



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 12th 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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Age** (page 1) reports Victoria's Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton will exit the role this month amidst criticism the state's messaging around COVID is inadequate. The Victorian Government, already facing criticism over impending job cuts to its public health workforce, has denied Mr Sutton has been prevented from providing public COVID updates.
- **The Australian** (page 3) reports the NSW State Government is facing legal action over the death of a 95-year-old aged care resident who was Tasered by police. Senior Constable Kristian White has been charged over the death of Claire Nowland, a great-grandmother who volunteered in her community for 55 years. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Ballarat Courier](#), [Border Mail](#), [Burnie Advocate](#), [Central Western Daily](#), [Daily Advertiser](#), [Daily Liberal](#), [Illawarra Mercury](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#), [Sunraysia Daily](#), [Warrnambool Standard](#), [Western Advocate](#), [Canberra Times](#), [West Australian](#), [The Guardian](#), [The New Daily](#), [9News](#), [SBS](#)
- The **Adelaide Advertiser** (page 4) reports up to 74 South Australian pharmacies, and 655 nationally, could close as a result of the federal government's decision to allow 60-day dispensing of medicine from 1 September, a Pharmacy Guild report has claimed. A

spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler "This is the latest scare campaign from the pharmacy lobby group about the government's cheaper medicines policy." Mr Butler said government payments to pharmacies have increased by 7 per cent as of July 1.

- **The Australian** (page 5) reports NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has ordered a review of the state's gender care and research facilities following a report by ABC's Four Corners program which revealed the suicide of a trans teenager waiting to access care. A Sydney Children's Hospital Network spokesperson said it welcomed the review. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Border Mail](#), [Daily Advertiser](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [ABC Online](#), [ABC Online](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [The Guardian](#)
- The **Daily Telegraph** (page 5) reports a teenage girl from New South Wales' Central Coast has died after contracting Influenza B. The fatality comes amid a 37 per cent increase in emergency department presentations with respiratory illnesses. *Also reported by:* [West Australian](#), [The Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [The Guardian](#), [9News](#), [9News](#)
- **The Age** (page 6) reports Victoria's health department has issued a warning about the rapid spread of a strain of shigella bacterial infections resistant to normal treatments. "It is usually a self-limiting infection, however severe illness and complications can occur in certain at-risk individuals, such as young children, older people and those who are immunocompromised," the department said. *Also reported by:* [Herald Sun](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Canberra Times](#), [Canberra Times](#), [West Australian](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [The Guardian](#), [NEWS.com.au](#)
- The **Canberra Times** (page 16) reports Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney has announced the deregulation of prescribing and dispensing the medical abortion pill, Mifepristone, by the Therapeutics Goods Administration. Professor Danielle Mazza said the measure "brings us into line with other countries such as Canada where both doctors and nurses have been able to prescribe the abortion pill like any other prescription medicine since 2017 without safety being compromised." *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Canberra Times](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Ballarat Courier](#), [Border Mail](#), [Burnie Advocate](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Central Western Daily](#), [Daily Advertiser](#), [Daily Liberal](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#), [Pharmacy Daily](#), [Sunraysia Daily](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [Warrnambool Standard](#), [Western Advocate](#), [ABC News](#), [ABC News](#), [9News](#), [SBS](#), [SkyNews](#)
- **The Guardian** reports only four Closing the Gap targets are on track, while outcomes are getting worse across Indigenous early childhood development, adult imprisonment, children in out-of-home care, and Indigenous suicide rates, the Productivity Commission's latest update has shown. Indigenous Health Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said "Every child deserves to live a long, healthy and happy life. We can only turn the tide on closing the gap if we give communities a genuine say in developing solutions now and into the future." *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [West Australian](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [The Australian](#), [Canberra Times](#), [West Australian](#), [West Australian](#), [West Australian](#), [West Australian](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#)

MINISTER BUTLER

Op-ed: 60-day dispensing bad medicine for regional Australia

Canberra Weekly, Other, 12/07/2023, Meta Time

Sixty-day dispensing may sound good, but dig a little deeper and it's rural and regional Australia that will pay, writes Trent Twomey of the Pharmacy Guild. Some of you may remember the Joni Mitchell song 'Big Yellow Taxi' with the verse, "You don't know what you got till it's gone. [...] The Health Minister, Mark Butler's response so far is, "Every single dollar saved by the government will go back into pharmacy services," but his Department's figures just don't add up.

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Claims a wave of chemists will shut

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 4

As many as 74 pharmacies could close in South Australia and 2144 jobs be lost with them under the

federal Government's 60-day dispensing medicine policy, according to a report commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild Nationally, the report estimates as many as 655 community pharmacies could close a claim dismissed by the federal Government as "scaremongering." [...] About six million Australians will halve their medicine costs federal Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Script for cuts

Lilydale Star Mail, General News, 11/07/2023, Mikayla van Loon, Page 1

The three-stage rollout of the 60 day dispensing policy is set to begin on 1 September, leaving a Lilydale pharmacy concerned over the cuts they must make to staff and services in order to sustain a healthy business. [...] A spokesperson for Federal health minister Mark Butler said this policy will go towards supporting people with ongoing health conditions that require frequent dispensing of medications.

Also reported by: [Mount Evelyn Mail \(Online\)](#)

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No one should suffer the pain

Mid-Coast Observer, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 7

Key health organisations are stepping up their advocacy as supplies of a critical pain relief medication are forecast to run out. People nearing the end of their life or undergoing cancer treatment are most at risk. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has been contacted by a number of groups.

Also reported by: [Milton Ulladulla Times \(Ulladulla\)](#), [Camden Haven Courier \(Laurieton\)](#), [News Weekly \(Merimbula\)](#), [\(Merimbula\)](#).

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Drs welcome expansion of single employer system

Tumbarumba Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 7

Rural doctors have welcomed the joint Federal and NSW Government announcement of an expansion to a program run in the Murrumbidgee Health District that is expected to result in better conditions for junior doctors training in rural areas. [...] It has now been announced by Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler and NSW Minister for Regional Health Ryan Park, that the NSW Government will be able to access exemptions under Section 19(2) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 for up to 80 rural generalist trainees per year, as part of a 2022/23 federal budget commitment.

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Change 'kick in guts' for rural pharmacies

Weekly Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Madeleine Stuchbery, Page 15

Changes to medication dispensing rules have been called a "kick in the guts" for an already strained regional health system, with some pharmacies reporting job losses and a reduction in services. [...] A spokesman for federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the 60-day dispensing plan, due to commence in September, will "halve the cost of medicines for millions of Australians", and refuted claims the changes would affect regional pharmacies.

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Changes to hit pharmacies

Lilydale Star Mail, Other, 11/07/2023, Jin Hui

With changes to the way some medicines will be dispensed across the country, a Lilydale pharmacy is concerned with the impact that will have on its services. Amcal Lilydale owners Megan and Frank Kazantzis said come 1 September as the 60-day dispensing policy begins to roll out, they will seriously have to consider cutting staff and current services to cater for the loss of income. [...] "The Government is delivering cheaper medicines through 60 day dispensing for more than six million Australians," a spokesperson for health minister Mark Butler said.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 11/07/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai

Price of cigarettes would go up due to government excise that the Health Minister Mark Butler announced.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

Matildas out to leave their own mark on game

Age, Sport, 12/07/2023, Greg Baum, Page 37

If the Matildas had looked up from the stage as they were presented with their World Cup jerseys at Federation Square yesterday, they would have seen on the canopy scorch marks left by flares as fans rejoiced with the Socceroos on those giddy World Cup nights last November. Talk about making a mark. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells looked out from the stage and saw a big picture in green and gold.

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

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Meals go off wheels

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2023, Julie Cross, Page 10

Meals on Wheels Victoria has accused the federal government of lacking transparency after it gave two interstate providers \$2.2m to run pilot services in the state, without consulting them. [...] " Ms Hinton-Tooley claimed an email sent to Aged Care Minister Anika Wells in March demanding an explanation had gone unanswered, and her office said they could not locate the email.

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

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Matildas 2023 World Cup squad officially presented before 4,000 fans at Federation Square

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/07/2023, Daanyal Saeed

Australian captain Sam Kerr says her side will embrace the high excitement of its fans at the World Cup as a squad veteran calls the escalating interest in the women's game "pretty crazy". [...] Federal Minister Sport Anika Wells called it a "nation-shaping moment", comparing it to the Golden Generation of the Socceroos from the mid-2000s, with a nod to that team's goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer in the front row.

