the financial year, Public Eye dug into the most expensive media campaigns in the last year. [...] The Department of Health had a few hefty campaigns this year, but the effort to get Australians jabbed with their COVID-19 boosters took up most of the budget, costing \$17.6 million.

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The COVID-19 habits we thought would stick, but didn't — and does it matter?

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Mary Gearin and Daniel Fermer

Go on, admit it you're not wearing your mask as much. If at all. [...] A federal health department spokesperson said a national campaign was being run across television, radio, press and social media channels.

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How the TriCare empire spun off as a non-profit

Inside Ageing, Other, 02/07/2023, Sean Mckeown

As reported by The Saturday Paper, TriCare, a private aged-care company in Queensland, is separating its operations and spinning off as a non-profit entity called Elderly Care. The company, owned by the O'Shea family, with assets totalling \$1.1 billion, claims that this restructuring will benefit its employees by providing them with a "charitable employer. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has stated that TriCare has provided assurances that there will be no disruptions in care for residents due to the restructuring.

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Medicare with teeth: Senate call for public dentistry

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023

An interim report into the state of Australia's dental health has been tabled in the Senate, renewing calls for the inclusion of dental care in Medicare. The Select Committee into the Provision and Access

to Dental Services interim report has shown widespread support from experts and the community for broadening Medicare to include more dental and oral health care subsidies. [...] The Department of Health was contacted for comment but did not respond by deadline.

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CORONAVIRUS

More than 8000 COVID deaths

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 03/07/2023, Lucy Williams, Page 4

COVID-19 infections across Victoria are down by a quarter in the past week as of June 30. There were 2560 total cases, 25 per cent lower than the previous week, and 2246 total active cases. The seven-day rolling average for cases in hospital was 207 while the equivalent figure for ICU was seven people per day.

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How COVID-19 public communications is letting down our most vulnerable

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023

All levels of government could be doing more to help protect medically vulnerable people in Australia from COVID-19. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has been the most serious global public health crisis in a generation. In May, the World Health Organization officially declared the public health emergency over, and instead identified COVID-19 as an "established and ongoing health concern".

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Call for cameras after nurse's 'brutal attack'

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2023, Tricia Rivera, Page 5

The case of a male nurse who undressed, dragged and attempted to shower an elderly woman while verbally abusing her could spark the installation of cameras in aged-care homes. [...] He said the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety made more people aware of best practice but "significant cultural change" in moving towards human rights-based aged care was the next step.

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

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Wait and see

Ballarat Courier, General News, 03/07/2023, Nieve Walton, Page 1

The way older residents access home care services has officially changed as July marks the shift towards online based systems, which has some residents concerned. [...] The changes follow recommendations from the 2018 Royal Commission into aged care quality and safety and aim to give residents more choice when it comes to picking different providers.

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

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Connecting to community

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/07/2023, Rachel Clark, Page 6

Oxley Community Transport wants to help support the most isolated members of the community: the elderly. The company will launch a new volunteer-led program called 'Volunteer Visitors' on Saturday,

July 1. The initiative will see a carer matched with an elderly member of the community. The aim is for the pair to meet up once a week for a chat over a cuppa.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Fast track to health

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2023, Peta Bee, Page 12

Celebrities like to boast about the benefits of the latest weight-loss trends; experts explain how diets can reduce disease risk and the effects of ageing It is rare to meet someone over 40 these days who hasn't tried fasting. While fit celebrities and highflyers may see it as a way to stay in optimum health, boost their brainpower performance and stay youthful, the rest of us largely see it as an effective way to lose and maintain weight.

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Stepping out for better health

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/07/2023, Jancee Dunn, Page 16

Any walking, even a stroll, will pay dividends, writes Jancee Dunn. Walking, at any intensity, is good for you. A slow, steady pace has been shown to lower the risk of heart disease and diabetes. But research suggests that increasing the length of your walk can lower the risk of premature death and diseases such as cancer and raising intensity brings additional benefits.

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

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Dry patch to assess habits

Ballarat Courier, General News, 03/07/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

Hangover effects from isolation and a rise in alcohol use in pandemic lockdowns are showing in support and health services across the city. [...] Western Victoria' primary health region ranked fifth highest in the nation - and the top for a non-metropolitan area - with people seeking help for alcohol use in 2021/22 in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare findings.

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'Insanity': Urgent warning over tanning trend

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/07/2023, Page 15

Experts have issued an urgent warning after social media users began adopting a dangerous new tanning "hack". A string of videos shows a tanning trend involving pouring beer over your skin, with some claiming it offers "the best tan ever" while being affordable.

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Experts sound the alarm on viral skincare hacks

Canberra Times, Other, 02/07/2023, Rachael Ward

Emergency services worker Diana Atkins wore full PPE for three years to keep her safe from COVID-19 but she describes it as a double-edged sword. Her skin became extremely dry and scaly under layers of protective clothing which impacted her self esteem and confidence. "I've tried too many products to remember, spending many hundreds if not thousands of dollars on so-called miracle treatments," Ms Atkins told AAP.

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

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Childcare menus include up to 16 teaspoons of added sugar a day

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/07/2023, Julie Cross

An investigation into menus at a number of childcare centres has found that some include up to 16

teaspoons of sugar a day. See five typical menus and their sugar content. Children in daycare are being fed the equivalent of 1554 snake 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.

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Can diabetes and weight-loss drug Ozempic break addictions too?

