



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 10th July 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports surgeons have seized on the case of a 15-year-old trans patient having top surgery in Queensland to call for stricter regulations for gender-affirming surgery. Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons president Nicola Dean said "I think it is wrong to use the very private matter of the medical treatment of a child as a vehicle for very public debate. In all areas of surgery, we come across cases where there are exceptional circumstances."
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports private recruiting are being accused of driving up hospital staff costs by discouraging applicants from accepting full-time roles in New South Wales' public health system. Greens MP Amanda Cohn said recruiting firms charged with filling temporary gaps in the state's medical system were incentivised to drive up costs through commissions and were able to obfuscate the number of available staff. *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*
- The **[West Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the heightened cost of living and state-wide housing shortages have driven down Western Australia's birth rates, health experts say. The state recorded 31,709 in 2022, the lowest number seen since 2010.

- The [**Courier Mail**](#) (page 3) reports the Northern Territory and Queensland lead Australia in cases of pregnant mothers delivering before arriving at hospitals, or births before arrival, new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows. Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said less than one per cent of Queensland's annual births occurred en route to a hospital, but health experts said numbers had more than doubled since 1990 when 30 per cent of the state's rural maternity units closed. *Also reported by:* [**Cairns Post**](#)
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 5) reports Queensland researchers will trial a new single-dose Respiratory Syncytial Virus on vulnerable preterm babies in a bid to lower hospitalisation rates after discharge. Brisbane Mater Mothers Hospital director of neonatology Pita Birch said "If the trial is successful, the new vaccine will better protect babies against developing RSV infection compared with the current vaccine, and reduce hospitalisations, intensive care admissions and deaths."
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 5) reports Victoria's hospitals and health services may face cuts as the state government moves to cut spending and pay down its budget deficit. Victoria's Health secretary Euan Wallace last week told staff the department would look to make \$50 million in cuts, saying "the bulk of our savings, and efficiencies need to come from (the health) sector".
- [**The Age**](#) (page 11) reports the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre has been forced to refer patients to other clinics due to rising demand for sexual health checks across the first half of 2023. More than 80,400 STI cases were reported to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System over the period, up 23 per cent on the first half of 2022. *Also reported by:* [**Canberra Times**](#), [**West Australian**](#), [**Daily Mail Australia**](#), [**The New Daily**](#).
- [**The Guardian**](#) reports Facebook and Instagram owner Meta has pledged to up protections on misinformation, abuse and mental health ahead of the referendum for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Health Minister Mark Butler has expressed concern about the impact of the referendum debate on Indigenous Australians, while the esafety commissioner, Beyond Blue and Black Dog have already seen increasing reports of online racism and abuse. *Also reported by:* [**Australian Financial Review**](#), [**The Australian**](#), [**Canberra Times**](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Push for stronger 'top surgery' rules

The Australian, General News, 10/07/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Leading surgeons are calling for the national medical regulator to step in to set "clear and specific guidelines" on gender-affirming surgery, including consideration of whether the age at which transgender adolescents are legally allowed to go under the knife should be raised to 18. [...] "It is really incumbent upon the federal health minister, state ministers and the national regulatory body, AHPRA, to ensure that these patients, our children, are protected from less scrupulous unethical practitioners who see transgender surgery as yet another opportunity to make money.

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

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Cancer survivor's mission

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 10/07/2023, Luke Costin, Page 10

Before a screening kit changed the course of Melahat Kaymak's life, it gathered dust on her bathroom shelf for months. "My husband kept on saying, 'when are you going to do it, when are you going to do it? [...] "We know cancer screening saves lives - and not screening costs us lives," Health Minister Mark Butler said at the time.

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'Russian roulette': Teens suffer seizures, vomiting after using Snapchat vapes

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/07/2023, Mary Ward

Health authorities have raised the alarm after six young people presented to NSW emergency departments within days of each other experiencing symptoms including seizures, loss of

consciousness and vomiting after vaping. [...] In May, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced a raft of regulatory changes for the sale of e-cigarettes intended to crack down on the widespread black market which has allowed nicotine vapes to be easily illegally purchased.

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

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NSW Health warns young people hospitalised with seizures, vomiting after vaping

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Housnia Shams

New South Wales health authorities are urging parents to be vigilant after several young people were hospitalised with acute vaping-related illnesses from products purchased on social media. Six young people presented to hospitals with symptoms including seizures, collapse and vomiting in the last week of June, NSW Health said. [...] In announcing the changes, Health Minister Mark Butler said vaping had become the number one behavioural issue in high schools.

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Meta vows to crack down on abuse and misinformation around voice to parliament referendum

The Guardian, Other, 10/07/2023, Josh Butler

Facebook and Instagram want to be "contributing to democracy" and not exacerbating harms around the Indigenous voice referendum, the company's Australian policy head has said, as the social media giant beefs up protections on misinformation, abuse and mental health ahead of the national vote. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, has voiced concern about the potential impacts on Indigenous people through the referendum debate; the e-safety commission and mental health agencies such as Beyond Blue and Black Dog are already seeing increasing reports about abuse and racism online.