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Aged care plan to free up hospital beds in Illawarra and Shoalhaven

Australian Seniors News, Other, 11/07/2023

Elderly patients stuck in hospital waiting for aged care placements could be discharged sooner under a plan announced by the NSW Government today that's aimed at easing the impact of residential aged care shortages in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. [...] "Locally, we are committed to developing these solutions that is why I speak regularly with Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells MP, NSW Health Minister Ryan Park MP, ISLHD CEO Margot Mains and private providers about solutions."

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ABC Mid North Coast, NSW Statewide Drive, 11/07/2023, Kia Handley

Interview with Cunningham MP Alison Byrnes Byrnes says she and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells are announcing 35 places across the Illawarra Shoalhaven for transitional aged care packages, which will help get some of the people we've had over the past year or so.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Research paves way for future of youth mental health care as study participants 'graduate'

Sunshine Coast News, Other, 12/07/2023

A Sunshine Coast professor has just published research suggesting the future of preventative mental health could lie in giving 12-year-olds brain scans, as the first participants of the study graduate'. Professor Daniel Hermens, who leads the Longitudinal Adolescent Brain Study (LABS) at UniSC's Thompson Institute, wrote a key report about brain fingerprinting and how it was a promising future application for predicting mental illness. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said research like LABS was important to furthering understanding of youth mental health.

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Mapping the brain

Glasshouse Country News, General News, 11/07/2023, Page 19

Researchers from the University of Sunshine Coast have published research suggesting that the future of preventative mental health could lie in giving 12-year-olds brain scans. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride, said research like LABS is important for furthering our understanding of youth mental health.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

A step in the right direction on abortion

Canberra Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Danielle Mazza, Page 16

This week's announcement by the federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, deregulating the prescribing and dispensing of the medical abortion pill, mifepristone, by the Therapeutics Goods Administration is both welcome and, quite frankly, about time. A key step in ensuring increased abortion access, it brings us into line with other countries such as Canada where both doctors and nurses have been able to prescribe the abortion pill like any other prescription medicine since 2017 without safety being compromised.

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Abortion pill access for all

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Ellen Ransley, Page 13

New rules on GP, nurse prescriptions All doctors and nurse practitioners will be able to prescribe pregnancy termination pills and all pharmacies can stock them as restrictions around the medication are lifted. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said it was a "very safe, very practical move" that met global guidelines.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Abortions to be easier as prescription rules relaxed

Ballarat Courier, General News, 12/07/2023, Poppy Johnson, Page 9

Medical abortions will be easier to access under loosened rules that allow non-specialist doctors and pharmacists to prescribe termination pills. Advocates say the change will benefit women in rural and remote areas, where many have been unable to access MS-2 Step medication due to a lack of suitably certified doctors. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said the specialist training and registration meant only a small cohort of pharmacists and doctors were able to prescribe and dispense the pills.

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

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Abortion pill change is 'step in right direction'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

The medical abortion pill should become widely available in the Hunter after red tape to access the drug was cut, Charlestown GP Phoebe Walsh says. The move should help more women terminate a pregnancy before it's too late, despite barriers over "stigma" needing attention. [...] Federal assistant health minister Ged Kearney said only one in 10 medical practitioners and three in 10 pharmacists were presently dispensing the drug.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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TGA's change is in step

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 11/07/2023, Page 2

Today's TGA decision has removed the restrictions that prevented health professionals, including doctors and pharmacists, from prescribing and dispensing medical abortion pill MS-2 Step (mifepristone and misoprostol). From 01 Aug, pharmacists will no longer need to be registered or undertake specific training to dispense MS-2 Step to patients across Australia. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney explained that, "we know that women experience structural barriers trying to access the healthcare that they need, particularly in regional and rural areas".

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What is abortion drug mifepristone MS 2-Step and who will be able to prescribe it under new access rules in Australia?

The Australian, Other, 11/07/2023

Major changes to abortion access in Australia will take effect from August 1, with all doctors and nurse practitioners to be authorised to prescribe them . Here's everything you need to know: What is the abortion pill MS-2 Step? [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney , a former nurse, said in July last year the government had not been formally approached by MS Health but she "would welcome applications to the TGA and the PBAC that seek to remove barriers to access".

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TGA changes to abortion pill regulation to improve rural access

Canberra Times, Other, 11/07/2023, Anna McGuinness

The number of mental healthcare sessions subsidised under Medicare have been halved. What does this mean for Australians? [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said the change recognised the importance of the health practitioners women see regularly such as their GP, nurse practitioner and community pharmacist.

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Every GP in Australia will now be able to prescribe abortion pill

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/07/2023, Samantha Maiden

Every GP in Australia will now be able to prescribe abortion pills in a move that will help women across the country. Every GP and nurse practitioner in Australia will be able to prescribe the abortion pill for the first time in a move that will expand access for women including in regional areas. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, a former nurse, said the changes represented a "common sense approach to the changes that will improve access for women in rural and regional areas from driving long distances for medical treatment.

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Medical abortion pill access expanded

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Claudia Long

Access to medical abortions will be dramatically expanded in Australia with all doctors and nurse practitioners to be allowed to prescribe the pregnancy termination pill, and all pharmacies to stock it. More Information Featured: Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health

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Changes to abortion regulation will come into effect next month in a bid to increase access

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Claudia Long

Medical abortions are set to become more accessible, with prescribers and chemists dispensing the medicine no longer needing to receive extra certification or special registration. [...] A post shared by ABC News (@abcnews_au) Australia catching up with the world Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney who is responsible for women's health said the changes bring Australia into line with countries such as Canada.

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More doctors, nurse practitioners able to prescribe medical abortion drugs

9News, Other, 11/07/2023, Nick Pearson

More doctors and nurse practitioners will be able to prescribe the two main drugs used for medical abortions, under new rules implemented by the Therapeutic Drug Administration (TGA). Previously Mifepristone and Misoprostol, sold together as MS-2 Step, was only able to be prescribed by a specially-certified doctor. [...] Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney welcomed the change.

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Medical abortion pill: What is MS-2 Step and how can you access it under new changes?

SBS, Other, 11/07/2023, Jessica Bahr

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved changes to restrictions on who can prescribe and dispense the abortion pill. Key Points The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved changes to expand access to the abortion pill MS-2 Step. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said increased access to the medication would be particularly important for people in regional and rural areas, which often have limited access to abortion services.

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Every doctor across the nation soon able to prescribe abortion pills under new changes approved by the TGA

Sky News Australia, Other, 11/07/2023, Yashee Sharma

Abortion pills will become more accessible for women across the nation under sweeping new changes to restrictions limiting health professionals. The MS-2 Step can terminate a pregnancy within 63 days of gestation, or nine weeks, and was previously only prescribed by specially trained doctors and supplied by a limited number of registered pharmacies. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney told ABC Breakfast only 10 per cent of all GPs are currently certified to prescribe the abortion pill and only 30 per cent of all pharmacists are able to dispense it.

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TGA approves more access to abortion pill

The Lismore App, Other, 11/07/2023, Simon Mumford

Women wishing to terminate a pregnancy will have more access to the MS-2 Step (Mifepristone and Misoprostol) pills after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved an application from MS Health (a not-for-profit pharmaceutical company established to deliver vital reproductive health products and medicines) to amend restrictions from August 1. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney said, "We welcome these changes that remove red tape and improve equitable access to healthcare for all Australians."

Access to medical abortions made easier for Australians

Articles Listnr, Other, 11/07/2023, Tricia Mifsud

More healthcare professionals will be able to prescribe medical abortions, making access easier for Australian women. Under new changes, any medical professional with the appropriate qualifications will be able to prescribe the medication. [...] In a statement, Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney was one who welcomed the change.

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More doctors will soon be able to prescribe medical abortions

Body And Soul, Other, 11/07/2023

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has expanded the number of practitioners who can prescribe and dispense abortion pills, making them as accessible as any other prescription. Ged Kearney, our federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care announced a landmark decision following an in-depth Senate investigation into universal reproductive healthcare access

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Assistant Minister for Health unveils vision: Transforming healthcare models for a connected digital future

Health Industry Hub, Other, 11/07/2023

Digital & Innovation: Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, The Hon Ged Kearney MP, delivered an intriguing keynote address [] Dr Mike Freeland MP, Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, and Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP, []

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Abortion pills are now easier to access in Australia

The Latch, Other, 11/07/2023, Joel Burrows

For many Aussies, abortion pills are a vital piece of medicine. [...] One such official that has commenced this move is Ged Kearney , our Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

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Access to medical abortion is set to be expanded in Australia. Here's what it means.