The Guardian, Other, 03/07/2023, Donna Lu

When Sarah Bennett started taking semaglutide for weight loss last year, she noticed other unexpected changes in behaviour that longstanding habits fell away without her consciously intending them to. Semaglutide is commonly known as Ozempic, the brand name for the drug when prescribed as a treatment for type 2 diabetes. Ozempic has been widely used off-label for weight loss; the same drug, branded as Wegovy, is now approved for weight management in Australia, but is not currently available.

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How an open-minded GP restored senator Peter Whish-Wilson's health and saved his career

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2023, Amy Remeikis

For Greens senator Peter Whish-Wilson, the crack of a temporary tooth cap against an airport lounge peanut was the end of life as he knew it. What followed was three years of intense pain, fatigue, brain fog and a daily struggle which left him seriously considering leaving politics to conserve what energy he had left for his family. A gum infection, compounded by an ear infection from surfing in dirty water, laid the conditions for shingles, a virus known for its painful blistering rash.

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'There's already anxiety': residents living near Cadia goldmine demand answers on dust pollution

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2023, Fleur Connick

Alison Simmons has started buying bottled water for her grandchildren. The farmer and retired nurse has lived at her property near Forest Reefs, about 8km from Cadia Hill goldmine in central west New South Wales, for 30 years. She has always relied on rainwater and never felt any ill-effects. But when the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) announced an investigation into the Cadia goldmine regarding its management of "emissions of dust and other pollutants", she decided she could no longer risk it.

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'Conflicting information': Abortion myths and misconceptions leaving young Australian women baffled

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/07/2023, Zac Turner

After the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last June, doctors in states with restrictive abortion laws are weighing whether they can provide care without risking their careers.

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Keen on trying that new viral skincare trend? You may want to think again

SBS, Other, 02/07/2023

Home-made skin products containing food or routines promoted by influencers may seem like an easy fix but could be expensive, ineffective or even harmful. According to a survey, one in five Australians have tried a viral skincare trend.

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Plastic may not be so fantastic for those hoping for babies. Here's why

SBS, Other, 02/07/2023, Aleisha Orr

Chemicals found in plastics we come in contact with every day can affect fertility, but is it possible to

avoid them? Men hoping to become dads are told to avoid alcohol and limit their intake of unhealthy food if they want to increase their chances, but there is one more thing that may affect fertility, which can be even more challenging to avoid.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The alarming rise of cancer in Millennials

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/07/2023, Jill Margo, Page 11

The rate of bowel cancer in Millennials those now aged 27 to 42 - is up 153 per cent in the past 30 years, an alarming trend that experts blame largely on poor diet, physical inactivity and obesity.

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

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Health scare one hell of a ride for Rick

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/07/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 7

Rick Bennett has quit the booze for Dry July to raise money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. After being diagnosed with the disease in 2019 and undergoing a robotic prostatectomy to remove his prostate, Mr Bennett is participating in his third Dry July to raise vital funds.

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Ashery Yovich wants to get Ballarat tradies talking bowel cancer

Ballarat Courier, Other, 02/07/2023, Melanie Whelan

Surgery was the "easy bit" for Asher Yovich. The 40-year-old has admitted he was probably partly in disbelief, maybe partly the builder in him thinking repair work was done. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia data also shows people born in 1990 onwards have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer compared with people born in 1950.

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Skin cancer warning signs to watch for

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/07/2023

PM Albanese takes a jab at RBA Governor Philip Low... Most people grew up with lots of sun exposure and little sun protection and that can raise the risk of skin cancer. The FOX Medical Team's Beth Galvin has more on the warning signs it may be time to get your skin checked.

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Field cancerisation and radiotherapy: a case of treatment complications

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023, Sarah Morton, Selim Ozluer and James Muir

A 62-year-old man with a more than 30-year history of actinic keratoses and keratinocyte carcinomas presented for ongoing management. Over the next ten years, at dermatologist reviews every six months, the patient received treatment for a total of six squamous cell carcinomas, ten basal cell carcinomas, four intra-epidermal carcinomas, and over 180 actinic keratoses (Box 1).

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Suboptimal experiences with out-of-pocket costs, financial disclosure, and support information among people treated for cancer

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023, Victoria White, Karla Gough, Colin Wood, Raymond Chan and Michael Jefford

The direct and indirect costs of cancer care are rising and can influence treatment decisions and outcomes for patients. Several patient-level characteristics are risk factors for financial burden, including lower age, chemotherapy, and poorer general health. Health professionals have a role in providing information, resources, and support to mitigate financial distress for patients.

Channel 7, Seven News (Weekend), 02/07/2023, Mark Ferguson

While chemotherapy does wonders to treat multiple forms of cancer, it's harder to get rid of aggressive, fast growing brain tumours. A group of Australian scientists from University of Queensland is hoping to do just that through a breakthrough that uses cell modelling to treat the often life threatening disease through the looking glass.

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SBS, APAC Weekly, 02/07/2023, Oriel Morrison

Interview with Tatyana Chtanova, Associate Professor, UNSW Sydney about new ways of triggering the immune system to fight cancer, especially for those with an advanced or previously untreatable disease. Chtanova discusses new immunotherapies to treat cancers resistant to therapies.

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3AW, 08:30 News (Weekend), 02/07/2023

Interview with Graham Newstead, medical director, Bowel Cancer Australia. Newstead discusses the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, a free test that invites people aged 50 to 74 to screen for bowel cancer.

