



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 23rd July 2023

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

## LINKS

[Click here to view full print articles in this report](#)

[Click here to view front pages of today's newspapers](#)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Sunday Age](#) (page 1) reports that influenza B cases have spiked to 25,960 in Victoria and around 150,000 nationally, prompting doctors to urge parents to ensure their children are vaccinated. "Kids are set up because the flu is the first big hit and then the secondary bacterial infection is the second big hit," said National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance director Professor Kristine Macartney. "That's been landing a proportion of the children in our intensive care unit and on heart-lung machines."
- The [Sunday Tasmanian](#) (page 1) reports Tasmanian scientists have called for water supplies to be tested for BMAA, a toxin linked to illnesses including motor neurone disease that is produced in outbreaks of blue-green algae. Water authority TasWater has assured Tasmanians "their water is absolutely safe to drink and meets Australian Drinking Water Guideline requirements."
- The [Sunday Canberra Times](#) (page 3) reports concerns that 14 of 39 imaging machines in use at Canberra Hospital are past their nominal end of useful life have been rebuffed by ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith. "The machines will continue to function beyond that time frame that is prescribed and particularly around X-rays they are continuing to work perfectly well in the environment that they are in," Ms Stephen-Smith told the parliament's budget committee.

- The [\*\*Sunday Mail Brisbane\*\*](#) (page 4) reports around 340 junior doctors will be rotated through Queensland's regional general practices and primary care facilities over the next two years, thanks to a \$17 million grant by the federal government's John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program. "Ensuring that people who live in rural and regional areas can get the health care they need closer to home is a priority for the Australian government," said Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler. *Also reported by:* [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).
- The [\*\*Sunday Mail Brisbane\*\*](#) (page 4) reports Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has urged the federal Department of Health to accelerate its delivery of 58 urgent-care clinics. "Primary care is the responsibility of the federal government, which is why I've raised the closure of GPs in regional and rural Queensland, and the pressure this is putting on our health system, with my federal colleagues," Minister Fentiman said. The Department of Health has said all 58 facilities will be operational by the end of the year. *Also reported by:* [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).
- The [\*\*Sunday Canberra Times\*\*](#) (page 9) reports Deakin Private Hospital employed a psychiatrist, now dismissed, who was subject to a ban on working with youths by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) pending an investigation in NSW, despite the role including the hospital's young adult ward. Mental Health Minister Emma Davidson said that the hospital did not admit any child or teenage patients while the man was employed.
- The [\*\*Sunday Herald Sun\*\*](#) (page 10) reports Melbourne urologist Dr Christopher Love is urging greater awareness among young people on emerging links between vaping and erectile dysfunction. One United States study "basically showed that if you vaped daily, you had twice the chance of developing erectile dysfunction compared to someone who doesn't vape," said Dr Love. Nicotine is already known to affect sexual performance, he added – "Vapes have that, let alone the other chemicals we still don't know about." *Also reported by:* [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).
- The [\*\*Sunday Mail Adelaide\*\*](#) (page 10) reports a Flinders University analysis has found a sleep disorder such as insomnia can cost a young worker as much as 40 percent of their productivity, following a study that showed one in five young Australians suffers from a clinical sleep disorder. "The take-home message is just how prevalent sleep disorders are in young adults, and that these disorders are having an impact on our young adults and their workplaces," Associate Professor Amy Reynolds said. *Also reported by:* [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Program lures docs to regions

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/07/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Hundreds of junior Queensland doctors will have the chance to undertake training in regional and rural areas in a boost to the local health workforce thanks to the federal government program aimed at attracting doctors to careers in rural healthcare. More than \$17m in funding has been provided to Queensland Health through the federal government's John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program. [...] "Ensuring that people who live in rural and regional areas can get the health care they need closer to home is a priority for the Australian government," Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said.