Mamamia, Other, 11/07/2023, Isabella Ross

Medical abortions will become more accessible for all Australian women, as restrictions on the medications are scrapped. Following a Senate inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced they will remove a number of restrictions around prescribing and dispensing of the medical abortion pills, mifepristone and misoprostol. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said the specialist training and registration for GPs which had to be refreshed every three years meant only a small cohort of pharmacists and doctors were able to prescribe and dispense the pills.

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NBN Lismore, NBN News, 11/07/2023, Natasha Beyersdorf and Gavin Morris

Breastmilk is a powerful medicine, particularly for our most vulnerable babies. But not all have had access to the resource until now. The Federal Government is funding a major expansion of the milk Bank to give thousands more premies the best start possible at 27 weeks pregnant. Manpreet Khare from Rochdale went to hospital with severe back pain. Within hours, she delivered twin boys weighing around a kilo each while Manpreet was waiting for her own supply to come in. The twins were given donated breast milk in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Royal Hospital for Women.

Also reported by: [NBN Newcastle Hunter \(Newcastle\)](#), [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#).

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ABC Radio Darwin , 11:00 News, 11/07/2023

The National Medicine Regulator will next month remove requirements for doctors to have a special to have special certification to prescribe medical abortions. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says the change will increase access to essential care.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Data collection underway in ground-breaking First Nations-led cancer study

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2023

The Kulay Kalingka study, a unique research project, commenced data collection on Tuesday, being the first study of its kind to investigate cancer in Indigenous communities. [...] Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said "The Australian Government welcomes the next stage of the Kulay Kalingka cancer study as an important addition in our efforts address cancer control for all Australians."

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Closing the Gap: just four targets on track with four going backwards in latest report

The Guardian, Other, 12/07/2023, Josh Butler

Closing the Gap targets are on track and another four are going backwards, according to the latest data, with the Indigenous Australians minister, Linda Burney, saying the proposed voice to parliament is needed to help fix the problems. [...] "The data tells the story of Indigenous people who want to see a better future for their children, themselves and their communities," said the assistant minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous health, Malarndirri McCarthy.

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[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

The Mandarin and Crikey's 'revolving door' list: How power bleeds between politics and the big four

The Mandarin, Other, 11/07/2023, Peter Gearin and Anton Nilsson

The PwC tax leak scandal has renewed focus on the close links between politicians, public servants and consultancy firms. Sometimes that relationship takes the form of a "revolving door" when former consultants are hired as public servants or elected to political office or when former politicians and bureaucrats are hired by the major consultancy firms. [...] Blair Comley, incoming secretary at the federal Department of Health and Aged Care (starts role on July 17 2023), works for EY , and has previously been a secretary at the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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

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ABC Radio Darwin , Morning Show, 11/07/2023, Jo Laverty

Interview with Doctor Rachel Sutherland, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales. Sutherland says the Illicit Drug Reporting System is a project that's been funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, and they've been running this project for over two decades and its overall purpose is to monitor and identify emerging trends in drug use, drug markets and drug related behaviours.

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Interview with Camilla Rowland, CEO, Palliative Care Australia. Palliative Care Australia is hopeful new data will lead to improved access to end of life care. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found that hospitalisations for palliative care are increasing at a greater rate than other hospitalisations, and it cited the ageing population as a contributor to the rise. Rowland says there's a great national programme funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care that really focuses on end of life directions in aged care called ELDAC.

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[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

End date locked in for low-profile Sutton

Age, General News, 12/07/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 1

Victoria's outgoing Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton will leave the job this month and two of his deputies have also quit, as experts argue the state's COVID messaging has been inadequate, while people continue to die from the virus. Sutton did not do a press conference for the 10 months leading up to his resignation announcement but the government denies he was blocked from speaking publicly.

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[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

Family of grandmother tasered by police to sue

The Australian, General News, 12/07/2023, Remy Varga, Page 3

The family of Clare Nowland are suing the state of NSW after the 95-year-old great-grandmother died after she was allegedly tasered by police at a nursing home in the Snowy Mountains. A civil matter filed on behalf of Nowland's family was heard by the Bega District Court registry on Tuesday and has been adjourned for six weeks.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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'Heart' focus in aged care

Ballarat Courier, General News, 12/07/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 5

The most important factor for Michelle Connor in a caregiver is finding the right fit. The registered nurse and long-time personal caregiver has been passionate that quality in-home care could not be rushed and connections between carer and client were vital to promoting dignity.

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Aged-care staff find 'homes'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Gabriel Rule, Page 3

All Loddon Shire staff without work due to council ending its in-home aged care services have "been employed by the new providers", according to a council director. Shire community wellbeing director Wendy Gladman said carers had been in discussions with the new providers prior to the end of council's in-house services.

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St Mary's Villa to close

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/07/2023, Nick Guthrie, Page 1

The decision to close an aged care facility due to it being "not suitable" has created uncertainty for dozens of residents and staff members. While no timeline on a closure has been set, Catholic Healthcare has confirmed the doors will be shut at its St Mary's Villa facility on Darling Street.

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Residents exit aged-care home after fire

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Olivia Shying, Page 5

About 20 aged-care residents have been evacuated after a fire broke out in the Drysdale facility. Emergency services were called to Drysdale Grove just before 9am on Tuesday following reports of a fire. A Country Fire Authority spokeswoman said crews were called to the Wyndham St centre after an alarm sounded.

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

Aged care deal takes pressure off emergency wait times

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Luke Costin, Page 4

As concerning bed shortages at Sydney's largest hospital leave people languishing in waiting rooms, NSW has set about paying a premium to free up beds in a regional hospital. Premier Chris Minns on Tuesday expressed concern over the long waits at Westmead Hospital with only two in five patients starting treatment on time.

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Under review

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 12/07/2023, Katrina Lovell, Page 1

The future of council-run aged care services for more than 2000 people in Warrnambool and Moyne Shire is up in the air. Federal changes have prompted other councils across the state, including Corangamite and Ballarat, to dump their services, including in-home care. Warrnambool City and Moyne councils have engaged consultants to review their services.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#).

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Aged care beds deal takes pressure of ED wait times

Canberra Times, Other, 11/07/2023

As concerning bed shortages at Sydney's largest hospital leave people languishing in waiting rooms, NSW has set about paying a premium to free up beds in a regional hospital. Premier Chris Minns on Tuesday expressed concern over the long waits at Westmead Hospital with only two in five patients starting treatment on time.

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

[Read More](#)

Preparing for 2043

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/07/2023, Lin Hatfield Dodds

As home care providers, we are on the edge of a huge demographic change in our client groups. Twenty years from now, 18.4 per cent of Australians will be over the age of 65, compared to 16 per cent in 2020. This is a significant number of new people who will be eligible for services in a home setting. In 2043, it is estimated there will be 1.1 million Australians aged between 80 and 84 a doubling of that population group from the 2023 numbers.

[Read More](#)

A new model of work to improve staff wellbeing

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 11/07/2023, Christopher Kelly

A research project aims to evaluate how work can be redesigned to improve the mental health and wellbeing of workers in aged care and other healthcare and social assistance industries. A partnership between University of Sydney and Curtin University, the research project called Design for Care aims

to better understand the psychosocial risks experienced in the sector and aspects of work design that can protect against those risks.

[Read More](#)

Sector needs to stop avoiding the topic of pets in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 11/07/2023, Bianca Iovino

The Federal Government and aged care providers are still dragging their feet to allow pets in aged care facilities and extend support to those living independently at home with their furry friends. Many older people are forced to give up their pets when entering aged care which is often a detrimental and traumatising experience.

[Read More](#)

Improving gastro treatment in aged care

Nursing Review, Other, 11/07/2023, Elise Hartvelt

Scientists at UNSW Sydney have made a breakthrough discovery that could better protect older people from gastroenteritis, an illness causing vomiting and diarrhoea. The study examined over 300,000 patient samples, identifying the bacterium *Aeromonas* as the second most prevalent pathogen associated with bacterial gastroenteritis.

[Read More](#)

Routine support

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/07/2023

A Flinders University research project has received over \$1.5m to address widely recognised problems faced by informal dementia carers by trialling a culturally tailored 'iSupport model' that will cater to their specific culture, their preferred language, as well as improving their access to the Australian health system.

[Read More](#)

Montefiore bids to turn Hunters Hills Sydney aged care home into co-located multi-storey campus

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2023

The Not For Profit has lodged a planning proposal to turn its 84-year-old aged care home in Hunters Hill, 9km northwest of Sydney's CBD, into a multi-storey co-located over 55s and aged care service.

