



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 14th July 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The West Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a Perth aged care home has launched an internal review following the alleged indecent assault of an elderly dementia patient. The incident has been referred to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, and police have arrested a 77-year-old man in relation to the assault.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that new findings by a Melbourne-led research team who have discovered how the COVID-19 virus affects the placenta may lead the way to significant advances in pregnancy treatments. Researchers say understanding the processes involved may allow treatments that will reduce miscarriages and premature birth complications, and even boost IVF outcomes.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Queensland government is facing pressure to make influenza vaccinations after 55 reported deaths in the state this year. Doctors and medical groups have backed the push, saying previous free vaccination drives had shown to raise uptake by 12 per cent and would be warranted given the number of cases currently active in the state.

- **The Australian Financial Review (page 6)** reports that Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has called for more work to be done to support skilled migration for aged care workers. "We've got a skills crisis – we can't find enough people to play all the different roles that we need," Mr Andrews said.
- **The Australian (page 7)** reports that a group of female Labor members are pushing to allow pharmacists to prescribe the abortion pill without a doctor's prescription. Nurses were this week allowed to prescribe the medication, however pharmacists were excluded from the change, which included lifting restrictions on the stocking and dispensing of the drug.
- **The Daily Telegraph (page 13)** reports that Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy has spoken about the positive influence the Voice to parliament will have on remote Aboriginal communities, particularly concerning healthcare and closing the gap. Senator McCarthy said "the Voice will be able to give advice about what services are needed most. [...] For decades, governments have spent billions trying to close the gap in health but a lot of that money has been wasted on programs designed in Canberra without properly consulting Indigenous people themselves."
- **The Herald Sun (page 3)** reports that the Australian Human Rights Commission has recommended ageism awareness training in aged care and community settings, after finding improved communication with aged care residents at facilities where training was employed. Age Discrimination Commissioner Kay Patterson said the survey showed how positive action could be taken against ageist attitudes in the community.
- **The Guardian (Online)** reports that Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney has said a Voice to parliament would help change "ghettoised" issues of health and education for Aboriginal Australians. "Having our people have a say at the decision-making tables is what I believe will bring about that change," Minister Burney said.

MINISTER BUTLER

Push for chemists to prescribe abort pill

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 7

An influential group of female Labor members is calling on the government to consider further broadening access to the abortion pill and allowing pharmacists to prescribe it without a script from a doctor or nurse. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this month ruled out bringing back such a policy.

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Pharmacy Guild says dispensing change is bad medicine

Armstrong Creek Times, General News, 14/07/2023, Trent Twomey, Page 27

Some of you may remember the Joni Mitchell song 'Big Yellow Taxi' with the verse "You don't know what you got 'til it's gone." [...] The Health Minister, Mark Butler's response so far is, "Every single dollar saved by the Government will go back into pharmacy services," but his Department's figures just don't add up.

Also reported by: [HelloCare \(Online\)](#), [Bellarine Times \(Bellarine\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#)

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Health game changer nod

Inverell Times, General News, 13/07/2023, Eva Baxter, Page 3

A new healthcare model aiming to attract more doctors to the region will be trialed in the Hunter New England local health district. [...] Caption Text: Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office said shadow regional health minister Bronnie Taylor did not complete a timely expression of interest for the model.

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No one should suffer the pain

Inverell Times, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 6

Key health organisations are stepping up their advocacy as supplies of a critical pain relief medication

are forecast to run out. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has been contacted by a number of groups.

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'No objection' to PSR improvement bill: RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/07/2023

The college will not oppose legislation prompted by the Medicare compliance review, but still wants to be consulted on panel appointments. [...] The Bill was shaped by recommendations put forward in Dr Philip's report, which was produced at the request of Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler after high-profile media allegations of widespread Medicare fraud and non-compliance.

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5AA, Mornings, 13/07/2023, Graeme Goodings

Interview Chris Picton, SA Health Minister. Picton says the bulk billing rate across Australia has completely crashed and after hours GPs have plummeted, He notes the issue is something that state health ministers have been raising with Health Minister Mark Butler, who's come into this situation dealing with that crisis at the federal level.

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MINISTER WELLS

Members sought for Council of Elders

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/07/2023

Applications are open for older Australians to join the Aged Care Council of Elders. [...] "The Council of Elders plays a critical role in ensuring the diverse views and perspectives of older people are heard by the Albanese Government as we reform aged care," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells in a statement.

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Revealed: Designs released for Winnam aged care at Wynnum hospital site

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 13/07/2023, Brendan O'Malley

The covers have come off the long-awaited aged care centre at the old Wynnum Hospital site. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said it was particularly important in the wake of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety which recommended more effort be put into meeting the needs of elderly indigenous people.

Also reported by: [Southeast Questnews \(Online\)](#).

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High demand prompts extension of Transition Care Programme

Healthcare Channel, Other, 13/07/2023, Ritchelle Drilon

The Albanese Government recently announced a substantial investment of \$40 million to extend the Transition Care Programme (TCP) in Australia. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells emphasised the significance of this investment in providing peace of mind to older individuals during their vulnerable post-hospitalisation period.

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Latest aged care facility closure forces residents to seek new housing

Starts at 60, Other, 13/07/2023, Ysabelle Alesna

More than 30 residents of an aged care facility in Dubbo have received unsettling news as they were informed that their home, St Mary's Villa, will be closing its doors. [...] Last month, Aged Care Minister

Anika Wells announced that an aged care task force comprised of experts and professionals had been set up to help improve the standards of care received by residents.

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Sky News Live, Credlin, 13/07/2023, Amanda Stoker

Interview with Colin Boyce, Liberal National MP. Boyce says the Labor Government's promise of a full time 24/7 full time nurse in these aged care facilities takes a considerable amount of staff to be able to carry this out. He states they've written to Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, asking for her to explain how this works in practical terms.

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2SM, 19:00 News, 13/07/2023

More aged care homes could close amid workforce shortages. At least two aged care homes in regional Queensland have been told this week about the closures, while two homes in regional New South Wales are awaiting an exemption from nursing requirements. However, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has previously stressed no homes will be forcibly closed from staff shortages and that the government will work with facilities.

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4BC, Afternoons, 13/07/2023, Sofie Formica

Formica says Kylie Ward, the chief executive of the Australian College of Nursing, has come forward and urged the Government to allow providers up to 12 months to be able to meet the requirements. She states Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has said the workforce was thousands short, but she has stood by the Government's targets to have this 24 over seven requirement in place for all facilities.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Chemists say patients worse off with 60-day dispensing

Coast Community Pelican Post, General News, 13/07/2023, Sue Murray, Page 26

People can expect shorter trading hours, fewer services, worsening medicine shortages and closures of local pharmacies under the Federal Government's 60day dispensing policy, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. [...] "I'm calling on Emma McBride (Member for Dobell and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health) to re-think this policy and put patients first."

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Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 13/07/2023, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health over staff shortage in aged care. McBride says the Government is determined to make sure that we restore quality and safety to aged care. She states the Department will make sure that when applicants can't meet the requirements at the moment that appropriate alternative arrangements are in place to make sure that residents are safe. She notes the Government along with Aged Care Minister Anika Wells and Health Minister Mark Butler are working to address the shortage of aged care workers.