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PRIMARY CARE

A heavy cross to bear

Canberra Times, General News, 03/07/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 1

Officials at the public hospital in Bruce will be working to ensure policies and procedures are updated to its new name as it was set to come under government control overnight. The public hospital in Bruce was set to be taken over by the ACT government at midnight and will now be called North Canberra Hospital. Staff at the hospital will be wearing unbranded uniforms and name badges at work from Monday but officials have said beyond that there will be very little changes for patients.

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Gina gifts \$5m to support sick children

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/07/2023, Elliott Stewart, Page 12

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation has had a record-breaking night, raking in \$19.2m in donations, with a whopping \$5m coming from mining magnate Gina Rinehart. The Australian billionaire donated the money at the foundation's annual Gold Dinner.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#)

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Health program packs in support

Ballarat Courier, General News, 03/07/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

A longstanding, evolving two-way health partnership between Ballarat and Tonga is set to become a feature story for the Australian High Commission. St John of God Ballarat's Tonga Twinning coordinator Carolyn Mornane said the program was about much more than just sending donated supplies to Vaiola Hospital on the outskirts of Tongan capital city Nuku'alofa.

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Health still biggest portion of state budget

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/07/2023, Jeremy Rockliff, Page 13

People are often surprised when I tell them that each and every day the Tasmanian government

spends \$8.3 million on the health system. In fact, health spending makes up 34.8 per cent of our entire budget. We spend this because we know that its one of the most important things Tasmanians care about. Every Tasmanian has a fundamental right to access health care. If you need care, you should be able to get it. That's why over the next four years, we will spend \$12.1 billion boosting our health system. Yes, billion.

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City's vital facility

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/07/2023, Michael Nolan, Page 1

Almost two decades ago to the day, the Toowoomba Hospice opened its doors and welcomed its first patient. It was a feat that was only made possible after a broad community appeal for support and funding that was supercharged by Heritage Bank matching donations dollar for dollar.

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Portland gets life-saving stroke service

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 03/07/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 4

Portland will soon have access to life-saving stroke care, with the arrival of the Victorian Stroke Telemedicine (VST) service to Portland District Health. The specialist service run by Ambulance Victoria has helped treat more than 20,000 stroke victims in 20 hospitals around the state over the past decade. It was recently rolled out in Warrnambool and Hamilton, helping more than 200 local stroke victims since July 2022.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#)

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'Probably a record': chief

Western Advocate, General News, 03/07/2023, Jacinta Carroll, Page 1

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.

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Medical scans online instantly

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 02/07/2023, Jack Evans

Endoscopy patients at Mildura Heath Private Hospital can now immediately receive doctors' notes and images from procedures, following the installation of a new recording system. The Endobase system gathers and links data from an endoscopy, storing it in a central database that is readily accessible to send to medical staff and patients. Mildura Health Private Hospital Specialist General Surgeon Dr Jim Tryfonopoulos, who performs an average 30 endoscopies a week, was the first to use the new system on Tuesday.

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Flight cancellations to remote Cape York communities affecting health, essential services

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Alexandra Treloar and Brendan Mounter

Remote Far North Queensland Indigenous communities fear losing health and other essential services if airlines continue to cancel flights. According to the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, SkyTrans has cancelled 18 flights since the start of this year.

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Feasibility of organ donation following voluntary assisted dying in Australia: lessons from international practice

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023, Jan Bollen, Courtney Hempton*, Neera Bhatia and James Tibballs

Organ donation following euthanasia: international practice Organ donation after euthanasia is

currently performed in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Canada. The process is essentially the same as DCD by patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) following withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy. However, in the case of DCD after euthanasia, there are additional considerations and processes that are followed.

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Voluntary assisted dying in Victoria a 'minefield' for doctors

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023

New research published in the Medical Journal of Australia examines the barriers that patients face in accessing voluntary assisted dying, as well as the supports in place. One of the biggest concerns for patients in Victoria seeking to access voluntary assisted dying (VAD) was the difficulty of raising the topic with their doctor, new research has found.

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Push for organ donation after voluntary assisted dying

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023

New guidelines are needed to enable organ donation from people who have participated in voluntary assisted dying to bring Australia in line with several other countries. Australians who take part in voluntary assisted dying (VAD), should also be able to donate their organs, according to the authors of an article published in The Medical Journal of Australia today.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Weekend), 02/07/2023, Charlotte Hamlyn

The WA Opposition has gone on the attack after the worst ever ambulance ramping figures in June, but the Government has released its own figures highlighting the dramatic impact influenza is having on the health system with children being hit particularly hard. The Nursing Federation says the health system is under unprecedented stress.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, ABC News (Weekend), 02/07/2023, Gemma Veness

The Victorian Government has defended its decision to cut a number of hospital programmes introduced during the height of the pandemic. The critical care offload models were brought in to reduce ambulance ramping and improve wait times, but the State Premier says they're no longer needed. While Covid measures are being wound back, the state budget does contain new funding for paramedic practitioners and virtual EDs to address the ongoing demand.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 02/07/2023, Alicia Loxley

Funding has been pulled from two frontline health programmes helping to reduce pressure on ambulance crews and emergency departments. The Vic Premier, Daniel Andrews, says COVID era policies are now unnecessary. The United Workers Union National Ambulance coordinator Fiona Scanlon says effective patient offload programmes keep the health system moving, especially during the peak sickness season.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 17:00 News (Weekend), 02/07/2023

Western Australia's ambulance ramping numbers have reached record numbers for 2023. Ambulances spent more than 5000 hours parked outside emergency departments marking the highest figures ever recorded for the month of June. It's a 75-hour increase on the next highest figures for June, which were in 2021. WA Premier Roger Cook says the issue is a national problem.

