



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 13th July 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports aged care facilities say they are being left in limbo and at risk of closure as they await exemptions from the federal government's new nursing rules introduced on July 1. Regional New South Wales-based care provider Whiddon's chief executive Chris Marmarelis said "It's an unusual position we find ourselves in, having to comply with the new reforms without a clear understanding of whether an exemption has been granted".
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports private security guards hired for hospitals in Sydney's west received no background checks and could have had access to children and patients, an internal audit by the Western Sydney Local Health District has found. Health Services Union secretary Gerard Hayes said the use of temporary security guards rather than a full time workforce was symptomatic of "lazy tick-and-flick management".
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports neurosurgeon Charlie Teo has been found guilty of "unsatisfactory professional conduct" by the Health Care Complaints Commission's professional standards committee, effectively ending his career. The committee found Mr Teo did "not exercise appropriate judgment in proceeding to surgical resection" in the instance of two patients later reduced to a vegetative state; it ordered he be reprimanded and conditions

placed on his medical registration. Also reported by: [The Australian](#), [Age](#), [Canberra Times](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Ballarat Courier](#), [Border Mail](#), [Burnie Advocate](#), [Central Western Daily](#), [Daily Advertiser](#), [Daily Liberal](#), [Illawarra Mercury](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner](#), [Launceston Examiner](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#), [Warrnambool Standard](#), [Western Advocate](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [The Guardian](#), [SBS](#)

- The [**Canberra Times**](#) (page 1) reports Dhulwa mental health unit's management did not take worker's safety seriously, former nurse Carol Sandland has told the Fair Work Commission. Ms Sandland is suing the Canberra Health Services for wrongful dismissal, and yesterday alleged staff at Duhlwa were attacked, taken hostage and threatened with hot coffee. Also reported by: [ABC Online](#)
- The [**Canberra Times**](#) (page 1) reports findings of a negative workplace culture inside the Territory's Emergency Services Agency are "concerning" but the implementation of changes recommended will be up to the public service, ACT Emergency Services Minister Mick Gentleman says. Mr Gentleman did not respond to questions over his confidence in ESA commissioner Georgeina Whelan.
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 1) reports a clot-busting medication researchers believe could be a major stroke medication breakthrough could be given to Australians as early as next month as part of a world-first trial. Heart Research Institute Associate Professor Simone Schoenwaelder said "[the new drug] not only helps dissolve the stroke-causing blood clot more effectively, but it can stop the clot from reforming altogether by targeting different and complementary components of the blood clot." Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#)
- The [**Courier Mail**](#) (page 1) reports an 11-year-old has died of Influenza B on Queensland's Sunshine Coast a day after being released from a private hospital's emergency department. Queensland chief health officer John Gerrard said he was deeply concerned about the potential impact of Influenza on children this winter as school resumed. Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [ABC Online](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [Daily Mail Australia](#), [The Guardian](#), [9News](#), [9News](#)
- The [**Farm Weekly**](#) (page 9) reports dozens of organisations will advocate for rural healthcare to become a part of the National Cabinet agenda, proposing a future strategy with measurable outcomes similar to the Indigenous Closing the Gap program. Regional Health Minister Emma McBride said the Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner already assists in developing frameworks to improve health outcomes in regional areas, but would not commit to raising a regional healthcare strategy at the next National Cabinet meeting.

MINISTER BUTLER

Survivor's mission to promote vital kits

Canberra City News, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 21

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

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No one should suffer the pain

Area News, 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: [Wimmera Mail Times \(Horsham\)](#), [Dunggg Chronicle \(Dunggg\)](#), [Glen Innes Examiner \(Glen Innes\)](#), [Tenterfield Star \(Tenterfield\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Port Stephens\)](#)

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Clinics to ease hospital's burden

Almost 40 per cent of all presentations to the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) are for non-urgent or semi-urgent care. To help ease the burden on the hospital, a Launceston Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) provider has been selected. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the clinic will be open daily from 2pm to 8pm.

Similar coverage reported by: [Tasmanian Examiner \(Online\)](#), [Tasmanian Times \(Online\)](#).

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Finally got there

Moree Champion, General News, 13/07/2023, Eva Baxter, Page 1

A new healthcare model aiming to attract more doctors to the region will be trialled in the Hunter New England local health district. [...] Federal health minister Mark Butler's office said shadow regional health minister Bronnie Taylor did not complete a timely EOI for the model.

Also reported by: [Tenterfield Star \(Tenterfield\)](#).

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Labor making pharmacy policy on the run: and it's still not enough

Nhill Free Press, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 11

The Albanese Labor Government has followed its ill-conceived pharmacy 60-day dispensing policy with a hastily slapped together attempt to offset the damage it has caused for community pharmacies, Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health Anne Webster says. Minister for Health Mark Butler announced a raft of changes, including more money for pharmacies to dispense PBS medicines, claiming a seven per cent indexation boost when full CPI was always to be paid in the fourth year of the five-year Community Pharmacy Agreement, to increase support to regional, rural and remote pharmacies.

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Bad medicine for regional Aust

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 12/07/2023, Page 4

Pharmacy Guild President Trent Twomey has penned an op-ed piece voicing his concerns about 60DD. Got an opinion to share? [...] 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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TGA forces pharma companies to stockpile vital meds to avert shortages

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/07/2023, Antony Scholefield

But around 270 drug brands will benefit from less stringent requirements approved by Mark Butler. Almost 100 pharmaceutical companies must now keep at least four months' supply of common drug brands in the country under a Federal Government plan to combat medicine shortages.

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Primary care reform in the United States provides some pointers for MyMedicare

Croakey, Other, 12/07/2023, Melissa Sweet

Policy makers crafting the new MyMedicare model should be studying developments in the United States and around the world, to help ensure MyMedicare succeeds where previous primary healthcare reform efforts have failed, according to Peter Breadon, Health Program Director at the Grattan Institute. [...] But last month a new primary care funding model was announced that has been welcomed by a range of American doctors' organisations Many aspects of the program align with reforms in other countries, as well as Grattan Institute research on primary care reform, and advice to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler from his expert Taskforce The US program, called Making Care Primary, will shift funding from fee-for-service towards patient budgets.

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Shingles myth busting

Healthed Australia, Other, 12/07/2023

Despite its prevalence, shingles myths are persisting and putting the elderly at risk. About one in three Australians will develop shingles at some point in their lifetime. [...] However, at the Communicable Diseases and Immunisation Conference in Perth in June, health minister Mark Butler endorsed the recommendation by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee to fund Shingrix on the NIP.

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Peak health bodies unite to fight drug discontinuation

Oncology Republic, Other, 12/07/2023, Amanda Sheppeard

Australian peak health organisations have joined forces in a public outcry over the TGA's announcement of the looming end to national supply of a critical pain medication. They say people nearing the end of their life or undergoing cancer treatment, including children with life-limiting illness are most at risk. [...] It is understood a number of health organisations have already written to Health Minister, Mark Butler, highlighting the issue.

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

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 12/07/2023

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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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/07/2023, Tiffany Warne

Pharmacies are predicting job cuts as a result of the Federal Government's 60-day dispense policy. In a statement, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler called the pharmacies approach a scare campaign, insisting the scheme will make medicines cheaper for millions of Australians.

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ABC Radio Adelaide, Afternoons, 12/07/2023, Sonya Feldhoff

Interview with Darryl Wakeland, pharmacist, PharmaSave Alberton. Wakeland, who happens to be in Health Minister Mark Butler's electorate, calls the 60-day dispensing a destructive policy. He compares the policy to a quick pub analogy. He states they'll be forced to charge customers for extra services

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MINISTER WELLS

More aged-care homes closing

The Australian, General News, 13/07/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 1

A growing number of aged-care facilities are closing due to workforce shortages, as regional providers warn they are being left in limbo waiting for exemptions under Labor's 24/7 nursing targets. At least two aged-care facilities have this week told residents they will shut down citing difficulties meeting the federal government's new nursing rules introduced on July 1. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells last month acknowledged the workforce was "thousands short" but stood behind targets to have the 24/7 requirement in place for all facilities.

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Council of Elders seek members

Community Care Review, Other, 12/07/2023

Applications are open for older Australians to join the Aged Care Council of Elders. The council which held its first meeting in February 2022 and was announced in October 2021 provides a direct voice to the federal government about aged care reform. [...] "The Council of Elders plays a critical role in ensuring the diverse views and perspectives of older people are heard by the Albanese Government as we reform aged care," said Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells in a statement.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Bid to put rural health on national agenda

Farm Weekly, Supplements, 13/07/2023, Jamieson Murphy, Page 9

The nation's regional healthcare has been neglected for decades and it's time to elevate the issue to the National Cabinet, advocates say. Dozens of organisations are pushing for a national rural health strategy, which would place all regional health policies under one umbrella. [...] Regional Health Minister Emma McBride would not commit to the Albanese government raising a regional health strategy at the next National Cabinet.

Also reported by: [The Land \(Sydney\)](#).