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Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Jaynie Seal

Interview with Assistant Rural and Regional Health Minister and Member for Dobell, Emma McBride. [...] And we just echo the sentiments of the New South Wales chief medical officer, Kerry Chant, who is encouraging all families to make sure that the few flu jabs are up to date. We know that vaccinations can protect lives and save lives, and I'd encourage all families to make sure that their children are fully vaccinated. We know that the influenza comes around every year and making sure that you're vaccinated and protected is so important.

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

AMA backs easing of MS-2 Step restrictions with an eye to patient safety

Australian Medical Association, Other, 13/07/2023

The AMA supports the easing of restrictions for pregnant women seeking a doctor to prescribe MS-2 Step, saying it will improve access to reproductive healthcare services while calling for a continuing focus on patient safety. [...] AMA President Professor Steve Robson told SkyNews the AMA supports the move following the announcement by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, that the Therapeutic Goods Administration had removed some restrictions on health professionals who prescribe and dispense MS-2 Step.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Voting Yes to the Voice will be a path to saving lives

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/07/2023, Malarndirri McCarthy, Page 13

If you're under the age of 40, later this year you'll be voting in your first referendum. All 17 million of us old enough to vote will have an historic opportunity to add something new and positive and distinctly Australian to our constitution. [...] Senator Malarndirri McCarthy is the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians

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DEPARTMENT

Council meets new aged care requirements

Gilgandra Weekly, General News, 11/07/2023, Lucie Peart, Page 2

Gilgandra Lifestyles has met the new aged care requirements that came into effect on July 1, 2023. [...] Gilgandra Shire Council's director of aged care and disabilities, Donna Dobson said that council has been working closely with the federal department of health and aged care to reach a practical outcome with the introduction of this new requirement.

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Long wait for care bed

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 14/07/2023, Lillian Altman, Page 5

Purpose-built facilities need to be erected in the south-west for people living with dementia, the partner of a Warrnambool woman with the disease says. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care said it must be satisfied all other potential accommodation options were explored before accommodating people under 65 at aged care facilities.

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I've got the sniffles, but how do I know whether I have a cold, COVID-19, RSV or flu?

9News, Other, 13/07/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

A bad flu season in Australia is being compounded by the spread of RSV and COVID-19 throughout

the community. [...] In fact, almost everyone will have contracted it at least once by the time they turn three, according to the Australian Health Department.

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Nationwide worker shortages lead to closure of regional Queensland aged care centres

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2023, Katrina Beavan and Paul Culliver

An aged care facility in central Queensland that has been flying staff in from Melbourne to stay open will close its doors at the end of the year. [...] Seventy-six aged care centres have closed across the country in the past two years, according to the federal department of health and aged care.

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Supporting specialisation verification

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/07/2023, Christopher Kelly

A series of online workshops has been developed to walk aged care providers through the specialisation verification process. As recommended by the royal commission, the Department of Health and Aged Care established a Specialisation Verification Framework that allows providers to better demonstrate how their organisation delivers inclusive services for people who identify with one or more of the special needs groups listed in the Aged Care Act 1997

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Urgent Care Clinic deadline missed

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 13/07/2023, Ted Rogers

An Urgent Care Clinic in Toowoomba, promised to be up and running by 1 July 2023, is yet to be finished. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care claims 58 Medicare UCCs will be open across Australia by the end of the year.

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Tiaro's Petrie Gardens to close its doors due to new regulations

Fraser Coast Chronicle, Other, 13/07/2023, Carlie Walker

A small aged care facility on the Fraser Coast is closing down at the end of the month following the introduction of new regulations around minimum staffing and care. [...] "We advised the Department of Health and Aged Care in June of our decision to close this residential aged centre and the reasons for the closure," the Petrie Gardens spokeswoman said.

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What to do about hearing loss

National Seniors Australia, Other, 13/07/2023

Did you know untreated hearing loss can lead to more severe comorbidities? [...] In Australia, the Department of Health and Aged Care estimates 3.6 million Australians have some level of hearing loss.

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DoHAC looks to make 'by default' reporting mandatory

Oncology Republic, Other, 13/07/2023, Harriet Grayson

The Australian Digital Health Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care are working with parliament to introduce legislation to mandate sharing by default reporting to the My Health Record within the next year. First Assistant Secretary Daniel McCabe, alongside ADHA CEO Amanda Cattermole, announced the changes at the MedInfo23 conference this week.

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6,766 Victorian pharmacy jobs to go with free patient services to end

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Other, 13/07/2023

A new independent report has found up to 6,766 jobs and 173 pharmacies will be lost in Victoria, and the state's most vulnerable patients will suffer due to the Federal Government's rushed 60-day

dispensing medicine policy. [...] "This should be a wake-up call to the Federal Government, and it highlights that no consultation was undertaken and the policy was rushed by the Department of Health with no modelling or understanding of the impact on community pharmacies and Victoria patients.

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Substitution advice for antibiotics in shortage

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/07/2023

Temporary advice from Therapeutic Guidelines provides alternative options when first-line treatments are unavailable. [...] The guidance was developed by the Antibiotic Primary Care Expert Group in consultation with the Department of Health and Aged Care and the TGA.

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'Sharing by default' to become mandatory

The Medical Republic, Other, 13/07/2023

Pathology and diagnostic imaging will soon be required by law to be shared to the My Health Record, with other data to follow. The Australian Digital Health Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care are working with parliament to introduce legislation to mandate sharing-by-default reporting to the My Health Record within the next year.

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ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, James Vyer

Figures from the Federal Health Department out this week show less than half of the ACT's population has received a flu vaccine at the period from 1 March to 9 July.

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ABC Riverland SA, 07:30 News, 13/07/2023

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia is calling for more investment to ensure palliative care patients can stay at home or at their local hospital in their final days. President Dr Megan Bellows says health care professionals must be supported to add palliative care qualifications to their training as demand for end of life care is expected to rise. [...] The federal Department of Health and Aged Care says home visits, including palliative care by GPS for people in regional and rural communities, will attract higher Medicare rebates from November.

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CORONAVIRUS

Creation of hope

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

A Melbourne-led research team has discovered how the Covid virus impacts the placenta, in a breakthrough which could reduce miscarriages, premature birth complications and even boost IVF outcomes. The discovery, which involved creating a placenta model in a dish, could lead to therapies to help prevent the virus crossing from the temporary organ that is the very start of human life to a developing embryo.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#)

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Kyle and Jackie 'O' forced to silence Pete Evans as the controversial chef reveals his side of the story after being cancelled over his anti-Covid views and 'racist' meme - and listeners aren't happy Poll

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023, Monique Friedlander

The Kyle And Jackie O Show has sparked fury from listeners after censoring parts of an interview with

controversial chef Pete Evans. Evans, who destroyed his own media career by peddling misinformation during the Covid-19 pandemic and sharing a 'racist' meme, appeared on KIIS FM's top-rating breakfast show on Thursday in an attempt to clear his name.

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COVID may increase flu susceptibility

Newcastle Herald, General News, 14/07/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

This year's flu season is looking just as bad as what it did last year' COVID-19 may have increased people's susceptibility to other respiratory viruses in different ways, Newcastle respiratory specialist Peter Wark says.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

More migrants to solve skills crisis: Andrews

Australian Financial Review, General News, 14/07/2023, Gus McCubbing, Page 6

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has called for a bigger Australia to support the aged care industry during a rare exclusive interview with an Italian language community newspaper.

