



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 18th July 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports surgeons are exploiting taxpayer-funded efforts to reduce Victoria's elective surgery waitlist, cancelling procedures on weekdays and rescheduling them for evenings and weekends to collect higher fees, industry insiders have warned. Two anonymous whistleblowers said the program was open to abuse and called for an urgent review by the Auditor-General.
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports Queenslanders will be able to access free flu vaccinations from Saturday until the end of August as the state grapples with a "horror" flu season that has already claimed 56 lives. State Health Minister Shannon Fentiman said Queensland will advocate for the flu jab to be made free annually as part of the National Immunisation Program at a national meeting of health ministers in Canberra later this week. *Also reported by:* [The Australian](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Cairns Post](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [ABC Online](#), [The Guardian](#), [9News](#)
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 1) reports blood tests and brain scans set to replace memory tests as early diagnostic tools for Alzheimer's Disease are not widely available in Australia and would only be available for research and clinical trials, health experts say. New diagnostic criteria for the condition were unveiled at the Alzheimer's Association international conference in the

Netherlands this week in response to recent significant technological advances. *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [ABC News](#)*

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 2) reports a government crackdown on vapes will only further entrench their black market availability, health experts have warned in a letter to be sent to MPs today. The letter, signed by 43 public health and addiction experts from Australia and New Zealand, calls for the proposed crackdown on vaping to be paused while further expert consultation occurs. *Also reported by: [Herald Sun](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [The Medical Republic](#)*
- [The Australian](#) (page 3) reports the discovery by Australian scientists of how a special white blood cell is created could lead to new treatment methods for cancer or vaccines for infectious diseases like strep A, tuberculosis and Covid. Murdoch Children's Research Institute leader of Cellular Immunology Daniel Pellicci said "Knowing this information about how these cells develop allows us to boost their numbers, which could make them more advantageous to combating infections through vaccines and cancer immunotherapies". *Also reported by: [ABC News](#)*
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 3) reports New South Wales Health is facing criminal prosecutions over allegations it failed in its duty of care over two nurses working in an acute mental health ward at Cumberland Hospital who died within weeks of each other in 2020. NSW Health employees have claimed the nurses were suspended from the hospital without any details in late 2020 and believed they were being discriminated against because they were in a same-sex relationship.
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports poor practices including "rushed" telehealth appointments and online quizzes are placing people at risk of being misdiagnosed with ADHD, Institute of Clinical Psychologists president Marjorie Collins says. Perth-based clinical psychologist Derek Cohen said "It is easy to tease out who is offering a legitimate method, from those who are really just providing an expensive screening service, because the aim of an assessment is a differential diagnosis."
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports concerns about expanded diagnostic powers for nurses to prescribe abortion medication have been criticised as "insulting, patronising, and out of touch with reality." Australian College of Nursing chief executive Kylie Ward said "Nurse practitioners are highly trained professionals who know their responsibilities in prescribing the abortion pill, provide ongoing care and management, and respond rapidly to any potential changes in wellbeing."

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Experts slam vape ban

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/07/2023, Joe Hildebrand, Page 2

More than 40 leading health experts have written to every state and federal MP in the country warning that the federal government's crackdown on vaping will have potentially catastrophic consequences. The letter, signed by 43 public health and addiction experts from Australia and New Zealand, will be sent to all MPs today warning that the existing ban has created a "dangerous black market" that will only get worse under Health Minister Mark Butler's clampdown on e-cigarettes.

*Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)*

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### Tough on puff warning

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 1

A government plan to crack down on vaping could further fuel the black market, a Deakin expert has warned. Under the push, only pharmacists would be able to sell vape products. [...] A spokeswoman for the federal Health Minister Mark Butler said vaping was creating a new generation of nicotine dependency in the community.

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### Dispensary debate

The row between the federal government and pharmacies is not letting up, with two local Sale pharmacies expressing concern about the 60-day dispensing policy ahead of its expected start on September 1. [...] In an email response to a series of questions from the Gippsland Times, spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler said the government is delivering "cheaper medicines through 60-day dispensing for more than six million Australians".

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## Will new dispensing rules affect you?

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/07/2023, Eileen Wood, Page 19

From September 1 patients will be able to receive a 60 day supply of some common PBS medications. The change means patients will be able to buy two months' supply of these medicines for the price of a single prescription. [...] Health minister Mark Butler said savings by the Government from lower dispensing fees would go back into pharmacy services.