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'Walk-in' services for mental health care

Port Pirie Recorder, General News, 13/07/2023, Neralie Bailey, Page 5

Adults in Port Pirie will have access to additional free, walk-in mental health and wellbeing support with a new Head to Health service to be established in the local community. Head to Health provides a safe and welcoming place for adults to access mental health information, services and supports delivered by multidisciplinary teams over extended hours, without needing an appointment, GP referral or paying a fee. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Emma McBride said that the Albanese Labor Government was working to make mental health support more accessible for people wherever they live.

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'I'll fight this tooth and nail': Mayor Charlie Sheahan slams federal cuts to mental health services

Region Riverina, Other, 12/07/2023, Shri Gayathirie Rajen

Gundagai residents will be forced to travel 80 kilometres for mental health services after the Federal Government indicated funding for a mental health nurse would cease. For the past three years, a nurse has been practising out of Gundagai Medical Centre and Gundagai District Hospital. [...] "I have been in contact with the Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, and urged her to continue funding the mental health nurse at Gundagai.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Pill change step in the right direction for easier abortions

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/07/2023, Danielle Mazza, Page 40

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.

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

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Easier access to the medical abortion pill is a good thing. But it's just one step in the fight for reproductive justice in Australia

The Guardian, Other, 12/07/2023, Isabelle Oderberg

For a very long time, women have been indoctrinated to think that anything they get, no matter how small, they should be grateful for. But I'm bored of being grateful for the crumbs people with uteruses get handed. [...] From what I have seen and heard behind the scenes, the assistant minister for health, Ged Kearney, is well-placed to bring about some of this change, as the respected chair of the National Women's Health Advisory Council.

[Read More](#)

Nurse practitioners enabled to prescribe medical abortion pill

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 12/07/2023, Anmj Staff

Women across Australia are set to have easier access to medical abortions under landmark changes that will remove restrictions on health professionals, including nurse practitioners, doctors, and pharmacists, prescribing, and dispensing, termination pills. [...] Announcing the major regulatory developments yesterday, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, said the removal of red tape would improve access to healthcare.

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Preparing for the massive MS-2 Stepchange

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 12/07/2023, Chloe Hava

Preparing for the massive MS-2 Stepchange All pharmacists can soon dispense MS-2 Step (mifepristone and misoprostol), following a landmark decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Restrictions preventing health professionals without additional certification, including doctors and pharmacists, from prescribing and dispensing MS-2 Step are set to be lifted, in the biggest regulatory change around the medicine since it was introduced 10 years ago. [...] We know that women experience structural barriers trying to access the health care they need, particularly in regional and rural areas,' said Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney.

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Access to medical abortion pill expanded

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 12/07/2023

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced changes to restrictions around prescribing and dispensing of the medical abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol. The decision means that MS-2 Step (mifepristone and misoprostol) can now be prescribed by any healthcare practitioner with appropriate qualifications and training, without the need for certification this may include nurse practitioners, the TGA said in a statement. [...] "As the Co-Chair of the Access, Care and Outcomes Subcommittee of the National Women's Health Advisory Council chaired by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, I welcome this TGA decision to improve women's access to reproductive care."

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Indemnity questions on abortion prescribing

The Medical Republic, Other, 12/07/2023

GPs are encouraged to seek education on MS-2 Step, even now that the requirement has been dropped. Red tape around prescribing for medical termination has been slashed, but it's unclear whether it will mean additional insurance premiums for clinicians who haven't completed the once-mandatory training. [...] Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, a former nurse herself, said the changes recognised the importance of health practitioners that women see regularly, which include their GP, nurse practitioner and community pharmacist.

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ABC News, ABC National News, 11/07/2023, Joe O'Brien

Minister Ged Kearney says changes to the abortion access care through newly approved prescription powers for doctors are a good thing.

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2Day FM, 06:00 News, 12/07/2023

Some \$6 million is being pumped into expanding a breast milk programme which helps support premature babies. We'll be able to make sure that a lot more little premature babies actually do manage to get that breast milk. Assistant Health Minister GED Kearney online there talking about the milk bank.

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2TM, 17:30 News, 11/07/2023

The Albanese Government has welcomed changes to abortion access. James Carter reports. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care GED Kearney described the change as removing restrictions on what health professionals can provide medical abortion pills as a step to improve equitable access to health care. The decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration will allow more doctors and pharmacists to prescribe and dispense the two step product.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Voice talked up to help close gaps in disadvantage

The New Daily, Other, 12/07/2023, Rudi Maxwell

Latest data on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage shows it's time to take a different approach, Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney says. Progress on Closing the Gap is over-achieving in a few areas but going backwards in others, according to figures released by the Productivity Commission on Wednesday. [...] Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said overall the gap wasn't closing fast enough but a successful referendum for a voice would help.

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

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DEPARTMENT

New health trial progress

Glen Innes Examiner, General News, 13/07/2023, Eva Baxter, Page 3

A new healthcare model has been described as a "game changer" for the region, but a political blame game on why it took so long to get approved is brewing behind it. The health model aims to attract more doctors and will be trialed in the Hunter New England local health district. [...] After the October 2022 budget announcement to establish 10 trials, all states were asked to indicate their interest in participating, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said.

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Urgent Care Clinic deadline missed

On Our Selection News, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 7

An Urgent Care Clinic in Toowoomba, promised to be up and running by 1 July 2023, is yet to be finished. Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) aim to give patients more options to see a doctor or nurse when they need urgent, but not life-threatening, care. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care claims 58 Medicare UCCs will be open across Australia by the end of the year.

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The MyMedicare patient enrolment scheme is open for GP practices — should you sign up now?

The sign-up process for practices should be 'relatively simple', says AMA vice-president Dr Danielle McMullen. MyMedicare is officially here. [...] "We are encouraging the Department of Health and Aged Care to develop resources to support patients because we know that, otherwise, a lot falls on our practice receptionists and our GPs.

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Helping providers verify specialist services

Community Care Review, Other, 12/07/2023

A series of online workshops has been developed to walk aged care providers through the specialisation verification process. As recommended by the royal commission, the Department of Health and Aged Care established a Specialisation Verification Framework that allows providers to better demonstrate how their organisation delivers inclusive services for people who identify with one or more of the special needs groups listed in the Aged Care Act 1997

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COVID-19 vaccination rates in residential care reach 56.8%

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023, Caroline Egan

Just over three months ago, the estimated percentage of eligible aged care residents vaccinated was only 9.1%. As of 5 July 2023, of the aged care residents who have been eligible for a booster shot since January 2023, 86,199 or 56.8% of eligible residents have now received their 2023 booster dose. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care's 2023 COVID-19 vaccine booster program began on 20 February 2023, with a focus on ensuring aged care residents are topped up' if it has been more than six months since the last immunising event (an infection or a vaccine dose).

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CORONAVIRUS

Close contacts could help to curb COVID-19

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/07/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

Being close to a child who contracts COVID-19 or a guest at a dinner party could now help to unlock a way to stop the virus before it takes hold. A Monash University-sponsored trial is seeking close contacts of an infected person in Ballarat and Bendigo while they are testing negative and remain without symptoms.

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Testing still vital on virus impacts

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/07/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

Grampians Public Health Unit has reiterated a call for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to still take a rapid antigen test. Victoria's health department stopped counting self-reported COVID-19 cases this month due to dwindling reports, which rendered such data meaningless.

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Deadline looms to destroy COVID-19 vaccination data

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Cassandra Morgan and Callum Godde

Employers have 30 days to destroy Victorians' COVID-19 vaccination data after the expiration of regulations introduced during the pandemic. The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (COVID-19 Vaccination Information) Regulations came into effect in mid-2022 after vaccination requirements under pandemic orders were removed.

Similar coverage reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#),

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Respect volunteers

Herald Sun, Editorials, 12/07/2023, Page 18

Quietly, reliably and with localised care, Meals on Wheels services in Victoria deliver much-needed food for the elderly and vulnerable. And, on top of sustenance, they also deliver dignity and often friendship and support. Seldom would peak body Meals on Wheels Victoria seek to make any noise about what they do for the community.

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Family of tasered nan, 95, reveal civil action

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Nathan Schmidt, Page 14

The lawyer for a 95-year-old woman who died after she was allegedly tasered by police has revealed why her family are suing the NSW government. Clare Nowland died in hospital one week after she was allegedly tasered by police at an aged care home in Cooma in the early hours of the morning on May 17.

Similar coverage reported by: [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Woe tied to impact of virus

Border Mail, General News, 13/07/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

Covid, greater costs, staffing struggles and increased regulation have been cited as factors leading to Berrigan's aged care hostel being in voluntary administration. With debts of around \$1.2 million the operator of Amaroo, Berrigan and District Aged Care Association Limited came under the control of administrators last Friday. [...] Berrigan Aged Care board member Chris Nevins also cited those factors as well as an inability to attract suitability qualified staff, particularly registered nurses, and the outcome of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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Creek forces oldies out

Ipswich News Today, General News, 13/07/2023, Cameron Thompson, Page 7

Amaroo Gardens, the Gatton residential aged care facility at the centre of a storm following the announced closure of its 22 bed nursing home, looks set to close altogether because an advancing waterway is endangering the site, making it unusable. The operator of the facility, Churches of Christ, says it has been aware of undermining at the site since the 2011 floods.