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A study for the ages

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2023, Page 3

Organisations providing services to older people have been urged to deliver ageism awareness training to their staff, with new research showing it can be highly effective in shifting attitudes. The Australian Human Rights Commission surveyed aged care and community workers before and after undertaking a training session that covered topics relating to ageism.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Foreign aid for aged care Overseas workers to help 'fill gaps'

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2023, Jade Gailberger, Page 22

Workers from Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Nepal are being called on to help fill serious shortages in Victorian aged care homes. [...] A Coalition-led regional aged care summit in Mildura last week heard that providers were struggling to keep the doors open as they responded to recommendations from the damning Aged Care Royal Commission.

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

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Aged care sex horror

West Australian, General News, 14/07/2023, Phil Hickey, Page 1

A Perth aged-care home has launched a full internal review after an elderly residents was allegedly indecently assaulted by a man who gained access to a dementia ward on the pretext of visiting a friend. The West Australian can reveal the disturbing incident has led Cannington detectives to arrest and charge a 77-year-old man with aggravated indecent assault.

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

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Findings not a factor in closure

Daily Liberal, General News, 14/07/2023, Allison Hore, Page 2

The decision to shutter a nursing home in Dubbo was not influenced by aged care commission findings, management says. On Wednesday, Catholic Healthcare announced they would be closing the St Mary's Villa aged care facility on Darling Street in Dubbo - currently home to 36 residents.

Dementia leads Illawarra death rates

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 14/07/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

Dementia is the leading cause of death for Illawarra residents, according to new data which shows how Australians are most likely to die in different places across Australia. This differs from the national trend, which shows coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death across Australia (causing 10.83 per cent of deaths), while dementia ranks second, causing 8.97 per cent of deaths.

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Labor pledge for Toosey expansion

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/07/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 7

Chairman of directors of Toosey Aged and Community Care facility Kathy Henry said the opportunities presented through Labor's commitment to the facility would be "enormous." The announcement is part of Labor's \$98.9 million Right Priorities Plan, which Labor leader Rebecca White said would broaden the allied health services available at Toosey if Labor wins the next election.

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Research says older people's rights to intimacy are 'compromised' in aged care

Aged Care Insite, Other, 13/07/2023, Arshmah Jamal

New research suggests that residential aged care providers are compromising residents' ability to enjoy intimacy and express their sexuality. La Trobe University's Australian Centre for Evidence-Based Aged Care (ACEBAC) surveyed almost 3,000 residential aged care facilities across Australia.

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Developing CALD dementia support program for carers

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/07/2023, Natasha Egan

A Flinders University-led project involving seven aged care organisations and hundreds of professional and informal carers is aiming to help improve the quality of life and support of culturally and linguistically diverse people looking after loved ones with dementia

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Ancillary workers 'left in limbo'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 13/07/2023, Christopher Kelly

Staff who missed out on the workers' pay rise are feeling "neglected and unappreciated", says an aged care chief. As a result of a decision by the Fair Work Commission last November from 1 July direct care workers and some non-direct care workers such as head chefs and recreational activities officers received a 15 per cent increase on their award wage.

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What is Aged Care Industry Labour Agreement and how will it provide fast-tracked permanent residency?

SBS, Other, 13/07/2023, TJ Correa

An international student from Adelaide, Joice Cudis, was thrilled to hear about the Aged Care Industry Labour Agreement announced by the government. She has been studying aged care for the last eight months and working as a kitchen hand in a nursing home facility.

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Nursing and Midwifery Board names aged care representative

The Senior, Other, 13/07/2023

BlueCross Aged Care executive general manager Penelope Marshall has been appointed as the first aged care nurses' representative on Australia's Nursing and Midwifery Board. Ms Marshall has over 25

years experience in healthcare, including a tenure in the role of director of nursing at a major metropolitan hospital.

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Aged care front page of The Australian again

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/07/2023, Ian Horswill

The story on the front page of this morning's The Australian is bad and good news for the aged care sector. The bad news is that it is confirmation that operators are struggling to be viable, not only financially but operationally.

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Medication management is a major compliance risk for residential care and home care providers, but new technology solutions set to roll out in the next five years will not only improve care – they will also benefit providers' bottom line.

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/07/2023, Lauren Broomham

Medication management is a major compliance risk for residential care and home care providers, but new technology solutions set to roll out in the next five years will not only improve care they will also benefit providers' bottom line. Renee Watson is General Manager at medication management solution provider MPS Connect, which supports 60,000 consumers across Australia two-thirds in residential aged care and the remaining third living at home.

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428 PALM workers placed into aged care home jobs last financial year

The Weekly Source, Other, 13/07/2023, Caroline Egan

In the 2022-23 financial year, 428 workers from the Pacific and Timor-Leste arrived in Australia as part of the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme and undertook placements in the aged care sector, a spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade told The SOURCE.

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Work to start on new Rockhampton Mercy Haven aged care facility The sod has been turned marking the beginning of works on the new Rockhampton Mercy Haven aged care facility.

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 13/07/2023, Geordi Offord

Work on Rockhampton's newest aged care facility is underway, with the sod officially turned on the Mercy Community project on Wednesday. The new facility, which will be called Mercy Haven, will be able to care for up to 90 residents.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/07/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Amanda Rose, the founder of Small Business Women Australia and broadcaster and author Justin Smith. [...] Here we have a Royal Commission into aged care because it was a mess and it was a dangerous mess.

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Channel 7, Sunrise , 13/07/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

A growing number of aged care facilities are being forced to close with a new policy, adding pressure to the sector's crippling staff shortages. The government's 24 over seven nursing target means at least one nurse must be working at all times. But short staffed facilities say they are stuck in limbo while waiting for an exemption. [...]

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101 FM, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Paul Barrett

A growing number of aged care facilities are closing due to worker shortages The Australian reports 33

residents from two Queensland homes will be displaced as regional New South Wales facilities say they're being left in limbo over exemptions to staffing changes. Unemployment and underemployment rates have been found to be a significant driver of suicide across the country.

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4BC, 06:00 News, 13/07/2023

The Australian reports 33 residents from two aged care facilities in Queensland will be left displaced due to worker shortages. NSW staff are looking for exemptions to 24/7 staffing changes.

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5AA, 15:00 News, 13/07/2023

The Australian Human Rights Commission is calling on aged care providers to embrace training on ageism. New research shows just a single 2.5 hour session made 90% of participants rethink the way they communicated with older people. Age Discrimination Commissioner Dr Kay Patterson says training can be highly effective in shifting attitudes, even though they were not all that negative about older people beforehand.

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ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 13/07/2023, Virginia Trioli

Interview with Dr Kay Patterson, Age Discrimination Commissioner about ageism. Patterson discusses the Age Discrimination Commissioner's research into ageism, awareness, training and the impact it has on the person who does the training. She states it shows just a single 2.5 hour session made. 90% of participants rethink the way they communicate with older people

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ABC Radio Sydney, 12:00 News, 13/07/2023

Providers say aged care facilities across the country will be forced to close unless more nurses are recruited to the sector. The Aged Care Royal Commission found homes should have a registered nurse on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and mandated minimum levels of one on one care. But the Aged and Community Care Providers Association says there's simply not enough staff to meet those requirements. CEO Tom Symondson says recruiting from overseas can only be part of the solution.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 08:00 News, 13/07/2023

Aged care providers say facilities will be forced to close across Australia if more nurses can't be recruited to the sector The Aged Care Royal Commission found providers should have a registered nurse on duty 24 hours a day.

