



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 22nd July 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 5\)](#)** reports that a key review has found the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission needs to urgently fix "significant problems in its complaints process" and its performance in responding to serious incidents. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said she welcomed the practical and constructive recommendations from the review and "will be carefully considering each of them as a matter of priority."
- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Andrew Liveris, chairman of the organising committee for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics, has warned that modular nuclear reactors must be considered for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics if organisers are to meet a contractual obligation to make games "climate-positive". Mr Liveris said "outdated views on nuclear power" should not stop the boutique powerplants from being explored.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that as compensation negotiations are underway after Victoria canceled the 2026 Commonwealth Games, the Victorian government has told members of the organising committee and Commonwealth Games Australia to not talk about the issue. Victorian taxpayers face up to \$250m in possible compensation to the Commonwealth Games Federation.

- **The Hobart Mercury (page 1)** reports that figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows that following the COVID-19 pandemic, Tasmania continues to experience the highest rate of excess deaths in the nation. The ABS said "Tasmania is the only jurisdiction where excess mortality was higher in the first quarter of 2023 (17.3 per cent above expected) than the first quarter of 2022 (12.3 per cent)."
- **The Northern Territory News (page 1)** reports that eight months after the Northern Territory's right to legalise euthanasia was restored by the federal parliament, the NT government has moved to establish an advisory panel to be co-chaired by former NT administrator Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO and barrister Duncan McConnel SC. The panel will start community consultation on the issue. NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said "Voluntary assisted dying is a complex issue and one that many people feel passionate about," and "Territorians deserve to have a say on how they want these laws to work in the Territory to suit our needs."
- **The Saturday Age (page 5)** reports that federal Labor frontbenchers representing the regional Victorian electorates of Corio and Ballarat, Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and Minister for Infrastructure Catherine King, are urging the Victorian government to deliver the regional investments originally pledged for the now-abandoned 2026 Commonwealth Games. "I think it's about working with the Victorian government now to make sure that they follow through on those promises," Mr Marles said on Friday. Minister King said she supports Premier Dan Andrews's decision and is "looking forward to seeing the social and affordable housing in the regions and looking forward to seeing the sporting facilities."
- **The Saturday Age (page 11)** reports that artificial intelligence is helping Victorian doctors diagnose health conditions, write referrals and compile medical records. "It reduces the administrative burden for doctors so they can spend more time with their patients," Dr Umair Masood, "It also gives us diagnostic guidance. But it does not replace a doctor's clinical judgment."
- **The Courier Mail (page 6)** reports that the Queensland government has pledged to strengthen laws to better protect IVF families following revelations that a couple is suing the Queensland Fertility Group over allegations the company used the wrong sperm to conceive two of their sons through IVF. A Queensland government spokesman said that it was important for donor-conceived people to know their genetic origins, stating: "Which is why in February this year we announced our support in principle for all six recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry, including establishing a central donor conception register."

MINISTER BUTLER

'Need an answer now': Katter demands immediate GP relief for closing practice

Wet Tropic Times, General News, 20/07/2023, Bob Katter, Page 5

Katter's Australian Party MP Bob Katter is placing blame directly on the Federal Health Minister for the closure of another North Queensland general practice which had been crying out for help for months. [...] The clinic's woes were first brought to the attention of Federal Health Minister Mark Butler in December 2022 by Mr Katter.

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Casey ER under pressure

Berwick Star News, Other, 21/07/2023, Jin Hui

Local complaints of hours-long wait times, overcrowding and staff stretched thin have surfaced about Casey Hospital's Emergency Room as local MP Jason Wood starts a petition calling for its planned upgrade to begin. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, said the Federal Government's building of clinics would take pressure off hospitals.

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HIV cases have halved in the last decade

Canberra Times, Other, 21/07/2023, Millie Costigan

Australia is well on track to eliminate HIV transmission and could be the first country to reach the milestone. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler said despite the promising data, Australia could not afford to be complacent when it came to HIV.

Widely syndicated across regional publications

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Medical Research Future Fund has \$20 billion to spend. Here's how we prioritise who gets what

hashtag.net.au, Other, 21/07/2023, Adrian Barnett

Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) is a A\$20 billion fund to support Australian health and medical research. [...] The current Health Minister, Mark Butler, has instituted a review .

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New CVD guideline and risk calculator expected to help millions

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/07/2023, Morgan Liotta

An Australian-specific calculator is a key feature of the toolkit refresh, which targets conditions responsible for one in four deaths each year. [...] At the guideline's launch, Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler referred to the calculator as the new gold standard' in assessing the risk of CVD.

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Victorian urgent care clinics not open for extended hours, casting doubt over Anthony Albanese's pre-election promise

Sky News Australia, Other, 21/07/2023, Ewa Staszewska

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's urgent care clinics are reportedly under-delivering after being touted as offering round the clock care, seven days a week. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler again reiterated the pledge when he opened the first of the two Victorian clinics, in Sunbury on June 26.