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ACT program bucks a shocking trend

Canberra Times, General News, 03/07/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

Most eating disorder sufferers wait seven years before seeking help. But at Canberra's Eating Disorders Clinical Hub, an average patient is about two or three years into their disorder, service coordinator Alex Cobb estimates. The free referral program accepts anyone in the ACT who concerned about their eating or body image, or that of a loved one.

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Knock-on effect of brave chat

Herald Sun, General News, 03/07/2023, Jackie Epstein Nui Te Koha, Page 17

Chelsea Frawley says more people are having the honest conversations that break down barriers around mental illness. The eldest daughter of late football great Danny Frawley is trying to create a "safe space" for those battling. "Especially from a male point of view there has been a stigma," Frawley said.

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Cost of living stress raises fears of higher suicide risk

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 2

Queenslanders' lives are at high risk as the cost of living crisis pushes them into extreme levels of suicidal behaviour, Suicide Prevention Australia reports. With another rate rise looming on Tuesday and the rental market a battlefield, the state has the highest level of cost of living distress on Australia's east coast, with 43 per cent of people lost in debt and worried about how to pay their bills.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

'Go for it': Nurse graduate turns 'pain into power'

Daily Liberal, General News, 03/07/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 3

Jackie Bayley has wanted to become a mental health nurse ever since her own struggles with mental health led to hospital treatment. The 24-year-old said she received such good care that she wanted to pass on the compassion she received to others, to help them on their journey to recovery - just like her nurses helped her.

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

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

The show can't go on

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/07/2023, Kathy McCabe, Page 10

Crippling battles with burn out and the expectations of fame have seen a new generation of pop stars walk away from the stage and long tours to save their mental health. Psychologists, AA meetings and juice machines and fresh vegetables and fruit instead of fridges full of alcohol and tables groaning with fried food are the new normal on backstage riders, as pop stars combat mental health challenges on tour.

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

The kids ask 'What did I do wrong?'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/07/2023, Anton Rose, Page 11

For 10 years army veteran Ben Farinazzo went undiagnosed for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) but in that decade even those close to him knew something was wrong. "The moment I got home my wife noticed things had changed she could tell something was different," he said. Mr Farinazzo had just returned from a deployment to East Timor and is sharing the struggles he went through in a bid to raise awareness of how mental health impacts the whole family unit.

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‘Inequality is deepening’: demand for Australia’s support services rockets as cost of living bites

The Guardian, Other, 03/07/2023, Stephanie Convery

Isis Khalil has spent years of her life trying to help people navigate through poverty. A financial counsellor, she has seen how quickly people's lives can collapse around them through no fault of their own and the devastating effects that unexpected debt or a sudden change of circumstances can wreak on whole families. But with the cost of living increasing, helping people out of hardship is getting more difficult.

[Read More](#)

When the ants start crawling, yes, I take my antipsychotics – but human touch is also a powerful balm

The Guardian, Other, 03/07/2023, Eleanor de Jong

When a manic episode is brewing, before any thoughts get really strange, my body tells me what's just around the corner. Colours become hypersaturated and video-game like, often pulsating with intensity. Sounds are amplified, as if you've developed superhuman abilities. I'll feel a growing pressure in my head and my vision becomes very sharp; I can see a lizard in a bush 15 metres away, no worries.

[Read More](#)

‘Detachment was considered a strength’: how a war correspondent’s calling created a trauma timebomb

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2023, Walter Marsh

Dean Yates was working in Reuters’ Jakarta newsroom on the night of 12 October 2002, when he took a call from a stringer in Bali. There had been a blast, the caller explained, with flaming cars and multiple victims. "I can hear this screaming in the background," Yates recalls 20 years later, "I can hear this noise."

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Minns to end wage ceiling in weeks

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/07/2023, Alexandra Smith, Page 1

The state's controversial wages cap will be axed in September, ending a decade-long ceiling on pay rises for public sector workers and paving the way for the Labor government to overhaul industrial relations in NSW. In an interview to mark 100 days in office, Premier Chris Minns revealed the regulation that limits pay rises including for teachers, nurses and paramedics will expire within weeks, six months after Labor won on a platform of scrapping the wages cap.

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

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

Labor call for more nurse practitioners in regions

Launceston Examiner, General News, 03/07/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 5

Tasmania Labor met with health staff from Cygnet Family Practice on Sunday, highlighting the need for more nurse practitioners in regional and rural Tasmania as part of their Right Priorities Plan. It follows Labor's plan to open 90 nurse practitioner roles in Tasmania, and create easier training opportunities at a cost of \$10.8 million a year.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Australians keeping astronauts alive and healthy in space

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/07/2023, Angus Thomson

Australian doctors caring for patients from the outback to the Antarctic are gearing up to help NASA's next generation of astronauts adjust to life in space and, eventually, Mars. Experts from across the space and medical communities gathered in Sydney on Friday and Saturday as NASA's Artemis program prepares to return humans to the moon for the first time since the Apollo missions.

[Read More](#)

Rural medicine skills day

Border Watch, Other, 02/07/2023, Aidan Curtis

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.