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POPULATION HEALTH

BMI 'doesn't measure up for individuals'

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 3

Evidence that the single measure of BMI is a poor indicator of disease and mortality risk is now overwhelming, prompting a radical rethink on the association between weight and health at the highest levels of medicine. A US study published in July that found being overweight according to the BMI scale was not linked to an increased risk of death has attracted attention, but it's only one in a string of studies in recent years to have questioned the use of the body mass index calculator in healthcare.

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End to town's long water fight

More than a decade after lead contamination was discovered in a remote Tasmanian hamlet's drinking water, a \$5m pipeline has finally been completed. It was back in 2012 that the fewer than 100 residents of Pioneer, in the state's NorthEast, were told their drinking water was unsafe due to heavy metal contamination 50-times higher than recommended guidelines, according to Macquarie University researchers.

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'Get behind' report

Border Watch, General News, 14/07/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 6

A South Australian lymphedema advocate is calling on all levels of government to get behind a new report aiming to collect accurate data about how many people live with the condition. Lymphedema is a condition where the accumulation of excessive amounts of proteinrich fluid in the tissue results in swelling of one or more regions of the body. [...] The report is available for viewing on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website.

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Cadia boss cops to breach

Central Western Daily, General News, 14/07/2023, Mark Logan, Page 1

The general manager of one of the world's largest gold mines has conceded the operation has been in breach of clean air regulations. In late May, the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority issued Newcrest Mining's Cadia mine, near Orange, its finalised pollution Prevention Notice, amid fears it is endangering nearby residents with air and water pollution.

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

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Fluoride target missed

Daily Liberal, General News, 14/07/2023, Page 1

Dubbo residents will have to wait another year to get teeth-protecting flouride in their drinking water after four years of going without. Dubbo Regional Council initially aimed to reintroduce fluoride into the water supply by June 2023.

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Disease explodes

Daily Mercury, General News, 14/07/2023, Heidi Petith, Page 8

Mine dust lung disease cases have surged by 27 per cent over the past 12 months as pleas grow for retired and former miners to take up free testing. There were 95 cases of MDLD reported to Resources Safety and Health Queensland over the 2022-23 financial year, compared to 75 the year before.

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Fertility struggles can be costly and time consuming. Living with a disability can make them even harder

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2023, Rosie King

It's the simple things that Sarah Fisher is most looking forward to about having a baby. "I want to be there for the late nights, watching them breathe," she said.

[Read More](#)

What changes to cosmetic surgery and injectables industry mean for patients, doctors and influencers

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/07/2023, Mandy Squires

Sweeping changes have hit Victoria's booming injectables and cosmetic surgery industry. This is what they mean for people who want to change their looks, for doctors and for influencers.

[Read More](#)

Patients are being paid to start hep C treatment — is it ethical?

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/07/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Professor Thomas Snelling's team is targeting hard-to-reach patients who are yet to start direct-acting antivirals. Since direct-acting antivirals were listed on the PBS seven years ago, more than 100,000 Australians have been cured of hepatitis C infection.

[Read More](#)

Looksmaxxing: The dangers of face hammering and height surgery for love

SBS, Other, 13/07/2023, Jennifer Luu

Deeply insecure about their appearance and desperate to attract a partner, some members of the looksmaxxing online community are taking drastic steps to change their looks. Ever since he was a teenager, Jay (not his real name) has been insecure about his height. In high school, he felt like he was treated differently because he was shorter than the other boys.

[Read More](#)

4BC, 05:30 News, 13/07/2023

A vaping scourge continues to plague Queensland schools. The principal of a Bundaberg based school has told The Courier Mail he's confiscating up to ten vapes a week.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Top killers revealed

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 7

Chronic illnesses are killing hundreds of people in Bendigo each year, with coronary heart disease claiming 158 lives more than the next highest cause of death in 2021. New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Australians, however, for women only, dementia is the top killer.

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

High hopes for treatments

Border Watch, General News, 14/07/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 6

New treatment options for those with lymphedema in the Limestone Coast may be on the horizon as those with the chronic illness advocate for better local treatments. The Lymphedema Ladies, a group for people with the condition, met with a MediRent consultant to discuss and try out compression pumps.

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PRIMARY CARE

Time to address shortage

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/07/2023, Jane Morrell, Page 27

As we reflect on the past 10 years of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), there's no doubt that Ait has helped transform so many lives, providing much needed funding and support, as well as greater choice and control for people living with disability. In 2012, a year before the NDIS was introduced, I created Carer Solutions.

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

Medical help for needy

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/07/2023, Judy Augustine, Page 13

Vulnerable Tasmanians who are struggling to pay for medical appointments will be able to access free medical attention as part of a new program, but with demand already high for the service, organisers are now looking at ways to keep it going. Health With Dignity is run by the Salvation Army after it was pitched by the Hobart City Council housing and homelessness committee.

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

Hospice pain

Border Watch, General News, 14/07/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

A dedicated palliative care facility could be built in Mount Gambier/ Berrin after Mount Gambier MP Troy Bell was successful in calling for the state government to recognise the need for varied end-of-life care in regional areas. Mr Bell addressed the House of Assembly on Wednesday, June 28, and told the story of the Smith family and how they would benefit from a local facility.

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

Stroke patient boost

Daily Mercury, General News, 14/07/2023, Matthew Killoran, Page 12

Regional Queenslanders will be able to access the same stroke specialists as in the state's capital through a \$5.8m telehealth service which will go online from next year. Queensland residents living in the regions suffer a significantly higher risk of stroke than those living in metropolitan areas, but lack access to vital services which can improve the chances of their recovery.

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

Minister refutes 'broken promise' claim

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/07/2023, Page 4

The NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park has refuted claims the government will not deliver on the new Gunnedah hospital project. He said the NSW Government remained committed to the redevelopment of Gunnedah hospital, and there has been no cut in funding allocated towards the project.

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

Audio failings 'distressing'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/07/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 7

A clinical review into the failings of care provided to around 400 children treated at Townsville University Hospital's audiology department found that at least 20 require "urgent" follow up care. Townsville Hospital and Health Service chief executive officer Kieran Keyes said a decision was yet to be made about two staff members that were stood down at the start of the review - and the organisation was "deeply sorry" for the failings.

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

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

Medical insurer drops cover for private doctors who conduct hormone treatments in adolescents with gender dysphoria

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2023, Janelle Miles

One of Australia's leading medical insurers has dumped cover for private practising doctors who initiate hormone treatment in adolescents with gender dysphoria, a decision that may put even more pressure on public hospital waiting lists. [...] The ABC sought comment from the Australian Medical Association and medical colleges representing general practitioners, physicians, psychiatrists, and surgeons about the MDA National decision.

[Read More](#)

Guild draws 60-day dispensing battlelines

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/07/2023

Residents living in marginal federal seats are set to be bombarded with advertising highlighting the risks double dispensing poses to the viability of community pharmacies The Pharmacy Guild of

Australia is seeking to pressure the government to roll back its double dispensing policy through a targeted advertising campaign.