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MINISTER WELLS

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

An 'avalanche' of demand

Border Mail, General News, 10/07/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 5

Indi MP Helen Haines has warned the health crisis is "too urgent to wait for opportunistic grant rounds" to provide specialist care for eating disorders in this community. In May, Dr Haines wrote to federal assistant minister for rural and regional health Emma McBride, seeking a meeting and outlining the "critical lack of services in my region". [...] On May 19, she met with Albury MP Justin Clancy to discuss the crisis and four days later facilitated a meeting between Ms McBride and North East mental health practitioners.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Regulators "too slow" to introduce national silicosis registry

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 10/07/2023

A new bill, introduced to Parliament, will mandate the reporting of deadly occupational respiratory

diseases such as silicosis, but some doctors say the Australian Government has been too slow to act. Specialists in respiratory, sleep, occupational and environmental medicine will be required to make a notification to a new registry of every diagnosis of occupationally caused silicosis, if a new bill passes Parliament. [...] "Silicosis can have a devastating impact on workers and their loved ones this is an entirely preventable illness, and all too often leads to entirely preventable deaths," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney MP said in a statement.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Consultant crackdown

Canberra Times, General News, 10/07/2023, Page 1

Earnings for the country's top-yielding consultancies have nearly halved in the Labor government's first full financial year in office, dropping below the billion-dollar mark for the first time in four years. [...] The Department of Health and Ageing, Services Australia and Department of Home Affairs were their next biggest customers with contracts worth \$43.7 million, \$32 million and \$28.2 million respectively.

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'If they don't take the right images, the doctor can't draw the right conclusions'

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/07/2023, Mary Ward

Concerns about patients receiving incorrect or missed diagnoses due to poorly performed ultrasounds have prompted calls for sonographers to be brought under the purview of a regulator. The Australian Sonographers Association's CEO Jodie Long, who is leaving the role this week, said there had been an increase in insurance claims that have blamed sonographers for poor-quality images. [...] "In a statement, a spokesperson for the federal Department of Health and Aged Care said sonographers worked in a "well regulated" health system with responsibilities shared between governments, independent regulators and employers.

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

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Government plan hopes to reduce emissions in health care

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 10/07/2023

Increasing the focus on prevention and primary care will reduce the need for secondary and tertiary care and reduce hospitals' greenhouse gas emissions, says a leading climate and health researcher. Clinicians are being reassured that the hospital systems which support their work will have the impacts of climate change taken into account once a new national health and climate strategy is developed. The federal Department of Health and Aged Care is currently running a consultation on Australia's first national health and climate strategy, inviting submissions until 24 July 2023.

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CORONAVIRUS

Secret vaccine survey: Do you trust Morrison?

Andrews government "cabinet in confidence" emails and documents reveal secret surveys were used to test if Victorians' believed either the state or federal government carried most responsibility for the Covid-19 vaccine rollout. Department of Premier and Cabinet communications reveal the Andrews government was carefully monitoring public sentiment about differences with the Morrison government over lockdown restrictions, financial support and vaccines in 2021.

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

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Local COVID cases down

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Page 2

Greater Bendigo recorded just 13 new COVID-19 cases in the week to Friday, down from 76 last week. According to data released by the Department of Health, the municipality recorded one cases in the 24 hours leading up to June 16.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Care economy's big jobs challenge

Australian Financial Review, Features, 10/07/2023, Larissa Ham, Page 2

The "care economy" is one of the fastest growing parts of the Australian economy, with workforce demand predicted to almost double by 2049-2050. However, it is facing a mighty uphill battle, as challenges with decent pay, a lack of career pathways, reduce...

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State of aged care shame

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 15

South Australia is leading the nation, per capita, for the number of former aged care workers whose behaviour was so appalling they have been banned from working in the field. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner has issued orders banning nine South Australians - some for several years and others permanently. Nationwide, the commissioner has made 44 banning orders - SA second only to NSW with 20 but which has almost five times the population.

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Retiring soon? It's time to start thinking about these six things

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/07/2023

The retirement clock is ticking in 2023 for an awful lot of Aussies. If you're among the 500,000 Australians thinking of retiring in the next five years, it's time to seize control of these six things that will help you make the most of it.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Designing for wellbeing in public spaces

Australian Financial Review, Features, 10/07/2023, Page 3

Design for wellbeing is an increasingly prominent trend across industries, says Kate West, Australasia co-chair at Arup. "Here in Perth ...the redevelopment of the one-kilometre Scarborough Beach foreshore revitalised one of the city's most popular precincts.

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Sexual health clinics face STI surge

Age, General News, 10/07/2023, Rachael Ward, Page 11

Sexually transmitted infections are rising, and it's feared the demand for check-ups means patients can't access treatment quickly enough. In the first six months of 2023 more than 80,400 STI cases were reported to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, up 23 per cent on the first half of 2022.

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

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Blitz on vaping retailers to start

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 11

Vape retailers will face tough new regulations in a crackdown that begins Monday, with health authorities hopeful the new scheme will help bring down rising rates of young people using the devices. Under changes, the onus will be on retailers to prove their vapes do not contain nicotine regardless of the packaging claims.

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The Story Project helping children in palliative care in Sydney chronicle their life

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Harriet Tatham

Like two friends catching up on their latest news, 16-year-old Summer Williams and her volunteer biographer Claire Davis leave no subject untouched. Sitting in a library at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, the pair discuss hair, school photos, and what's on the table for dinner.

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Chronic back pain isn't influenced by 'good' posture. The brain plays a bigger role than expected, experts say

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Sam Nichols and Nat Tencic

For a huge number of Australians, chronic back pain is a distressing part of daily life. One in six live with the condition, which is typically defined as back pain that lasts longer than three months. It also has a big impact on the economy. In 2018, consulting firm Deloitte reported that chronic musculoskeletal pain cost Australia's health system over \$1 billion.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Kim Millar

Health authorities have issued a new warning against vaping after six Sydney teenagers needed hospital treatment for nicotine poisoning. The vapes were bought online, skirting laws which require a prescription. A New South Wales Health investigation has found the vapes were purchased on social media app Snapchat and contained highly addictive nicotine.

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ABC Radio Sydney, 23:00 News (Weekend), 09/07/2023

The Australian Medical Association says children as young as 12 are presenting to emergency departments in New South Wales with serious vaping related symptoms. New South Wales Health reported six cases of acute vaping related illnesses among young people in the last week of June, most in south west Sydney.