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

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## Govt cops spray over Ingham health woes

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 18/07/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 9

Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto says he is tired of fighting for crumbs at the state government's dinner table as dozens of protesters gathered outside Ingham Hospital on Monday to demand vital service upgrades. He said respected members of the community, including Hinchinbrook Shire councillors, were rallying to push for the provision of a "full-time, 24-hour CT scanner service at Ingham Hospital". [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there was "no higher priority in health" for government than rebuilding general practice.

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## The Health Wrap: a COVID diagnosis, hope for better dental care, killer heatwaves – and lessons from HIV history

Croakey, Other, 17/07/2023, Melissa Sweet

In examining "the silent phase" of the COVID-19 pandemic, Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Russell diagnoses "a dearth of meaningful national data" and argues that there is no time for surveillance fatigue. Her latest column also reports on the latest developments in the unending campaign for more equitable access to dental care, progress on HIV/ [...] Earlier this year my Croakey colleague Alison Barrett reported that the Health Minister Mark Butler had promised that Australia's future COVID-19 policies will be evidence-led.

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## Pharmacies merge ahead of new rules

Glasshouse Country & Maleny News, Other, 17/07/2023, Kirra Livingstone

Montville's only pharmacy will close and merge with Mapleton as a direct result of the loss of the hinterland town's only GP service and the impending introduction of the federal government's 60-day dispensing policy. It leaves Montville without a doctor or a chemist for the first time in decades and brings to reality fears that the Federal Government's controversial dispensing policy will negatively impact the communities that Health Minister Mark Butler said were designed to benefit.

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## Reforms won't stop flow of tobacco's 'dirty dollars'

The Medical Republic, Other, 17/07/2023

Proposed legislation on smoking and vaping control still allow corporate giants to game the system, warn the RACGP and AMA. The AMA has come out swinging against draft reforms to tobacco laws, which will still allow major companies to make gifts and payments to politicians during election season. [...] The draft legislation is separate from the crackdown on illegal vaping announced by Health Minister Mark Butler at the National Press Club earlier this year, but is also designed to fit with the National Tobacco Strategy released in May.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### 24/7 nurse mandate sees aged care homes close

Aged Care Insite, Other, 17/07/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Multiple aged-care facilities have been forced close due to workforce shortages in June and July, one month after a nationwide 24/7 nurse mandate was introduced into Australia's nursing homes. Last week three aged care facilities announced their closure, leaving 70 residents to find new homes. [...] Last month, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells accepted there would be a shortage of nurses.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Mental health hub for kids coming here

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 18/07/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 4

Wollongong will have one of four new children's mental health hubs across NSW, which are designed to address the increase in kids struggling with mental health challenges. The federal and state governments will invest \$35.8 million in the Head to Health Kids Hubs, which will also be located in the Central Coast, Orange, and Penrith. [...] Federal assistant minister for mental health and suicide prevention Emma McBride said the hubs would be a welcoming space for kids and families.

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### Shut down fears

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 17/07/2023, Page 3

Needing at least one nurse working at all times in aged care facilities from 01 Jul, a number of the operators have said due to staff shortages they have put in exemption applications but have not heard back from the government, fearing they may need to shut down or not operate. Pharmacist and Assistant Minister Emma McBride spoke recently, "I understand that there have been no delays, that there have been 51 applications for exemptions".

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### Orsted seeks licences to build Australia's largest offshore wind projects

The Australian, Other, 17/07/2023, Colin Packham

Assistant Rural and Regional Health Minister Emma McBride says there is "genuine, constructive communicative consultation" between government and community after the Government announced its second offshore wind zone to be smaller in scale. "We're making sure that we're working towards renewable energy and at the same time working More

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

## DEPARTMENT

### New standards approved

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 17/07/2023, Page 3

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) confirmed last week that its Accreditation Standards for the credentialing of Aged Care Onsite Pharmacists and Medication Management Review (MMR) pharmacists have been approved by the Department of Health and Aged Care (PD Breaking News Fri). APC CEO Bronwyn Clark has thanked the stakeholders who contributed to the consultation process, with the next step being for education providers to begin developing and reviewing their programs aligned to the new standards, with applications accepted from 01 Sep.

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

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### First official day on the job for new health department secretary

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 17/07/2023

Today is the first official day on the job for the new secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Blair Comley. ...

