



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 16th July 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **[Sunday Age](#)** (page 1) reports Minister for Health Mark Butler said allegations aired on Saturday that the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund had disbursed funds without due process and with political interference are "concerning". "Last month, I announced a consultation on the future of medical research funding in Australia, including the governance and administration of the Medical Research Future Fund," Minister Butler said. "That consultation process closed this week." The Department of Health and Aged Care, which controls the fund, said a 2021 Australian National Audit Office review of the Fund found its governance arrangements "largely effective" and that the department is equipped "to provide assurance that grant applications are assessed on their merit and represent value for money." Also reported by: [Sun Herald](#), [Sunday Age](#), [Sun Herald](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).
- The **[Sunday Herald Sun](#)** (page 1) reports Fire Rescue Victoria is maintaining its workplace COVID-19 vaccination mandate, preventing firefighters without a third shot from returning to work, while other state employers such as Victoria Police and most schools have relaxed their rules. The Australian Firefighters Alliance has called the decision "a breach of human rights". State Shadow Minister for Health Georgie Crozier said "There is absolutely no reason why

Covid vaccine mandates are required in the FRV, especially now that WorkSafe regulations have expired [on July 12]."

- The [Sunday Times](#) (page 1) reports Western Australia's Department of Health is contacting GPs and issuing SMS alerts to parents in a bid to raise child vaccination rates, with a horror influenza season so far claiming the lives of three children. Only 22.5 percent of the state's under-fives have been immunized and 18 percent of children aged five to 12.
- The [Sunday Canberra Times](#) (page 3) reports plans for a specialty elective surgery centre at the University of Canberra Hospital precinct have been shelved by the ACT government, in favour of integrating the services into a future northside hospital project. ACT Labor promised the \$21 million centre at the territory's 2020 election but no funds have since been allocated.
- The [Sunday Tasmanian](#) (page 9) reports the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has confirmed the Tasmanian state government has offered a new employment agreement, forestalling the threat of industrial action by "burned out" nurses after six months of negotiations. A union survey found 98 per cent of members support industrial action if the government offer is not satisfactory. *Also reported by: [Sunday Examiner](#)*
- The [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#) (page 12) reports the South Australian opposition has called for the review into the loss of birthing services Whyalla Hospital to be widened to other centres such as Waikerie Hospital, which has lacked birthing services for two years. "In the minister's hurry to appoint someone to get to the bottom of why birthing services have been withdrawn from Whyalla, he is missing an opportunity to take measures to stop it happening anywhere else in country SA," said Liberal spokeswoman for regional health Penny Pratt. *Editorial: [Sunday Mail Adelaide](#)*
- The [Sun Herald](#) (page 26) reports Western Sydney University Professor of Midwifery Hannah Dahlen says the declining number of working midwives is down to pandemic disruption and loss of faith in the model of care. Department of Health and Aged Care figures show the number of midwives in NSW dwindled steadily by 555 from 2016 to 2022.

MINISTER BUTLER

Calls to overhaul \$20b medical research fund

Sunday Age, General News, 16/07/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 1

The running of the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund attracted criticism from MPs and scientists yesterday in response to a two-month Age investigation. The fund was a standing joke among scientists, independent MP Monique Ryan said. [...] The investigation - which continues today in The Sunday Age's Extra section - details how the MRFF, which is run by the Health Department, has given out 90 ad hoc or non-competitive grants, worth more than \$500 million, out of \$2.3 billion in total payments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said yesterday medical research should be "above politics".

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

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How \$500m was won in one-horse cash races

Sunday Age, General News, 16/07/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 32

Winning public funding for science is usually a bare-knuckle business. Researchers spend months writing applications, endure brutal peer review and are successful less than 10 per cent of the time. [...] The Health Department said that since 2020 all grants had been competitively awarded aside from a handful related to COVID-19, but it flagged that non-competitive routes were still open to the fund. [...] Current Health Minister Mark Butler announced \$4 million during FightMND's Big Freeze fundraising event last year.