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MINISTER WELLS

Watchdog 'needs urgent fix' for handling aged-care complaints

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/07/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

The nation's aged-care safety watchdog must urgently fix "significant problems in its complaints process" and its performance in responding to serious incidents, a key review has found. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells called on Mr Tune to conduct the capability review in October 2022 in response to a recommendation by the royal commission.

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New Fed laws force closure of aged care service

Emerald Today, General News, 21/07/2023, Colin Boyce MP, Page 12

July 1 has been dreaded by age care providers across the country, as Labor's expedited 24/7 registered nurses requirement hits the sector amidst a severe workforce crisis. The Aged Care Minister has acknowledged that many providers particularly small and rural, regional, and remote providers - will not be able to meet Labor's expedited deadline due to the significant workforce and financial pressures facing the sector. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has revealed that over the next three months, the aged care sector is 8100 nurses short of being able to meet Labor's staffing requirement, which they brought forward against the recommendation of the Royal Commission.

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Queensland gives 'emphatic no' on hosting Commonwealth Games,

Gold Coast mayor pleads for four-week window

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2023, Mark Rigby and Nicholas Mcelroy

The Gold Coast mayor is pleading for a four-week window to put forward a plan to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after Victoria axed the event due to cost blowouts. [...] The office for Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said Gold Coast officials had not contacted her office.

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CHA presses for workforce solutions at aged care roundtable

Catholic Health Australia, Other, 21/07/2023

Catholic not-for-profit aged care providers have welcomed the opportunity to raise issues directly with the Albanese Government at a roundtable held on Wednesday in Canberra. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells invited key sector representatives to a meeting today to talk about the key issues plaguing the aged care sector, chief among them the workforce crisis.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 21/07/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Interview with Andrew Livers, President of Organising Committee, Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics Games. Livers says the Queensland Government has committed themselves to the event. He says he gets the notion that it needs checks and balances outside of that and notes the IOC provides that for him. He recalls the Commission Review two weeks ago, noting the Queensland Premier, the Lord Mayor and the Sports Minister Anika Wells were there, showing their commitment to ensure these are coordinated games.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Phillips encourages local healthcare services to apply for grants

The Beagle, Other, 21/07/2023

Member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips MP is calling on local health care services to submit applications for the Innovative Models of Care grants program. [...] Caption: Fiona Phillips MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care the Hon Ged Kearney and local Nowra GP Dr Dominic Frawley.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

New Fed laws force closure of aged care service

July 1 has been dreaded by age care providers across the country, as Labor's expedited 24/7 registered nurses requirement hits the sector amidst a severe workforce crisis. The Aged Care Minister has acknowledged that many providers particularly small and rural, regional, and remote providers - will not be able to meet Labor's expedited deadline due to the significant workforce and financial pressures facing the sector. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has revealed that over the next three months, the aged care sector is 8100 nurses short of being able to meet Labor's staffing requirement, which they brought forward against the recommendation of the Royal Commission.

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Study trip to look at US remote health model

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/07/2023, Bernard Humphreys, Page 16

The next level of technology-based remote health care will be the subject of a visit to the United States by Mildura Base Public Hospital chief executive Terry Welch next month. On a study trip funded by the hospital board and the Health Department, Mr Welch will tour the Intermountain Healthcare operation in Utah to see if its model could be used in the Mallee.

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CORONAVIRUS

Banned Covid posts 'totally factual'

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/07/2023, Chris Kenny, Page 4

Many of 4000 social media posts secretly censored by government during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic contained factual information and reasonable arguments rather than misinformation, new documents reveal. Digital posts released after Freedom of Information applications show the censored information shared facts such as the ineffectiveness of vaccines in preventing Covid-19 infection and transmission or argued against measures such as mask mandates and lockdowns.

Similar coverage reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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Jenni was an avid reader - but now she can barely digest a page after suffering with long COVID

9News, Other, 21/07/2023, Lucy Slade

The 62-year-old has experienced lingering fatigue, headaches and brain fog after her first case of COVID-19 over a year ago and has since been diagnosed with long COVID. "I couldn't concentrate, couldn't focus... I'm normally a person who has great attention to detail, I'd miss things, I'd have memory lapses," Sinclair said.

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Genetic 'shield' may explain asymptomatic COVID-19 cases, scientists say

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/07/2023, Carmel Sparke

Australian and US researchers have discovered a genetic link that may explain why some people remain asymptomatic after SARS-CoV-2 infection. The research shows a person who carries one copy of the protective HLA-B15 gene is twice as likely to remain asymptomatic after infection with SARS-CoV-2.

Similar coverage reported by: [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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6PR, Mornings, 21/07/2023, Gary Adshead

Interview with Professor Stephanie Gras, La Trobe University. Gras discusses why some people are asymptomatic after getting SARS-CoV-2 infection. She notes they found a genetic link that protects

people from COVID symptoms.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Could virtual healthcare be the future of physiotherapy in aged care?