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Small town's 'indomitable spirit' praised

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 13/07/2023, Clare Quirk, Page 7

An aged care provider says it can help Terang find a solution to the closure of the May Noonan centre. Leading Healthcare manages Cobden Health and Aberlea in Mortlake and managing director Adam Sevdalis said it could help advise and navigate the community to a solution after the closure of the aged care facility.

Similar coverage reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#).

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Palliative care expert and 2023 WA Australian of the Year shares insights into death and dying

West Australian, Other, 12/07/2023, Jacinta Cantatore

The 2023 WA Australian of the Year winner and Bunbury palliative care researcher will be sharing some of her expertise on the uncomfortable truths about death and dying in a specialised workshop aimed at businesses, employers and co-workers. Professor Samar Aoun will be the keynote speaker at

the Compassionate Workplaces event on July 17 at the Bunbury Geographie Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 11am to 2.

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Ballarat Nurse Next Door Michelle Connor's focus on quality aged care

Ballarat Courier, Other, 12/07/2023, Melanie Whelan

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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St Mary's Villa aged care facility at Dubbo to close, leaving more than 30 residents facing relocation

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023, Jess McGuire and Nick Lowther

More than 30 residents of an aged care facility in Dubbo have been told they will have to move, after their home was deemed no longer fit for purpose. Residents of St Mary's Villa in the NSW Central West were told last night about the closure but were assured the facility would stay open until all relocations have been complete.

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Technology in aged and disability care: opportunities, challenges, and practical steps

Aged Care Insite, Other, 12/07/2023

From supporting the front-line delivery of care to easing the administrative burden on support staff behind the scenes, there are myriad opportunities for the aged and disability care industry to embrace technology. With the right strategy and application, digital solutions can facilitate the delivery of the highest quality care possible. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's final report repeated data from the Aged Care Financing Authority which shows that nearly a third of home care providers and 42% of residential aged care providers reported an operating loss in 2018/19.

[Read More](#)

New seniors support centre for Whittlesea

Australian Seniors News, Other, 12/07/2023

A new \$2.69 million facility in the City of Whittlesea's north will provide older residents and their carers with vital support services. The Mernda Social Support Centre at 70 Mernda Village Drive, is now open and will be a key hub for the delivery of co-located services and activities for older adults in the city.

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Study to develop CALD dementia support program for carers

Community Care Review, Other, 12/07/2023, Natasha Egan

A Flinders University-led project involving seven aged care organisations and hundreds of professional and informal carers is aiming to help improve the quality of life and support of culturally and linguistically diverse people looking after loved ones with dementia. The five-year project will address problems faced by this cohort many of whom experience high levels of stress and social isolation yet receive little support due to cultural or linguistic barriers by first co-designing then trialling a culturally tailored version of the iSupport model.

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Positive ageing plan in place in Bendigo

Community Care Review, Other, 12/07/2023

The City of Greater Bendigo in central Victoria has released a document outlining its commitment to support the population to age well in the community. Called the Positive Ageing Action Plan and consisting of activities and initiatives the document will help the council address the issues and challenges facing older people over the next two years.

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Aged Discrimination Commissioner stands down

Community Care Review, Other, 12/07/2023

After almost seven years, Dr Kay Patterson is vacating the role of Age Discrimination Commissioner. During her tenure, Dr Patterson a former cabinet minister, senator and academic increased community awareness about elder abuse and the supports available.

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Aged care Register of Banning Orders goes online

The Senior, Other, 12/07/2023

The names of people who have been banned from providing aged care services have been released in a government database. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner can make banning orders - which restrict individuals from giving any form of aged care - against anyone it finds has not complied with the Code of Conduct, is not suited to provide aged care, represents a risk to care recipient safety, has been convicted of an indictable offence involving fraud or dishonesty, or is an insolvent under administration.

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Melbourne health services launch new online dementia directory

The Senior, Other, 12/07/2023

The lives of people living with dementia, their families, friends and carers are about to get a little easier thanks to the launch of a new directory service. Created by North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network in collaboration with Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network, the online dementia directory is now online.

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Two-thirds of Government-owned Newcastle aged care home beds lie empty

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023, Caroline Egan

A rally was held last Thursday as part of a campaign to keep open Wallsend Aged Care Centre, which lies 11km west of the Newcastle CBD. Of the home's 98 beds, 68 lie empty, The Newcastle Herald has reported. Last financial year, \$10.35 million was committed to Hunter New England Local Health District for the facility. Health Services Union NSW member Toni Allenn told The Newcastle Herald she believes many elderly and disabled people are staying long-term in Hunter hospitals due to a shortage of aged care beds.

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New research project aims to prove the link between aged care staff wellbeing and improved financial performance for providers

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023

A new Positioning Paper has outlined the negative impact of excessive regulation on the aged care workforce and how it could potentially be mitigated by providers via technology. The 26-page Helpless to hopeful: Improved organisational culture, staff wellbeing and quality of care' Positioning Paper by Appellon founder, CEO and registered psychologist Sue Jauncey looks at how working in a highly regulated environment such as aged care can foster a culture of learned helplessness' among staff.

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Some home care operators raising prices 20-30% to fund 15% wage rise and increasing cost of care delivery

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023

There has been a wide variation in July price increases to home care services and reports of clients refusing to consent to increases across the country as home care providers face ever-declining margins. Danielle Robertson, Founder and CEO of DR Care Solutions which advises on navigating aged care and disability services, told The Weekly SOURCE there was some evidence of considerable price increases, pointing to one national provider that had increased its hourly rates by 15%, but then raised its care management fees by 70%.

More Victorian Councils consider the future of their CHSP services as another exits

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023

Warrnambool City Council and Colac Otway Shire Council have joined forces to appoint external consultants to evaluate the future of their home care services, becoming the latest in a long line of Victorian councils reconsidering and exiting their Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) services.

[Read More](#)

Federal and State Governments invest \$40M expanding flexible aged care to ease pressure on Shoalhaven/Illawarra hospitals

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023

Older hospital patients in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven, the region immediately south of Sydney, may now be able to leave hospital earlier, after Federal and State Governments announced a \$40 million investment in an additional 35 Transition Care Programme (TCP) places in the region.

[Read More](#)

An operator wake-up call on resident abuse

The Weekly Source, Other, 12/07/2023

Proposed regulation reforms will require home care providers who are sole traders to be registered what will that mean for home care? In a recent webinar, the Department of Health and Aged Care outlined its proposed new model for regulation of the aged care system, including that all providers of Government-funded aged care services will need to register to operate, including sole traders delivering in-home care. [...] During the Royal Commission, the lack of regulation and oversight of home care was a point of concern, particularly given people's preference, and growing demand for, receiving care in the home.

[Read More](#)

What is 'sundowning' and why does it happen?

Your Life Choices, Other, 12/07/2023

The term sundowning is sometimes used to describe a tendency for people living with dementia to become more confused in the late afternoon and into the night. At the outset, I should emphasise the term sundowning' is overly simplistic, as it's a shorthand term that can encompass a vast number of behaviours in many different contexts.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, The Front Page, 12/07/2023, Jenna Clarke

A growing number of aged care facilities are closing due to workforce shortages, as regional providers warn they are being warned they are being left in limbo, waiting for exemptions under Labor's 24/7 nursing targets.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Sleep disorders a dangerous trend

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 5

Daytime drowsiness, mental health issues and even road accidents are all connected to sleep disorders that contribute to workplace productivity losses in as many as one-in-five younger Australians. The Flinders University study found significant workplace productivity losses among young Australian adults, primarily caused by insomnia.

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

Backlash over grog rehab vow

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/07/2023, Annabel Bowles, Page 5

The government and peak body for alcohol support services have hit out at the opposition's plans to enforce mandatory alcohol rehabilitation. CLP health spokesman Bill Yan said his party, if elected next year, would reintroduce the controversial policy amid his criticisms the government was focusing on restricting supply rather than reducing demand for grog.

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Teens fear booze harms

West Australian, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 5

Young people who avoid drinking alcohol heavily do so because of concerns about the long and short-term risks of drinking, Australian researchers found. The researchers recruited 40 teens aged 16-19 years in 2018 who said they rarely or never drank, then followed up with them two years later.

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

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

System failures contribute to state's sky-high death rate

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/07/2023, Benjamin Seeder, Page 8

The state's nation-leading mortality rates reflect the difficulties that some Tasmanians face in accessing general practitioners and hospital services in regional areas, according to a top doctor. [...] Data released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed that Tasmania has the highest mortality rate in the nation, with nearly 840 deaths per 100,000 population in 2021, the latest figures available.

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

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Stefani a solo mum by choice

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Olivia Shying, Page 11

Stefani Driscoll always dreamt of having a family. But when she was in her mid-30s, Ms Driscoll was faced with a worrying reality. If she didn't take action, her dream might not come true. So five years ago, the East Geelong resident decided to freeze her eggs as an "insurance policy". A few years later, Ms Driscoll, who was single, still had a burning desire to experience motherhood.

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Heaven can wait

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/07/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

Annette Young and Carolyn Crewe-Maxwell can look forward to a long life ahead, just by living where they do. The lucky duo are residents in an Illawarra LGA where, according to the statistics, women will live to a median age of 88, higher than anywhere else in the region. [...] According to new statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the national median age at death was 79 years for men and 85 years for women.