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Mad keen on this aid

Herald Sun, General News, 10/07/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 15

As parents of a toddler newly diagnosed with a rare and lifethreatening bone marrow disorder, Anna and Erin McMahon were not only overwhelmed and terrified, but also in need of expert support. It came in the most unexpected way. The family was introduced to the Bone Marrow Failure Syndrome Telehealth Nurse Service funded through Maddie Riewoldt's Vision.

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Maddie's vision of hope

Herald Sun, Editorials, 10/07/2023, Page 22

Every three days another Australian is diagnosed with bone marrow failure syndrome and, tragically, more than half will not survive the condition. As families deal with the difficult challenges of BMFS, known as aplastic anaemia, specialist researchers and clinicians are helping sufferers and searching for new treatments.

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More specialists needed to ease long wait times: Ferguson

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/07/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 2

With some of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the country, Tasmanians are at risk of delayed treatment due to a lack of trained specialists in the region. In the state's North, the Tasmanian Health Dashboard Data shows that those waiting for an urgent gastroenterology appointment are waiting 387 days, while those in the South are waiting 212 days.

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Restoring my hearing

Shepparton News, General News, 10/07/2023, Page 6

Words cannot describe the effects of losing one's hearing. I for one, loved classical music and good old Aussie country music until it became just a jungle of sound. Speaking as a once effective debater, I found not only was my flow of language broken, but my ability to respond in a debate diminished, irrespective of strong knowledge.

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Lawson Troughton: Penguin boy placed into palliative care with one week to live beats the odds

The Mercury, Other, 09/07/2023, Alex Treacy

"Doctors didn't give him any chance he's now about to turn four": The mum of a Tasmanian boy, born at 27 weeks, who survived eight surgeries and meningitis is grateful for every day with him. After being born at 27 weeks with hydrocephalus fluid on the brain and subsequently developing meningitis, Lawson's parents were told to take the three-month-old baby home from hospital.

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Alysse O'Brien lives with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and tested positive for Lyme disease

Newcastle Herald, Other, 09/07/2023, Damon Cronshaw

Mayfield's Alysse O'Brien has been in a living hell for two years, battling chronic illness and debilitating symptoms. The 20-year-old has been diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS). The condition is known to follow an infection, similar to long COVID Alysse's mum Michelle Turnbull said blood testing showed her daughter had markers for Epstein-Barr virus, Ross River fever and the controversial Lyme disease.

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How Stanley Clark made the world's first portable blood glucose tester for people with diabetes

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Scott Levi and Keira Proust

Lisa Clark spent a huge portion of her childhood in and out of hospitals for blood-glucose checks. The

56-year-old was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in the 1970s. [...] According to Diabetes Australia, about 10 per cent of people with diabetes have type 1.

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The TV icon living with motor neuron disease – and her inspirational “last grand adventure”

4BC, Other, 09/07/2023, Spencer Howson

Fiona Macdonald was an Australian TV superstar – but since 2021 has been suffering from motor neuron disease (MND). Along with sister Kylie, she is travelling around Australia to raise money for research into MND.

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How a simple blister was the first sign this little girl, 10, would become bedridden with one of the world's most rare and painful diseases

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/07/2023, Jesse Hyland

A little girl's world has been rocked after a blister on her foot developed during a family holiday turned out to be a horrific disorder. Bella Macey, 10, has been fighting complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) in hospital - as her family desperately seeks treatment overseas. CRPS is a rare neurological disorder causes extreme discomfort and is known as one of the most painful incurable conditions in the world.

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PRIMARY CARE

Public private partnerships to ease the burden

Australian Financial Review, Features, 10/07/2023, Tim Boreham, Page 1

Post-pandemic, government balance sheets look shaky but the voting public continues to demand more and better hospitals, schools, public transport and even jails. To meet this imperative, public private partnerships (PPPs) are re-emerging as a solution to...

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Stroke help for regions

Courier Mail, General News, 10/07/2023, Page 13

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

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Axe to fall on Health

Herald Sun, General News, 10/07/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 5

The head of Victoria's Health Department has flagged cuts to hospitals and health services, also revealing more than 300 public service jobs in the sector are on the chopping block. A video obtained by the Herald Sun shows department secretary Euan Wallace last week advising staff that major spending cuts are being weighted for the health sector. He warns a larger share of savings would have to come from the broader health sector, which covers areas such as hospitals and services.

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PM announces eight additional Medicare Urgent Care Clinics to WA

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/07/2023

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced eight additional Medicare Urgent Care Clinics to add to the fifty already promised for Western Australia. They're designed to give more options to see an

urgently needed doctor or nurse in non-life threatening conditions.

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'It's not getting better': Leaked posts by paramedics expose SA's ramping crisis

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/07/2023, Kathryn Bermingham

Facebook posts leaked to the state opposition have laid bare the frustration of paramedics at the state's ramping crisis. Columnist and MIX 102.3 host Ali Clarke says the big issue in the upcoming South Australian state election on March 19 is still about "health systems and ramping".

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Seven Queensland regions to discuss healthcare, jobs at statewide forum blitz

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/07/2023, Taylah Fellows

Healthcare and jobs will be at the forefront of several regional community forums taking place across the state on Monday following the state 2023-24 Budget announcement. Regional Community Forum 2022 with Wide-Bay-Burnett-Fraser Coast locals.