HelloCare, Other, 21/07/2023, Alex Jacobs

Experts say virtual healthcare should be a necessity as allied health services look for new ways to provide accessible services to ageing people in metropolitan and rural areas.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Be lighter but fatter: the Ozempic paradox

AFR Weekend, General News, 22/07/2023, Jill Margo, Page 9

Ozempic may be the miracle of the moment, but no one knows what is down the track because there is no long-term data for the drug when used for weight loss, and managing fat chemically can have implications for whole body...

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Heart transplant teen living the donor message

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/07/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 4

Teenage heart transplant recipient Jaylyn Rongo was using his own story to convince his friends and family to become organ donors, long before he became the face of a national public awareness campaign that aims to get more young people to donate life. "I tell (young people) it can affect anyone at any age. It's a scary thing to think about, but it could also change someone else's life," the 20-year-old said.

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Excess deaths

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/07/2023, David Killick, Page 1

Tasmania continues to experience the highest rate of excess deaths in the nation in the wake of the Covid pandemic, the Australian Bureau of Statistics says. The number of deaths in Tasmania was 17.3 per cent higher in the early part of this year compared with what would normally be expected - a figure almost double the national average. REPORT, P5

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Alcohol, not meth, is our community's most harmful drug

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/07/2023, Emma Jarvis, Page 128

Drug use is on the rise across Australia. Consumption of hard drugs such as methylamphetamine, cocaine, ketamine and fentanyl increased in both metro areas and the regions in December 2022 and February 2023.

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Vaping Tasmania: Inside state's thriving online marketplace for illicit nicotine-containing vapes

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/07/2023, Alex Treacy

Illegal nicotine-containing vapes/e-cigarettes remain highly accessible in Tasmania because of a thriving online market, the Mercury has learnt. While they remain largely inaccessible under-the-

counter compared to mainland capitals Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, where they can be purchased for as little as \$15-\$20, Tasmanian punters itching for a fix are able to purchase the items easily from Facebook Marketplace.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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Australia's first 'wellbeing budget' shows mixed results across health and environment

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2023, Paige Cockburn

The federal government has defended the nation's first "wellbeing budget", which has been criticised for using out-of-date statistics. Today, Treasurer Jim Chalmers released the Measuring What Matters report, which found the country was making mixed progress on a broad range of social measures.

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Massive problem with 'street diagnoses' of ADHD as condition skyrockets across Australia

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/07/2023, Gary Nunn

For years, Gary Nunn was told by family, friends and strangers that he had a common condition and it's part of a very dangerous trend. Katie Price has revealed she was diagnosed with ADHD earlier this year.

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

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Newcrest's lead contamination claims 'inconsistent' with expert report findings, its author says

The Guardian, Other, 21/07/2023, Fleur Connick

An expert who analysed rainwater samples for possible lead contamination from Newcrest's Cadia Hill goldmine says the company's public interpretation of his report is "inconsistent" with his findings. Newcrest commissioned Prof Brian Gulson from Macquarie University to conduct a lead isotopic analysis of water and sediment samples taken from 145 residential properties in the region and compare those with the lead found in the mine's ore.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Heart surgery at 31 taught me this

AFR Weekend, General News, 22/07/2023, Euan Black, Page 32

A near-death experience led Financial Review reporter Euan Black to look more closely at what it would take to live better for longer. What he found is a wake-up call for us all.

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Not enough poo samples

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/07/2023, Page 23

Nearly half of the Aussies who are eligible for bowel-cancer screening are not sending in their poo for analysis, researchers say. While numbers did increase from 2015-16 to 2019-20 40.9 per cent and 43.8 per cent respectively the rates were still low. The researchers said participation rates across remote or disadvantaged areas were even lower still.

Also reported by: [The West Australian](#)

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Hearing warning signs

There are currently 3.6 million people across Australia dealing with hearing loss but most will take 7-10 years to act on their hearing loss once it's been identified. With a background in mining, Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto said he knew the importance of protecting hearing health. Encouraging hearing checks, he sat down for one himself at Specsavers Townsville Willows with audiologist Henriette Lategan.

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Hairdressers, barbers, beauticians learn to detect melanomas to save lives

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2023, Kenji Sato and Jen McCutcheon

Hairdressers, barbers and beauticians often find themselves wearing multiple hats, taking on the roles of marriage counsellors, financial consultants, and career advisors. Beyond their expertise in hair styling they become confidants for their clients, listening to their joys, sorrows, and dilemmas.

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Australian first as woman joins global cancer trial

Canberra Times, Other, 21/07/2023, Adrian Black

When Marilyn de Haas was diagnosed with advanced skin cancer, doctors told her the melanoma and the tumours it had caused would not respond to chemotherapy or radiation. The 78-year-old from Stratford in southeast Victoria is the first Australian to take part in a clinical trial to treat metastatic melanoma.