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

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Vaping in Queensland schools rife as principals forced to take extreme measures

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/07/2023, Matty Holdsworth

Queensland principals are confiscating at least 10 vapes per week and are going to extreme lengths to curb the "significant" issue from running rife in schools. Desk drawers have become the new homes of confiscated vapes with school insiders saying all students even in primary school are being caught up in the scourge.

How the Illawarra's lifestyle may be influencing the region's leading cause of death

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 12/07/2023, Kate McIlwain

Dementia is the leading cause of death for Illawarra residents, according to new data which shows how Australians are most likely to die in different places across Australia. This differs from the national trend, which shows coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death across Australia (causing 10.

[Read More](#)

Weight crisis leads to empowerment

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/07/2023, Adrienne Hartnett

Corowa's Kaz Hughes is passionate about empowering individuals on their weight management journey in the face of alarming obesity rates in the local region. Obesity rates in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD), encompassing the Federation Council area, have reached concerning levels with a staggering 68.

[Read More](#)

Accidents, hypertension and suicide driving unnecessary deaths in Wagga, AIHW death data reveals

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 12/07/2023, Dan Holmes

Wagga men are dying unnecessarily early, according to the latest figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The yearly Mortality Over Regions and Time (MORT) data-dump from AIHW covers the period from 2017 to 2021.

[Read More](#)

STI test vending machines installed in Echuca, Shepparton as infection rates rise

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023, Daniel Miles

Vending machines offering free sexually transmitted infection (STI) test kits will travel across regional Victoria as part of a 12-month trial tackling rising rates. The first of two custom-built machines has been installed in the Murray River town of Echuca as part of a University of Melbourne-led study aimed at improving sexual health outcomes in regional areas.

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

[Read More](#)

Targeted investments needed to address oral health inequities

Bite Magazine, Other, 12/07/2023

The Australian Medical Association is calling on commonwealth, state and territory governments to collaborate and make targeted investments in programs that provide health care services based on need. In its submission to a Senate inquiry into the Provision of and Access to Dental Services in Australia, the AMA said investment was needed to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have access to affordable and culturally appropriate oral health care.

[Read More](#)

Roll call of South Australian MPs at anti-abortion ball

In Daily, Other, 12/07/2023, Belinda Willis

Growing numbers of South Australian politicians are publicly showing their support for conservative anti-abortion groups "Love Adelaide" and Enid Lyons List including State Government Ministers and Liberal MPs. Primary Industries Minister Clare Scriven along with Liberal MLC Ben Hood and Liberal shadow spokesperson for regional South Australia, primary industries, water resources and the River Murray Nicola Centofanti all attended the inaugural winter ball held by anti-abortion march organisers Love Adelaide on the weekend.

[Read More](#)

GPs & nurses are 'first port of call'

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/07/2023

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has commended changes to improve access to medical abortion (PD yesterday), particularly for women living in rural and remote communities. The above snippet is the first part of an article sent to subscribers in Pharmacy Daily's issue from 12 Jul 23

[Read More](#)

'I feel guilty for feeling like that.' One fifth of breastfeeding women report an aversion response

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 12/07/2023, Melissa Morns

The benefits of breastfeeding are widely recognised, and many women find it an enjoyable and bonding experience. Women also often face challenges that can make it difficult to breastfeed, such as sore nipples or mastitis. Women sometimes also experience more complex breastfeeding challenges, such as a breastfeeding aversion response negative feelings that last throughout the feeding session and conflict with the woman's desire to breastfeed.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Special playground and a therapy garden for little ones with cancer

West Australian, General News, 13/07/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 9

Immuno-compromised children confined to Level One in the Perth Children's Hospital will soon have a space outside to play through the help of funding from Channel 7 Telethon. The current outdoor area at the oncology and burns ward is not fit for purpose, which means immunocompromised children have nowhere to play as they are unable to go into other areas of the hospital because of the risk of infection.

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FECRI tissue bank growth

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/07/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 5

A Melbourne breast cancer surgeon has joined a network of Ballarat cancer clinicians providing tissue and tumour samples to Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute to help further their research. Increasing the number of tissue samples is key to allowing FECRI scientists to conduct their research towards better outcomes for cancer patients.

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Heart disease, dementia biggest killers

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

New figures have detailed Geelong's biggest killers, with coronary heart disease named the region's leading cause of death. Between 2017 and 2021, there were 10,077 deaths recorded in Greater Geelong, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data.

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Biggest killer

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 13/07/2023, Monique Patterson, Page 1

Heart disease is Warrnambool's biggest killer, new data has revealed. An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found 106 males and 80 females died from coronary heart disease between 2017 and 2021. Despite the high figures, they were slightly down on the previous fouryear period where 109 men and 84 women died from heart disease.

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

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'Get checked for diabetes'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 13/07/2023, Aaron Smith, Page 6

It's National Diabetes Week and a south-west GP is urging residents to get checked for the disease. Type two diabetes rates in Australia have more than doubled since 2000, rising from 2.4 per cent to 5.8 per cent of the population.

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Goldfields women encouraged to attend free mammogram screening

Kalgoorlie Miner, Other, 12/07/2023

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 to August 2 and Wiluna from August 10 to 11 before being in Kalgoorlie-Boulder from August 14 to November 24.

[Read More](#)

Warning highly contagious bowel infection cases are rising in Victoria

9News, Other, 12/07/2023, Sarah Swain

Cases of a highly contagious bowel infection are on the rise in Victoria, health bosses say. The infection, called shigellosis, is becoming resistant to antibiotics. It is a bowel infection characterised by an acute onset of diarrhoea, fever, nausea, vomiting and abdominal cramps. It can cause severe illness and complications in young children, older people and those who are immunocompromised.

[Read More](#)

Why do younger people also need Australia's free bowel cancer kits

SBS, Other, 12/07/2023, Gareth Boreham

The age at which Australians receive free bowel cancer test kits could be lowered from 50 to 45 under recommendations to the Federal Government. A case surge in the under 50s has sparked warnings symptoms are being overlooked because patients aren't considered to be at risk. [...] Bowel Cancer Australia chief executive Julien Wiggins says draft guidelines to the Health Department have recommended lowering it to 45, and is hoping that can change within the next 12 months.

[Read More](#)

New diabetes diagnosed post COVID-19

Medical Forum, Other, 12/07/2023

COVID-19 and diabetes can interact at multiple levels. We know that in patients with existing diabetes the risk of developing COVID-19 is higher, as is the risk of a more severe illness. Also, similar to other viral infections, diabetes may be more difficult to control and require medication changes during an acute COVID-19 infection.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News Vic First at 4pm, 12/07/2023, Rebecca Maddern and Mike Amor

Interview with Robin Penty, CEO of the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. Women working in hair and beauty construction and many office roles may be at an increased risk of ovarian cancer. Regular contact with materials like bleach and talcum powder as well as long periods of sitting have been linked to the disease, according to a University of Montreal study. Penty says little is known about the correlation or association of occupational occupation and other environmental factors with ovarian cancer. She states it's an asymptomatic disease, so it's actually very difficult to treat.

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3AW, 08:30 News, 12/07/2023

About 2% of women working in certain professions exposed to agents such as cosmetic talcum powder, petrol and some bleachers could be at an increased risk of ovarian cancer. Researchers in

Canada have been evaluating the occupational hazards faced by women in a range of jobs. Those working as beauticians, hairdressers and in retail are most affected.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital guards hired to 'fill gaps'

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/07/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 1

NSW Health spent almost \$40 million on private security at Western Sydney hospitals without doing any background checks, prompting a scathing internal audit to warn that guards without training or credentials could have had access to patients and children. A copy of the February audit, obtained by the Herald, reveals that between 2020 and October last year the Western Sydney Local Health District spent \$39.6 million paying for private security at Auburn and Blacktown hospitals, as well as two drug treatment centres.

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Care clinic's bill of health

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/07/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 14

Tasmania's first urgent care clinic, a bulk-billing GP service with extended operating hours, will accept its first patients on July 31. The clinic one of four promised to the state will be at Launceston Medical Centre, within the Launceston Health Hub at 247 Wellington St. The innovative clinic will be open to walk-in patients from 2pm to 8pm daily. Services will be bulk-billed with the presentation of a Medicare card.

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GP practice to close its doors

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/07/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 8

The impending closure of a town's vital GP practice will ripple through the entire North Queensland health sector, its "gutted" owners say. Julie McKay and Carmen Edmondson said Cardwell Family Practice, the town's only full-time general medical business, would stop trading on September 1. "It's devastating not just for Cardwell, but it's devastating for Carmen and myself who have poured nine years of blood, sweat and tears into the place," Ms McKay said.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 12/07/2023, Sandra Sully

A little Gold Coast girl has lost some of her hearing waiting for surgery that parents and doctors say should be essential and not elective. Azalea Jones needs grommets, but in the public hospital system, that could take years. The Qld Government says a shortage of ear, nose and throat specialists is to blame, with some families waiting up to five months to even get an appointment. The Australian Medical Association believes the surgery should be classified as essential, not elective, and is pushing for more funding in the public hospital system. If you can't hear properly, you can't develop your speech and language skills properly.