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Heartbroken mum opens up about how her terminally ill teenage son said he wanted to die - before taking his own life in front of them

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/07/2023, Max Aitchison

A devastated mother has opened up about how her terminally ill teenage son took his own life in front of her at home. Rhys Habermann, 19, recorded a video in January 2017 revealing his wish to die after an 18-month battle with cancer that began in his hip but spread to his shoulders, ribs, spine, skull and lungs. Faced with an agonising death in palliative care, Rhys chose instead to end his own life at their South Australian home in front of his heartbroken parents.

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'Had enough': Adelaide teen's heartbreaking decision to end life after terminal illness diagnosis

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/07/2023, Carla Mascarenhas

The ACT government is considering offering euthanasia for teenagers. The mother of a young Adelaide man who took his own life in 2017 after suffering from a rare cancer has spoken out about her families ordeal. Rhys Habermann was just 17 years old when he was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma - an aggressive type of bone cancer.

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ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 09/07/2023, Kathryn Robinson and Lorna Dunkley

Interview with Alexandra Senter, Entrepreneur & business columnist about report on poorly performed ultrasounds. She says the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care says that sonographers are within a well regulated ecosystem but it's not the case, Australian Sonographers Association's CEO Jodie Long, who is leaving the role this week, said there had been an increase in insurance claims that have blamed sonographers for poor-quality images.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sub acute support centre

Ballarat Courier, General News, 10/07/2023, Alex Dalziel, Page 3

The tender is out for the construction of a new youth mental health care facility in Ballarat, to support

young people with mental illnesses, but not in need of an admission to an acute inpatient unit. The Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre will be a 10-bed facility operated by Grampians Health and will provide 'step-up' and 'stepdown' treatment for people aged 16 to 25.

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Chewed up and spat out

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 10/07/2023, Tareyn Varley, Page 1

Fast food is making some kids sick. And they're not even eating it. The industry has thrived off the back of young people, often still in school, who've been hired on junior pay rates but expected to do adult jobs. Today Tareyn Varley reveals the high price some are paying in terms of mental health after copping abuse from both senior staff and customers, leading one former McDonald's Dapto employee to contemplate suicide.

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Big surge in youths being targeted by cyber bullies

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/07/2023, Page 14

Hundreds of young children are being seriously bullied online, with complaints to the eSafety Commissioner more than tripling in the past four years. Children aged eight to 13 made close to 740 complaints to the commissioner in 2022, up from around 200 reports in 2019. In May this year alone, the commissioner received 230 complaints of bullying online, including reports of people posting nasty comments and offensive pictures.

Also reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

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What kids do behind closed doors

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/07/2023, Julie Cross, Page 17

The eSafety Commissioner has revealed what cyberbullies are really saying as the tide of abuse rises. Real texts from cyberbullies have been released to show parents the types of shocking messages children are sending each other. It comes as the eSafety Commission exclusively revealed "serious cyber-bullying" involving under-14s has more than tripled compared with before the pandemic, with 230 complaints in May, the largest on record.

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

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Robodebt victim Lloyd Taylor on Royal Commission report by Catherine Holmes

Canberra Times, Other, 09/07/2023, Lanie Tindale

When Centrelink started hounding Lloyd Taylor for money he didn't owe them, he was doing what the government wanted. Having dropped out of school young, with parents who never graduated, Mr Taylor was studying his Year 12 Certificate at the Canberra Institute of Technology to better his life.

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Lifeline to receive major funding boost from NSW Labor govt

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/07/2023

The NSW Labor government has announced \$8.2 million over the next five years to support Lifeline's mental health support services. The package particularly covers Lifeline's web and online chat capabilities, with the funds going towards recruiting and training text and chat crisis supporters, both volunteer and paid.

[Read More](#)

Lifeline gets \$8.2 million boost to open text and web chat service

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/07/2023, Madeleine Achenza

The mental health support and suicide prevention hotline is getting a long-awaited revamp. Lifeline will start providing quarterly data to the Reserve Bank on the impact of their decisions as the suicide hotline's calls have skyrocketed amid the cost-of-living crisis. Since the beginning of this year, Lifeline answered almost 50,000 calls from Australians suffering from financial stress which is 14,000 more money-related.

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Postnatal depression threatened to kill Adelaide mum Belinda Wahry – until she found Helen Mayo House

Adelaide Now, Other, 09/07/2023, Lauren Novak

Electroconvulsive therapy sounds frightening, but this Adelaide mum says it saved her from losing her life to postnatal depression. Postnatal depression, a condition that can affect mothers, and occasionally fathers, soon after the birth of a child. Courtesy: VEA The horrifying thought first crept into Belinda Wahry's mind as she sat on the floor, playing with her three-month-old son.

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AWH's Haylee Adamson explains rise in number of severe cases for eating disorders

The Border Mail, Other, 09/07/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan

The prevalence and severity of eating disorders continues to climb while a shortage of specialist services and clear pathways to care leave families flailing on the Border and in the North East. From patients and their carers to public and private practitioners and politicians, comes a resounding cry for better access to dedicated treatment and recovery services in local communities.

[Read More](#)

Jayda Cousins shares story amid calls for specialist eating disorder services for Border and North East

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 09/07/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan

She'd wait until everyone left the house, then she'd go to her room and run for hours in front of the mirror. She'd even run laps around the house. She ran, and she ran, and she ran - sometimes she ran until she passed out. But 16-year-old Jayda Cousins couldn't out-run the voice in her head telling her she was too big.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Lydia Feng

Lifeline is set to expand its digital mental health crisis services in New South Wales after receiving a financial boost from the State Government. At least \$8.2 million will be spent on recruiting and training staff to run the helplines, text messaging and webchat services.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Birthing review in Whyalla

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 14

Experienced nursing and midwifery leader Peta Fisher will conduct the external review into how birthing services can be re-established in Whyalla as soon as possible. A shortage of midwives saw births halted at the city last month and expectant mothers diverted to services elsewhere, prompting the state government to order the review.