[Read More](#)

‘We need a new funding agreement’

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/07/2023

60-day dispensing has "essentially blown up" the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement mid-term, says Anthony Tassone, Guild Victorian branch president

[Read More](#)

Calls for help: Drugs and alcohol fuelling hospital violence

In Daily, Other, 13/07/2023, Belinda Willis

Rising drug and alcohol use is triggering growing numbers of violent attacks at regional South Australian hospitals, with a peak nursing group saying other town businesses are being forced to hire security guards. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation is calling for restraint-trained security guards to be stationed at the Riverland General Hospital in Berri and the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital to protect nurses, doctors and patients.

[Read More](#)

Assisted dying schemes do not protect doctors from prosecution: A-G

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/07/2023, Sean Parnell

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus has for the first time acknowledged the legal risk that doctors working under state-regulated Voluntary Assisted Dying schemes could be prosecuted under Commonwealth laws. Doctors, and several state governments, have long held concerns that a Howard government amendment to the Commonwealth Criminal Code makes it illegal for phones and computers to be used to discuss and convey information about suicide.

[Read More](#)

Sandeep's wife died after giving birth to twins. He still doesn't know why

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 13/07/2023, Holly Thompson

A Perth father has been left grieving and desperate for answers after his wife died days after giving birth to twins at Fiona Stanley Hospital. Sandeep Mann is now caring for the newborns and his six-year-old son after his wife Monika Mann died on May 15, the day after she was discharged from hospital.

[Read More](#)

What changes to cosmetic surgery and injectables industry mean for patients, doctors and influencers

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/07/2023, Mandy Squires

Sweeping changes have hit Victoria's booming injectables and cosmetic surgery industry. This is what they mean for people who want to change their looks, for doctors and for influencers.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 13/07/2023, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

Well, desperate patients across the country are being put on year long wait lists for Specialist Check-ups. Five year old Azaylia Jones was diagnosed with glue ear, an illness caused by fluid build-up that requires surgery. [...] Azaylia and her family, Alana, Simon and Charlotte, join us right now from the Gold Coast, along with AMA Queensland President Dr Maria Boulton in Brisbane.

[Play Now](#)

HO FM, 07:00 News, 13/07/2023

The rollout of for Medicare urgent care GP clinics is ramping up in Tasmania. The first to operate in

Launceston by the end of the month to after hours bulk bill Clinics slated for Greater Hobart are expected to open by Christmas.

[Play Now](#)

Triple M Hobart, 12:00 News, 13/07/2023

Hobart has missed out on the state's first bulk billed urgent care clinic. Instead, it's going to Launceston to open up at the end of the month.

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4BC, Afternoons, 13/07/2023, Sofie Formica

[...] I will also just mention that nearly 2 in 3 patients were left ramped in ambulances at the Redlands Hospital in the past year and that the ramping there peaked at 73% one point. It does make it one of the worst in Queensland's history and to a degree these satellite hospitals when they're up and running and again, I say when they're up and running because at this point we haven't been told definitively when, any will open their doors for Queenslanders to be able to access the services.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, James Vyer

Canberra says a dedicated respite centre for the Queanbeyan community could save health systems in the region millions of dollars. The ACT Government is considering ways to improve access to IVF for Canberra's low income earners.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, James Vyer

Interview with Paul Walshe, Chair of Respite Care Queanbeyan [...] There was no respite care available outside of putting Stephen into a nursing home where they did. And he shared a room with two elderly gentlemen who were in their 90s with dementia. And unfortunately, Stephen passed away and since then, obviously Evonne passed away some two years ago now from her own courageous battle with cancer and we want her legacy to continue.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, James Vyer

Continuing interview with Paul Walshe, Chair of Respite Care Queanbeyan [...] So we're not talking about, you know, putting pressure on the health system, we're talking about taking pressure away because if, these people are going to hospital, which is costing probably 16 to \$1700 a night, a bed in a respite care facility in Queanbeyan. Yvonne Cuschieri house would cost roughly around about \$700 a night Monday to Friday and probably \$900 from for weekends and public holidays.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 13/07/2023, Kylie Baxter

The establishment of Tasmania's first GP Urgent Care Centre is expected to ease the pressure on the Launceston General Hospital. The Launceston Medical Centre on Wellington Street will be open to walk in patients for extended hours seven days a week. It's been jointly funded by the state and federal governments.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Post-pandemic loneliness hits

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/07/2023, Sarah Perillo, Page 12

More than half of young Australians are more lonely now than they were during the pandemic, new

research reveals. The study from KX Pilates shows Gen Z people born in the late 1990s and early 2000s have the highest levels of loneliness (59 per cent), followed by Millennials (41 per cent), Gen X (34 per cent) and Boomers (21 per cent).

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

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

Focus on mental health

Border Watch, General News, 14/07/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

Services at the Mount Gambier/Berrin based Head to Health facility will begin next week providing free mental health services to those in need. With the service run by FocusOne Health, it will have six staff members on board for referrals and walk-in appointments.

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

Jobs link to suicide statistics

Cairns Post, General News, 14/07/2023, Page 14

A study examining unemployment and underemployment figures and suicide rates in Australia has found both were significant drivers of suicide mortality between 2004-2016. University of Sydney researchers say during that time about one in 10 of the 32,331 suicides in total were estimated to result from labour underutilization (3071 suicides or 9.5 per cent).

Similar coverage reported by: [Medicine Today \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Pooch's life spent in prison

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/07/2023, Keith Woods, Page 16

This adorable pooch is destined to spend much of her life behind bars. But she won't be howling about it.

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

2GB, 07:00 News, 13/07/2023

Unemployment and underemployment have been found to be significant drivers of suicide mortality, accounting for as much as 10% of cases. An audit shows New South Wales Health hired security guards at western Sydney hospitals over two years without completing background checks and 26 new Stem ambassadors are being partnered with federal MPs and senators to help give advice in the science and technology landscape to finance.

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2SM, 07:30 News, 13/07/2023

Campaign groups for mental health are calling for a reform of government processes so mental health is considered ahead of key policy decisions. The group says the Robodebt Royal Commission is a clear example of why we need to put health at the centre of government decision making.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Drive, 13/07/2023, Richard Glover

Interview with Ian Hickie, Co-director, Brain and Mind Centre at the University of Sydney, about unemployment and underemployment are significant drivers of suicide rates, according to new research by the University of Sydney. Hickie says using new mathematical modelling techniques, about 10% of suicides are accounted, are caused directly by unemployment or underemployment.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Input sought on new Allied Health training centre

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/07/2023, Helen Kempton, Page 5

The University of Tasmania is working with the Devonport City Council to establish a training centre in the city for Allied Health students and it is seeking community feedback to guide what it offers. As part of establishing the centre, residents of Devonport and surrounds are being invited to attend information sessions and participate in a study to have their say.

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Nats warn against a locum crackdown

Western Advocate, General News, 14/07/2023, Eva Baxter, Page 5

NSW health minister Ryan Park has vowed an "over-reliance" on private recruitment firms in the state's health system will be addressed, but National Party politicians say he should tread carefully in smaller communities. The former government was "over-reliant" on locum doctors as a "temporary fix" to regional and rural health worker shortages, the minister said.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#).