[Play Now](#)

Seven ACT, Seven News Update, 12/07/2023, Unspecified

Waiting times for elective surgeries in Canberra hospitals have dropped to historic new lows. New data released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows wait times for non-urgent elective surgeries have fallen by more than 20% before the pandemic. Canberra patients were waiting an average of 228 days for surgery which was reduced to 179 days.

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Seven Tasmania, Nightly News, 12/07/2023, Kim Millar

Launceston Health Hub will house one of four urgent care clinics promised by the Federal Government. This is about taking pressure off the hospital system, but also recognising just how hard it is to access a GP.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Drug review over suicide

Daily Telegraph, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 17

The European medicines watchdog says it is reviewing three popular weight-loss drugs after reports they may trigger thoughts of suicide and self-harm among users. So-called GLP-1 receptor agonists are used mainly to treat diabetes but have gained massive popularity as a weight-loss cure, with doctors warning about potential side effects or shortages.

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Helping most vulnerable

Hobart Mercury, General News, 13/07/2023, David Killick, Page 14

An innovative federal government project is making sure that some of our most vulnerable are receiving the full range of support they're entitled to. Services Australia has embedded staff into a range of community organisations to help their clients access government programs and benefits as part of a Community Partnership Pilot.

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Mental blow for alps town

Border Mail, General News, 13/07/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 7

Having endured bushfires, COVID, a landslide on the road to Falls Creek and cost of living woes, Mount Beauty is now set to lose a free mental health service. From August, the Victorian government-funded NewAccess program will end after assisting nearly 300 people over the past two years.

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

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To hell and back

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/07/2023, Rhylea Millar, Page 1

I weighed 28kg and was on brink of death Few people truly understand the meaning of "hitting rock bottom," but Maddie Mortimer is the exception after a severe eating disorder left her weighing less than 30kg. After recovering from the condition which she battled for her entire teenage life, Ms Mortimer found herself struggling with homelessness and drug addiction.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#).

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Autism centre offers hope

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/07/2023, Blair Jackson, Page 9

A new autism centre in Townsville will mean the world to families like Layla Chapman's. Her five-year-old son Miles has stopped hurting himself when he's frustrated. He even learnt to communicate thanks to the teachers at the AEIOU Foundation in Townsville and now more families will benefit from a bigger, better centre.

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Unemployment, low work hours linked to suicides

Canberra Times, Other, 13/07/2023, Kathryn Magann

The impact of jobs on mental health has been highlighted by research suggesting about 10 per cent of suicides are linked to unemployment or low work hours. The study by researchers based at the Brain

and Mind Centre at the University of Sydney has sparked a call for governments to offer full employment.

[Read More](#)

MDMA and psychedelic therapy: who can access the newly-available drugs on prescription?

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023

The previously illicit drugs - which have been endorsed for years in clinical trials worldwide for their transformative potential alongside therapy - are now available on prescription in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Eating disorder expert Bronwyn Wood says burden is falling to private practice

The Border Mail, Other, 12/07/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan

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".

[Read More](#)

25,000 bulk billed mental health sessions available to Hunter's vulnerable

2HD, Other, 12/07/2023

More than 25,000 thousand bulk billed mental health sessions will be available in our health district this financial year for "priority populations". The Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network has developed the new program to ensure the most financially disadvantaged people across the region have access to mental health services.

[Read More](#)

Calls for release of unmet mental health needs report

In Daily, Other, 12/07/2023, David Simmons

Mental health advocates and Greens MPs are calling for the release of the Unmet Needs Study, commissioned by the former Liberal government following a 2019 report which identified a high level of unmet need for psychosocial services nationally including in SA.

[Read More](#)

The other side of career versus family

Medical Forum, Other, 12/07/2023

With eight out of 10 men visiting their GP regularly, and with the focus for Men's Health Week this year on Healthy Habits, general practice is well placed to support men focus on their wellbeing. When we think about men's health, one aspect that often gets overlooked is the close link between work and wellbeing. While family dynamics continue to change, it is still common to see men not just expected to earn an income, but a substantial income as the main wage earner in the family.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 12/07/2023, Will Goodings

Families of South Australians who've taken their own lives are hopeful a new suicide prevention initiative will save others. The State Government is investing \$1.5 million to deliver a more coordinated response.

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NEW FM, 08:30 News, 12/07/2023

More than 25,000 bulk billed mental health sessions will be available in Hunter Health District this financial year for priority populations. The Hunter Central Coast Primary Health Network has developed

the new programme to ensure the most financially disadvantaged people across the region have access to mental health services. The programme is funded by the Federal Health Department and eligible locals can get a referral through a GP.

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2CC, 17:00 News, 12/07/2023

The chief executive of a new private hospital specialising in mental health treatment is hopeful it will create greater access for Canberrans that need support. The Deakin Private Hospital opened recently and is being created in partnership with Medicare. The hospital's chief executive, Joanne Levin, says it provides a different approach to mental health care.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, Breakfast, 12/07/2023, Thomas Oriti

Despite being well established and funded by the state government and other parts of Victoria, the Streets Are Home programme is just being trialled in the Wimmera. It's the only programme in the region that actively seeks out people sleeping rough who've been unable to get help because of complex mental health issues, trauma, no transport or simply because of pride.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Wage stalemate over

Northern Territory News, General News, 13/07/2023, Annabel Bowles, Page 12

Nurses and midwives have finally broken their pay rise stalemate with the bulk of union members agreeing to a new deal. It includes a 3 per cent annual pay increase until 2026, as well as attraction and incentive allowances for all Territory nurses, up to \$9000. The enterprise agreement marks the first pay rise post the controversial wage freeze policy and the end of 15 months' of negotiations.

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Nursing graduates with life lessons they'll take to wards

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/07/2023, Anna Falkenmire, Page 14

Nurse Emerson Worthington knows firsthand how vulnerable you have to be to rely on healthcare workers. The Singleton man said it was surreal to graduate from the University of Newcastle (UoN) with a Bachelor of Nursing on Wednesday after overcoming huge challenges since starting his studies in 2017.

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Looking over border on pay

Western Advocate, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 2

Interstate pay deals could be used to guide future NSW public sector wage agreements as the state faces an exodus of essential workers seeking better conditions. The state government has asked its industrial relations taskforce whether wage deals should consider "workforce sustainability" as it mounts a major challenge to attract and retain key staff.

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Caesarean birth tool developed by Flinders Uni to cut brain damage

Adelaide Now, Other, 12/07/2023, Brad Crouch

A new tool developed by an Adelaide uni could cut the risk of brain damage and death linked to caesarian births, experts hope, as rates for the procedure hit new record highs. There are both risks and rewards for expectant mothers when working out.

[Read More](#)

Passion in practice for Urana nurse

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/07/2023

Jacinta Dore, Urana's Child and Family Health Nurse, combines her love for nursing and farming to make a positive impact on her community. Urana's Child and Family Health Nurse's role is more than just a job, it is a passion for her community.

[Read More](#)

Nightlife Health - primary care nurses to ease GP loads

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023

Have you noticed you can't get an appointment with your GP within a few days these days? A big part of the reason is the plain fact that Australia's population is aging.

[Read More](#)

Adelaide nurse provides protective presence against human rights abuses in Palestine

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 12/07/2023, Natalie Dragon

Israeli fighter jets, checkpoints, tear gas and building demolitions were frequent hazards for Australian nurse Carolyn Black during her time as an international observer in Palestine. Carolyn, a long term ANMF member and a perioperative clinical nurse educator (theatre) at Flinders Private Hospital, spent three months in Palestine with the human rights monitoring organisation EAPPI just before COVID in 2018-19.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical students enjoy a taste of Ballarat

Ballarat Courier, General News, 13/07/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 5

They're not your usual tourists, but a group of Deakin University medical students are spending three days on an 'immersion tour' of Ballarat enjoying not just the sights and experiences of the city, but its health services as well. Over two weeks, about 30 first-year medical students from Deakin will explore the city in the hope they will choose to return here to study at the university's Rural Clinical School in the third year of their course.

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Nats warn against a locum crackdown

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 13/07/2023, Eva Baxter, Page 3

NSW health Minister Ryan Park has vowed an "over-reliance" on private recruitment firms in the state's health system will be addressed, but National Party politicians say he should tread carefully in smaller communities. The former government was "over-reliant" on locum doctors as a "temporary fix" to regional and rural health worker shortages, the minister said. "It is simply unsustainable," he said.

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

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GP concern

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 14

Doctors are needed in regional towns, and solutions are needed to get them there. If you live in or near Cardwell, just don't get sick. That is essentially the only option now that the town's only full-time general medical practice is expected to stop trading later this year. The closure of the Cardwell Family Practice is not a new story it's something regional communities have seen multiple times in recent years.

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Improved doc program

Shepparton News Online, Other, 12/07/2023

Access to healthcare in regional communities will be given a boost, after the NSW Government's proposal to expand the Single Employer Model was approved by the Commonwealth Government. The Single Employer Model provides a tailored, coordinated pathway for doctors wanting to become Rural Generalists during their training in public health facilities and private GP practices.