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

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Delivery vehicles only

Queensland is a national leader in road-side births with hundreds of women a year having babies on highways in "pulled over" cars or ambulances. New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that in the state in 2021, 448 women did not make it to the nearest maternity unit and their babies arrived en route. The Northern Territory had the highest numbers.

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

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WA's baby drought

West Australian, General News, 10/07/2023, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 1

WA is in a baby drought as birth rates hit a decade low with experts blaming a cost-of-living crisis for prompting would-be parents to hold or ditch their dream of starting a family. Birth rates marked a low of 31,709 in 2022, a total not seen since 31,571 registered babies were recorded in 2010 across public and private facilities.

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Students nurses step up in a time of need

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 10/07/2023, Rachel Clark, Page 4

As the ongoing shortage of healthcare workers across Australia has left hospitals and aged care facilities calling out for more nurses, student nurses from TAFE are stepping up to help fill the gap. Molly Smith, 17, has always been interested in the healthcare profession, after being employed at a local pharmacy.

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

Hello baby ... and goodbye: New mums pushed out of hospital within hours of giving birth

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/07/2023, Henrietta Cook

Australian women and newborns are being discharged from hospital in record time after childbirth, with almost half of mothers now sent home one day or less after having an uncomplicated vaginal birth. This compares with about one in four women a decade ago, according to new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data that has sparked concerns mothers and babies are being sent home too soon as hospitals seek to free up beds.

[Read More](#)

National guidelines on postnatal care to ensure best possible start for families

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/07/2023

There is a great deal of information for a new mother to absorb preparing to leave maternity hospital. Often within hours of delivery, and its inherent physical and mental demands, she is expected to take on all the responsibilities and needs of the new infant as well as resuming the "normality" of everyday family life.

[Read More](#)

Gender equity and safe workplaces

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 09/07/2023, Laura Miller

The ANMF's membership base is overwhelmingly made up of women, making gender equity an urgent and pressing priority for the ANMF. The past 12 months have seen some significant steps forward with industrial reforms targeted at improving gender equity outcomes, specifically with the aim of creating safe and inclusive workplaces for women.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 09/07/2023, Clint Stanaway and Jayne Azzopardi

A brand new bulk billed urgent care facility in Perth could already be doomed. The WA Nurses Union warning they won't be able to staff it. The Prime Minister unveiled the clinic ahead of the Rockingham

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Great passion for rural health

Age, General News, 10/07/2023, Irene Blackberry and Sean MacDermott, Page 29

Rural Australia lost one of its finest champions following the death of (Frederick) John Richards in his 87th year. Although John grew up in Melbourne and was educated at Malvern Grammar School, he developed a passion for rural living and agriculture. During his last years of secondary school, John studied agricultural science one afternoon a week at the Burnley Agricultural College.

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

Young doctors say pay deal will ease pressure

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/07/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 5

More staff now likely to stay in state hospitals Junior doctors working at the Royal Hobart Hospital have welcomed a new pay deal for Tasmanian medicos, describing it as a "game-changer" that will "vastly improve patient safety" and stem the exodus of medical practitioners to the mainland.

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

Hospital 'guns for hire' push up costs

Sydney Morning Herald, Wrap, 10/07/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 1

Private recruitment companies responsible for finding temporary doctors and nurses to plug gaps in critically understaffed NSW hospitals have been accused of deliberately driving up staff costs while also discouraging medical workers from taking full-time jobs in the public health system. The increased use of temporary doctors and nurses to cover shortages has been the subject of criticism across the medical industry due to concern about its impact on patient care and the enormous cost to taxpayers.

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

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

Exposure

Daily Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 1

A Riverina GP says mandatory rural placements for medical students would help provide immediate relief to struggling clinics and could be the solution to health worker shortages in the bush. Gundagai-based Doctor Paul Mara has called for a sustained and leveraged response to the "mathematical problem" of doctor shortages in regional areas and said he was not surprised by the findings of a recent university study into the sector.

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Surgeon's life-altering work is an eye-opener

Daily Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 3

James Masson is not your everyday surgeon. After 18 volunteer trips to countries like Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, he has seen the best and worst of what their health systems have to offer. Dr Masson, who is currently based in The Rock, said his experiences overseas have given him a new perspective on Australian medicine.

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

Doctors should avoid discussing patient's weight, Australian of the Year says

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/07/2023, Amber Schultz

Australian of the Year and body positivity advocate Taryn Brumfitt is calling for GPs to avoid discussing a patient's weight during standard consultations. "Weight bias is the last remaining legal form of

discrimination," she said. Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt is calling out the impacts of weight bias in healthcare settings.

[Read More](#)

Body positive Australian of the Year accuses doctors of 'weight bias' for discussing the size of their patients - despite obesity leading to a surge in dangerous cancers

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/07/2023, Padraig Collins and Peter Vincent

Taryn Brumfitt, the 2023 Australian of the Year and body image advocate, has called for doctors not to ask about a patient's weight unless they bring it up. Her plea came just days after experts were alarmed by huge increases in Australia's cancer rates, with obesity singled out as one of the biggest contributors to the rise. World-leading cancer research hub Daffodil Centre revealed the rate of bowel cancer has drastically soared among millennials between 1991 and 2021.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Weekend Live , 09/07/2023, Peter Stefanovic

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The Federal Government has recently made a number of announcements for more support and funding in our rural areas. Higgins says the Federal Government's announcement is welcome news to rural areas. She states it ensures that community pharmacy is well funded as changes about 60-day dispensing make it easier and cheaper for people to access medications. She notes it's important medical students are exposed to rural practise and rural general practise in particular.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Lodge a lifesaving donation at tax time

Herald Sun, General News, 10/07/2023, Samantha Landy, Page 10

Australians lodging their tax returns online in July are urged to take an extra minute to make a potentially lifesaving pledge. Ahead of DonateLife Week this month, the nation's organ and tissue authority is encouraging anyone doing their taxes on the myGov website to click on the Medicare tab and register to become a donor.