[Read More](#)

Students with disability 'failed' by inadequate teacher aide qualifications, training

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Sarah Richards and Laura Lavelle

Like many new graduates, Ashleigh Keating didn't know what career path to pursue after high school but she did know she wanted to help people like herself. "I am autistic. I was diagnosed when I was about five," she said. So, Ms Keating decided to pursue a career as a teacher aide. "In primary school, I had two teacher aides who are very much like mothers to me," she said.

[Read More](#)

2CC, 11:00 News (Weekend), 02/07/2023

Calvary and the University of Canberra have joined forces to train the future nurses, midwives and allied health professionals in the ACT. The two organisations have signed a three-year memorandum of understanding, which has been described as a commitment to health research, improving learning outcomes for students and growing Canberra's health care workforce. Students across nursing, midwifery and allied health will access clinical placements, practical skills training and assessment and research opportunities Calvary's national chief executive, Martin Bowles, describes the ongoing partnership as a natural fit.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Double dose to ease burden

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/07/2023, Blair Jackson, Page 9

It is a six-hour round trip every time Karlie Royes needs medication. [...] Since Covid a lot of them prefer not to go to town, so giving them the leeway of not having to go to town every three weeks . it's a whole day of travel." From September 1 patients will get 60 days worth of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medications, a doubling of the current 30-day dispenses, which Ms Royes says is "fantastic" news.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#)

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Brian Mitchell: Federal Lyons MP rejects pharmacists' 'tantrum' over 60-day prescriptions

The Mercury, Other, 02/07/2023, David Killick

Labor's federal member for Lyons says he won't be intimidated by a campaign by the pharmacy lobby, angry at new 60-day prescription moves, to tip him out at the next election. Labor's federal member for

Lyons says he won't be intimidated by a campaign by the pharmacy lobby to tip him out at the next election.

[Read More](#)

Mistaken conclusions about pharmacy report?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/07/2023, Chris Brooker

How many pharmacies may close due to 60-day dispensing? There seems to be confusion over the number outlined in a recent report Economist Henry Ergas, who authored a recent report commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia on the impact of 60-day dispensing, has hit back at what he says were "grossly incorrect" media reporting

[Read More](#)

Extension to Covid medicine PBS listing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 03/07/2023, Chris Brooker

Government announces a new demographic cohort will have PBS access to an anti-COVID medication
The Federal government has announced that, from 1 July, the eligibility criteria for PBS access to Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) will expand to include people aged 50-59 years of age with mild to moderate COVID-19, and with one additional risk factor

[Read More](#)

2GB, 09:00 News (Weekend), 02/07/2023

Medical professionals are raising concerns about reforms, making it easier for people to access medicines for addiction to painkillers. Changes to the opioid dependence treatment programme are now in effect, meaning some drugs like methadone will be cheaper under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme more than 50,000 Australians with opioid dependence will now only pay \$30 for a month's supply. But doctors and pharmacists are worried the changes will mean more people can buy the drug and those who need it most will be turned away. Some also say the move has been rolled out without adequate consultation

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Inquest into deaths of three Doomadgee women hears of critical record keeping failures

The Courier Mail, Other, 03/07/2023, Bronwyn Farr

An 18-year-old woman with severe rheumatic heart disease went to Doomadgee Hospital a day before she died and was handed Panadol through a Crim Safe mesh window, and sent home. Path to Treaty
An 18-year-old woman with severe rheumatic heart disease (RHD) who went to Doomadgee Hospital a day before she died was given paracetamol, not examined by a doctor, and told to go to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Gidgee Healing the next day, an inquest has found.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Hospital at breaking point

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/07/2023, Madeleine Bower, Page 3

The shocking conditions of Concord Hospital will be under the microscope this week after the Minns government ordered an emergency external intervention of the hospital. [...] A health department spokesperson said the external team would look at creating "a safe holding environment where issues can be surfaced" and actions identified for improving the workplace environment for doctors.

'Impostor' on ward

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 03/07/2023, Michael McGuire, Page 1

A man has been charged with impersonating a mental health nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, prompting an urgent SA Health investigation into the alleged security breach by the 22-year-old. [...] A spokesperson for the Health Department said as "soon as we became aware an unauthorised person was in a restricted area of the hospital, we immediately alerted security and senior personnel and reported the matter to police".

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Alleged fake nurse strikes fear into patients

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 03/07/2023, Page 18

The thought that any unqualified or unaccredited person could have free access to some of the most vulnerable people in our community will frighten many. [...] It is also why the Health Department is undertaking an urgent review into hospital security, and the Health Minister is asking for the matter to be pursued to the full extent of the law, to determine what happened.

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'Lack of records' in teen's death

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 8

An 18-year-old woman with severe rheumatic heart disease (RHD), who went to Doomadgee Hospital a day before she died, was given paracetamol, not examined by a doctor, and told to go to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Gidgee Healing the next day, an inquest has found. Northern Coroner Nerida Wilson handed down her findings into the deaths of Betty, 18, Ms Sandy, 37, and Kaya, 17, in Cairns on Friday, finding there was inadequate care, a lack of record sharing between health organisations and a lack of cultural competency.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#)

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

Nurse in pain forced to insert own catheter

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/07/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 8

A nurse in the midst of a health crisis says she inserted her own urinary catheter at home after she was unable to get help or pain relief at Launceston's emergency department. [...] Last week, Premier Jeremy Rockliff responded to Ms Duncan's concerns. In a letter seen by the Mercury, Mr Rockliff apologised for her experiences in the LGH emergency department and encouraged her to contact the Department of Health so it could undertake a review of the incident.