[Read More](#)

What makes a 'top doc'? Study assesses media's favourite medical cliché

Australian Doctor, Other, 12/07/2023, Carmel Sparke

They're the high-fliers of the medical world until they fall from grace, say researchers looking at the who's who of top docs. It's handy in a headline and can include anyone from the Chief Medical Officer to academics to doctors fallen from grace. The label 'top doctor' or 'top doc' began appearing in newspaper headlines around 1985 and has grown increasingly popular especially since 2015, UK researchers say.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Small town fights back against 60-day change

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 13/07/2023, Rachel Gray, Page 3

One small New England town is fighting back against the federal government's plan to make medications cheaper, saying it could tear their little community apart. Caroline Sevil has owned the Uralla Pharmacy for about 10 years, and she says if the 60 days' dispensing change is introduced, her small business will lose about 35 per cent of its profits.

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

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Higgins misinformed on RPMA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/07/2023

Suggestions that rural pharmacies are set to get a \$90,000 funding boost to counteract the impacts of 60-day dispensing are wide of the mark. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) president, Dr Nicole Higgins, is being told to "get real" after claiming that increased funding through the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) will ensure

[Read More](#)

Expect an increase in demand for long acting injectable buprenorphine

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 12/07/2023, Chloe Hava

Changes to the Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) program that came into effect on 1 July 2023 could make long-acting injectable buprenorphine (LAIB) the best option for many people. Now individuals can access the ODT program from their pharmacist at a fraction of the previous cost, pharmacists should expect an increase in demand for ODT services whether from those new to the program or private-clinic clients. [...] Under the new PBS arrangements, LAIB will only be funded through hospital or community pharmacies,' he said.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Afternoons, 12/07/2023, Sonya Feldhoff

Interview with Greg Scarlett, Vice President, Pharmacy Guild of South Australia about an independent report which suggests that South Australia, through the new change in policy in regards to dispensing prescriptions for months at a time rather than just one month will see up to 74 pharmacies lost in South Australia. Scarlett says the measure is being forced on pharmacists. He states it will take away income from community pharmacies, a 40% reduction in most cases.

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

'Means test NDIS and save billions'

The Australian, General News, 13/07/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Up to \$3bn in savings could be made by the NDIS every year if means tested co-contributions were implemented, according to modelling from a company involved with the scheme, with the Albanese government urged to stop fully funding "non-critical" services. In an open letter, Kismet chief executive Mark Woodland said NDIS Minister Bill Shorten's solutions to reining in spending on the \$40bn scheme needed to be "smarter and less simplistic".

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

Leanne Castley says Auditor-General should explore digital health record 'fiasco'

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Lucy Bladen

The implementation of the ACT's digital health record has been a "fiasco" and the Auditor-General should conduct a review of the system, the opposition has said. Performance data on the territory's health system, including emergency department wait times and elective surgery wait lists, has been unable to be reported since the system was implemented late last year.

[Read More](#)

Helping refugees access WA's health care

Medical Forum, Other, 12/07/2023

GPs play a critical role in ensuring refugees have access to patient-centred and culturally receptive health care. Kathy Skantzos reports For the thousands of refugees and humanitarian entrants who enter Australia each year, there are many health issues they may be experiencing, ranging from physical to psychological and emotional.

[Read More](#)

Immediate results

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 12/07/2023

The Australian Digital Health Agency has created a video to help engage Australians with diabetes with quality information on how to access their diabetes management (HbA1c) test results in My Health Record. The above snippet is the first part of an article sent to subscribers in Pharmacy Daily's issue from 12 Jul 23

[Read More](#)

2CC, 12:00 News, 12/07/2023

The Opposition has asked the Auditor General to conduct a review of the ACT Government's \$327 million digital health record. It's after it was revealed that reliable health data for external reporting is still not available after nine months. The Canberra Liberals Leanne Castley says she's unsurprised that this is happening.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Guilty finding mortal blow for Teo's career

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/07/2023, Kate McClymont, Page 1

The career of controversial neurosurgeon Charlie Teo is effectively over due to conditions placed on his practising certificate following a formal reprimand and a finding that he was guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct. The damning findings were handed down yesterday by the Health Care Complaints Commission's professional standards committee, which was investigating the once-feted surgeon over futile surgeries that left two patients in a vegetative state.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [News.com.au](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#).

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Doctor suspended after wife's death

Age, General News, 13/07/2023, Bianca Hall, Page 4

A Melbourne doctor who cut his wife's throat with a kitchen knife and then waited more than three hours to call an ambulance has been suspended by the federal health regulatory agency. [...] Before his medical registration was suspended late on Tuesday, according to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's website, Spencer had conditions placed on his registration, including that he could only practise medicine under supervision.

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

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

Nurses 'held hostage' by patients, 'attacked'

Canberra Times, General News, 13/07/2023, Blake Foden, Page 1

A nurse sacked over the disclosure of patient information has unloaded on her former bosses, accusing them of failing to take the safety of staff at a secure mental health unit seriously. Carol Sandland made that claim in the Fair Work Commission on Wednesday, when she described staff being taken hostage, attacked with a broken tray and threatened with hot coffee.

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

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

Buck passed on ESA

Canberra Times, General News, 13/07/2023, Jasper Lindell, Page 1

Emergency Services Minister Mick Gentleman says the findings of a review into his agency are "concerning", but would not say whether he remained confident in the agency's commissioner, Georgeina Whelan. Mick Gentleman said it would be up to the public service to implement the recommendations of the management review, after the firefighters' union and opposition called for him to be stood aside and another minister appointed to overhaul the agency.

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

Doctor banned after forging scripts

Canberra Times, General News, 13/07/2023, Tim Piccione, Page 5

A Canberra doctor has been temporarily banned from practising medicine after forging dozens of pharmaceutical prescriptions for himself. "The conduct was unlawful, unethical and dishonest, and was likely to affect the good reputation and standing of the medical profession," the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal said in its decision published on Wednesday.

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

ABC News, ABC National News, 11/07/2023, Joe O'Brien

Minister Ged Kearney says changes to the abortion access care through newly approved prescription powers for doctors are a good thing.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, The Project, 12/07/2023, Waleed Aly, Sarah Harris, Sam Taunton and Nick Cody

Charlie Teo has been found guilty of professional misconduct and will now be restricted in operating as a brain surgeon in Australia. The Health Care Complaints Commission made the call following extraordinary allegations from patients' families who suffered catastrophic outcomes as a result of Teo's operations.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, Breakfast, 12/07/2023, Ben Fordham

The New South Wales Government has launched a review into how doctors treat children who want to change their gender. It follows an investigation by Four Corners. On Monday night, during the program the ABC highlighted issues at Westmead Children's Hospital, Westmead Gender Clinic was accused of being short staffed and not having enough access when it comes to kids wanting to change their gender.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Clean sweep denied: Blues save Best for last

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 13/07/2023, Will Swanton, Page 1

There's a bit to live up to when your name's Bradman Best. You've gotta be better than average, right? Your performances ought to be unrivalled. The 21-year-old NSW rookie with the finest name in Australian sport has always seemed made for State of Origin.

Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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

FIFA bigwigs book city's top hotel for World Cup

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 13/07/2023, Cbd Kishor Napier-Raman and Noel Towell, Page 4

The FIFA Women's World Cup, which kicks off next week, promises to be the biggest sporting event to grace these shores since the 2000 Olympics - and it comes courtesy of organisers who have a well-deserved reputation for rampant corruption, greed and skulduggery. FIFA is living up to that reputation with news this week that the self-appointed custodians of the world game tried to issue an inexplicable and now-reversed directive to cover up plaques on statues of Australian athletes at Allianz Stadium.

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

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Broadcasters kick goals with coverage

Age, Green Guide, 13/07/2023, John Mangan, Page 2

What is a "sport tsunami"? Turn on the television any night this month and you'll see. It's been a non-stop barrage of live, top-quality, history-making sports drama. You mean the Ashes? It's not just cricket. As you flick from station to station you'll see first-class tennis, cycling, AFL and rugby league, and later this month soccer's Women's World Cup is on.

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Women bring winter thaw

Women are set to kick off a winter wonderland of events in Melbourne. A female-led feast of entertainment from sport to the arts will take over Australia's events capital, starting with a blockbuster Matildas-France showpiece at Marvel Stadium on Friday. Stage star Brianna Bishop will play Ella a modern, feisty version of Cinderella in Midnight the Musical, until July 23.

Similar coverage reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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

Formula fun back with Danny Ric

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Callum Dick, Page 1

Our Dan back in hot seat Daniel Ricciardo's six-month enforced Formula One sabbatical is over. The West Australian will replace Dutchman Nyck de Vries at Red Bull's sister team, Scuderia AlphaTauri, as soon as next weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix.

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Shark the hunted in proposed peace deal

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Tom Minear, Page 11

The bosses of the PGA Tour plotted to dump Australian legend Greg Norman from his role running LIV Golf as part of a stunning peace deal with the Saudi-backed rebel league. The two competitions, the world's top golf tour and the Norman-led upstart, last month agreed to join forces after a bitter 18-month dispute in which LIV poached leading players, including Australian star Cameron Smith.