[Read More](#)

Retirement living sector needs to provide services, not care

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2023

Dr Jane Barratt, Secretary General of the International Federation of Ageing, believes the retirement sector in Australia needs to change its focus to wellness. She told the National Retirement Living Summit in the Gold Coast that the sector is at the "nexus" of what the next generation of the retirement industry will look like in the future.

[Read More](#)

Proposed WA Retirement Villages Act buyback changes to put 66% of Not For Profits in jeopardy

The Weekly Source, Other, 11/07/2023

The Western Australian Government is drafting changes to the Retirement Villages Act 1992, as the state's arm of the Property Council warns if a mandatory 12-month buyback goes ahead it will send Not For Profits to the wall.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News , 12/07/2023

The family of great grandmother Clare Nowland is suing the New South Wales governments over her death. The 95 year old was tasered by police at her nursing home in May. She died in hospital after

falling and fracturing her skull Police said they'd found Ms. Nowland holding a steak knife. Senior Constable Christian White is facing criminal charges.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Early News, 11/07/2023, Edwina Bartholomew

A search is underway for a man who assaulted an aged care worker in Melbourne. It's believed the suspect was trying to rob the retirement village when he was confronted by the female staff member.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Canberra is 'allergy capital', but hay fever can be treated

Canberra Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 6

Canberra has the highest number of hayfever sufferers in the country. Nearly one in three Canberrans had the condition, also known as allergic rhinitis, in 2017-18.

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

Aussie living to ripe age

Hobart Mercury, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 9

Australians are living longer than ever before and to very old ages. However, living to extreme ages (over 110) is still a rare event, which sparks the question: How long can Australians live? A new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows over the past five decades, life expectancy in Australia has increased by 13.7 years for males (to 81.3) and by 11.2 years for females (to 85.4).

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [2GB \(Online\)](#), [4BC \(Online\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#).

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Location of North Albury tobacco and vapes store didn't pass sniff test

The Border Mail, Other, 11/07/2023, Xavier Mardling

The opening, and subsequent closing, of a tobacco and vapes shop near a handful of schools in North Albury could be described as a series of unfortunate events. As one father of a Xavier High student described it, it's a win for commonsense from the point of view that the store had no place within 300m of three schools near the Fallon and Mate streets intersection.

[Read More](#)

Struggle to sleep? Here's how a sleep expert says you can change that, drug free

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023

Up to half of all Australians experience insomnia. Program manager Australiasian Sleep Association Dr Alexander Sweetman says we've become too reliant on medication to get ourselves a good night's sleep.

[Read More](#)

Obesity is a real medical condition, argues College of GPs

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023

In reaction to the Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt's outburst that GPs should not mention one's weight at consultation, Dr Terri-Lynne South, who heads up the Special Interest Group for Obesity at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners spoke to James Valentine on Breakfast to run through what the latest medical science tells us.

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

Experts say most people don't realise smoking is detrimental to fertility, Sarah wants that to change

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Liz Gwynn

In short: Smokers will take twice as long to conceive compared with non-smokers, but the majority of people don't know the risks What's next?: While there isn't as much research on the effects vaping has on fertility, it doesn't mean people who vape are in the clear

[Read More](#)

To keep custody of her baby, Jayde took him with her to rehab

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Ellie Grounds

Out the back of a charming Federation home in southern Sydney, a celebration is about to begin. Snacks top a row of trestle tables.

[Read More](#)

Renters more likely than owner-occupiers to face health risks from house quality, expert says

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Sam Nichols

When 28-year-old Shay moved to Sydney late last year, she was warned that finding a rental would be incredibly competitive and would take time. Both predictions came true.

[Read More](#)

Medical abortion pills will be 'much more accessible' for regional women

NEWS.com.au, Other, 11/07/2023

Racgp President Elect Nicole Higgins says changes by the government regarding medical abortion pills will make the medication "much more accessible" for women living in regional Australia.

[Read More](#)

Why more women are choosing to freeze their eggs

9Now Nine, Other, 11/07/2023, Tom Livingstone

With more and more women choosing to delay motherhood and freeze their eggs until they are ready, there are calls for the process to be better subsidised for those who choose to do it. Similar to IVF, egg freezing involves a woman injecting herself with hormones to stimulate the ovaries to grow more eggs.

[Read More](#)

Vapes targeted

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/07/2023, Megan Haggan

A statewide crackdown on vaping retailers has begun in South Australia, with compliance officers targeting any products known to contain nicotine In June 2023, the Malinauskas Government gave retailers including convenience stores, service stations and barber shops a month's notice of a two-month "enforcement blitz".

[Read More](#)

Got milk? Increased dairy intake could save the health system millions

HelloCare, Other, 11/07/2023, Bianca Iovino

A clinical trial has suggested Australia's healthcare and aged care systems could save about \$66 million a year if aged care residents upped their intake of dairy and protein. Key points Economic analysis by Monash University found that aged care homes would only have to increase the dairy on their menus by an estimated 66 cents per day, per resident to meet the requirement

[Read More](#)

A good doctor can change people's lives, but it's getting rarer to see a young person at the GP. A survey of more than 10,000 Australians found 1 in 2 people aged 18 to 34 are going to the GP less often because of cost.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 11/07/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Australians are living longer than ever before. In fact, our life expectancy increases by three months every year.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Drive, 11/07/2023

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners about medical abortions will become more accessible from next month following changes announced by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Higgins says it is time access to abortion was made easier nationwide. She says the changes means local GP will be able to prescribe the medication and also you'll be able to pick up the medicine at your local pharmacy

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Jobs increase risk of cancer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 18

Women working as hairdressers, beauticians, accountants or in retail may be at an increased risk of ovarian cancer, new research suggests. In one of the first studies to evaluate ovarian cancer risk with the occupational hazards faced by women in their jobs, the lifetime work histories of almost 500 who developed ovarian cancer were compared to a group who did not have the disease.

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

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Toll of Azariah's surgery wait

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 1

Azarlah Jones' parents fear she may not regain her hearing for years after being left to wait five months on an outpatient list for a first appointment with an ENT specialist. Dad Simon Jones said his five-year-old daughter was diagnosed with common childhood illness glue ear, but the delay in her grommet surgery was having an impact on her behaviour, her eating and sleeping.

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

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Spike in mine disease

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 9

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

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Daily Mercury News \(Online\)](#)

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Sienna faces up to stigma of diabetes

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Gabriel Rule, Page 1

Away on a holiday at Moama, 11-year-old Sienna Lehmann became unwell. Sienna's mum Erin, a registered nurse at Bendigo Health, had an idea of what might be causing the young girl's distress. "I

tested her urine and that showed some glucose and ketones," Erin said. "So I had an inkling that she had diabetes."

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We're in this together

Border Mail, General News, 12/07/2023, Beau Greenway, Page 3

Never in her life had Georgia O'Connor felt so helpless. The year was 2014 and her father-in-law had been given the dreaded motor neurone disease diagnosis. Brendan Halliday, a former president of Beechworth Football Club and solicitor in the town, lost his battle with the disease, which affects the brain and nerves that control voluntary muscles of the body, the following year, but it sparked something in Ms O'Connor.

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

Beloved businesswoman 'will have to learn how to talk again'

Central Western Daily, General News, 12/07/2023, Riley Krause, Page 5

A beloved Orange businesswoman will need to learn how to talk again after she received a life-altering diagnosis. For roughly five years, Willa Arantz showed signs that not all was well. Pain in her left arm and the occasional slurred speech was put down to the wear and tear of working in the hospitality industry.

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More services for women

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Tony Ma, Page 31

Over the past three years, Barwon Health has been focused on improving specialist women's health services to better meet the needs of the community across the entire Barwon South West region. As a gynaecologist who sees patients every day; I know how critical it is to have good access to locally delivered services.

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

BreastScreen visits give women free check-ups

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 12/07/2023, Carwyn Monck, Page 4

Goldfields women aged 40 and over are being encouraged to get a free mammogram when BreastScreen WA visits the region. The health service's mobile clinic will visit Laverton from July 26-August 2 and Wiluna from August 10-11, then Kalgoorlie-Boulder from August 14-November 24.

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

Mum's fight for Laylah's diagnosis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 12/07/2023, Michael Hudson, Page 6

It's the news no parent wants to hear, but tragically one diagnosis changed the foreseeable future for one Warwick family. Full-time mum-of-eight Emma Fuller's life was shattered in late June when she was told by doctors her adorable three-year-old daughter Laylah had leukaemia after she had complained of a sore arm.