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

GPs vs specialists and the (alleged) initial consult Medicare rort

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/07/2023

The debate on the uses and alleged abuses of the initial specialist consult MBS item have been long-running. Last week Dr Craig Lilienthal entered the fray once in his AusDoc opinion article "I am very embarrassed nay, pissed off when I hear that some of the specialists to whom I refer patients often charge initial consultation fees when following up patients for established conditions," he wrote.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Early News, 03/07/2023, Edwina Bartholomew

An investigation into a baby being misdiagnosed repeatedly at Queensland's Caboolture Hospital starts today. Five month old Weston was taken to the hospital three times before his parents insisted on a second opinion. He was eventually correctly diagnosed with a potentially deadly skin syndrome. This clinical review takes place alongside a wider probe into how children and babies are cared for in the emergency department.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

MPs line up for the NACC's first day

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2023, Greg Brown Rosie Lewis, Page 2

The new National Anti-Corruption Commission will receive political referrals on the Brittany Higgins payout, the Beetaloo Basin and the PwC tax scandal, despite Anthony Albanese warning against the body being politicised. [...] The Greens have released a hit list of issues they are urging the NACC to investigate, including Scott Morrison's secret ministries scandal, robodebt, the Morrison government's sports grants scheme and government contracts linked to former cabinet minister Stuart Robert.

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

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Games jumps gun in race for corporate cash

The Australian, General News, 03/07/2023, Jamie Walker, Page 5

The Olympics' world governing body is set to give Brisbane 2032 Games organisers early access to the event's naming and marketing rights to unlock multimillion-dollar corporate funding years ahead of schedule. The move, confirmed by International Olympic Commission coordinating Commission boss Kirsty Coventry, would be a vote of confidence in the Brisbane preparations despite controversy over key venue costs and the upending of infrastructure planning arrangements by the Queensland government.

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

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Geldof's rant at Green Olympics

The Australian, Media, 03/07/2023, Nick Tabakoff, Page 19

Geldof's rant at Green Olympics Sir Bob Geldof famously doesn't like Mondays. Perhaps that's why the music legend surprised listeners last Monday by putting Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk through the wringer in his surprise debut as a shock jock. The big issue in Geldof's radio debut on the newly launched digital station Disrupt Radio was Palaszczuk's claim that Brisbane 2032 will be the Olympic movement's first "climate positive" Games: a boast he said was a "seeming hypocrisy" for a "mining state".

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

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

Drown toll hits home

Courier Mail, General News, 03/07/2023, Isabella Holland, Page 11

Alarming new data shows 366 people have drowned in Southeast Queensland in the past 10 years sparking a community debate. The forum, which gathered community groups, emergency services, water safety experts and government representations identified 17 clear priority areas accompanied by action plans, which they believe will move the area towards the target of reducing drownings by 50 per cent.

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Matildas become great unwatched

Herald Sun, General News, 03/07/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 11

Melbourne's raw deal in this month's FIFA Women's World Cup has prompted calls for a bigger rectangular stadium to win more major soccer, sport and music blockbusters. Football Australia and the

state government will on Monday unveil Melbourne's "home of the Matildas", a \$42m Bundoora base which is the biggest soccer-specific project built in Australia.

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

Australian players abused in Lord's Long Room after Bairstow stumping

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/07/2023, Daniel Brettig

Australia's cricketers were unrelentingly abused and allegedly manhandled in the normally genteel Long Room during the lunch break at Lord's after Jonny Bairstow's stumping dismissal on a dramatic day five of the second Ashes Test. "Australian management has requested the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) investigate several incidents involving spectators in the members' area during lunch on day five of the Lord's Test," a Cricket Australia spokesperson said.

[Read More](#)

Nations Championship will finally fix world rugby's Test schedule

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 02/07/2023, Paul Cully

1. The Nations Championship is progress at last The SANZAAR-Six Nations joint announcement on Saturday that the Nations Championship' would begin in 2026 shows that rugby is being finally dragged from semi-amateurism into professionalism.

[Read More](#)

Cyclists and horseriders often end up in hospital, but keep returning to the sports they love

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Anthea Moodie

Keen horse rider Kate MacKenzie takes the saying "get back on the horse" quite literally. "I've broken the transverse process on my spine, I've broken ribs, scaphoid bone in my hands, lacerated liver, concussion," the mother of two says.

[Read More](#)

Sport 'We always play with pride': How the Matildas helped pave the way for LGBTQIA+ visibility in football

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Samantha Lewis

In mid-February, as the Matildas lined up in the tunnel beneath Parramatta Stadium before their Cup Of Nations friendly against Spain, the 90 minutes that lay in front of them felt just like any other game. The tactics and training sessions of the past few days had been memorised into their muscles.

[Read More](#)

Three MCC members are suspended pending an investigation after Australian cricketers Usman Khawaja and David Warner were confronted in the Lord's Long Room as spectators accused them of cheating following Jonny Bairstow's controversial stumping

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 03/07/2023, Arthur Parashar

Three mcc members have been suspended pending an investigation after Australian cricketers Usman Khawaja and David Warner were confronted in the Long Room at Lord's by angry members on an unprecedented day at the Home of Cricket. It comes just hours after Cricket Australia demanded a probe into how the Australian opening batsmen and their team-mates were aggressively accused of cheating by furious MCC members following Jonny Bairstow's controversial stumping.