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

Rising costs, poorer health: treatment prices increasingly unfair

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 10/07/2023

We must avoid the risk that health care becomes the target for profiteering, writes Dr Will Cairns. The Australian Government needs to take further action to ensure Australian health care remains affordable, and to avoid us heading down the path to health care calamity that is being taken by the United States (eg, in maternal mortality, [here](#) and [here](#)).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

From avoidable deaths to sub-standard care, Launceston General Hospital has had a string of adverse coronial findings in the past six years

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Erin Cooper-Douglas

In short: Launceston General Hospital has had eight coronial findings against it in six years What's next? The Health Department says it takes the findings very seriously and is continuously improving health services Last week, the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) hit the headlines for the wrong reasons, yet again.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Weekend Sunrise, 09/07/2023, Matt Doran and Edwina Bartholomew

Interview with Martin Fletcher, CEO, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency about records showing more than 700 health professionals have been accused of inappropriate behaviour or sexual misconduct by patients in just the last financial year. Fletcher says It could be sexual comments, inappropriate touching, a health practitioner seeking a personal relationship with a patient, or sexual assault and rape. he adds all of them are unacceptable because, of course, it's a gross abuse of the trust that we place in our health practitioners. He states they expanded their service for people who are reporting these cases.

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Radio National, Sunday Extra, 09/07/2023, Julian Morrow

Tasmania's Health Care Workers Union says poor patient outcomes at the state's second biggest public hospital will continue to be documented in coronial findings unless there's major systemic change. On Friday, Coroner Simon Cooper slammed the Launceston General Hospital for keeping substandard medical records that potentially compromised a patient's treatment and made the investigation of her death extremely difficult.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Women stars step into the light

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/07/2023, Ben Cubby, Page 3

A scarcity of Women's World Cup match tickets is driving the construction of about 40 NSW live sites, where fans can watch matches on big screens, as the buzz builds 10 days out from the event's kick-off. About 1.2 million tickets to the games across Australia and New Zealand had been sold as of last week, surpassing the total attendance at the largest Women's World Cup yet staged, in France in 2019, according to football's governing body FIFA.

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

Games on for bans

Herald Sun, General News, 10/07/2023, Jade Gailberger, Page 7

Victoria's 2026 Commonwealth Games would be free of unhealthy food, drink, alcohol and gambling ads and sponsorships under a proposed ban being called for by VicHealth. Team sponsorship, venue names, television, radio and online advertising during the event would also be restricted in a move experts say would put Australia in line with other countries. The bans, aimed at protecting Australians from "predatory" tactics, would also extend to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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

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Our girls firmly in Matildas' corner

Herald Sun, General News, 10/07/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 9

Victorians will embrace girl power in the stands and at public celebrations as Melbourne gets set to break another crowd record at the FIFA Women's World Cup. With soccer scoring participation goals in Victoria, the world cup in Australia this month should take the world game to even greater heights.

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

Saving a life isn't taxing

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/07/2023, Samantha Landy, Page 12

The millions of Australians lodging their tax returns online in July are urged to take an extra minute to make a potentially lifesaving pledge. Ahead of DonateLife Week this month, the nation's organ and tissue authority is encouraging anyone doing their taxes on the myGov website to click on the Medicare tab while they're there and register to become a donor.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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On the ball at fan site

Courier Mail, General News, 10/07/2023, Shaye Windsor, Page 3

Brisbane fans will be able to throw their support behind women's soccer at a new live site set to take over Riverside Green at Southbank. The official FIFA Fan Festival site will show every Women's World Cup game in a month-long celebration that will let Queensland girls know there is a future for them in the game.

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GP sues over vax claims

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/07/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 13

A Tasmanian doctor who founded an "integrative" health retreat in the 1990s has launched a defamation claim over a 2022 news report that claimed he had supported two AFL players in their bid to skirt the competition's vaccine mandate. Dr Russell Cooper, a GP who founded Anubha Mountain Health Retreat at Fern Tree in the mid-1990s, is suing Nine Entertainment Co, The Age, and reporters Jake Niall and Peter Ryan in the Federal Court. The report, 'AFL pair used doctor in no jab bid,' ran in The Age newspaper on February 18 last year.

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

Kerr's decision won't stop fight for equality

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/07/2023, Molly Appleton, Page 13

One of Australia's greatest sporting exports Sam Kerr was caught between a rock and a hard place when asked if she would defy FIFA's rules to wear the OneLove rainbow captain's armband. Soccer's governing body has replicated the ban from the men's Qatar World Cup onto the women's edition to be held here in Australia and New Zealand.

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Netball World Cup 2023: Why Liz Watson stood her ground over CPA dispute

The Australian, Other, 09/07/2023, Emma Greenwood

If Netball Australia is handing out awards, it might do well to find the primary school friend of Liz Watson who convinced the Year 5 student to join her local netball club. Watson was never the kid who grew up dreaming of playing for the Diamonds - and certainly not of captaining Australia.

[Read More](#)

Drones and a festival of football: Brisbane turns it on for major events

The Brisbane River is set to take centre stage this month as organisers of two of the three biggest sporting events on the planet ramp up preparations for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup and the 2032 Olympic Games. During the World Cup, to be held this month and next across Australia and New Zealand, a Fan Festival featuring a big screen, bars and food outlets will be activated at South Bank, from the Piazza to the Brisbane River.