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### No relief for GP rule pain

Glasshouse Country & Maleny News, Other, 17/07/2023, Kirra Livingstone

A petition led by Federal Member for Fisher, Andrew Wallace, to amend rules that deny crucial financial incentives to attract GPs to Montville has been rebuffed. Under so-called Modified Monash Model rules, Montville is essentially an urban area, while nearby Maleny is classified as rural and entitled to greater incentives to subsidise GPs. [...] "As such, medical practices and practitioners in these areas can seek a review of their eligibility for specific programs from the Department of Health and Aged Care."

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Fireys at war over vaccine mandate

Herald Sun, General News, 18/07/2023, Alex White, Page 11

A war of words has erupted between a group fighting for Victorian firefighter rights and the United Firefighters Union Victorian branch over Fire Rescue Victoria's extension of vaccine mandates. The Australian Firefighters Alliance says the UFU is abandoning some of its members after the union issued a press release on Sunday clarifying its stance on the statewide vaccine mandate extension applying to professional firefighters in Victoria.

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

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### Covid booster shot slump leaves aged care exposed

The Australian, Other, 17/07/2023, Jess Malcolm

Former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth said the low levels of vaccinations were alarming'. Picture: Getty Images More than 40 per cent of aged-care residents are no longer fully immunised from Covid-19, with doctors accusing Anthony Albanese of failing to protect the nation's most vulnerable from contracting the virus.

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## Professor believes nasal spray invention prevented him getting Covid

NEWS.com.au, Other, 17/07/2023, Rebecca Borg

The NSW government is scrapping its COVID-19 cleaning in school classrooms after infectious disease experts labelled it "ridiculous" and "questionable". A Melbourne health professor could hold the key to minimising the spread of Covid, after inventing a solution that could potentially protect Australians one spray at a time.

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

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## Channel 7, Seven News WA at 4pm, 17/07/2023, Samantha Jolly

Interview with Professor Don Campbell, Director, Northern Health about a clinical trial to determine whether the blood thinner heparin could be used as a shield against common viruses, including Covid 19. Campbell says the trial wants to determine whether or not the transmission of Covid within the household will be reduced if all members of the family are using heparin, nasal spray or a placebo, which will be normal saline.

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## Curtin FM, 06:00 News, 17/07/2023

Doctors are accusing the federal government of failing to protect the nation's most vulnerable from contracting Covid. Department of Health figures show more than 40% of aged care residents are no longer fully vaccinated. They're urging Labor to establish a mass vaccination drive in residential services.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Best ideas to make change

Ballarat Courier, General News, 18/07/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 5

Providing fidget toys for dementia patients at St John of God Hospital might seem small but it's a big idea that will bring positive benefits for patients and staff. The bank of fidget toys was named one of the winners of Ballarat's Best Ideas 2023 after staff member Anne Watson saw the need to keep dementia patients entertained while in hospital care.

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### Tick of approval for Sheoak

Border Watch, General News, 18/07/2023, Page 9

Sheoak Aged Care Facility has received the tick of approval from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner after a performance report was released earlier this year. According to the report, there was a site audit in July of last year where it was found the service was "unable to demonstrate" assessment and planning, including consideration of risks to consumers health and well-being.

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### Home's full of love, laughter

Daily Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Page 1

A Wagga aged-care facility has hit capacity just five months after opening and residents couldn't be more happy. Wagga Community Aged Care, on the Turvey Park site once home to CSU's South Campus, recently welcomed its 144th resident.

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## A modest proposal for breaking the gender and care connection — why not encourage shared paid parental leave?

We all know that care is gendered in Australia, and that the cultural norms around care create an expectation that women are more likely to care for children, older people, people with disability, and people when they are sick. Such societal expectations inevitably reduce the amount of autonomy that many women can exercise in their lives.

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## **NSW Aged Care sector in strife with staff shortages**

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023

Ahead of the last election, Anthony Albanese unveiled a policy requiring aged care facilities to have at a registered nurse on site at all times by July 1. But some NSW aged care operators are saying they can't recruit any nurses for regional areas, and may now be operating in breach of the new rules.

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## **Keeping your brain active could delay dementia**

SBS, Other, 17/07/2023, Adriana Wainstok

What people do when they reach the age of 70 can be crucial to their mental health. This is the result of research from Monash University has found when investigating the risks of developing dementia in later life.