[Read More](#)

‘Monumental change’: football tackles the impact of periods on performance

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2023, Kieran Pender

Midway through the 2019 Women's World Cup in France, several members of the United States team came together for a selfie taken by star striker Alex Morgan. Gathered on the pitch during a

familiarisation session, the players each held up four fingers. To an outsider, this might have signalled the team's winning intent the Americans would go on to win the World Cup for the fourth time.

[Read More](#)

Australia claim players abused, touched at Lord's

The New Daily, Other, 03/07/2023, Scott Bailey

Australia have requested a please explain from the Marylebone Cricket Club after claiming players were verbally abused and physically contacted by members at lunch on day five at Lord's. On a drama-charged last day at Lord's, Australia's players were continuously jeered by local fans after Alex Carey stumped Jonny Bairstow when he walked out of his crease.

[Read More](#)

Pat Cummins expects MCC members to be kicked out over Long Room altercation

NEWS.com.au, Other, 03/07/2023

Pat Cummins expects MCC members to lose their membership following the "aggressive and abusive" behaviour encountered by his Australia team in the Long Room during a dramatic final day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's. A flashpoint occurred on the eve of lunch on day five when Jonny Bairstow was dismissed in controversial fashion, after Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey threw the ball at the stumps at the conclusion of Cameron Green's over.

[Read More](#)

The Ashes: MCC apologise as members exchange terse words with Australia players

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 03/07/2023, Malik Ouzia

Australia have requested a formal investigation after their players were allegedly abused by spectators during Sunday's dramatic conclusion to the Second Ashes Test at Lord's. There was major controversy on the final day after Jonny Bairstow was run-out by Alex Carey , the England batter wandering out of his crease in wrongful belief that the ball was dead before the Australian keeper took a successful shy at the stumps.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Menzies in breakthrough MS research

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/07/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

An international study with Menzies Institute for Medical Research involving over 22,000 people with multiple sclerosis (MS) discovered the first genetic variant associated with faster disease progression. Multiple sclerosis occurs when the body's immune system mistakenly attacks and damages fatty material - called myelin - around the nerves, resulting in a range of symptoms that can include a loss of motor function, loss of sensation, pain, vision changes and changes to thinking and memory.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

New grants focus on better life outcomes

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 03/07/2023, Madeleine Clark, Page 3

Two Goldfields-Esperance Aboriginal community-controlled organisations have been awarded Closing the Gap grants as part of the \$3.4 million program. The Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal

Corporation and the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation were among 14 other WA organisations to receive funding towards early childhood care, health, housing and disability programs.

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

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'Yes' for Indigenous kids, says Life Without Barriers

Canberra Times, Other, 02/07/2023, Rudi Maxwell

A partnership between an organisation representing Indigenous children in out-of-home care and a large care provider offers a glimpse of what policy development might look like if the voice referendum succeeds. When the chief executive of one the largest foster carer organisations in Australia read the Uluru Statement from the Heart, she was moved by the heartbreaking plea for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

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

[Read More](#)

Miss Yunupingu Inquest delayed in search for family

Northern Territory News, Other, 02/07/2023, Zizi Averill

A coronial inquest has been delayed by a month as lawyers struggle to find a woman's family, with the court told they have suffered the greatest loss and it is disrespectful for us not to listen to them'. The voice of family and community could be lost in an upcoming coronial hearing unless the loved ones of a domestic violence victim can be located.

[Read More](#)

Lawyer claims she wasn't told for months that Aboriginal teen tried to take her life in youth detention

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2023, Sarah Collard

A lawyer representing children detained at South Australia's only juvenile justice centre claims she was not informed for almost two months when an Aboriginal teenager attempted to take her own life in custody. The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) lawyer who represents the girl in her early teens said the seriousness of the incident in early 2023 at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre was not conveyed until eight weeks later.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Sunday Mornings, 02/07/2023, Kate O'Toole

Report by Dan Bourchier, ABC News reporter. Bourchier says the Federal Government has acknowledged the concern on Indigenous Voice to Parliament that they put \$10.5 million in the recent federal budget around mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people really leaning into that point that there is concern about the impacts of the debate on the Voice to Parliament.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Australia's first purpose-built centre at Westmead Hospital ready for next deadly disease outbreak

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Kathleen Ferguson and Harriet Tatham

It's like a scene of a sci-fi film. Emerging from a lift, lying in a sealed coffin-like bed, some of Australia's most infectious patients will be transported into a pressurised room. The newly-opened facility is part of the nation's first purpose-built biocontainment centre based at Westmead Hospital in Sydney's west. Highly trained doctors and nurses, wearing protective clothing that takes half-an-hour to put on and

more than 40 steps to safely remove will provide care to those with diseases so dangerous, they're likely to kill more than half of those that contract them.

[Read More](#)

Parents warned of common virus explosion in young children

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 02/07/2023, Nicole Iliagoueva

This respiratory virus is especially prominent in winter months where there can be dramatic increases in hospitalisations. Parents are being warned of the long-term effects of the leading cause of respiratory hospital presentations in children under five, after a recent study revealed an "important" finding.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Weekend), 02/07/2023, Juanita Phillips and Jeremy Fernandez

The COVID-19 pandemic was a wake up call for governments around the world. It showed that many of them were unprepared, cared for, dangerous, highly contagious viruses. Here in Sydney, medical experts are now preparing for future pandemics, which they say are becoming increasingly likely.