[Read More](#)

'Hidden' concussion epidemic sweeping kids sports

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/07/2023, Sarah Booth

Hundreds of concussed Victorians are hospitalised every year, but our most "vulnerable" patients make up a staggering number of cases. Sports-related concussions were responsible for nearly 2900 Victorian emergency department visits in five years, with football linked to one in four cases and youths vastly over-represented.

[Read More](#)

Binar Futures: How Adam Desmond is empowering Indigenous youth through the solidarity of sport

West Australian, Other, 09/07/2023, Jade Jurewicz

As Adam Desmond begins to list everything he's achieved during a work day that isn't ending anytime soon, you're left wondering when he finds time to sleep. The father of four is on the road when he manages to steal a moment to chat about his fifth child Binar Futures.

[Read More](#)

Sport FIFA's game changer — from police raids to records, growth and reform

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Tracey Holmes

The journey to the summit that the FIFA Women's World Cup now occupies has either been incredibly fast, or terribly slow, depending on who you talk to. By the time the Matildas kick off in the opening match against the Republic of Ireland at Stadium Australia on July 20, a long list of firsts will have already been marked biggest tournament, first co-hosted, most tickets sold, eight nations debuting, stand alone broadcast deals, and on it goes.

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, James Glenday and Adrienne Francis

The most powerful woman in world sport has arrived in Australia, starting with an unscheduled trip to the Top End with the Women's World Cup starting in Sydney in just 11 days. FIFA's secretary general travelled to Darwin to hear from local Indigenous leaders.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 09/07/2023, Chris Bath

New research into head knocks has revealed the staggering number of children receiving concussions while playing sport. Hundreds of kids are presenting to hospital emergency departments with Australian Rules Football linked to 1 in 4 cases tackling the game head on no matter the code.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Samantha Heathwood

The symbol of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will light up the Brisbane skyline in a fortnight to mark nine years until we host the global sporting event. Organisers say the free show will even rival Riverfire.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News at 5pm (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Samantha

Heathwood

Sports related concussions were responsible for almost 3000 presentations to Victorian emergency departments over the past five years. Football was linked to 1 in 4 cases. The majority of patients were children or teenagers. It shows that this affects both men and women, young and old, elite and non-elite so it doesn't discriminate.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Alicia Loxley

Around 600 people, including a staggering number of young athletes, are ending up in emergency departments every year after being concussed during sport. It comes as the AFL weighs up how to protect players while maintaining the fabric of the game.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, Weekends, 09/07/2023, Spencer Howson

A spectacular 500-strong drone show illuminating the iconic symbols of the Olympic and Paralympic Games over Brisbane. The Story Bridge will set the stage for the city's nine years to go celebration this month. The free display, set to be held on July 22nd, is the first time Australia will have the Olympic rings in the Paralympic Agitos on prominent display since the Sydney 2000 Games.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

How healthcare precincts aid big, ambitious research

Australian Financial Review, Features, 10/07/2023, Anders Furze, Page 1

Medical and healthcare innovation precincts in places such as Melbourne's Parkville and Sydney's Westmead are at the vanguard of Australia's world-class research endeavours. But how can a nation of 26 million people compete with global heavy-hitters such ...

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One-shot vax hopes for skyrocketing virus

The Australian, General News, 10/07/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 5

Queensland researchers are trialling a single-dose vaccine on preterm babies vulnerable to Respiratory Syncytial Virus, which could reduce hospitalisation rates after discharge. RSV is one of the most common reasons for hospital admission in infants aged under one, and can lead to bronchiolitis followed by intubation or mechanical intubation.

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

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GPs need more support in treating sleep conditions

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 10/07/2023

A new study shows insomnia and other sleep disorders are driving reduced productivity for younger Australians, prompting the researchers to begin developing more resources to help GPs diagnose and manage these conditions. Researchers who led a study published today in The Medical Journal of Australia have said general practitioners need more support in diagnosing and managing insomnia, after they found a surprising number of young people with undiagnosed sleep disorders.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Voice priorities flagged by Burney 'based on trust' not law

Australian Financial Review, General News, 10/07/2023, Michael Read, Page 10

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney has signalled the four key priorities for the Voice to parliament she outlined last week will not be enshrined in law but will be "based on trust" instead. In a speech on Wednesday, Ms Burney revealed she would...

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

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Facebook to wade into Voice referendum with funding

Australian Financial Review, Marketing & Media, 10/07/2023, Nick Bonyhady, Page 28

Meta will provide a one-off funding increase to its news offering in an attempt to crack down on misinformation in the lead-up to the referendum over whether to introduce an Indigenous Voice to parliament. The company, which owns Facebook, Instagram, What...

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Facebook to block fake voices

The Australian, General News, 10/07/2023, Sophie Elsworth, Page 1

Tech giant Meta has vowed to tackle misinformation about the voice referendum by providing "social media safety training" to MPs and advocacy groups, blocking fake accounts and boosting its funding for fact-checkers. The US-based company, owner of Facebook and Instagram, said it had been preparing for the referendum for a long time and would implement a "comprehensive strategy to combat misinformation, voter interference and other .

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

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Voice to prioritise closing wellbeing gap

Canberra Times, General News, 10/07/2023, Adrian Rollins, Page 6

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney has dismissed claims the Voice to Parliament would seek to intervene on issues like changing the date of Australia Day celebrations. As the "yes" campaign seeks to build momentum amid signs, including from a survey of ACM readers, that the "no" case has gained significant support in recent weeks, Ms Burney has sought to provide greater clarity about what the Voice will do and debunk claims made by those who oppose the initiative.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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How Meta is countering hate speech and misinformation

Canberra Times, General News, 10/07/2023, Karen Barlow, Page 6

Social media giant Meta is stepping in to manage online discourse around the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament, promising a comprehensive strategy for Facebook, Instagram and the new Twitter rival Threads to combat misinformation, voter interference, and hate speech. Social media is one of the top sources of information about the proposal to enshrine an Indigenous advisory body in the constitution, but it is arguably the largest source of misinformation and disinformation.