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RNA call a no-brainer

Courier Mail, General News, 13/07/2023, Stephanie Bennett, Page 1

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner has backed a push to transform the RNA Showgrounds into an arena suitable to host AFL and cricket saying it was a "nobrainer". With the Gabba set to be knocked down and rebuilt ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Mr Schrinner said the Brisbane Lions and Heat "need to play in Brisbane".

Similar coverage reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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

Water danger lurks for children

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 2

Safety agencies have urged the community to actively supervise children playing around in farm dams and other regional water bodies. The winter warning is part of a safety campaign by Kidsafe Victoria, Life Saving Victoria and Farmsafe Australia. Almost a third of all toddlers who drowned last year died in water bodies like lakes, dams, rivers, and creeks, according to statistics compiled by the Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia.

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Origin ad ban call for kids

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 7

Children watching State of Origin last night would have been "bombarded" with advertising for alcohol, gambling and fast food, with research showing one-in-four ads during the sporting event are for those products. It is prompting calls from Teal MP Dr Sophie Scamps for laws banning advertising for the products during certain times.

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

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Australian Diamonds dress unveiling exposes Netball World Cup's sponsorship blow

The Australian, Other, 12/07/2023

The Netball World Cup has suffered a massive blow just weeks out from the first match with major

sponsor Vitality withdrawing their involvement. Medical insurance company Vitality had secured naming rights to the tournament which is set to get underway in Cape Town later this month but an 11th hour blow leaves World Netball in something of a crisis.

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

[Read More](#)

FIFA backflips on Sydney stadium statue cover-up amid outrage from legends' families

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/07/2023, Daanyal Saeed

Outrage from the families of Australian sporting legends has prompted a backflip from football officials ahead of a home World Cup. FIFA has been forced to backflip after outrage over its move to protect its sponsors from the families of Australian sporting legends, The Daily Telegraph reports.

Similar coverage reported by: [4BC \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Major League Cricket aims for US breakthrough

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 12/07/2023

The most ambitious attempt yet to establish professional cricket in the United States gets under way on Wednesday when wickets will be pitched for the start of the inaugural season of Major League Cricket. With backing from four franchises in the Indian Premier League, including the league's most successful teams the Mumbai Indians and the Chennai Super Kings, MLC has plenty of money and expertise behind it, unlike prior attempts to crack the American market.

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

[Read More](#)

SA gymnastics boom leads to coach and venue shortages

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023, Sophie Holder

The popularity of gymnastics in South Australia is booming, leaving regional areas looking for coaches while the state's major stadium struggles to host competitors. In the Riverland the sport has become so popular the regional club has about 175 people on its waiting list.

[Read More](#)

The standoff over broadcasting the FIFA Women's World Cup

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023

FIFA drew a line in the sand over broadcast rights for the Women's World Cup, with Gianni Infantino insisting a fair price must be paid for the women's game.

[Read More](#)

FIFA secretary-general Fatma Samoura focused on culture, equality and breaking the FIFA mould

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023, Tracey Holmes

Fatma Samoura is the straight-talking black Muslim woman who runs world football. If you wonder why it is necessary to point out her skin colour, her gender, and her religion, it is because they are important to her.

[Read More](#)

Women's World Cup brings attention to abuse in soccer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/07/2023

Sinead Farrelly wasn't sure she'd ever come back to soccer. Farrelly, whose story was at the center of an abuse scandal that rocked women's soccer in the United States, hadn't played for more than six years before re-embracing the sport this spring. "I wouldn't have been able to do it unless I was able to get that off my chest and get that story out, because the healing and liberation from that had to occur before I could ever play again," she said.

[Read More](#)

ACL injuries are keeping stars out of the Women's World Cup

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 12/07/2023

Some of the biggest names in the game won't be playing in the Women's World Cup because of what feels like an epidemic of ACL injuries - and players are asking why. Netherlands forward Vivianne Miedema, England's Leah Williamson and Beth Mead, Canada's Janine Beckie and rising U.

[Read More](#)

School of hard knocks

Medical Forum, Other, 12/07/2023

How can GPs play a better role in the management of concussion and information regarding CTE? Suzanne Harrison reports When Barry Beecroft first started playing professional football for South Melbourne in the early 1970s, he and his teammates were regularly concussed on the oval and simply kept on playing.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Investors' antibiotic push over superbugs

The Australian, Business News, 13/07/2023, Alice Uribe, Page 19

Concern over the rise of drugresistant superbugs is spreading beyond hospital wards and health clinics to the world's major financial centres. A number of large institutional investors are joining together to put pressure on food companies to curb the use of antibiotics in livestock, which the World Health Organisation says is contributing to some infections becoming hard to treat with existing drugs.

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Stroke of genius

Herald Sun, General News, 13/07/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 1

A clot-busting medication researchers hope will be the first stroke "drug breakthrough" in more than 30 years will be given to Australians as early as next month in a world-first trial. The "homegrown" Aussie drug, developed by scientists at the Heart Research Institute, can be traced to a Box Hill Hospital discovery in the '90s. Six hospitals including the Royal Melbourne will begin offering the drug to patients in coming weeks, in combination with the existing treatment they would have received.

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

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Crunchy snack for heart health

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/07/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 6

Eating a handful of nuts each day can significantly cut down six risk factors for heart disease, according to new University of Wollongong research. Dr Lauren Houston, the author of the UOW study recently published in the Advances in Nutrition journal, said her research indicated the vast-majority of Australians needed to increase their intake of nuts.

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Pioneering flexible gold sensors for next-generation medical implants

Manufacturers' Monthly, General News, 01/07/2023, Page 24

University of Queensland researchers have unveiled an extraordinary breakthrough in medical implants: a flexible gold sensor for implants. Manufacturers' Monthly sat down with Dr Mostafa Kamal Masud and Aditya Ashok to discuss how their groundbreaking research promises to revolutionise the efficiency and reliability of implantable medical devices.

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Even 'safe' levels of air pollution can trigger heart attacks - and you can be struck down within an hour of inhaling dirty air, study warns

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023, Emily Craig

As concentration of the pollutant increase, so did the risk of heart attacks Even 'safe' levels of air pollution can trigger heart attacks, a study suggests. Researchers also found people can be struck down within just an hour of breathing in dirty air.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 12/07/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Australian scientists are hoping to unlock the secret to fast dieting and keeping the weight off long term. Researchers at the University of WA believe rapid weight loss is the key to tackling obesity.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Elder's early pension payment bid quashed

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 13/07/2023, Hugo Timms, Page 3

An Aboriginal elder has failed in a bid to access his Age Pension earlier than non-Indigenous Australians, in a landmark ruling handed down by the Federal Court. Wakka Wakka man Uncle Dennis Fisher, 66, sued the commonwealth last year, arguing that he should receive the Age Pension earlier than non-Indigenous Australians on the grounds of a shorter life expectancy.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).

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Voice will make its own decisions: Burney

The Australian, General News, 13/07/2023, Paige Taylor, Page 5

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney has given the clearest indication yet that she would respect the right of the Indigenous voice to parliament to decide what it advises on. During a campaigning tour for the voice on Western Australia's south coast on Wednesday, Ms Burney reiterated the four key areas on which the federal government would ask the voice for advice jobs, health, housing and education.

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

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Parliament will add flesh to voice skeleton

The Australian, General News, 13/07/2023, Robert French, Page 11

In 1891, at the outset of the process of drafting an Australian Constitution, Sir Samuel Griffith, then premier of Queensland and later to be the first chief justice of Australia, said: "There is no doubt that here, as everywhere, there will be timid men who are afraid of launching into something new; but when was ever a great thing achieved without risking something. It is right to assess risk and return when looking to constitutional change."

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

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

Residential care to be scrapped

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 13/07/2023, Michael Nolan, Page 1

The cost of wages, rent and food have forced Churches of Christ to end its multimillion dollar contract

to provide care to some of the Darling Downs' most vulnerable teens in residential homes. Churches of Christ in Queensland told its staff it will transition out of youth residential, supported independent living services and family support services by September 30. The decision affects dozens of group homes across Queensland, and four in the Southwest region.

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Indigenous focus in milestone suicide prevention plan

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Tim Dornin

Australia's first legislated suicide prevention plan will deliver specialised training and include a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. South Australia has launched the \$1.5 million plan after taking feedback from more than 3200 people who had experienced suicidal distress, cared for someone through a suicidal crisis or lost someone they cared about.

[Read More](#)

Domestic violence survivors rendered homeless in Katherine due to lack of crisis accommodation

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023, Samantha Dick

Lawyers in a Northern Territory town are having to search for clients fleeing domestic violence in makeshift homeless camps due to a critical shortage of safe housing. The regional town of Katherine, about 300 kilometres south of Darwin, is a major service hub for more than 20,000 people across dozens of remote communities.

[Read More](#)

Fund pharmacists in ACCHOs: advisory body

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 12/07/2023

Embedding pharmacists in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) delivers improved health outcomes and value for money, experts believe Funding to embed non-dispensing pharmacists in Aboriginal health services is set to be delivered following support from the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).

[Read More](#)

After overcoming adversity, Indigenous entrepreneur Jeffrey Morgan is using lived experience to mentor others

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/07/2023

Life Style Program chief executive Jeffrey Morgan has spent 18 years of his life in prison after being born into a system that wasn't designed to see him succeed. Now he's a leading Indigenous Australian mindset and Life coach, a successful entrepreneur, nutritionist and mentor.