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

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Asbestos worker's wife wins \$600,000 NSW Government lawsuit after she and her husband died from rare mesothelioma cancer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/07/2023, Kat Wong

The family of Dian Pond has been awarded more than \$600,000 after a judge found she contracted a rare cancer by inhaling asbestos dust on her husband's work clothes. From 1962 to 1970, Mrs Pond's husband David handled, installed and removed insulation and other materials brimming with asbestos while working for the NSW Department of Railways.

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

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The sweeping survey that paints Australia's wellbeing by numbers

The New Daily, Other, 21/07/2023, Parker McKenzie

The federal government's release of a national wellbeing framework has revealed Australians are increasingly living with chronic illness and waiting for GP and specialist appointments, while the natural environment struggles under the weight of human impact. Federal Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers said the framework "helps us put people and progress, fairness and opportunity at the very core of our thinking about our economy and our society, now and into the future".

Similar coverage reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Future perfect: the five tech breakthroughs that will define next decade

Weekend Australian, Business News, 22/07/2023, David Swan, Page 27

Several breakthrough technologies are vying to be Australia's defining innovation that will shape the coming decade. Some of the nation's smartest entrepreneurs are building businesses around cultured

meat, AI-powered healthcare and quantum computing, among others.

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Nurses key to hospital pass

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/07/2023, Page 27

Unnecessary hospital readmission rates for at-risk patients could be slashed by more than half if hospitals helped patients co-ordinate their healthcare needs within their community, according to new research. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians' study looked at 325 patients who were discharged from hospitals run by Peninsula Health in Victoria from May to November 2017.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#)

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Stronger laws for IVF after alleged blunder

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 6

The Queensland government has promised to strengthen laws to better protect IVF families following The Courier-Mail's explosive report on a devastated couple suing the state's fertility giant over allegations of a sperm swap blunder. A government spokesman revealed on Friday that both the health and justice departments will work with affected families and industry experts, to ensure "Queenslanders will be protected by law and this never happens again".

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

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Dying with dignity

Northern Territory News, General News, 22/07/2023, Annabel Bowles, Page 1

The Territory government has finally moved to act on voluntary assisted dying reform, eight months after its right to legalise euthanasia was restored by the federal parliament. An advisory panel will now be established - co-chaired by former NT administrator Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO and eminent barrister Duncan McConnel SC - to start community consultation on the issue.

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

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Hospital takes healthy outlook

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 22/07/2023, Bernard Humphreys, Page 16

The failure of the Victorian Government to follow through on its master plan for the region's health care will not stop the development and expansion of services at Mildura Base Public Hospital, its chief executive says. Terry Welch, who recently accepted a new five-year contract to lead the hospital and its 1250 staff, spoke to Sunraysia Daily this week.

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Queensland's record health budget supports big push for hospital upgrades

Build Australia, General News, 01/07/2023, Berkay Erkan, Page 42

The record \$25.8-billion 2023-24 Queensland Health Budget aims to reduce ambulance ramping, ease pressure on emergency departments, and reduce surgical and specialist wait times, while new infrastructure upgrades begin design and construction works. Queensland Health will receive \$24.2 billion, a 9.6 per cent increase compared with last year's health budget, while \$764 million has been committed to reducing ambulance ramping and improving access to emergency departments.

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Gympie healthcare woes deepen despite years-old call for hospital upgrade

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2023, Meg Bolton

Retiree Brian Brown spends seven hours a day looking after his wife Charmaine at a Gympie nursing home in Queensland's south-east. Queensland Health data shows Gympie Hospital is not meeting

demand for the population Two years ago, a Queensland Health report found the hospital needed to be redeveloped

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Attorney-General declares VAD teleconsults 'an incitement to suicide' in court battle with GP

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/07/2023, Antony Scholefield

Dr Nick Carr is attempting to secure a judicial ruling that VAD is not suicide. Federal laws on inciting suicide are intended to encompass phone consults on voluntary euthanasia, placing GPs at legal risk of \$200,000 fines, lawyers for the Attorney-General have said.

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Major payroll tax victories loom for general practice as RACGP claims wins in two more states

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/07/2023, Antony Scholefield

GPs in WA will be counted as contractors and practices in NSW will be given protection from audits for two years, says the RACGP. The WA Government has apparently accepted that GPs are contractors rather than employees, a move that the RACGP says could offer practices some protection from the payroll tax crackdown.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

How Crystal got her groove

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2023, Sarah Hender, Page 6

An Adelaide program is helping vulnerable women, many of whom have risked falling through the cracks, get their lives back on track. The Inclusive Work Program has been set up by the GOGO Foundation to help build employment programs for women, many of whom have struggled with a range of issues, from poor mental health, to social isolation, to low self-esteem and domestic violence.