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

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MINISTER WELLS

Sky News Live, Saturday Edition, 15/07/2023, Tim Gilbert and Jaynie Seal

[Press conference on location with ALP candidate for Fadden Letitia Del Fabbro] [...] I'm a registered nurse and a mum, so, you know, money back into Medicare is also really important. And also the way that Anika Wells is addressing the Aged Care Royal Commission findings, including putting a standalone standard for food back into nursing homes and increasing the wages of aged care workers.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

New adult mental health centre opens in Parramatta CBD

Parramatta Times, Other, 15/07/2023

A new free Adult Mental Health Centre has opened its doors in downtown Parramatta, bringing vital help for those in need, It is one of just 26 national AMHCs and the Western Sydney hub is one of the first to assist adults experiencing moderate to high mental health needs.[...] The Parramatta Head to Health centre official opening featured Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Medical abortion pill positive but more needed: Family Planning's Phoebe Walsh

Central Western Daily, Other, 15/07/2023, Orlander Rumung

Expanding access to the medical abortion pill is a "step in the right direction" but more needs to be done to help people in regional areas like Dubbo, says an expert. Earlier in the week the Therapeutic Goods Administration agreed to remove a number of restrictions around prescribing and dispensing MS-2 Step, a two-step drug used to terminate a pregnancy before nine weeks. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said the changes, which will come into effect from August 1, will improve equitable access to healthcare.

Also reported by: [Narromine News \(Online\)](#).

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Calls to overhaul \$20b medical research fund

The running of the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund attracted criticism from MPs and scientists yesterday in response to a two-month Age investigation. The fund was a standing joke among scientists, independent MP Monique Ryan said. [...] The investigation - which continues today in The Sunday Age's Extra section - details how the MRFF, which is run by the Health Department, has given out 90 ad hoc or non-competitive grants, worth more than \$500 million, out of \$2.3 billion in total payments. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said yesterday medical research should be "above politics".

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

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Midwife shortage blamed on burnout

Sun Herald, General News, 16/07/2023, Amber Schultz, Page 26

The number of working midwives is declining, and advocates are blaming workload pressures and exposure to mothers' birth trauma. Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows the number of midwives employed in NSW has decreased year-on-year, with 555 fewer midwives in 2022 than in 2016.

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Tobacco, vaping laws a huge win for nation's health: AMA

Sunday Examiner, General News, 16/07/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 5

The Australian Medical Association has welcomed new laws discouraging smoking and vaping. The AMA has lodged its submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care's consultation on the Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Legislation 2023, supporting the measures introduced in the bill.

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

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Retired WHO scientist Harley Stanton was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease four years ago. He says we need a national approach to a cure

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2023, Manika Champ

When Harley Stanton was first diagnosed with Parkinson's disease four years ago, he hid his diagnosis. "I went into hiding and it was really challenging," Mr Stanton said. [...] An Australian Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said this year's budget provided funding for a National Strategic Framework from Chronic Conditions refresh to be undertaken.

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How governments are (still) failing the public on COVID control

Croakey, Other, 15/07/2023, Alison Barrett

Health sector leaders are calling for governments to take more action to reduce the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for people who are at greater risk of severe outcomes from the virus. Many people are still dying and being hospitalised from COVID in Australia, and many more are being impacted by long COVID. Inequities in the burden of COVID are clearly evident, with some

groups disproportionately at risk of dying from the illness. [...] In the week leading up to 4 July, the seven-day rolling data on Department of Health and Aged Care website shows that 1,812 Australians were being hospitalised each day.

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Changing Australia's approach to managing COVID-19 pandemic may help reduce burden on health system

Croakey, Other, 13/07/2023, Andrew Hewat

Despite many people believing COVID is over and wanting to move on with their lives, the harsh reality is that COVID continues to have a toll. In 2023, COVID is continuing to kill around 200 Australians of all ages every week. [...] Note, the Department of Health and Aged Care has provided a response to some of the concerns raised in this article, which will be published in a future article in the series.