*Also reported by:* [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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

### Sick of trivial woes

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/07/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Thousands of Queenslanders are visiting overwhelmed emergency departments for repeat prescriptions, sick certificates and some trivial ailments due to the lack of access to GPs and the death of bulk-billing. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is putting pressure on her federal counterpart to quickly deliver 11 promised urgent-care clinics to the state to help ease the growing burden. [...] The

Sunday Mail can reveal more details of when the Queensland clinics will be open is set to be released next month after the federal health department confirmed all 58 are due to be operational by the end of the year.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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

[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### ABC Radio Adelaide, 22:00 News (Weekend), 22/07/2023, Andrew Coulloupas

A review has found the nation's aged care regulator needs to be more transparent and accountable when dealing with providers and consumers in the sector. Here's political reporter Kamin Gock. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the Government will consider the report's recommendations.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### Sick of trivial woes

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/07/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 4

Thousands of Queenslanders are visiting overwhelmed emergency departments for repeat prescriptions, sick certificates and some trivial ailments due to the lack of access to GPs and the death of bulk-billing. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is putting pressure on her federal counterpart to quickly deliver 11 promised urgent-care clinics to the state to help ease the growing burden. [...] The Sunday Mail can reveal more details of when the Queensland clinics will be open is set to be released next month after the federal health department confirmed all 58 are due to be operational by the end of the year.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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

## Uterine and other gynaecological cancers on the rise but many women are in the dark, expert says

ABC Online, Other, 22/07/2023, Bec Pridham

Vicki Purnell knew something wasn't right when she found she was bleeding post-menopause. Thoughts crossed her mind, but she never suspected uterine cancer. [...] Since 2000, the Medical Research Future Fund and National Health and Medical Research Council has made \$38 million available for research relevant to uterine cancer. A federal Department of Health spokesperson said there were further research funding opportunities under these, including for clinical trials.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC News - 11:00 (Weekend), 22/07/2023, Miriam Corowa

While many cancers are on the decline, the number of Australian women diagnosed with uterine cancer has doubled in the last 20 years and is forecast to continue to grow. There's concern over limited funding and access to services, while many people don't even know it exists. [...] The Federal Health Department spends less than \$2 million a year on relevant research.

[Play Now](#)

## We're in the middle of flu season. Is it too late to get vaccinated?

SBS, Other, 22/07/2023, Aleisha Orr

If you haven't got around to getting a flu shot yet this year you might be wondering if it's still worth getting one. Here's what you need to know. [...] The federal Health Department reports on flu cases fortnightly with data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Damning audit into Blue Care Mackay Homefield

Daily Mercury News, Other, 22/07/2023, Janessa Ekert

Residents left in soiled clothing, repeated falls and untrained staff are among the horror revelations of a damning report into a Mackay aged care facility. Blue Care Mackay Homefield failed six of the eight performance standards in relation to aged care quality including dignity and choice, high impact risks, and feedback and complaints and has now stopped taking on any new resident.

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Aged care staff do important work - and we need more of them

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 22/07/2023, Patrick Reid

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.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## Vapes don't pass flaccid test, says Dr Love

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 23/07/2023, Elena Couper, Page 10

Australia's leading urologist has called for wider education on the side effects of vaping as an increasing number of young men experience erectile dysfunction. Vaping has quickly become popular across the world with teens and even young children taking it up.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

## Anti-vaping ad campaign to target 'unaware' kids

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 23/07/2023, Douglas Smith, Page 6

The long-term effects of vaping are still too early to tell, with a significant increase of young people using vapes in South Australia over the past five years raising concerns among health officials. In response to the huge increase in the number of young people vaping, the state government has launched a new anti-vaping and smoking ads campaign to target the use and sale of e-cigarettes.

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

## SA government releases campaigns to stem rising uptake of vaping and smoking

ABC Online, Other, 22/07/2023, Rory McClaren

The South Australian government will launch a \$2 million advertising campaign in an attempt to reduce smoking and vaping rates across the state, particularly among young people. An eight-week campaign will begin on Sunday over social media, on digital platforms, outdoors and on radio to tackle the uptake of vaping across the state.

[Read More](#)

## Weary young worker risk

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 23/07/2023, Rebecca Whitfield Baker, Page 10

As many as one-in-five younger Australians are affected by sleep disorders, in particular insomnia, and it is having an impact on work and road safety, new research shows. The Flinders University study, which focused on people aged 22, found high levels of daytime drowsiness, mental health issues and reduced workplace productivity.

Also reported by: [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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

## Are you getting enough sleep? Here's how much is recommended for your age

SBS, Other, 22/07/2023, Madeleine Wedesweiler

If you feel as though you're not getting as much sleep as you need, you're probably not. New research published in the peer-reviewed Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health has found as many as one in four young Australians aren't satisfied with their sleep.