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Health report call-out

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2023, Page 9

A mental health organisation has launched an advertising campaign calling on Health Minister Chris Picton to deliver a report detailing how many South Australians are living with mental illness without the help they need. Commissioned by Mental Health Coalition South Australia, the campaign features the slogan "people are dying to know the truth, Minister Picton".

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Intervention project 'a breakthrough'

Border Mail, General News, 22/07/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 12

People with mild to moderate eating disorders will be offered free treatment on the Border as part of a landmark project to address the health crisis in rural and regional communities. A group of eight provisional psychologists started specialist training at La Trobe University's Wodonga campus on Wednesday, ahead of delivering a 10-session treatment program for up to 44 people over the age of 18 years.

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Call for youth mental health boost

Daily Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 9

Wagga mum Linda Burge is hoping a government inquiry into the equity, accessibility and delivery of outpatient mental health care across NSW will shine a light on the gaps plaguing the state that are in

need of attention. Outpatient mental health care consists of scheduled appointments a person attends while they continue to reside in their usual home instead of being admitted into a facility.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#)

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'Difference between life and death': truckies urged to talk

Daily Liberal, General News, 22/07/2023, Orlander Ruming, Page 4

Are you a truck driver in need of a chat? Rod Hannifey is here to listen. GME has partnered with Rural Outreach Counselling to get more truck drivers opening up on the road. It comes after national government research found one in two truck drivers have some kind of psychological distress.

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A psychologist's commitment to the community gets recognised but she urges for more support for Hedland

West Australian, Other, 21/07/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

The selfless commitment of a Hedland psychologist has been noticed around the State and resulted in a nomination for the 2023 Western Australian Community Achievement Awards. Caroline Rodgers, who founded Hedland Psychologists, a practice that provides assistance to clients presenting mental health issues, has once again been nominated for the prestigious community award after receiving a nomination in 2022.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 21/07/2023, Mel Bush

Interview with Emily Shepherd, Tasmanian Secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. Shepherd comments on the nurses pay deal and the Tas Premier Jeremy Rockcliff's decision to step down from his portfolio as Health Minister. She believes Rockcliff made a wise decision given how he's juggling Premiership and the Health portfolio. She says as for the nurses pay deal, and recalls consulted with their members. She believes there are mixed views regarding the offer.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Aunt breaks silence on nurse death

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/07/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 7

Vicki Rowe will always remember that in early 2020, her niece, an enrolled nurse who worked in an acute mental health ward at Cumberland Hospital, seemed happier than ever. Despite the stress of work during COVID-19, the nurse, who the Herald has chosen not to name, had found love with a colleague who worked on the same ward.

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Emergency services' WorkCover hit

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/07/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 3

Emergency services in Victoria could be slugged a combined \$100 million a year as part of the state's attempt to prop up its failing workers' compensation scheme. The Andrews government in May confirmed WorkCover premiums would increase on average by 42 per cent to fund changes to the "fundamentally broken" scheme, enraging both businesses and unions for hiking bills while reducing coverage.

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

'Abused' midwives fight for back pay

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/07/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 21

After being "used, abused and burnt-out", unpaid Tasmanian student midwives are finally being compensated for their first year of service, in line with interstate counterparts. But the fight is not over yet, with a group of more than 20 midwives across Tasmania advocating to be back-paid after working under "oppressive" conditions, on call 24-7, for \$0 a day between 2018 to 2022.

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Aged care staff deserve praise, and a raise

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/07/2023, Patrick Reid, Page 60

A day in the life of an aged care worker varies greatly. No day is the same. It can include so many different things, from helping a client to get changed or showered, to helping with medications, cleaning the home, assisting with grocery shopping, transporting clients to their appointments or social gatherings, getting dinner ready and (arguably most importantly!) sitting down for a cuppa and a friendly chat.

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Focus on young doctors

Western Advocate, General News, 22/07/2023, Bradley Jurd, Page 1

Western health authorities remain focused on bringing physician trainees back to Bathurst Base Hospital ahead of the August rotation period, saying they're doing all they can to attract medical registrars back to Bathurst. Bathurst Hospital was stripped of its accreditation earlier this year by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' (RACP), but in what Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) chief executive Mark Spittal said was a record for the state, its accreditation was restored back in late June.

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GP shortage could quadruple patient wait times after central NSW clinic left with one doctor

ABC Online, Other, 21/07/2023, Zaarkacha Marlan and Hamish Cole

On a regular day, Aniello Iannuzzi meets with 50 patients from his western NSW community. But at the end of this month, his workload is set to triple due to a shortage of general practitioners.

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Pharmacists back formal qualifications for assistants

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/07/2023, Warwick Plunkett

More than half of community pharmacists believe dispensary assistants should undergo formal training to take on greater roles within pharmacy. Pharmacy bodies are being urged to push for greater training and recognition of pharmacy technicians, as the profession looks to work to its full scope of practice.