[Read More](#)

How to stay home longer, safely and independently

Starts at 60, Other, 15/07/2023, Naomi Anderson

Staying home as long as possible is an essential aspect of maintaining one's overall wellbeing, especially as we age. By remaining in the comfort of our homes, we can preserve our independence, social connections, and physical and mental health. [...] The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care Corporate Plan 2018-2019 states that aged care initiatives over the next four years aim to provide additional support and services to promote greater independence, mobility and autonomy, reducing or delaying the need for more complex aged care support services.

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CORONAVIRUS

COVID fire storm

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2023, Alex White, Page 1

Unvaccinated firefighters will remain off work indefinitely after Fire Rescue Victoria declared its Covid-19 vaccine mandate will stay in place. Fire Rescue Commissioner Gavin Freeman last week confirmed firefighters must have had a third vaccination to work, leading to claims of unfairness when other sectors have relaxed vaccination rules.

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WA ready to wash hands of \$13m dud

Sunday Times, General News, 16/07/2023, Joe Spagnolo, Page 4

The Bullsbrook quarantine facility which has been vacant for nine months and has cost WA taxpayers \$13 million will be officially handed back to the Commonwealth on October 12. The WA Government confirmed on Saturday it would hand back the white elephant in October, ending one of the more bizarre and costly political faux pas in recent history.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

No relevant coverage

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POPULATION HEALTH

New DrinkWise campaign makes an impact

National Liquor News, General News, 01/07/2023, Simon Strahan, Page 23

The latest Australian Government statistics confirm that Australians are continuing to make healthier and safer decisions with respect to their alcohol consumption. Over the past 15 years we have seen drinking habits change substantially, with the overwhelming majority of people who choose to consume alcohol drinking in moderation and within the government guidelines.

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Leading causes of death in Hunter New England and Central Coast health network listed in AIHW report on 'Deaths in Australia'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 15/07/2023, Damon Cronshaw

The leading causes of death in the Hunter New England and Central Coast health network are coronary heart disease and dementia, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [AIHW] data shows. For females, dementia is the highest cause of death, followed by coronary heart disease, and vice versa for males.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

If we are able to develop vaccines, what stops us from curing cancer?

Sun Herald, General News, 16/07/2023, Kate Aubusson, Jackson Graham and Felicity Lewis, Page 36

A crisis of confidence can come from the most unassuming sources. For Darren A Saunders, it was a simple question from his young daughter. The cancer biologist had been feeling pretty optimistic about developments in the search for cancer cures, with "whole new classes of treatments coming through".

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

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Tanning beds still flourish

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 16/07/2023, Suzan Delibasic and Olivia Jenkins, Page 23

Dangerous sunbed alternatives have prompted calls for authorities to crack down on dodgy backyard solarium operators. The Sunday Herald Sun can reveal LED light therapy treatments known as "collariums" are operating in dozens of Melbourne suburbs, including Mt Martha, Dandenong and Oakleigh.

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Former MAFS contestant Ella Ding apologises for 'incredibly dangerous' cancer claim

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/07/2023

A former Married At First Sight contestant has apologised for suggesting positive thinking could help cure cancer during an episode of her podcast remarks broadly deemed by listeners as "incredibly dangerous". In a lengthy statement on Instagram on Friday night, Ella Ding, who co-hosts Sit With Us with fellow MAFS alum Domenica Calarco, said she should have been "more careful" with her comments, and was not trying to issue formal medical advice.[...] While, according to the Cancer Council, some scientific studies suggest that mind-body techniques can help reduce the anxiety of cancer and its treatment, there is no evidence they can actually cure the disease.

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

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PRIMARY CARE

I was sent home with no idea how to care for my baby

Sunday Age, General News, 16/07/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 18

Shell-shocked, stitched up and bleeding. I was exhausted, and it hurt to sit down. There was no alternative: I was stuck in peak hour traffic, inching along Punt Road 19 hours after giving birth to my first child and being hastily discharged from a public maternity hospital.