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'We can't keep withholding information': Why this GP wants doctors to tell women if they have dense breasts

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/07/2023, Heather Saxena

Dr Sandy Minck is angry. At present, 38 states in the US mandate some level of breast density reporting by mammography services and radiologists to patients or doctors or both following a mammogram. And by September 2024, this will be a nationally consistent requirement following a directive from the Food and Drug Administration earlier this year.

[Read More](#)

Have a talk on diabetes

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 11/07/2023

New modelling from Diabetes Australia (DA), based on US research, has found that the cost impact of people in Australia living with type 2 diabetes not receiving recommended care was around A\$3,564 per person per annum. The above snippet is the first part of an article sent to subscribers in Pharmacy Daily's issue from 11 Jul 23

[Read More](#)

'Catch up' HPV test may benefit older women

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/07/2023

New research suggests screening women aged 65 and over who have never been tested for HPV could improve cervical cancer prevention. Self-collection was more common among never- and under-screened women who participated in the study.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 11/07/2023, Narelda Jacobs

Interview with Caroline Wells, CEO, Diabetes Tasmania about new modelling estimates type two diabetes could be costing our health system over \$2 billion a year due to missed appointments and a lack of access to health care. Wells says the National Diabetes Week is kickstarting this conversation about changing the trajectory of diabetes. She states they're supportive of the Albanese Government strengthening Medicare, but they want to see more..

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[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Health funding rethink

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 6

Increased government spending on health care has not improved patient outcomes at the same rate, a peak Victorian body says, calling for a funding rethink. The state's 24 community health services put forward recommendations to overhaul the system in a new report on Tuesday, warning "hundreds of thousands" were hospitalised each year due to a lack of "preventive or locally provided communitybased services".

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RFDS revamp set to deliver life-saving care to regions

Launceston Examiner, General News, 12/07/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 8

After more than 20 years of service, the current home of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Tasmania is ready for a revamp. The site is set to receive \$15 million of federal funding to better provide life-saving care to rural and regional Tasmanians.

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'Shock': Council hits out at hospital plan

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 4

A local mayor has hit out at new multi-million dollar hospital plans, arguing they are not what was promised. Gunnedah Shire Council mayor Jamie Chaffey says revised plans for the town's new hospital are not what they were expecting from NSW Health. Councillors were briefed this week by NSW Health about the latest plans for the long-promised hospital redevelopment.

Also reported by: [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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Gina Rinehart donates \$16 million to boost healthcare for rural Australians

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 11/07/2023, Emma Blake

Billionaire philanthropist Gina Rinehart's \$16 million gift to the Royal Flying Doctors is set to enhance

healthcare for rural Australians. Healthcare for Australians living in rural and remote areas will be given a \$16 million lift thanks to donations to the Royal Flying Doctors from Australia's richest person, Gina Rinehart.

[Read More](#)

Gunnedah hospital upgrade scaled back as chemotherapy, renal services cut

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Brigitte Murphy and James Paras

Gunnedah mayor Jamie Chaffey says the New South Wales government has broken a key election promise by scaling back a major hospital upgrade in the state's north. Gunnedah Shire councillors were briefed about the \$53 million project by New South Wales Health this week.

[Read More](#)

Patients share stories of troubling treatment from hospitals in Western Sydney

9News, Other, 11/07/2023, Ruth Wynn Williams and Lucy Slade

Patients have shared their troubling stories of long wait times before receiving treatment at Western Sydney hospitals after a whistleblower told 9News of the overcrowding staff were facing. The frontline worker, whose identity is being concealed to protect their job, said they were sick of people dying in the waiting room at

[Read More](#)

Patients speak out about Westmead Hospital wait times

9News, Other, 11/07/2023

More patients are speaking out about how long they have waited for treatment at Sydney's Westmead Hospital.

[Read More](#)

New group looks to address urgent care needs

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/07/2023

A recently formed RACGP Specific Interest group aims to help raise the standard of urgent and emergency treatment in primary care. Urgent care centres are being set up in many different communities round Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ancient road map to modern contentment

The Australian, General News, 12/07/2023, Elle Halliwell, Page 12

It's interesting to imagine what the great philosophers of Rome and Greece would think of today's world of instant gratification and selfies. What would Seneca think of younger generations in which follower counts and likes are more favoured as metrics of value than societal contribution or good character? Would Marcus Aurelius take advantage of TikTok to spread his meditations on the importance of mastering one's time?

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The cost of hidden addiction

West Australian, General News, 12/07/2023, Emma Jarvis, Page 58

An occasional beer or wine with dinner, or a drink in the evening can be pleasurable and for many marks the start of winding down after a busy day. For most people, this is not a health problem. However, when drinking becomes a daily activity, or one that becomes a crutch to help you manage

life's usual stressors, it may represent a progression of your consumption and place you at increased health risks.

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

We carry the burden

Border Mail, General News, 12/07/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 8

People with eating disorders on the Border are being "bounced" out of the public mental health system back to over-stretched private practitioners, an Albury health psychologist claims. Bronwyn Wood, a credentialed eating disorder clinician (CEDC), says the public system is so over-run, "they turn people away before they even get in the door". People aren't seen, they aren't even assessed and they are "flicked back out to private", she says.

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

Sessions bulk-billed in mental health win

Newcastle Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

More than 25,000 bulkbilled mental health sessions will be available for "priority populations" in the Hunter New England District this financial year to fill a big gap in the system. The \$6.4 million service, which amounts to about 70 sessions a day, was commissioned by Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network [PHN] for the "most financially disadvantaged people across the region".

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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

New autism facility

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 12/07/2023, Blair Jackson, Page 2

Operating out of a cramped old building, a Townsville autism early-intervention centre has secured funding and a new lease on life. The sod is expected to be turned on a new AEIOU Foundation for Children with Autism building on Wednesday. Herbert MP Phil Thompson said the new centre would give kids with autism the chance for the best possible start in life. "The need for AEIOU's services is constantly growing, which means their centre needs to grow too," he said.

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Regulator investigates Ozempic suicidal ideation link

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/07/2023

Novo Nordisk's diabetes medication, Ozempic (semaglutide) and weight-loss treatment Saxenda (liraglutide) are being investigated, following reports they may be associated with suicidal ideation.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Perth, Early Afternoons, 11/07/2023, Dustin Skipworth

Australian psychologists and sleep physicians trained in identifying and treating insomnia and other sleep disorders are working with researchers at both Flinders University and the Australasian Sleep Association to train more primary care clinicians to deliver cognitive behavioral therapy.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Key steps needed to improve caesarean birth injury rates

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 11/07/2023, Anmj Staff

Researchers say key steps need to be taken to improve rising caesarean birth injury rates. Over 34% of women in Australia have a caesarean birth, and a significant proportion of these happen in late labour when the fetal head is deep in the mother's pelvis and can be impacted, which makes delivering a baby challenging and poses serious risks to both the mother and the baby, researchers state.

[Read More](#)

Can nurses get a good night's sleep?

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 11/07/2023, Robert Fedele

Is healthy sleep achievable for nurses who work rotating shift work? It's a thought-provoking question posed by Dr Lisa Matricciani, a sleep researcher and lecturer in Nursing at the University of South Australia, and fellow authors in a recent guest editorial in the December 2022 February 2023 issue of the Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing AJAN According to the editorial, sleep is often-recognised as important for health and wellbeing but is usually the first thing people give up when life gets too busy.

[Read More](#)

WA uni opens \$17m centre to train more rural nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 11/07/2023, Arshmah Jamal

A Western Australian university has launched a new research department to help train and drive more nurses into remote healthcare services. The federal government allocated \$17m over four years to establish a department of rural health at Perth's Edith Cowan University.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

NSW wages may be tied to Qld, Vic

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 1

Public sector pay in NSW could be more closely tied to rival states such as Queensland as part of the Minns government's overhaul of the industrial relations system following the removal of the controversial wages cap. The Herald can reveal the government has asked a new taskforce to consider whether wage increases for public sector workers should be linked to what colleagues in other states receive in a bid to tackle the workforce retention issues plaguing essential services such as nursing and teaching.

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Tribunal lifts former Chief Psychiatrist's suspension but keeps conditions 'for public confidence'

Australian Doctor, Other, 11/07/2023, Antony Scholefield

Dr Aaron Groves can return to practice, following disciplinary action over a personal relationship. A former Chief Psychiatrist can return to practice, after he was suspended under emergency powers over a relationship with a woman he helped in the course of his state role.