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Shift workers feel 'amazing' after work, emergency services workers 'stressed'

HelloCare, Other, 21/07/2023, Bianca Iovino

New data suggests more healthcare workers felt "amazing" after their shift in the first half of 2023 compared to the last quarter of 2022. Despite the rising cost of living putting more pressure on hourly workers, data from Deputy's first-ever Shift Worker Happiness Index shows Australian shift workers are feeling positive, with 83% stating they feel "good" or "amazing" after their shifts.

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Future perfect: the five tech breakthroughs that will define next decade

Weekend Australian, Business News, 22/07/2023, David Swan, Page 27

Several breakthrough technologies are vying to be Australia's defining innovation that will shape the coming decade. Some of the nation's smartest entrepreneurs are building businesses around cultured meat, AI-powered healthcare and quantum computing, among others.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Banned list the people who can't provide care

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2023, Julie Cross, Page 11

A carer who was looking after a young Aboriginal woman who died after being placed in a hot bath is one of 50 people to be banned from working in the NDIS this year. Sandra Kennedy, from Orange, NSW, was working for NDIS provider LiveBetter, when her client Kyah Lucas, 28, who was non-verbal and had a sensitive skin condition, died of complications from burns from bath water "likely in excess of" 50C.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Chemist doctored docs

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/07/2023, Mitch Mott and Brad Crouch, Page 12

An assistant pharmacist who was under pressure from her employers in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic lied about being registered for two weeks before her lies came to light. [...] Craig Fabian, for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, told Magistrate Kate White that Nguyen's provisional registration lapsed in March 12, 2021.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Hospital's deadly mistake

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 22/07/2023, Tim Clarke, Page 18

A Perth retiree with a suspected gallstone that wasn't actually there still somehow underwent surgery which led to serious medical complications which then led to her death, a coroner has found. Lee Milcherdy, a former legal co-ordinator, had moved back to her native Perth from Queensland after an horrific violent break-in left her with a traumatic brain injury in 2015.

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Coroner blames hospital standard

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/07/2023, Sarah Steger, Page 25

The State Coroner has found an Indigenous girl who died at Halls Creek Hospital could have been spared hours of pain and may have had a better chance of survival had doctors realised her dire condition sooner - and had the facility been better resourced. The 11-year-old, who cannot be named

due to cultural reasons, was rushed to the emergency department on September 5, 2017 with a sore and swollen tummy, and vomiting - complications of an intestinal obstruction.

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

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'Go faster, go higher, go nuclear'

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/07/2023, Jamie Walker, Page 1

Nuclear power from cutting-edge small modular reactors must be considered for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics if organisers are to meet a contractual obligation to make the multibillion-dollar event "climate-positive", Games boss Andrew Liveris has warned. Defying Labor's entrenched hostility to nuclear energy at both the federal and state levels, Mr Liveris insisted SMRs had to be in the mix and "we shouldn't eliminate any pathway to get to climate-positive".

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UK urges cities to help clear up Andrews' mess

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/07/2023, Jacquelin Magnay, Page 9

Britain's Sports Minister has said he hopes Australia will come up with an alternative proposal to stage the 2026 Commonwealth Games after the withdrawal of host Victoria. Stuart Andrew has encouraged another Australian city to step up and fill the void following the "extremely disappointing news" that Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews had abandoned the state's regional Games.

Similar coverage reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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

Sport's challenge of Olympic proportions

Weekend Australian, General News, 22/07/2023, Jamie Walker, Page 17

When Brisbane secured the right to hold the 2032 Olympics two years ago, time was very much on its side. The Queensland capital joined Los Angeles in having the luxury of 11 years to plan and prepare. But any sense of complacency that it was business as usual for the organisers bit the dust this week after the Victorian government did the unthinkable and canned the next biggest multisports tournament going, the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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

Swimming, fishing and other deadly pursuits

Weekend Australian, Business News, 22/07/2023, John Connolly, Page 40

It's time to ban swimming at the beach. It's time to ban fishing. Particularly men who rock fish. It's certainly time to ban motorcycles and bicycles. Surf Life Saving Australia's general manager coastal safety, Shane Daw, says "the tragic loss of lives from rock fishing makes it Australia's most dangerous sport".

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Sport figures back lemma after opposition criticism

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/07/2023, Michael Koziol, Page 8

High-profile sports figures have backed the appointment of former premier Morris lemma to the plum

role of chair of Venues NSW, including Liberal counterpart Mike Baird, who criticised the state opposition for calling it a case of "jobs for the boys". The Labor government confirmed the selection on Thursday, just days after it was revealed two of Emma's sons were employed by Premier Chris Minns.