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'I remember the injustice of it ...': Burney

Central Western Daily, General News, 10/07/2023, Nick Guthrie, Page 5

The "preventable" death of a close friend from Dubbo is one of the biggest motivating factors for Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney when it comes to support for the Voice to Parliament. Ms Burney, a Wiradjuri woman, gave an impassioned and emotional speech at the National Press Club earlier this week. She stated why she believes a Voice will make practical differences to the lives of Indigenous people and why constitutional recognition is unfinished business.

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

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Sharing dignity & kindness with daily essentials

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 10/07/2023, Amber Lilley, Page 3

Vulnerable West Australians who are homeless or escaping family violence in regional communities will be able to access everyday essentials this winter with the help of mining company Mineral Resources. The Essentials Collective, a charity that generates donations of basic items for people in need, is expanding its Collecting the Basics campaign to the Goldfields-Esperance region after receiving financial support from the MinRes Community Grant Program.

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

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Linda Burney says the Voice will be a 'two-way process', is confident in success

The Australian, Other, 09/07/2023, Ellen Ransley

The scope of the Indigenous Voice to parliament will be a two-way process, Linda Burney has reiterated. The Indigenous Australians Minister, on the back of her National Press Club address this week where she laid out the four major priorities of the Voice, said she had no doubt those elected to the body would also see them as prime concerns.

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

[Read More](#)

Torres Strait leaders call for independent inquiry into Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service

Cairns Post, Other, 09/07/2023, Bronwyn Farr

Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is remaining tight-lipped about her visit with the Queensland Health Ombudsman to the Torres Strait next week, as community leaders demand an independent investigation into the region's under fire health service. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is remaining secretive about a visit to the Torres Strait on July 12 and 13, along with Queensland Health Ombudsman Dr Coulson Barr.

[Read More](#)

Environmental Health Trachoma Project helping remote WA communities with health, haircuts and housing

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Amelia Searson

Tyron Colley usually has to travel hundreds of kilometres to get something as basic as a haircut. He lives in the small Aboriginal community of Irrungadji, in Western Australia's Pilbara region, where the nearest town with a hairdresser is almost 200 kilometres away.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

New malaria warning

Cairns Post, General News, 10/07/2023, Catherine Duffy, Page 4

A case of malaria has been detected in the Torres Strait following reports one person had contracted the disease. Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service medical officer Allison Hempenstall confirmed one case had been detected on Boigu Island and the case was "being handled appropriately". "The community should be aware that malaria is treatable and there is no cause for community alarm," Dr Hempenstall said.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

How exactly does vaping effect your fertility? This is what you should know.

Mamamia, Other, 09/07/2023, Penelope Clifton

Vaping was first introduced in Australia as an aid for people to quit smoking, but, as time's gone on we've learned they're just as terrible for our health. [...] Kin Fertility general practitioner, Dr Kirsty Wallace-Hor told Elle Australia "The reality is that there are no nicotine vaping products currently approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)," Dr Kirsty told the publication, yet they're so easily accessible.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today on Sunday, 09/07/2023, Clint Stanaway and Jayne Azzopardi

Interview with Dr Michael Bonning, President, NSW AMA. Bonning discusses the new drug to treat Alzheimer's disease called Leqembi. He adds that they need to see the sponsor, the drug company, bring it to Australia and apply to the TGA before it becomes available in the country.

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2GB, 14:00 News (Weekend), 09/07/2023

The first ever drug proven to slow the progression of Alzheimer's is unlikely to be on the Australian market anytime soon. Leqembi was this week approved in the US. Australian Medical Association's New South Wales president Michael Bonning says the approval process is complex and the drug is not cheap. He states they need see the sponsor, the drug company bring it to Australia and apply to the TGA.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Roadside test for cocaine drivers

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/07/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 5

For the first time, Queensland drivers will be tested for cocaine in random roadside drug tests as the state battles to combat the drug scourge. Motorists busted behind the wheel while high could now be slapped with fines of up to \$2167, lose their licence or face jail if repeatedly caught.

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What can Australia learn from Thailand a year after cannabis was decriminalised?

ABC Online, Other, 09/07/2023, Annika Burgess

Stone Age, iStoned, High Got You, and Wake N' Bake are just a handful of the endless weed puns popping up on shop signs across Thailand. Over the past year, thousands of marijuana businesses have flooded the streets since the country decriminalised cannabis to help boost the tourism, agriculture and wellness industries.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 09/07/2023, Chris Bath

An improved roadside drug test is helping police sniff out dangerous drivers. The old saliva swab system used by Queensland authorities didn't detect cocaine use until now and police are hoping it will bring down that state's shocking road toll.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Samantha Heathwood

Queensland's random roadside drug testing has been overhauled to target cocaine. New technology has made the rollout possible, with fresh fines of more than \$2,000 for those caught out.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News (Sunday), 09/07/2023, Mia Glover

Queensland drivers will now be tested for cocaine in roadside drug tests. The new measure has been introduced in response to the rising number of fatal car crashes linked to the use of the drug.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, Weekend Live , 09/07/2023, Peter Stefanovic

Queensland drivers are being tested for cocaine in random roadside drug tests for the first time. Drug drivers involved in a fatal crash with cocaine in their system increased from 4.3% 2017-2019 to 6.1% between 2020 and 2022, while the two year average for drivers testing positive to cocaine involved in a serious injury crash almost doubled to 7.1% in 2021.

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