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

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Sign up and you too could save seven lives

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2023, Samantha Landy, Page 33

Australia's organ transplant waitlist peaked at almost 1900 patients this year - but many more could be saved if the nation had a higher number of suitable donors. This includes many of the 14,000 people with kidney failure who are on dialysis, Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) national medical director Helen Opdam says.

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

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Grateful my kids still have their dad

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2023, Mercedes Maguire, Page 33

When Rob Hodgson got the call, it was literally a dream come true. At 1am on October 16, 2021 he was woken from sleep to hear the words: "I think we've found a good match". Within hours, Mr Hodgson was at hospital and being prepped for surgery that would replace his damaged heart.

Also reported by: [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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The gifts that keep on giving

Sunday Herald Sun, Editorials, 16/07/2023, Page 64

DonateLife Week, which runs from July 23, is the perfect time for people to share their intentions about organ donation with their loved ones. Even those who are young and healthy would benefit from a frank debate with their family members.

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Yorke's big dream is to travel

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 16/07/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 1

It did not seem like a big deal when a small dog nipped Yorke Mountford on his thumb. The scratch did not even draw blood. But within 24 hours, the Risdon Vale resident was in intensive care on life support. [...] Mr Mountford, who is on the waiting list for a kidney, has come forward to share his story ahead of DonateLife week.

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

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It only takes a minute to donate for a lifetime

Canberra Times, Other, 15/07/2023, Katelyn Catanzariti

Paramedic Bethany Kalies was attending to a cardiac patient when she received a call to say she had been given a new liver and with it, a new lease on life. "My phone went off, while I was tending to him and I said 'I'm sorry, I'm going to have to duck out'," the 28-year-old from Brisbane told AAP.

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

[Read More](#)

Minister supports fertility changes

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 16/07/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 7

Laws need to be expanded to keep fertility clinics in check, Health Minister and former attorney-general

Shannon Fentiman has revealed. Ms Fentiman said change "was really badly needed" following The Courier-Mail's exclusive story on a devastated couple suing Queensland Fertility Group for millions for allegedly using the wrong sperm to conceive two of their sons.

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Widen hospital probe

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 16/07/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 12

As a week-long review into how to restore Whyalla Hospital's birthing services concludes, the opposition is calling for it to be widened to other centres including Waikerie Hospital, which "paused" birthing services more than two years ago. WA midwife Peta Fisher is holding an independent review into the Whyalla situation, which officials blame on a midwife shortage.

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Pregnant pause for policy on regional services

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Editorials, 16/07/2023, Page 61

Young families in the Whyalla region will be anxiously awaiting the results of the review into birthing services at Whyalla Hospital which temporarily ceased on June 26 due to a midwife shortage. About 150 babies are delivered at the hospital each year but expectant families now have to make alternative arrangements.

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UC hospital elective surgery plans axed

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 16/07/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

The ACT government has abandoned plans for an elective surgery centre at the University of Canberra Hospital precinct, with theatre capacity to be expanded elsewhere. A specialty elective surgery centre was a promise in the last territory election and it was expected to be finished by 2025, but the project has been quietly shelved.

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Qld reconstructive surgery backlog: Another victim languishing in limbo

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/07/2023, Kylie Lang

Another Queensland breast cancer patient in limbo on a reconstructive surgery waiting list has issued a desperate plea. Queensland breast cancer survivors could be waiting indefinitely for reconstructive surgery after mastectomies, with the State Government unable to advise the length of the delays.

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Differential diagnosis on rural health investment under Labor

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 15/07/2023, Barnaby Joyce MP

In the 2022 Senate Estimates, questions asked of the Labor election commitment made in 2022 of \$580 million for the construction of housing for domestic violence victims in Tamworth revealed that the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts had no record of such a commitment. Their own commitment. Another election commitment in rural health was the Urgent Care Clinic for Tamworth, announced to be in place by July 1, 2023, and we are still yet to see this happen.