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State pressured to stump up on promised infrastructure

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/07/2023, Lachlan Abbott and Latika Bourke, Page 5

Two federal Labor ministers from Victoria say \$2 billion worth of Commonwealth Games infrastructure must be delivered to the regions as promised, and another says the event's cancellation should teach anyone bidding for major events to make sure they have the money. Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and Infrastructure Minister Catherine King both said they understood why the 2026 Games were cancelled, but they now want the state government to build the regional infrastructure projects that were pledged.

Similar coverage reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Gold Coast's host boast is toast

Canberra Times, General News, 22/07/2023, Callum Godde, Page 14

Gold Coast's bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games has been torpedoed as pressure mounts on Victoria to explain how long it kept quiet on cost concerns. The Queensland city's mayor Tom Tate launched a late bid, contingent on federal funding, for the Games after Victoria pulled out of hosting the event because the cost had risen to up to \$7 billion.

Similar coverage reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Origin TV ambush

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/07/2023, Phil Rothfield, Page 1

Channel 7 has launched a long-range \$150 million attempt to pinch rugby league's showpiece State of Origin series from Channel 9. The network's chief executive James Warburton met with the NRL's independent commission chairman Peter V'landys and CEO Andrew Abdo over lunch last week in an audacious bid to buy the highest rating sporting event in the country alongside the AFL and NRL grand finals. More than eight million viewers watched this year's series.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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It's more watched than the Origin

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/07/2023, Erin Smith, Page 9

The Matildas have pledged to create a legacy with this Women's World Cup and they are well on the way, with more than 2 million people tuning in to watch their opening game win over Ireland. Figures released by Channel 7 revealed an average audience of 1.97 million tuned in to watch the Matildas defeat Ireland 1-0.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#). *Similar coverage reported by:* [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The West Australian](#)

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Games gag order

Herald Sun, General News, 22/07/2023, Scott Gullan and Matt Johnston, Page 1

The Andrews government has gagged Commonwealth Games officials from publicly discussing the 2026 event's axing. Members of the organising committee and Commonwealth Games Australia have been told to button up while compensation talks in the UK continue.

Similar coverage reported by: [AFR Weekend \(Australia\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

It's a frying shame

Herald Sun, General News, 22/07/2023, Tyler Lewis and Julieanne Strachan, Page 3

A local council has been branded out of touch after sticking its nose where it wasn't wanted - in footy fans' buckets of hot chips. In yet another example of councils overstepping their boundaries, the City of Greater Dandenong has mandated a ban on freestanding benchtop deep fryers and said builtin models would be phased out.

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All eyes on city for epic football

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2023, Jeremy Pierce, Page 9

The world's eye for the world game turns to Brisbane as it unleashes a four-week feast of football. The FIFA Women's World Cup - that's football to the purists - takes over Brisbane starting Saturday night with a Group D preliminary match between England and Haiti in the first of eight games slated for the city set to inject \$30m into the local economy.

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Running rings and agitos around SEQ

Courier Mail, General News, 22/07/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 21

An array of celebrations will be held across the South East this weekend as the Olympic Rings and Paralympic Agitos arrive in Queensland, marking nine years until the 2032 Games. It's the first time the iconic super-sized Rings and Agitos have returned to Australia in more than 20 years, with both symbols to be paraded around Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

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Teams gear up for pedal power

Adelaide Advertiser, Sport, 22/07/2023, Cara Jenkin, Page 78

Race 4 of the UniSA Australian HPV Super Series is expected to be one of the largest meets yet for the pedal prix competition, with a record number of teams registered and more than 5000 people expected to attend next month at The Bend Motorsport Park. The eight-hour endurance event, starting at 9am on Saturday, August 5, involves teams from public and private schools as well as community groups from across the state.

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Give Bellerive a fair go

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/07/2023, James Bresnehan, Page 11

Two champion cricket executives have backed Macquarie Point stadium as the next centrepiece of Tasmanian sporting history, but have also come out swinging in defence of Bellerive Oval. Tasmanian cricket heavyweights Denis Rogers, a former chairman of Cricket Australia and Cricket Tasmania, and Tony Harrison, a former director of Cricket Australia and chairman of Cricket Tasmania, are incensed their beloved Bellerive has been used as a "whipping boy" in the Macquarie Point stadium debate.

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Blundstone Arena's success should be lauded, not put down to suit new stadium plans

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/07/2023, Denis Rogers and Tony Harrison, Page 40

Tasmanians should be extremely proud of Blundstone Arena and the contribution it has made to the state's sporting development, its economy and to the Tasmanian community. Blundstone Arena, Bellerive, is recognised internationally as one of the best boutique sporting facilities in the world and, since its first significant development in the 1980s, has brought national and international cricket, AFL football and other major events to Tasmania.

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Appeal to kick in some cash

They are the suburban sporting grounds that generations of junior and amateur athletes have enjoyed sporting glory on, with some of them going onto be national champions. The excitement of hosting the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962 - long before the Games became a financial headache for Eastern States governments - and a post-WWII boom in population led to a sporting facility building frenzy.