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Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend) , 02/07/2023, Chris Bath

There are concerns that low flu vaccination rates among children are driving record ambulance ramping figures as WA battles its worst flu season in years. Vaccinations for children under five are down 60% compared to the same time three years ago, and 445 kids under nine have been hospitalized with the flu. Meanwhile, ambulances spent 5360 hours parked outside emergency departments last month, a record for June. The Opposition has labelled it a disastrous start to the flu season, while the AMA has urged the WA Government to extend its free flu jab programme.

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Channel 9, National Nine News (Weekend), 02/07/2023, Tracy Vo

WA Premier Roger Cook is blaming ramping on the winter flu season with more than 10,000 infections declared so far this year. But the Liberal leader has a different diagnosis of the ramping crisis. The state government is adamant that hospitalisations will reduce if vaccinations increase today. The Premier once again called on West Australians to roll up their sleeves.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

More than 50 antibiotics still in shortage in Australia according to TGA database

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 03/07/2023, Amanda Sheppeard

There are now more than 400 medicines in shortage in Australia, including antibiotics. How to see if your medicine is on the list. [...] According to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) medicines shortage database, as at July 2 there were 409 medicines in shortage, including the antibiotics.

[Read More](#)

Drug companies see mushrooming growth in psychedelic therapy

The New Daily, Other, 02/07/2023

An unexpected ruling by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has opened the way for drug companies to tap a new market for psychedelic treatments aimed at alleviating depression and other psychiatric conditions. From this weekend, thanks to world-first legalisation, specifically authorised and trained psychiatrists will be able to prescribe MDMA sometimes known as "ecstasy" or "molly" to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Australia is the first country to let patients with depression or PTSD be prescribed psychedelics

9News, Other, 02/07/2023

Australia is now the first country to allow psychiatrists to prescribe certain psychedelic substances to patients with depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. Doctors can now prescribe doses of MDMA, also known as ecstasy, for PTSD. [...] The country put the two drugs on the list of approved medicines by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 02/07/2023, Clint Stanaway and Jayne Azzopardi

Interview with Dr Michael Bonning, President, AMA NSW about MDMAs now allowed to be prescribed to treat PTSD and depression. Bonning says it will be a very focused system which will be under the care of psychiatrists, who will need to apply to the TGA to be able to prescribe these medicines.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

'Like an A380 going down every year': Victorian drugs campaigner laments a political culture costing lives

The Guardian, Other, 02/07/2023, Benita Kolovos

Sam Biondo knows drugs can kill people. But he knows bad politics can too. As he prepares to leave after 16 years at the helm of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (Vaada), Biondo has revealed his immense frustration at having watched thousands of people die unnecessarily because governments fear "being crucified" by the media and opposition.

[Read More](#)

Why medical cannabis patients should be allowed to drive

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 03/07/2023

An effective framework for allowing patients who use medical cannabis to drive is one that prioritises road safety while also recognising the importance of driving for freedom of movement and quality of life, write Dr Thomas Arkell and Associate Professor Vicki Kotsirilos AM.

[Read More](#)

2GB, 14:00 News (Weekend), 02/07/2023

New changes are now in effect that will make it cheaper for people to buy medication for opioid addiction. But doctors and pharmacists are worried about the reforms being rushed. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Dr Hester Wilson is welcoming the move, but says there wasn't enough warning.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Sunday Extra, 02/07/2023, Julian Morrow

Interview with Jessica Pace, pharmacist and Associate Lecturer, University of Sydney about common pain killing medications that are taken for similar reasons but work in slightly different ways such as ibuprofen and paracetamol. She discusses the advantages and disadvantages of pain relief cocktails of paracetamol and ibuprofen. She says research shows that the combination drugs are more effective than using the medications singly.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Grub's up: Skye Blackburn on taking the "ick factor" out of eating insects for the sake of global food security

Newcastle Herald, Other, 02/07/2023

Skye Blackburn's lifelong fascination with creepy-crawlies took a surprising turn when she founded Edible Bug Shop in 2007. The entomologist, food scientist and mother of three develops and markets edible insect products including cricket protein corn chips, lemon myrtle cricket protein fusilli, almond cricket protein granola, and choc chip and wattle seed cookie mix.

[Read More](#)

Fire proof drones, how radio changed the world and lab grown meat

ABC Online, Other, 03/07/2023, Suzanne-Hill

Nightlife In Sunday Dr Chris Smith brings you the latest in science news, including a fire-proof drone that can fly through burning buildings and bushfires looking for trapped survivors. And Cambridge has a study on using AI to guide radiotherapy - they can get patients treated two and a half times faster.

[Read More](#)

Scientists call for stricter oversight as asparagopsis seaweed gains popularity in livestock sector

ABC Online, Other, 02/07/2023, Sean Murphy

Safety concerns have been raised about the native seaweed asparagopsis, which is now being commercialised to help farmers reduce methane emissions in sheep and cattle. Licences have been granted to eight companies around the world to develop feed additives based on the discovery by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) that asparagopsis can reduce methane emissions in ruminant livestock by more than 90 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Aspartame sweetener expected to join WHO's possible carcinogen list

NEWS.com.au, Other, 02/07/2023

Aspartame sweetener expected to join WHO's possible carcinogen list. The artificial sweetener aspartame is expected to join the World Health Organisation's list of possible human carcinogens. The sweetener can be found in Coke Zero, low-calorie desserts and sugar-free chewing gum.

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ACT budget allocates \$14.6 million to remediate PFAS contamination

Canberra Times, Other, 02/07/2023, Peter Brewer

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.

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