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Staff shortages and restoring funding in the government's sights

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 15/07/2023

The federal senator responsible for the Riverina says the government is acting to improve health outcomes in the bush after what she described as a decade of neglect. Labor's Deborah O'Neill said health outcomes in rural, regional and remote communities "weren't good enough" and the government was already stepping up to plug gaps in the system.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Loneliness can be a health hazard. Manu's garden project offers a solution

SBS, Other, 15/07/2023, Sandra Fulloon and Sophie Bennett

Doctors increasingly link social isolation and loneliness with heart disease, stroke and a higher risk of early death. A social enterprise that connects people through growing fresh food is working to change that.

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'Running on adrenaline': Sleep disorders a growing problem for young Australians

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/07/2023, Melissa Cunningham

A growing number of young people are suffering from insomnia prompted by coronavirus lockdowns and are experiencing significant workplace productivity losses, studies show. About one in five young Australians now has a sleep disorder, most commonly insomnia, due to the lingering effects of the pandemic, researchers say.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Fountainside switches to health workers hotel

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 16/07/2023, Blair Richards, Page 4

The state government has converted the former Fountainside Covid hotel into accommodation for health workers, as it continues to lease the building from the University of Tasmania. The former student accommodation building operated as a Covid case management facility from December 2021 to November 2022.

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

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New pay deal for nurses

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 16/07/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 9

After months of negotiations and threats of industrial action, the government has offered Tasmanian nurses a new employment agreement it describes as "fair and reasonable". Nurses and midwives, who say they are burnt out, had supported strike action if the agreement did not provide better pay and working conditions.

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Nurses' ultimatum over pay avoided

Sunday Examiner, General News, 16/07/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 2

The state government delivered on the ultimatum made by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), providing a pay offer late Friday afternoon. The offer finally came after the ANMF had been expecting a pay deal offer by June 30, with negotiations having dragged on for months.

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Norseman residents react to losing popular GP amid council dispute, and some consider leaving town

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2023, Jarrod Lucas and Giulia Bertoglio

Residents of a small town in Western Australia's Goldfields have expressed their frustration and anger following the departure of Norseman's "popular" and "compassionate" doctor amid a dispute with the local council. The Shire of Dundas has claimed doctor Graham Rowlands, who has been contacted for comment, closed his clinic this week without notice.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

'Baby brain' may be a myth

Sunday Times, General News, 16/07/2023, Victoria Allen, Page 11

It's a widely held belief that new mothers suffer from "baby brain" and are prone to forgetfulness and foggy thinking. But a study suggests this may be a myth after finding those with young babies have just as good a memory as non-mothers and are as mentally sharp.

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

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Crosswords, games can reduce risk of dementia

Doing crosswords, using a computer, keeping a journal and playing games such as chess may help older people ward off dementia. A Monash University study suggested Australians over 70 who regularly did those activities were 9 to 11 per cent less likely to develop the condition.

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

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Crosswords, chess 'may help in avoiding dementia' among elderly

9News, Other, 15/07/2023, Joe Attanasio

Activities like crosswords and chess may be more effective than socialising in avoiding dementia in the elderly, a new Australian study has suggested. Previously, links had been drawn between creative hobbies like crafting, knitting and painting to a reduced risk of developing the condition - about seven per cent - but according to the research, other, slightly more challenging quests could prove even more effective.

[Read More](#)

Marianne Allan Pancreatic Cancer Research Grant offers \$1 million to invest in early diagnosis research

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2023, Zilla Gordon

Marianne Allan was heading into the movies with her husband Ross when her doctor called her with urgent news. The couple, who live in Castlemaine, north-west of Melbourne, had been visiting Ms Allan's daughter at the time.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Saturday), 15/07/2023, Charlotte Hamlyn

Every day, 38 Australians are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. That figure is rising and advocates believe better national collaboration on research is needed to help make a difference in people's lives.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News at 5pm (Saturday), 15/07/2023, Sally Bowrey

Older Australians may want to consider ditching the knitting needles for a computer, with a new study showing those who challenged their brains with puzzles are less likely to develop dementia. Ellie Wicks has the details.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Saturday Breakfast, 15/07/2023, Emma Bickley