[Read More](#)

Grim reading: Closing The Gap report highlights 'snail's pace' progress

National Indigenous Times, Other, 12/07/2023

Australia's peak body representing the rights and welfare of First Nations children has echoed criticism that the status quo is failing Indigenous families and children. SNAICC CEO Catherine Liddle said the Productivity Commission's third annual Closing The Gap report made for grim reading and clearly showed children were being failed by proposed reform, with more First Nations children being removed from their families.

Similar coverage reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC, ABC News, 12/07/2023, Jessica Harmsen

Groups across the South Australian community will be the focus of a new statewide suicide prevention plan. First Nations people, men, people living in regional and remote communities, veterans and first responders are among those who've been identified as being at increased risk of suicide. The prevention plan is being backed by \$1.5 million to roll out specialised suicide prevention training to

really start to improve people's confidence and capability in suicide prevention, but also the awareness of those signs and ways to assist people.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Afternoons, 12/07/2023, Angie McBride

Interview with John Manion, CEO, Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation, Dr Tina Brodie, postdoctoral research fellow, SAHMRI, and Ian James, Principal Aboriginal Mental Health Advisor, SA Health. Brodie says she's working on quite a few different projects around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Melbourne, 12:00 News, 12/07/2023

An indigenous health expert says new Closing the Gap data is not good enough. The Productivity Commission's annual report shows rates of adult imprisonment, children in out-of-home care and suicide have all increased. Indigenous health professor Faye McMillan says all levels of governments aren't paying attention to what First Nations communities are asking for.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Flu alert as girl dies

Courier Mail, General News, 13/07/2023, Jill Poulsen and Elizabeth Neil, Page 1

An 11-year-old Queensland girl has died with the flu a day after she was released from a private hospital's emergency department. Sunshine Coast girl Emma Schwab was taken to Noosa Hospital ED on July 5 after contracting influenza B, but the next day she was back home when an ambulance was called. Her death comes as chief health officer John Gerrard warned parents of flu dangers.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [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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Flu's sting proving far worse than jab

Newcastle Herald, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 40

Masks and other pandemic paraphernalia may seem like part of our past, but the reality is that airborne viruses are very much still with us. Before COVID-19 turned things upside down, the flu was a commonplace occurrence for most of us. While some were more vulnerable than others, which coronavirus illustrated with lethal efficiency, for the majority a dose of the flu was met with a prescription for rest and fluids.

Also reported by: [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#),

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CSL Seqirus' \$800 million manufacturing facility nears completion

Manufacturers' Monthly, General News, 01/07/2023, Page 22

CSL Seqirus has announced that construction of its new state-of-the-art vaccine and anti-venom manufacturing facility in Tullamarine has reached its highest point, known as 'topping out'. The facility will use innovative technology to produce seasonal and pandemic cell-based influenza vaccines, CSL Seqirus' vaccine adjuvant technology (MF59), the world's only approved human vaccine for Q fever, and antivenoms for venomous creatures native to Australia.

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What's RSV again? The *other* winter virus that's hitting hard

[Read More](#)

Sexually-transmitted superbug on the move in Melbourne

ABC Online, Other, 12/07/2023

The Victorian Department of Health has seen an increase in cases of a sexually-transmitted type of gastro. The bacteria is called Shigella, and authorities are particularly concerned about antibiotic-resistant strains.

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

[Read More](#)

Surging bird flu outbreaks raise human-infection risk, UN agencies warn

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/07/2023

Three UN agencies on Wednesday warned that an ongoing rise in avian flu outbreaks globally raised concerns that the virus might adapt to infect humans more easily, and urged countries to strengthen disease surveillance and improve hygiene at poultry farms.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine Early News, 13/07/2023, Alex Cullen

Health authorities are this morning urging parents to vaccinate their children against the flu after an 11 year old girl died from the virus on the Sunshine Coast. It's the second confirmed death of a young person from the flu this week following the passing of a year nine girl in New South Wales.

[Play Now](#)

ABC, Late Night ABC News, 12/07/2023, Michael Tetlow

Health workers say cost pressures and vaccine fatigue are to blame for Australia's lagging flu vaccination rate. Just 32% of the population has been jabbed against the potentially deadly disease, with young children among the least likely to be vaccinated.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 12/07/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

Interview with Dr Nick Coatsworth, Today medical expert. Coatsworth says Australians under the age of five are particularly vulnerable to influenza. he adds there's Covid 19 vaccine fatigue which means less uptake of vaccines.

[Play Now](#)

2GB, 23:00 News, 12/07/2023

Parents are being warned about the dangers of the flu and the importance of the vaccine after a teenager on the New South Wales Central coast died with the virus.

[Play Now](#)

Radio Australia (Asia Pacific), Pacific Beat, 12/07/2023, Compere

The International Atomic Energy Agency has told Pacific leaders it is confident about a plan to release treated nuclear waste water into the Pacific Ocean. Now Japan plans to begin discharges from the Fukushima nuclear power plant later this year. The IAEA has published a two year safety review into this plan, saying it will have negligible impact on the Pacific.

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Hurdles to be removed so access to abortions in Tasmania is easier

Burnie Advocate, General News, 13/07/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 10

Tasmanian women, particularly in the state's regional areas, will soon have better access to medical abortions thanks to a decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the head of Women's Health Tasmania has said. From next month, doctors and chemists will no longer need extra certification or special registration to dispense prescriptions or medicine for medical terminations.

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

Roadblocks easing

Daily Advertiser, General News, 13/07/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 1

Riverina women seeking access to abortions should encounter fewer hurdles and not be forced out of the region for help following changes from the drugs regulator. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved an application from MS Health to remove restrictions on the prescription of medical abortions with MS-2 Step, with the major changes coming into effect and drastically widening access from August 1.

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

The Echidna: Staff shortages hit hardest in regional Australia

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Jenna Price

[...] Access to medical abortions is set to improve for women living in regional and rural areas after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved changes to current restrictions. The TGA's decision allows any appropriately qualified healthcare practitioner to prescribe and any pharmacy to stock and dispense MS-2 Step (mifepristone and misoprostol) from August 1.

[Read More](#)

Medigrowth to open medical cannabis production hub in Geelong

The Courier Mail, Other, 12/07/2023, Olivia Shying

A new medical cannabis hub will be established in Geelong, with a start-up partnering with Deakin University to manufacture cannabis, develop genetics and conduct research. [...] "Smart companies will see the value of pursuing clinical trials and following the traditional pharmaceutical pathways towards TGA approvals and registered medicines.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

CBD injecting room may be at Salvos site

Age, General News, 13/07/2023, Bianca Hall, Page 1

The prospect of a medically supervised injecting room metres from Victoria's Parliament House has drawn heated condemnation from the state opposition and alarmed some city leaders, but advocates say it is a crucial and overdue facility that will save lives. The Age has confirmed the Salvation Army building on Bourke Street is one of several sites under consideration by the government for Melbourne's second injecting room, but a spokesman for Mental Health Minister Gabrielle Williams said no decision had been made on the final location.

Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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

Drug wastewater monitoring reveals regional Australia's drug use

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Anna McGuinness

On average three people die each day in Australia amid a significant rise in the use of harm prescription opioids. Consumption of pharmaceutical opioid fentanyl is rising in regional Australia as

alcohol and nicotine use falls to some of the lowest recorded levels. The use of opioids oxycodone and fentanyl remains much higher in regional areas than in capital cities, according to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [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 \(Newcastle\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [In Daily \(Online\)](#).

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Three charged following largest seizure of ketamine in Australia

Canberra Times, Other, 12/07/2023, Anna Houlahan

The AFP has arrested three members of an alleged Victorian-based crime syndicate after seizing 174kg of ketamine - the largest seizure of the drug in Australia. Three members of an alleged Victorian-based crime syndicate have been arrested after the Australian Federal Police (AFP) made the largest seizure of ketamine in Australia.

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'I'm not here to get you high': Meet Cannabis Nurse Deb Ranson

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 12/07/2023, Robert Fedele

Looking on from afar, registered nurse Deb Ranson was always intrigued about medicinal cannabis and its potential to ease pain and symptoms triggered by a range of conditions and diseases. She recalls listening to countless stories from patients and families about how the drug helped improve quality of life and wanted to delve deeper.

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Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 12/07/2023, Narelda Jacobs

Wastewater analysis from around the country shows drug use spiked over summer despite drug busts like the one in Victoria. According to the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring programme Melbourne had the most heroin and ketamine users, while Sydneysiders consumed the most cocaine and MDMA.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 12/07/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

A World First clinical trial is offering hope to the millions of Australians suffering chronic back and neck pain. The cannabis oil is achieving positive results for patients with few other options after six months of worsening muscle and joint pain.

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Court staff threatened following Wreck Bay settlement, judge says

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 13/07/2023, Page 4

Misunderstandings surrounding the Wreck Bay class action settlement have led to court staff being "threatened", a Federal Court judge has claimed. Just days before the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council's class action was due to go to trial, the Commonwealth Government agreed to pay \$22 million to those impacted by firefighting foam containing toxic PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) which seeped into sacred waterways.

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