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Long-serving GP closes clinic as Norseman joins list of country towns facing WA doctor shortage

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2023, Jarrod Lucas and Giulia Bertoglio

Rural Health West warns there are nearly 100 vacancies for general practitioners across regional Western Australia, as a Goldfields town faces the difficult prospect of replacing its long-serving doctor. According to the Shire of Dundas, Dr Graham Rowlands, who has serviced the Norseman community for nearly two decades, closed his clinic this week without notice amid an ongoing dispute with the council.

[Read More](#)

WA police accept latest wage offer as nurses and firefighters continue negotiations

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2023, Keane Bourke

WA Police have accepted the state government's wages policy, as nurses and firefighters continue to hold out on reaching a deal. The police union had joined other public sector unions in a long-running and heated negotiations campaign over fresh pay and conditions deals last year.

[Read More](#)

IMGs are crucial to Australia — we must remove the roadblocks

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/07/2023, Karyn Matterson

Australia has relied on international medical graduates to meet the healthcare needs of its population. In 2021 for instance, more than 52% of Australia's GPs were IMGs.

[Read More](#)

GP receptionists bear brunt

Medical Forum, Other, 13/07/2023

Patient aggression towards receptionists working in Australian general practice is a "serious workplace safety concern," according to new research. The literature review, published this week in Family Medicine and Community Health, included 20 relevant studies (involving 4107 participants, of which 21.

In Practice: Women in Public Health

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 13/07/2023

A new network is aiming to reduce the gap between the number of women employed in the public health workforce and those in senior positions. A new network is aiming to reduce the gap between the number of women employed in the public health workforce and those in senior positions.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

2CC, 06:00 News, 13/07/2023

Concerns raised about a possible reporting gap in the ACT Public health system's performance data has been labelled extremely concerning by a leading health expert. The digital health record went live last November, but Shadow Health Minister Leanne Castley says data hasn't been able to be reported since then. Australian Medical Association Act president Professor Walter Abhayaratna says it could lead to issues down the track.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Stephen Cenatiempo

[...] Let's talk about this digital health record. Now. I still don't understand what it does that the my health record federally doesn't do. I don't understand the difference. But, well, it turns out that the digital health record doesn't do much at all in well, it helps on the ground. Nurses. Doctors are supposed to be able to get prescriptions out. It helps that transfer between wards, I think as well. So we've heard operationally from some nurses that they think it's going well I've heard from doctors that it's an absolute debacle. So it's it is difficult to understand.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, 08:00 News, 13/07/2023

Concerns have been raised over a possible gap in data on the performance of the Territory's public hospital system. The digital health record was put into action in November, but Shadow Health Minister Leanne Casley says data has been underreported as part of the system were still being developed.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doc had child sex images

Courier Mail, General News, 14/07/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 13

A disgraced Sunshine Coast pediatrician who treated child victims of sexual abuse has been jailed after pleading guilty to possessing more than 2000 child abuse and exploitation images. Tom Sun Yap, 44, faced the Brisbane Magistrates Court on Thursday after police uncovered thousands of child abuse material at his home, which he had collected while working as pediatrician at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

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I would have died if Dr Charlie Teo did not save my life: Now the maverick surgeon may never operate in Australia again - sparking concerns of dire consequences for our sickest

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023, Kylie Stevens

A young woman operated on by Dr Charlie Teo in her teens has leapt to the defence of the controversial neurosurgeon, claiming she would have died if it wasn't for him. The high profile surgeon has been found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct following an inquiry by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission.

Similar coverage reported by: [Medical Forum \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

AHPRA hunts down sex pests

Medical Forum, Other, 13/07/2023

A focus on uncovering and acting on sexual misconduct and harassment in healthcare has helped hundreds more people to come forward. In 2022-23, 841 complaints were received about boundary violations by 728 registered health practitioners, a 223% increase from before the pandemic which represents a growing trend of patients reporting inappropriate behaviour, assisted by Ahpra's appointment of 10 new FT staff to its specialist investigations team to meet this demand.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 13/07/2023, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

Interview with medical expert Dr Nick Coatsworth. [...] Now the medical Professional Standards Committee has now placed conditions on Dr Teo's registration. What will this involve? Sara What this basically involves is that any hospital that Charlie seeks to work at in Australia will have to have their director of medical services and their CEO and indeed their organisation look very carefully about whether he can practise in that hospital or not.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 13/07/2023, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

Continuing interview with medical expert Dr Nick Coatsworth. [...] Well, we need a we need surgical communities and we've got them in Australia through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons that are prepared to innovate, but are prepared to innovate under contexts where they the outcomes are evaluated in a if necessary, a research setting or by looking back on your cases, it can be done. Surgical innovation can be done ethically, it can be done safely.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Ben Fordham

[...] Now, it's a tough time for the brain surgeon, Charlie Teo. The Health Care Complaints Commission has found him guilty. This followed two complaints made against him. Families say their loved ones weren't warned about all of the risks before they consented to surgery.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'Confronting' shock in instant brain scan

The Australian, Sport, 14/07/2023, Erin Smith, Page 22

A leading neuroscientist says former Australian footballers will be in for a "confronting" shock when they have their brains analysed by a new app that can detect the damage done by concussions. It comes as Professional Footballers Australia plans to lobby Football Australia to have better concussion management and detection protocols included as part of their future collective bargaining agreement.

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Train your brain to get your game on

Age, General News, 14/07/2023, Jenny Marder, Page 22

Carmen Chavez spent much of her life avoiding sport. Her aversion, she says, stemmed from the embarrassment of primary school PE. As more athletic girls slammed volleyballs across the net, she worried about tripping or being hit by a ball. In order to avoid playing, she often sat on the sidelines and acted as the announcer.

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

Women kick new goal

Herald Sun, General News, 14/07/2023, Page 1

A new crowd record for the Australian women's soccer team will be set tonight, as about 50,000 fans show their support for the green and gold against France at Marvel Stadium. And in an exclusive interview with the Herald Sun, ahead of pre-World Cup warm-up clash, Matildas vice-captain Steph Catley said she expected this month's tournament to inspire a fresh generation of female soccer stars.

Similar coverage reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury](#)

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

Walking football allowing people of all ages, fitness levels and abilities to play round-ball game

ABC Online, Other, 13/07/2023, Elizabeth Wright

Sarah Williams may only be 58, but she says she has the bones of a 94-year-old. "A couple of years ago I found out that I had osteoporosis," she says. Doctors told her to be careful with any exercise she did.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Isolation 'shrinking the brain' in old age

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2023, Kaya Burgess, Page 3

A lack of social contact with friends and family in later life may cause the brain to shrink, a study has found, suggesting that loneliness could play a role in the development of dementia. Researchers in Japan said their findings suggested that helping older people to "start and maintain" social connections could be "beneficial for preventing brain atrophy and the development of dementia".

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

'Holy grail' stroke breakthrough put through its paces

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023

A revolutionary anti-clotting drug has been described as a potential holy grail for stroke patients. Decades in the making, the blood thinning drug TBO-309 has shown incredible promise in early

research with potential to improve blood flow to the brain of stroke patients.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

More teens shy from booze

Medical Forum, Other, 13/07/2023

Young people who avoid drinking alcohol heavily are doing so because of concerns about the long- and short-term risks of drinking. Australian researchers recruited 40 teens aged 16-19 in 2018 who said they rarely or never drank.