[Read More](#)

Why more rural GPs are training in emergency medicine

Ballarat Courier, Other, 11/07/2023, Michelle Smith

Rural GPs will brush up on their emergency medicine skills to enable them to better serve the health needs of their communities. With greater demand on rural GPs the further they practice away from large centres, the Royal Australasian College of GPs will run a workshop in Hepburn this month to focus on emergency medicine.

[Read More](#)

Gold Coast-based Medical Rescue expands overseas as demand surges

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 11/07/2023, Vanessa Croll

Gold Coast-based Medical Rescue is expanding overseas, while continuing to recruit locally, to extend high-quality healthcare services globally in response to rising demand. Vanessa Croll Australia's leading international air ambulance service, Gold Coast-based Medical Rescue, is expanding overseas and recruiting locally as demand surges.

Palliative care paramedics could help keep patients out of our EDs

HelloCare, Other, 11/07/2023, Bianca Iovino

As the need for home-based and out-of-hours palliative care continues to grow, those in the sector are still figuring out the best way to address these needs. Many accessing palliative care prefer to access care at home, putting more focus on community and social services.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Stockholding relief for select brands

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/07/2023

Medication sponsors secure relief from minimum stockholding requirements for close to 270 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed brands Requirements for drug sponsors to hold four to six-month supplies of designated brands, based on usual demand, is being temporarily eased for some products.

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

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Gender services facing review

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 12/07/2023, Tricia Rivera, Page 5

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park has ordered a review of the state's gender care and research after a 14-year-old transgender boy took his life while on a waiting list to receive specialist treatment at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Noah O'Brien ended his life in January this year while waiting to access gender-affirming healthcare which can include administering puberty blockers to adolescents despite just three new patients being admitted to one of the state's two public gender clinics this year, Four Corners revealed on Monday.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Sacked nurse 'never reads documents'

Canberra Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Blake Foden, Page 2

A mental health nurse sacked over the disclosure of patient information admits she never read documents outlining her obligations, including those surrounding privacy. "I'm one of these people," Carol Sandland told the Fair Work Commission on Tuesday. "I'm always getting into trouble with it."

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ESA's blame culture must shift: review

Canberra Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Jasper Lindell, Page 3

The Emergency Services Agency has a culture of blame and fear which affects the health and

wellbeing of its staff, while its executives do not trust each other, an external review has found. The snap review identified examples of agency executives bullying, blaming, withholding information and undermining decisions, and said a "cultural shift" was needed.

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

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Overstepping the boundaries

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 11/07/2023, Chris Brooker

Notifications of health practitioner boundary violations have jumped by almost 50% in two years, Ahpra says. There has been a "sustained jump" in the reporting of boundary violations by healthcare practitioners, as well as in the number of practitioners facing regulatory action, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) says.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Robots, fake bodies help raise \$5.6m

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/07/2023, Tess Bennett, Page 3

Tony Costello, whose father learnt to fly an aircraft in the 1940s without the help of a flight simulator, always wondered if surgeons could benefit from the same kind of training that Qantas introduced in the 1970s. "You're 50,000 times more likely to be...

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Clear rules needed on surgery

The Australian, Editorials, 12/07/2023, Page 10

Within the bounds of respectful debate, it is reasonable that surgeons are calling for the national medical regulator to step in to set clear and specific guidelines on genderaffirming surgery. That includes the issue of whether the age at which transgender adolescents legally are allowed to undertake procedures such as double mastectomies should be raised to 18.

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

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RACGP backs vision for national hepatitis strategies

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 11/07/2023

The college has put forward recommendations to strengthen the draft 202330 strategies and ensure targets are met. The national strategies will drive responses to achieve the target of eliminating hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030.

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[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Inside the NRL's brutal pay war

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Emma Kemp, Page 1

On January 13, the chief executives of the NRL and the Rugby League Players' Association had lunch at Hotel Centennial in Woollahra. Relations between Andrew Abdo and Clint Newton were already fraught. It was three weeks after the NRL had unilaterally set the 2023 salary cap, announcing a 25 per cent increase to a record \$12.1 million.

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FIFA reverses order to cover stadium plaques

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Sarah Keoghan, Page 2

A directive by FIFA to cover the plaques of seven Australian athletes at Allianz Stadium ahead of the Women's World Cup was quickly reversed yesterday after outrage from the sporting community. FIFA directed the SCG Trust to cover the brass plaques of the statues as part of a "clean site" policy to remove all unofficial branding from the venue, including the Allianz branding and the Sydney Roosters sign.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#). [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#). [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#). [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Melbourne Victory ponders stadium on toxic wasteland

Age, General News, 12/07/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 9

A former radioactive waste dump could become a soccer stadium for Melbourne Victory despite concerns from neighbouring homes about gas and other contaminants from the closed landfill sites in the western suburbs. Brimbank Council has opened public consultation for its 30-year vision to create a \$500 million state significant asset at Sunshine Energy Park, which has radioactive materials, solvents, paints, oil, acids, poisons, manure and other household and industrial waste surrounding it.

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Referee's teenage Grindr shame

Daily Telegraph, General News, 12/07/2023, Shannon Tonkin, Page 17

A junior footy ref who a court has heard was "shunned" by the rugby league community after he was busted sexually preying on a 15-year-old boy on Grindr has narrowly avoided time behind bars. Robert "Bobby" Cummings, a former Sutherland Loftus Pirates president and longtime junior league referee, was handed a 12-month suspended prison sentence in Sydney's Downing Centre District Court on Tuesday, after pleading guilty to a charge of using a carriage service to procure a person under 16 years for sexual activity.

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We're right behind the green and goal-den

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2023, Rose Innes, Page 3

The countdown is on for the FIFA Women's World Cup and, with nine days left to go, some games are already completely sold out. The first game taking place in Brisbane on July 22 will see England play Haiti but July 27 is the big one, when Australia take on Nigeria.

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Include transgender athletes: Rapinoe

Northern Territory News, Sport, 12/07/2023, Page 53

US super star Megan Rapinoe has called for transgender athlete inclusion in international soccer on the eve of the FIFA Women's World Cup. Days after announcing she will retire from all formats of the game after the World Cup, Rapinoe, an outspoken LGBTQI advocate, has opened up on her views on the trans issue which continues to divide opinion.

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

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'The broadcast was almost unwatchable': The insiders' view on why Australia switched off AFLW

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 11/07/2023, Marnie Vinall

Tv ratings and crowds are well down for women's football. But AFLW insiders say timeslots, venues, football fatigue and poor broadcast quality are all contributing to hold back the game.

[Read More](#)

Coroner examines deaths of Najeeb Rafee, 'Spencer' Hooley, Meredith Hooley, Dinh Ta Nguyen

Publicly available rescue equipment might have prevented four drowning deaths, including the tragedy of a father who died trying in vain to save his daughter, a coroner has found. But coroner Paula Russell has not recommended such equipment be installed beside rivers, noting the ACT government's fears it would be vandalised, interfered with, stolen or misused.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane the No.1 sporting city in Australia

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/07/2023, Greg Stolz

Brisbane has beaten self-proclaimed events epicentre Melbourne as well as Sydney to take the title of Australia's official sporting capital. The River City - home to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and next month's women's soccer World Cup - has been named the nation's No.1 in the annual list of the world's top 100 sporting cities.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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'Can't be what you can't see': FIFA broadcast to inspire next generation of FNQ footballers

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/07/2023, Catherine Duffy

Public screenings of the FIFA Women's World Cup along the Esplanade are set to inspire the next generation of footballers. Holy Cross message of support to Mary Fowler The FIFA Women's World Cup will kick off in just under 30 days, with former Cairns junior Mary Fowler set to take the pitch for the Matildas.

[Read More](#)

Brisbane needs a new stadium at RNA Showgrounds

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/07/2023

Next week marks nine years until the Opening Ceremony of the Brisbane Olympic Games. It still seems a long way off, and in many ways it is. But there is a significant issue that must be resolved sooner rather than later where the Brisbane Lions in the AFL will play for the years the Gabba is being demolished and rebuilt.

[Read More](#)

Australia's Diamonds reveal Netball World Cup uniform, featuring First Nations artwork for first time

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023

Australia's Diamonds have revealed their team uniform for the upcoming Netball World Cup, and the design for the first-time ever includes First Nations artwork. Netball World Cup Australia Group A The team will join 15 other countries in South Africa for the tournament, which runs from July 28 to August 6.