[Read More](#)

## Watch on water

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 23/07/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 1

Tasmanian scientists concerned about possible links between blue-green algae and serious illnesses such as motor neurone disease are calling for more vigilant testing of drinking water in river catchments and storage facilities. The experts argue more should be done to monitor and test for chemical compounds such as BMAA, a bacteria produced by blue-green algae, in the Derwent Valley.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospital 'just let him out'

Sunday Mail Brisbane, Edition Changes - Townsville, 23/07/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 9

he sole survivor of a shocking triple fatal crash on the Bruce Highway was released from hospital just days before the tragedy unfolded despite pleas from his mother to keep him there, his family has claimed. A relative of Rafferty Rolfe, the man now charged with stealing at knifepoint a car involved in the crash, has revealed he was taken to Sunshine Coast University Hospital for treatment on Monday after being involved in a fight.

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

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

### Staff felt 'pressure' to transition to CHS

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 23/07/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 2

Some staff at North Canberra Hospital, formerly known as Calvary, felt pressured to transition to Canberra Health Services when they actually wanted a redundancy, the Health Minister has conceded. Redundancies were given to 44 staff members, 70 per cent of whom worked part-time.

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

### Health imaging machines at 'end of life'

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 23/07/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

Health authorities have defended the use of medical imaging machines deemed to be beyond the end of useful life saying the machines still work and are operating effectively. There are 14 medical imaging machines past their end of useful life at Canberra Hospital.

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

### Thumbs up for NT panel on VAD

Sunday Territorian, General News, 23/07/2023, Fia Walsh, Page 4

The Northern Territory government's commitment to establishing an independent advisory panel into voluntary assisted dying has been welcomed as "a huge milestone" that has been too long in the making. "Finally I'll say it again finally," advocate Judy Dent said.

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

### Time is now

Sunday Territorian, Editorials, 23/07/2023, Page 14

The Territory should not have to wait another 12 months - minimum - for its voluntary assisted dying reform. Not only has the rest of Australia got well-developed processes and systems with builtin protections already in place but the Territory has been a nation-leader in VAD.

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

### Northern Territory moves to revive assisted-dying laws

The New Daily, Other, 22/07/2023, Tim Dornin

The Northern Territory is to begin work on its own voluntary assisted dying laws, more than 25 years after its pioneering legislation was struck down by the federal government. The NT became the first Australian jurisdiction to make voluntary euthanasia legal in 1995, but the provisions were overturned by former prime minister John Howard's Coalition government two years later.

[Read More](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### **Tributes flow for Darwin paediatrician Kate Freeman following suicide**

Adelaide Now, Other, 22/07/2023, Zizi Averill

Darwin paediatrician Kate Freeman devoted her life to giving a voice and caring for the Territory's most vulnerable children, but was silent as she tried to battle her own demons. Her colleagues, friends and family said Kate never revealed how badly she was suffering in the weeks before her suicide in late June. The death of the beloved doctor, triathlete and 'dog mum' has rocked the medical community, leading to calls for more mental health awareness for hospital workers.

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

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

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### **Controversial psychiatrist leaves hospital**

Sunday Canberra Times, General News, 23/07/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 9

Amid ongoing struggles to recruit psychiatrists to Canberra, a doctor being investigated over a health complaint was hired as the sole psychiatrist at a new mental health hospital. Deakin Private Hospital, which has a young adult ward, employed a psychiatrist who is not allowed to work with children or teenagers earlier this year. [...] The conditions were imposed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) because the NSW Health Care Commission is investigating a complaint against the doctor.

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

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### Premier's Paris plans with nine years until 2032

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/07/2023, Stephanie Bennett and Jeremy Pierce, Page 3

The Premier and Brisbane's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games organisers will travel to Paris next year for an up-close look at the world's biggest sporting event. Annastacia Palaszczuk confirmed her travel schedule as Brisbane marked exactly nine years until the city hosts the iconic event.