[Read More](#)

Stroke Foundation welcomes budget funding

The Senior, Other, 13/07/2023

The Stroke Foundation has welcomed the federal government's commitment of an additional \$300,000 that will go towards vital community education programs. The funding - announced as part of the federal budget, will go towards funding of the foundation's F.A.S.T.

[Read More](#)

Memphasys locks in new patents for flagship IVF treatment

West Australian, Other, 13/07/2023, Michael Philipps

Reproductive biotechnology company Memphasys been granted two new patents by the Australian Patent Office for its flagship Felix system, ensuring the integrity of the device is protected in all markets. Felix is a medical device that gently separates high-quality sperm from semen for use in IVF programs that combines membranes and a process involving an electrical charge called electrophoresis.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with Professor Sean Jackson, irector of cardiovascular research at the University of Sydney's Heart Research Institute [...] So we've been on a very long journey trying to develop a new anti-clotting drug which we can use in the treatment of stroke. It's a big challenge because there's been many, trials tried with existing drugs that were used in the clinic. Unfortunately, all of them cause bleeding on the brain and this worsens the outcome for people with stroke.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 13/07/2023, Tiffany Warne

Australians at risk of stroke are about to trial a potentially game changing clot busting drug. It's been dubbed the Holy Grail of treatments and it's the first breakthrough of its kind in more than 30 years.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 13/07/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

An Australian drug, decades in the making is on track to revolutionise treatment for stroke patients. The world-leading breakthrough comes without key side effects, with clinical trials about to begin. The new drug works by dissolving clots and improving blood flow to the brain, reducing the chance of irreversible brain damage. Researchers are now embarking on stage two clinical trials in 80 stroke patients in six hospitals across the country.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/07/2023, Peter Overton

Stroke researchers are ready for prime time, launching the trial of a new drug across the country. After decades of research, the drug, called TBO-309, is ready to launch into phase two human trials.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 13/07/2023, Janice Petersen

Australian researchers say they may have found a breakthrough stroke treatment. Rolling out the drug in world first clinical trials, around 85% of strokes are described as ischaemic caused by a clot blocking blood supply to the brain. If successful, it could lead to a significant improvement in outcomes for patients.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Ross Stevenson and Russel Howcroft

Interview with Professor Sean Jackson, professor at the Heart Research Institute. [...] That's the key consideration to make sure we're not causing harm. And then after that, it's all about optimising how much the drug you give, how long you give the drug, etcetera. The article says it can be traced back to a Box Hill Hospital discovery in the 90s.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Leaders loud and clear about voice issues

The Australian, General News, 14/07/2023, Paige Taylor, Page 5

Traditional owners from four remote West Australian regions have nominated health, youth issues and housing as their most pressing concerns, at a bush meeting south of the iron ore hub of Port Hedland. About 250 Aboriginal people from the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison and midwest regions north of Perth indicated their support for the Indigenous voice with a show of hands at the annual Yule River bush meeting on Wednesday night.

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

'I heard loud and clear'

Cairns Post, General News, 14/07/2023, Kristina Puljak, Page 7

Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has agreed there is a lack of Indigenous representation throughout the Torres and Cape Hospital Health Service and confirmed an investigation into the body will be independent, with hopes for it to finish by the end of the year. Briefly in Cairns on Thursday on her way back to Brisbane from the Torres Strait, Ms Fentiman addressed the media.

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

Aboriginal man loses bid to claim aged pension early because of shorter life expectancy

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023, Pranav Harish

An Aboriginal man has lost his bid to claim the aged pension three years earlier because of his shorter life expectancy. Queensland-born Wakka Wakka man Dennis James Fisher lodged a claim in the Federal Court before it was dismissed by five judges on Wednesday.

Similar coverage reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Curtin University to conduct study into young Indigenous men's mental health and wellbeing

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/07/2023

Curtin University has been given nearly \$100,000 by Healthway for a study aimed to help young Aboriginal men aged 14-25 take care of their mental health and well-being. The research team will collaborate with young Indigenous men to understand their thoughts on mental health and how they currently promote their well-being, also exploring the challenges and factors that support mental well-being and resilience.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous focus in milestone suicide prevention plan

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/07/2023

Australia's first legislated suicide prevention plan will deliver specialised training and include a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. South Australia has launched the \$1.5 million plan after taking feedback from more than 3200 people who had experienced suicidal distress, cared for someone through a suicidal crisis or lost someone they cared about.

[Read More](#)

Voice would help 'change frustration' over health and education, Linda Burney says

The Guardian, Other, 14/07/2023, Josh Butler

The Indigenous voice would help "change the frustration" of Aboriginal Australians in health and education, Linda Burney has said, adding that those issues had been "ghettoised" into her portfolio in the past rather than dealt with more closely by responsible ministers. Speaking at a major community meeting in Western Australia's Pilbara region on Wednesday night, the minister for Indigenous Australians said that the proposed national voice was part of the Albanese government trying to "do things differently".

[Read More](#)

Stroke Foundation campaign to close stroke gap between First Nations, non-Indigenous

The Senior, Other, 13/07/2023

First Nations people are two to three times more likely to have a stroke than non-Indigenous Australians, but the Stroke Foundation is on a mission to close the gap. As the nation marked NAIDOC Week from July 2-9, the foundation embarked on a mission to raise awareness about the higher prevalence of stroke in Indigenous communities.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with Marcus Stuart Ayres, a representative of the Uluru Dialogue and a member of the First Nations Referendum Working Group. [...] Look, you know, when these when this data comes out, there's a sinking feeling that the progress that everyone was hoping for is not being seen. I mean, again, more harrowing results for Australians waking up to it. We know the data around closing the gap. We know that a voice is a solution to start chipping away at that and that's why we're pushing for it.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHO worried bird flu might adapt to humans 'more easily'

The Australian, International News, 14/07/2023, Robin Millard, Page 9

The World Health Organisation says the recent surge in bird flu outbreaks among mammals could help the virus spread more easily among humans. Since late 2021, Europe has been gripped by its worst outbreak of bird flu, while North and South America have also experienced severe outbreaks.

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

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Calls to make jab free again

Courier Mail, General News, 14/07/2023, Jill Poulsen and Georgia Clelland, Page 1

An emerging influenza crisis has put pressure on the state government to again make flu jabs free for everyone as doctors question why it has not happened already with at least 55 Queenslanders dead. The flu has claimed the life of 11-year-old Sunshine Coast girl Emma Schwab this month, and with the season nowhere near its peak Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is being called on to reintroduce a \$40m free jab program that was offered for the first time last year.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Shepparton News \(Shepparton\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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What to know about the gastro superbug that has one state on alert

SBS, Other, 13/07/2023

The bug, which in some cases is antibiotic-resistant, is highly contagious and can be transmitted through sexual contact. Victoria is on alert over a gastro superbug called shigellosis.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 13/07/2023, Joe O'Brien

Vaccination rates have also plummeted across the country and some experts say the cost of getting the jab is partly to blame. Adelaide pharmacist Greg Scarlett was overrun with customers wanting flu vaccines during the Covid pandemic, but this year demand has plummeted.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 13/07/2023, Max Fatcher and Sharyn Ghidella

We're being warned of a predicted surge in flu cases over the next fortnight. Influenza has already claimed the lives of dozens of Queenslanders this year, including Noosa schoolgirl. Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman urges children to get vaccinated.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/07/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Chief Health Officer Dr John Gerrard says Queensland is in uncharted territory with a severe influenza outbreak now hitting the state. The warning comes as friends rally around the family of an 11-year-old girl who died with the virus as an investigation into her death gets underway.