[Read More](#)

AFLW players are cheering on change in looming landmark collective bargaining agreement

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Tamara Clark

The highly anticipated release of the new AFLW collective bargaining agreement is imminent, one that promises to address player calls for more rounds, improved pay, and enhanced job security. With less than two months from the first bounce, players and fans are anxiously awaiting crucial details including the number of games in the 2022 season.

[Read More](#)

World Cup showcases inequity within the women's game

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2023

As the Women's World Cup approached, Jamaican players started to panic. They were uncertain about training camps, accommodations and even pay heading into what for many would be the biggest

tournament of their careers.

[Read More](#)

For the 1st time, every player at the Women's World Cup will be paid at least \$30K

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2023

A group of players across the globe asked FIFA late last year to increase the prize money for this summer's Women's World Cup . There had been pleas from the women to boost those funds before, but this time it was different.

[Read More](#)

FIFA backs down over 'beyond stupid' order to censor statues of Aussie sporting heroes for Women's World Cup after fans and soccer greats voice outrage

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2023, Josh Alston

Fifa has backed down after attempting to erase the accomplishments of a host of Australian sporting legends including Johnny 'Captain Soccerroo ' Warren ahead of the Women's World Cup The sport's governing body had ordered the SCG Trust to cover up the names of seven athletes on their statues at Allianz Stadium at Moore Park in Sydney

[Read More](#)

"Disturbing" footage shows Dutch and Spanish footballers mock haka ahead of World Cup

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2023

Spain and Netherlands players have sparked outrage after appearing to mock the haka just days out from the opening match of the FIFA Women's World Cup. New Zealand hosted the tournament alongside Australia, beginning Thursday July 20.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Stokes' Telethon halves grants to kids

Australian Financial Review, General News, 12/07/2023, Mark Di Stefano and Max Mason, Page 3

The Kerry Stokes-backed Telethon, one of Australia's most influential charities, has slashed the amount of money given to the children's medical research institute that bears its name, even as donations from business and government soar. Telethon, run by ...

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\$75m boost for Chinese scholars

The Australian, Higher Education, 12/07/2023, Tim Dodd, Page 21

The University of Melbourne has dramatically expanded a scholarship scheme for Chinese research students that it runs in partnership with Beijing. Up to 180 Chinese students will be offered funding to do a PhD at the university across the next four years.

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

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

How healthcare precincts aid big, ambitious research

Australian Financial Review, Other, 11/07/2023, Anders Furze

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 ...

Opioid painkillers don't work for acute back or neck pain

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023

A high proportion of Australians with back or neck pain are prescribed opioids or morphine-like narcotics, despite the risks of addiction and side effects. Now, these risks might be manageable if the benefit is significant.

[Read More](#)

Surprising ancestry of caterpillar venom could lead to delivery of lifesaving drugs

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Antonia O'Flaherty

Queensland researchers studying the venom of a caterpillar, which can cause extreme pain, hope it could be used to selectively kill cancer cells or pathogens in the future. The University of Queensland's (UQ) Institute of Molecular Bioscience research team studied the ancestry of the asp caterpillar's venom, finding it evolved from the transfer of genes from bacteria more than 400 million years ago.

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

[Read More](#)

Most patients using weight-loss drugs like Wegovy stop within a year, data show

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2023

Only about one-third of patients prescribed a popular weight-loss drug like Novo Nordisk's Wegovy were still taking it a year later, while total healthcare costs for the group rose sharply, according to an analysis of U.S. pharmacy claims shared with Reuters.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 11/07/2023, Peter Overton

Caterpillars could hold the key to curing cancer. University of Queensland researchers have discovered the venom of ASP caterpillars contains special toxins with a unique ability to create holes in cells.

[Play Now](#)

SBS, World News Australia, 11/07/2023, Janice Petersen

Scientists say getting a clearer view of how the body works. A new technique being used can identify cancerous tumours at the moment they're forming, which were previously too small to detect. It involves a transparent mouse which scientists say could revolutionise medical research.

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Triple M Brisbane, 08:00 News, 11/07/2023

Researchers are currently trialling a new respiratory syncytial virus vaccine that could produce singular dose protection. Mater is testing the vaccine on at-risk premature babies.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, 14:00 News, 11/07/2023

Queensland University researchers from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience say a venomous caterpillar native to North America could be used to make life-saving drugs, such as targeting cancer cells in humans.

[Play Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

Nation making 'mixed' progress on closing the gap: report

Canberra Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 4

Australia has achieved "mixed" progress on targets that would help close the gap in life outcome expectancies between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, new data from the Productivity Commission has revealed. It comes as the campaign for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament ramps up, with advocates calling the proposed constitutionally enshrined advisory body an important initiative for closing the gap.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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TCHHS under urgent review

Cairns Post, General News, 11/07/2023, Kristina Puljak, Page 1

State Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has pledged an independent inquiry into the troubled Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS). Community leaders have called for an independent inquiry, saying there are preventable deaths occurring, and an independent investigation was crucial.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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Bridging 'lack of information' gap

Daily Liberal, General News, 12/07/2023, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

With young girls raising the issue of a lack of contraception information available for Indigenous people, Family Planning Australia answered the call. They're launching a new resource on contraceptive choices. Designed specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, "Yarning About Contraception" covers a full range of birth control options available for women and men, including how different forms of contraception work, their benefits and downsides, cost, and even their appearance.

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\$150m for health care centres at Badu, Boigu and Horn Islands, Laura, Lockhart River, and Bamaga

The Courier Mail, Other, 11/07/2023, Bronwyn Farr

State Health Minister Shannon Fentiman is visiting Cairns and the Torres Strait this week and announced a \$150m rebuild or revamp of health centres. We must do better': Linda Burney on suffering Aboriginal communities The State Government will pump more than \$150m into six new or updated primary health care centres across the Torres Strait and Cape York, with Health Minister Shannon Fentiman due to fly into the region this afternoon as a result of serious calls for an inquiry into health services.

[Read More](#)

Deaf Indigenous dance group brings together remote Cape York communities at Laura festival of culture

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Meghan Dansie and Christopher Testa

When Patty Morris-Banjo sees the crowd's "deaf applause" a spray of silent hands shaking in the air it makes her hair stand on end, she says. After becoming deaf at the age of two, Morris-Banjo was sent from her hometown of Laura in Far North Queensland to attend a special needs school 330 kilometres south in Cairns.

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Indigenous community's handling of COVID shows why Voice to Parliament needed, Fiona Stanley says

ABC Online, Other, 11/07/2023, Daryna Zadvirna

Former Australian of the Year Fiona Stanley believes Aboriginal people had the best response to COVID-19 "in the world" and says it proves an Indigenous Voice to Parliament will improve health

outcomes for First Nations people. Speaking at a panel discussion in support of the Voice on Monday evening, Professor Stanley said there was evidence showing the Voice referendum would make a significant difference to Indigenous people's lives.

[Read More](#)

ACT Government announces Independent Review into over-representation of First Nations prisoners

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2023

The ACT Government have recently announced an Independent Review into the Over Representation of First Nations people in the justice system. The review comes following the Justice Reinvestment Initiative's report on the Australian Capital Territory's incarceration rates, which revealed an urgent need for broader criminal justice reform.

[Read More](#)

Funding boost for South Australian Aboriginal community initiatives

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2023

The South Australian government has announced a more than \$1 million investment to support vulnerable members of South Australia's Aboriginal communities. Announced during NAIDOC Week, the funding package comprises of three components, with allocations dedicated towards programs offering rehabilitation, counselling and advocacy for members of the Aboriginal community in the state.

[Read More](#)

Sydney North Health Network announces commitment to develop Reconciliation Action Plan

National Indigenous Times, Other, 11/07/2023

Sydney North Health Network (SNHN) has announced its commitment to the development of its first ever Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The decision was announced during NAIDOC Week as part of the unveiling of a custom commissioned Aboriginal artwork piece.

[Read More](#)

4BC, 13:00 News, 11/07/2023

The Queensland Government has announced a more than \$150m health boost will be invested into six new or updated primary health care centres in the Torres Strait, Cape York, and Northern Peninsula. Queensland Minister for Health Shannon Fentiman says communities will help design the new facilities.