Also reported by: [Sunday Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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

### 2032 boss clarifies nuclear power comments as Games symbols travel SEQ

Brisbane Times, Other, 22/07/2023, Tony Moore

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will not use nuclear power to reduce carbon emissions, the organising committee president Andrew Liveris clarified on Saturday afternoon. Though the Games have a carbon-positive goal, Liveris said he was not advocating for the events' energy infrastructure to be nuclear.

[Read More](#)

### Can Aussies ditch Origin

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 23/07/2023, Peter Badel, Page 3

New Zealand powerbrokers have ramped up plans to bring rugby league's \$100m showpiece – State of Origin – to Auckland. The Sunday Mail can reveal Auckland tourism chiefs have contacted the NRL to formally express interest in hosting State of Origin's first overseas interstate blockbuster in 40 years.

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

### Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate no-show after massive Commonwealth Games boast

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 22/07/2023, Carla Mascarenhas and Elena Couper

Just days after brazenly announcing a bold bid to host the next Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has been a no-show at a significant media event with the Queensland premier to promote the 2032 Brisbane Games. Earlier in the week, Mayor Tate lambasted Dan Andrews for sensationally pulling Victoria out of staging the international sporting event.

[Read More](#)

### How the decision to axe the Commonwealth Games unfolded

ABC Online, Other, 22/07/2023, Richard Willingham

The decision to cancel the Commonwealth Games was always going to be difficult and controversial. The sporting event was a key selling point for the Labor government in the regions seeking a third term.

[Read More](#)

### Perth's major sporting facilities call for boost in funding as local councils left struggling to maintain them

West Australian, Other, 22/07/2023, Jake Dietsch

They are the suburban sporting grounds where generations of junior and amateur athletes have



enjoyed sporting glory, with some of them going on to become national champions. The excitement of hosting the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962 - long before the Games became a financial headache for eastern state's governments - and a post-WWII boom in population led to a sporting facility building frenzy. But decades later, these ageing facilities have been left almost solely to local councils with limited cash and myriad demands of their ratepayers to maintain them.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Flu blues

Sunday Age, General News, 23/07/2023, Melissa Cunningham, Page 1

After a four-year lull due to the pandemic, influenza B cases are spiking, causing a rise in the number of children going to hospital - some critically ill after developing rare and lifethreatening complications. Doctors warn that the flu season is yet to peak in Victoria, and with school back after the mid-year break and flu vaccination rates lower than usual, the state's hospitals are bracing for a surge in cases among children.

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

### Luke was just a humble, gentle giant

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 23/07/2023, Douglas Smith, Page 5

Luke Wingfield woke up with a fever in the early hours of Tuesday morning. By Wednesday night, he lost his life to the meningococcal virus. [...] There have been 16 cases of the highly contagious meningococcal B in SA this year, but Mr Wingfield is the first to lose his life to the silent disease. Family member Lee Wingfield urged others to take any symptoms seriously.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Is your eyelash growth serum actually safe?

Sunday Telegraph, Body and Soul, 23/07/2023, Katherine Chatfield, Page 4

From Brigitte Bardot's Bambi vibe to Kim Kardashian's voluminous ones, long, luscious eyelashes have been in vogue for decades. While women in the 1960s relied on falsies to achieve the look, today lash serums have had a meteoric rise, becoming one of the biggest sellers in the beauty world. [...] Some serums contain hormone-like substances called prostaglandin analogues, which are traditionally used to treat the eye disease, glaucoma. While these work efficiently for medical use, they're not approved for use in lash serums and are banned in several countries, including Australia and Canada.

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

## No scripts for magic mushies

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 23/07/2023, Jessica McSweeney, Page 6

Three weeks since MDMA and psilocybin were rescheduled to treat mental illnesses, not a single doctor has been approved to prescribe the drug despite huge demand. When the Therapeutic Goods Administration ruled the drugs could be used for treatment-resistant depression and PTSD, many in the field were shocked by the quick decision. The TGA confirmed it has not approved any applications to become an approved prescriber.

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

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

## RSV vax gets the OK in Europe

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 23/07/2023, Page 13

The world's first vaccine for infants and those over 60 against RSV has been approved by Europe's drug watchdog, two months after it was approved in the US. The medicine, Abrysvo, made by Pfizer, is under evaluation by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

Prepared by Isentia

Subject to copyright. For internal use only.

See [Copyright Terms of Use](#)