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 13/07/2023, Peter Stefanovic

An 11 year old schoolgirl has died in Queensland after contracting Influenza B Emma Schwab was reportedly admitted to the Noosa Hospital emergency department on July 5th but was sent home the following day. An ambulance was called and she was rushed to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital where she died soon after arriving.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Interview with Dr Paul Griffin, Infectious Disease Expert. [...] I mean, the flu is a very serious viral illness in its own right and typically does cause more infections and more disease in children than when we compare it to Covid. So I think our focus on flu is maybe just been lifted a little bit, obviously focusing on Covid.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Who is hindering abortion access

Canberra Times, General News, 14/07/2023, Jenna Price, Page 55

Powerful lobbying is helping to maintain Australia's position as a laggard on abortion access. [...] And this week, those of us who believe women in Australia should have the right to access abortion (just about all of us), gave a cheer to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the government authority which evaluates and regulates medicines, which this week made it easier for women to get access to abortion drugs.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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Abortion pill access opens

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 14/07/2023, Gabriel Rule, Page 4

Health expanded access to the medical "abortion pill" will assist women in "rural and remote areas where there are significant barriers to accessing abortions", a Bendigo health service executive said. Bendigo Community Health Services executive and acting CEO Nicole Ferrie said the landmark changes approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration to expand access to MS-2 Step would counter roadblocks for women seeking abortions in the Bendigo region.

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'Huge step forward'

Border Mail, General News, 14/07/2023, Sophie Else, Page 1

A border doctor says easier access to the pregnancy termination pill is a step in the right direction that will give women peace of mind. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has decided the pill should be available through mainstream health services without the onerous and restrictive red tape now involved with prescription and dispensing.

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Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination: an update

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, General News, 01/05/2023, Page 41

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine schedule became a one-dose schedule in February 2023, with catch-up as a single dose extended to all Australians aged 25 and younger under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). [...] Ongoing safety is monitored using both passive TGA surveillance and active surveillance in Australia through AusVaxSafety (ausvaxsafety.org.au/national-immunisation-program-schedulevaccines/12-13-years-schedule-point).

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How Bod Science pulled ahead in the race for Australia's first over-the-counter CBD

The Australian, Other, 13/07/2023, Eddy Sunarto

BOD Science seems to be leading the quest to be the first company to sell its cannabinoid medicine over the chemist counter after a landmark' update. Amid growing global acceptance of medicinal cannabinoids, the Australian TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) down-scheduled low-dose cannabidiol (CBD) from a prescription medicine (Schedule 4), to a pharmacist-only medicine (Schedule 3) in 2022.

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

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TGA approves insulin pen swap amid global shortage

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/07/2023, Antony Scholefield

Pharmacists have been granted legal permission to dispense Ryzodeg 70/30 Penfill instead of FlexTouch. The TGA will allow pharmacists to swap out certain pre-filled insulin products in response to a global shortage predicted to last until June 2024.

[Read More](#)

Risk of suicidal ideation with weight-loss drugs being investigated by European regulators

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/07/2023

The European Medicines Agency is looking into concerns that weight-loss drugs like semaglutide and liraglutide may be linked to suicidal ideation and potential self-harm. [...] In the US, the PI for Wegovy which is approved by the TGA but not yet marketed in Australia says patients should be monitored for depression, suicidal thoughts or behaviour, and unusual changes in mood or behaviour.

[Read More](#)

TGA hits vaping outfit/director with \$106k in fines

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/07/2023, David Rowley

Eight infringement notices totalling \$105,600 have been issued to trans-Tasman operation Nature's Puff Pty Ltd and one of its directors for allegedly unlawful advertising of nicotine vaping products, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced.

[Read More](#)

Regional pacts the proper tonic for dodgy medications

Ballarat Courier, Other, 14/07/2023, Tess Ikononou

Australia's drug regulator will team up with governments in the Indo-Pacific under a \$13.3 million boost to improve access to medicines. Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced the partnership between the Therapeutic Goods Administration and regional neighbours, during a visit to Jakarta for ASEAN meetings.

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Access to abortion in Australia is changing: here's what you need to know

Mamamia, Other, 13/07/2023

Currently there are two procedures available to terminate a pregnancy in Australia, and this week the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced they will remove a number of restrictions around one of them, making it easier for many Australian women to access them.

[Read More](#)

Pete Evans doubles down on controversial claims during chaotic Kyle and Jackie O interview

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/07/2023

Pete Evans has made a controversial appearance on the Kyle and Jackie O Show today, in a segment which ran for half an hour and saw him censored live on air multiple times. [...] The same year, he was slapped with a \$25,000 fine by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for selling a \$15,000 "BioCharger" device he falsely claimed could fight Covid.

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

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Channel 7, Early News, 13/07/2023, Jodie Speers

The trial examined 28 people with moderate to severe chronic back or neck pain. We had really positive results where we had a 38% reduction in pain scores. [...] The product will now progress to phase three trials, aiming for TGA approval for general release

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KIIS 1065, Kyle and Jackie O Show, 13/07/2023, Kyle Sandilands and Jackie 'O' Henderson

[...] He was also fined \$25,000 from the Therapeutic Goods Administration for spruiking a \$15,000 light machine as a potential coronavirus treatment.

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KIIS 1065, 08:00 News, 13/07/2023

[...] Pete does not believe every press release he's got his own thought this fine from the TGA's because people can't get out.

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3AW, 18:00 News, 13/07/2023

Border Force officials say they'll need to dramatically expand their capabilities to enforce a ban on overseas vapes. The Federal Government is planning to block the importation of non-prescription vaping products. Australian Border Force commander Michael Outram says they'll need to boost their staff numbers when those rules come into effect. He says they've been in discussions with the Therapeutic Goods Administration about it.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 13/07/2023, Mel Bush

[...] So RSV is soon to be preventable. It's not yet on the national immunisation programme but there is something that's been a treatment that's just been licenced by the TGA.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Is medicinal cannabis the answer to endometriosis pain?

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 13/07/2023

The potential use of medicinal cannabis for pain management in people with endometriosis is being explored by Victorian and NSW researchers in two separate studies. The upcoming Australian Medicinal Nursing Symposium being held 11 August will explore the rising use of medicinal cannabis for patients with a range of conditions, including endometriosis.

[Read More](#)

Wastewater testing reveals most popular drugs in each Australian capital city

Cairns Post, Other, 12/07/2023, Chantelle Francis

Wastewater testing has revealed the drugs that are most popular in each capital city with Sydney and Melbourne holding the top spot. Testing of Australia's wastewater has revealed the most popular drugs by capital city.

[Read More](#)

Outrage over proposal to build second injecting room in the heart of Melbourne's CBD where families and young children visit

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023, Jesse Hyland and David Southwell

A proposed location for a second safe injecting room in Melbourne has sparked outrage from local business owners. The Victorian state government is considering a number of places to set up the city's second Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR), where health professionals monitor narcotics use to prevent overdoses.

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