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Sport's breast injuries a silent issue

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 22/07/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

With women's football in the spotlight as the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup kicks off, a leading Wollongong health researcher wants to make people more aware of the injuries sport can cause to women's breasts. Associate Professor Deirdre McGhee said despite the attention women's sport has gained in recent years, coaches, medical staff, sporting organisations and even athletes still do not know enough about this "silent", female-specific issue.

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Coast courts NBL HQ

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 22/07/2023, Tom Boswell, Page 5

A potential Gold Coast NBL franchise will be the precursor to a bold bid to lure the league's headquarters to the Glitter Strip. Momentum is growing to bring an NBL licence back to the Gold Coast after Bulletin revelations the competition's pre-season tournament will be at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from September 16-22.

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Early signs point to further Australia World Cup bids

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/07/2023

Football Australia chief executive James Johnson says Australia's early enthusiasm for the Women's World Cup sends "the right signal" to FIFA as his organisation eyes off bringing further events down under. Johnson has hinted FA would like to bring the men's 2034 World Cup to Australia and they have also discussed bidding for the recently-expanded Club World Cup.

Similar coverage reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

New jabs for heart health

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 22/07/2023, Xantha Leatham, Page 19

Just a single injection every six months could lower persistently high blood pressure, trial results suggest. About one in three adults in Australia has high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, and many are prescribed daily tablets to treat the condition.

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Good news for 'weekend warriors': people who do much of their exercise on a couple of days still get heart benefits

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 21/07/2023, Emmanuel Stamatakis and Matthew Ahmad

Physical activity has established benefits for health. The World Health Organization recommends adults do a minimum of 150300 minutes of moderate or 75150 minutes of vigorous activity each week. This can include active transport from place-to-place, exercise for fun and fitness, energetic housework or physical activity at work.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Darwin, Barkly mayors weigh in on grog restrictions

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/07/2023, Laura Hooper

Territory mayors have weighed in on if grog restrictions should become Territory-wide, after restrictions in Alice Springs were continued without community consultation. Chief Minister Natasha Fyles announced Alice Springs takeaway alcohol restrictions, which includes a ban on takeaway liquor sales on Monday and Tuesday alongside restricted hours on other days and a limit on purchases, would continue for at least a year

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Adelaide man, 36, dies from meningococcal b, SA Health reveals

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/07/2023, Andrew Hough

A man has died after contracting meningococcal B the state's first death this year from the deadly disease, authorities have revealed. In an alert posted on social media on Friday night, SA Health said the man, 36, died this week.

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Sydney measles cases prompts fresh NSW Health warning

NEWS.com.au, Other, 21/07/2023, Anthony Anderson

A measles warning has been issued by NSW Health after two cases from the same family were detected upon their return from overseas. The pair visited several locations in Sydney while infectious, especially around the Rose Bay and Randwick areas in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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HIV cases are rising among straight people. Advocates say a new strategy is needed

SBS, Other, 21/07/2023, Biwa Kwan

Advocates say a new public health campaign is needed to reach population groups where cases of HIV are on the rise in Australia. When Jane Costello found out she had HIV, she was surprised. As a heterosexual woman in a monogamous relationship, she didn't think she was at risk.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 21/07/2023, Mel Bush

Interview with Cameron Brown, CEO, TasCAHRD. Brown says Australia has always been a frontrunner in responding to HIV/AIDS. He notes TasCAHRD is the Tasmanian Council on Aids, Hepatitis and related Diseases and they do a lot of sexual health education and they have a fantastic outreach programme.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

The new weight-loss cycle

AFR Weekend, General News, 22/07/2023, Nick Bonyhady, Page 16

Depending who you ask, Ozempic is 'phenomenal' for patients or a 'dangerous' way of losing weight. Either way, its arrival heralds a new model of medicine.

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Doctors turn to AI to help with diagnoses

The Saturday Age, General News, 22/07/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 11

Victorian doctors are harnessing artificial intelligence to help diagnose health conditions, write referrals and compile medical records. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration regulates software-based medical devices that incorporate artificial intelligence when they are used for medical purposes.

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

Call to get 'ducks in a row' for MS-2 Step changes

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/07/2023, Alisha Dorrigan

With medical abortion prescribing set to expand significantly next month, there are evolving concerns when it comes to ensuring patient safety. [...] The change, enacted 11 years after the medication was approved for use in Australia, stems from a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) decision to drop longstanding regulatory requirements that have limited prescribing and dispensing of the drug.

[Read More](#)

GlucaGen Hypokit in short supply until October

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/07/2023, Michelle Wisbey

Another diabetes medication is now facing supply issues, adding to worldwide shortages of semaglutide and dulaglutide. [...] The manufacturer is working with the Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA], healthcare professionals, pharmacy and patient groups to provide timely advice about this shortage and minimise the impact on the diabetes community where they can,' it said.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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