Researchers from the University of Canberra have launched a study into how eating disorders can affect pregnant women. They will investigate the experiences of women who have been pregnant with an eating disorder to help better support others in the future. University of Canberra academic Vivienne Lewis says pregnant women with eating disorders have a higher chance of miscarriage and having children born premature.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Children's flu deaths spark health warning

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2023, Eli Green, Page 3

Australia's complacency around influenza has led to soaring cases of the disease and an increase in deaths, experts have warned. There have been 116,473 flu notifications reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System between January 1 to June 25, as well as 107 influenza-associated deaths and 1236 hospitalisations.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Mum's dire warning: Get flu jab before it's too late

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 16/07/2023, Georgia Clelland, Page 23

TV presenter and former Miss Universe Australia Kimberley Busteed has issued a stern warning to parents to get their kids vaccinated after a bout of influenza left her husband in hospital on oxygen. Former Queensland Bulls captain Chris Simpson succumbed to a serious case of influenza A, resulting in a terrifying three-day hospital stint in late May.

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

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SOS texts to stop flu killing our kids

Sunday Times, General News, 16/07/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 1

With WA enduring one of its worst flu seasons and three children losing their lives since May – including Emma Schwab and Muhammed Saadiq Segaff – the State Government is taking the unprecedented step of texting parents and contacting doctors urging that kids get vaccinated. The aim is to jolt Australians out of post-COVID complacency and vaccination fatigue that have led to a soaring number of flu cases and hospital admissions.

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Influenza deaths in Queensland and NSW prompt calls for free vaccine

ABC Online, Other, 15/07/2023, Janelle Miles

The deaths of two girls after contracting influenza B have triggered calls for the flu vaccine to be made free for all Australians. Queensland-based infectious diseases specialist Paul Griffin said doing so would minimise the huge strain of flu cases on hospitals, and potentially save lives.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today on Saturday, 15/07/2023, Clint Stanaway and Jayne Azzopardi

Australia is now in the midst of a record flu season as hospital admissions rise. Vaccination rates are also falling. So far, there's been at least 116,000 cases this year, more than 1200 people have been hospitalised and 107 Australians have died, an 11 year old girl from Queensland the latest victim, and yet only 32% of our population is currently vaccinated. With rates decreasing in all states and territories, it's worth noting. For more on this, we're joined by president of the NSW AMA, Dr Michael Bonning.

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Sky News Live, News Night (Weekend), 15/07/2023, Ortenzia Borre

Vending machines testing for sexually transmitted diseases will be rolled out across regional Victoria. They're part of a university-led trial aiming to combat the rise in cases after new data revealed the number of syphilis diagnoses increased by more than 250% in the five years to 2021. Jaynie Seal spoke with the researcher behind the project, Dave Evans.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Clinic's air cleans up

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 16/07/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 23

A Mount Barker clinic claims to have the safest air quality in the nation after winning accreditation from an international certification firm. Better Medical's Mount Barker Medical Clinic is the first healthcare building in Australia to be awarded the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Verified Healthy Building accreditation for indoor air quality. [...] The TGA-listed device is the size of a beer carton and pulverises pathogens in the air by exposing them to plasma and electron-beam irradiation, including bugs transmitted through aerosol droplets from coughs and sneezes.

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These fish oil supplements will soon come without a trace of fish

SBS, Other, 15/07/2023, Marion Rae

Scientists are brewing a "fish oil" without fish and hope it will catch on as consumers increasingly school companies on more sustainable products. Advanced manufacturing and science have combined at the University of Sydney where a new ingredient has been made from marine and soil bacteria.

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

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FOOD STANDARDS

Drink companies stay sweet on aspartame despite warning

Sun Herald, International News, 16/07/2023, Julie Creswell, Page 33

About eight years ago, in response to customer concerns about possible health risks associated with the artificial sweetener aspartame, PepsiCo removed the ingredient from its popular diet drink. Sales flopped. A year later, aspartame was back in Diet Pepsi.

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

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