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ABC Radio Brisbane, 12:00 News, 11/07/2023

Deputy LNP leader Jarrod Bleijie says a review into residential care for vulnerable children in Queensland doesn't go far enough to look into how the system handles children under 12, First Nations children, and disabled children. The review announced by the State Government yesterday is being led by the director general of child safety, but Bleijie says the review should be independent.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Superbug prompts health alert

Age, General News, 12/07/2023, Lachlan Abbott, Page 6

A growing number of Victorians have been diagnosed with an antibiotic-resistant strain of a sexually transmitted bowel infection that causes gastro, forcing outgoing Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton to issue a health alert for the superbug. The Department of Health advisory message yesterday warned

shigella bacterial infections (shigellosis) resistant to typical treatment had grown, especially among men who had recent sexual contact with other men, and returned travellers.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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Teen girl dies from flu

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 12/07/2023, Page 5

A teen from the Central Coast has died after contracting the influenza B virus. In a statement, a Central Coast Local Health District spokeswoman confirmed the schoolgirl's death.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Melbourne GPs concerned about vaccination rates as flu cases surge

9News, Other, 11/07/2023

Melbourne GPs are concerned about flagging vaccination rates this flu season.

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ABC Radio Hobart, 07:00 News, 11/07/2023

Doctors are urging Tasmanians to make sure they and their children are vaccinated against influenza as the state experiences a spike in cases. Public health's latest respiratory illness surveillance report shows there were 387 cases of flu reported in the week ending July the 2nd, up from 226 the previous week. AMA Tasmania president Dr John Saul says Tasmania seems to be on track for its worst flu season since 2017.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, 19:00 News, 11/07/2023

Victoria's Health Department has issued an alert warning of a growing number of antibiotic resistant gastro infections. The department says resistance to antibiotics has been found in infections caused by Shigella bacteria, especially among men who've had recent sexual contact with other men as well as returned travellers.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Abortion pill more available

Courier Mail, General News, 12/07/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 5

Queenslanders seeking to end a pregnancy will soon have better access to the abortion pill, with the Health Minister committing to putting in place changes "as soon as possible" following a landmark decision by the nation's medicines watchdog. The Therapeutic Goods Administration on Tuesday ruled nurses, midwives and pharmacists, alongside all doctors, not just those who had completed special training, would be allowed to prescribe MS-2 Step.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [6PR \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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Just what the doctor ordered for Bioxyne's Dr Watson brand

Bioxyne's acquisition of Breathe Life Sciences is paying off with its well-established Dr Watson brand of cannabis products continuing to be a consumer favourite. [...] In Australia, where CBD is a scheduled drug, BLS sells prescription-only CBD and cannabis products to pharmacies, licensed companies, offering telemedicine consultations at BLSclinics.com.au Countdown to July 1 TGA changes In Australia, BLS holds licenses to import, export, wholesale Schedule 3, 4, and 8 controlled substances including medicinal cannabis and ketamine.

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Warning after Ayurvedic medicines sold in Victorian grocery stores found to possibly contain lead, poisons

9News, Other, 11/07/2023, Serena Seyfort

Victoria's health department is warning consumers that some Ayurvedic medicines for sale in grocery stores in Victoria possibly contain ingredients including lead that are scheduled poisons. The public alert comes as a number of people in Victoria have suffered lead poisoning from Ayurvedic medicines imported from overseas. [...] Ayurvedic medicines bought in Australia to ensure the packaging has an "AUST R" or "AUST L" number marked on it, meaning it has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

[Read More](#)

Children's suncream recalled over 'split layers'

9News, Other, 11/07/2023, Joe Attanasio

A popular brand of children's suncream sold at major retailers like Chemist Warehouse has been recalled. The Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia (TGA) warned that Natural Instinct Kids SPF50+ Clean Sunscreen in the 200mL and 50mL packs were not offering appropriate protection from the sun and should not be used.

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

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 11/07/2023, Ros Childs

Abortion care is set to become more accessible as the National Medicines Regulator loosens restrictions around who can prescribe it. The Therapeutic Goods Administration will no longer require doctors, nurse practitioners and pharmacists to get special certification and registration to dispense the medication. Abortions might be legal in Australia, but it doesn't mean they're easily accessible.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 11/07/2023, Narelda Jacobs

Australian women will have easier access to the abortion pill following an overhaul of regulations by the federal government in the biggest development since the drug RU486, also known as mifepristone or MS-2 step, was first introduced. Doctors and pharmacists without special certification will now be able to prescribe and provide the medication. Reproductive health expert Prof Danielle Mazza says the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia has deregulated medical abortion, meaning GPs can prescribe medical abortion without needing to register and re-register every three years or to undertake the mandatory training.

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Channel 7, Seven News Vic First at 4pm, 11/07/2023, Rebecca Maddern and Mike Amor

A popular brand of children's sunscreen has been recalled as it doesn't offer appropriate protection, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration The recall applies to the 50 and 200ml millilitre packs of the natural instinct kids SPF 50 plus clean sunscreen. The TGA says there are multiple reports of the sun blocking fluid splitting into layers, meaning the medicinal ingredients don't mix properly.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 11/07/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

Access to medical abortion in Australia is being widened under big changes to be approved by the Federal Government. This decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration brings Australia in line with countries such as Canada.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, 16:00 News, 11/07/2023

Qld Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has welcomed broader access to the medical abortion pill MS-2 Step. The Therapeutic Goods Administration says it can now be prescribed by any qualified healthcare professional.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, 16:00 News, 11/07/2023

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners says allowing nurse practitioners to prescribe and dispense the medical abortion drug will improve access to the treatment. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced changes that will allow nurse practitioners to prescribe the abortion drug two steps and scrap a requirement for healthcare professionals to get special registration before they can prescribe it. Australian College of Nurse Practitioners CEO Leanne Boase, has told ABC Radio Melbourne it's been difficult for many women to access the drug being limited as to who can prescribe it.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Cocaine use back on the rise

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 12/07/2023, Perry Duffin, Page 12

Sydney's cocaine use has rebounded, as new data shows the city consumed more of the drug in December than any other time in the past two years, and most arrests for possession of the \$300-a-bag drug are taking place in the city and eastern suburbs. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission released data last night showing Sydney consumed 13 doses of cocaine per 1000 people per day in December 2022.

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

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Wastewater report shows Canberrans among largest opioid users in the nation

Canberra Times, General News, 12/07/2023, Annie Liu, Page 10

Canberrans were the second highest users of heroin and oxycodone despite an overall decrease in the national consumption of the drugs, a new report has found. The nineteenth wastewater drug monitoring program conducted by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission found cannabis was the most used illicit drug in Australia, while alcohol and nicotine have consistently ranked as the highest-use drugs in all states and territories.

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Cut-price coke war

Herald Sun, General News, 12/07/2023, Mark Buttler, Page 1

Big-time Melbourne cocaine dealers have been warned not to cut prices amid deadly underworld warfare interstate. The national edict from "The Commission", a shadowy de facto cocaine market regulator, promises it will "hunt, find, hurt and rob" those who do not obey and set a range of prices for the lucrative Melbourne market.

Why we're in such a meth

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 12/07/2023, Nigel Hunt, Page 11

Adelaide has retained the dubious title of being the meth capital of Australia, the latest wastewater drug testing results reveal. The results show three metropolitan Adelaide sites recorded above average methylamphetamine use and two regional locations above average consumption. Those two sites were among the highest recorded usage sites in the nation.

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Aussie wastewater still flush with illicit drugs

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Rachael Ward

Illicit drug use in Australia jumped over summer even after a string of high-profile drug busts. Methylamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, MDMA, MDA and ketamine use increased over the warmer months. However heroin, oxycodone and cannabis use decreased, according to the latest National Wastewater Drug Monitoring report from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

As FDA is urged to review Logan Paul's Prime drink that is making kids hyper, we reveal just how much caffeine is really in America's favorite sodas and energy drinks

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 11/07/2023, Emily Joshu

Health chiefs have been urged to look into an energy drink that is selling like hot cakes among America's youth and is backed by a global YouTube superstar. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has asked the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to look into the caffeine content of PRIME Energy - which is co-owned by influencer Logan Paul.

[Read More](#)

Another popular artificial sweetener may be linked to cancer

Prevention, Other, 11/07/2023, Korin Miller

The World Health Organization is reportedly set to declare the sweetener aspartame a possible carcinogen. Sources tell Reuters that the World Health Organization is set to declare aspartame a possible human carcinogen. [...] Aspartame is a non-nutritive artificial sweetener that's 200 times sweeter than sugar, according to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Early News, 11/07/2023, Edwina Bartholomew

The food and drug watchdog in the United States is being called on to open an investigation into the prime energy drink over concerns of its caffeine contents. One bottle contains 200mg of caffeine, which is equivalent to six Cairns of Coca-Cola. While the makers say it is not suitable for anyone under 18, critics say it is clearly being marketed towards children.

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