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

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## **Funding boost to pave the way for aged care nurses**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 17/07/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Australian College of Nursing has received a funding boost to help train and upskill more nurses to work in the aged care sector. Under new rules implemented at the start of July, aged-care facilities must roster at least one RN on-site and on duty 24/7.

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## **'Not working': Calls to embed end-of-life care into nursing homes**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 17/07/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Chief of Australia's leading palliative care organisation has called to embed end-of-life services into aged care homes after new data showed increased pressure on public hospitals. Last week the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported that the number of palliative care-related hospitalisations has increased to 23 per cent over the past five years. [...] In the wake of recommendations handed down by the Aged Care Royal Commission, industry experts are now assessing how to improve palliative care access in residential aged care homes.

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## **Call for ageism awareness training for workers**

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 17/07/2023, Christopher Kelly

Aged care providers should educate their workers about ageism, Age Discrimination Commissioner Dr Kay Patterson told Australian Ageing Agenda "I'd like to see them doing training to make people more aware of their ageist attitudes and how that can actually influence the way they deliver care, either in the home or an aged care setting," she said.

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## **Catholic Health boss to step down**

Australian Seniors News, Other, 17/07/2023

Catholic Health Australia, the nation's largest non-government provider grouping of health and aged care services, has announced its chief executive, Pat Garcia, will be standing down after four years in the role. [...] Mr Garcia also chaired the aged care sector's steering committee for the sector-wide 'It's time for better aged care' campaign, reinforcing the call for substantial policy reforms and funding boosts in this critical sector following the release of the Aged Care Royal Commission's recommendations.

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## Self-managed hospital-to-home interventions necessary for frail older adults

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 17/07/2023

Frailty leaves older adults especially vulnerable and increases their stays in hospital which underlines the importance of a self-managed exercise and nutrition program that Flinders University is developing to help reduce frailty. The Flinders University research team has led a study that examines the effect of an individualised hospital-to-home, self-managed exercise and nutrition intervention for pre-frail and frail older adults who are hospitalised and has found encouraging results in helping to reduce frailty.

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## ABS data shows Australia is ageing, prompting a workforce, retirement and health wakeup call

The Senior, Other, 18/07/2023, Anthony Caggiano

We keep hearing that Australia is ageing, but what does that look like? The Senior's analysis of ABS population data from 1982-2022 shows a growing proportion of people aged 55+ representing the whole population, a shrinking amount of younger people, and a greater proportion of the overall population being eligible for retirement.

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## ABC News, Mornings, 17/07/2023, Chris Mitchell

Interview with Chris Mamarelis, CEO, Whiddon Aged Care. Some New South Wales aged care operators are warning that due to chronic workforce shortages, they can't meet that 24/7 nurse mandate and may be operating in breach of the new laws. Mamarelis says it's extremely challenging to recruit to meet some of these new ratios and requirements that have been put in place. He believes the government, even though they have been in they've come to power for some time now, I still think they're coming to terms with the gravity of what we have to deal with in the regions. He states they need more support from the Government.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Bins for Blokes on map

Local Government Focus, General News, 01/07/2023, Page 14

Around one in every 10 Australian males live with incontinence and Sunshine Coast Council is doing its part to help them out. In collaboration with the Continence Foundation, council has installed 102 male incontinence product disposal bins in public amenities across the region.

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### Mobile childcare in Gnowangerup shire on the front foot to solve poor health outcomes

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Briana Fiore

A not-for-profit, mobile childcare service is attempting to help solve poor health and dental outcomes in rural multicultural communities. Gnowangerup Family Support Association's pop-up services, based in the town 350 kilometres south-east of Perth, are sent to neighbouring towns including Borden, Ongerup, Newdegate and Nyabing.

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### American Heart Association says vaping is just as bad for the heart as smoking cigarettes



E-cigarettes may be as dangerous as traditional tar-filled cigarettes, the leading medical organization for heart health said. The influential American Heart Association warned that vape devices contain a cocktail of nicotine, thickeners, solvents, and flavors that likely pose the same severe risks to cardiovascular health, including raising blood pressure levels, as smoking cigarettes.

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## **Why you should be de-worming yourself every six months - as Aussie couple reveal 'horror' after finding worms in the toilet**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/07/2023, Shania O'Brien

Australian adults have been urged to get up to date on their de-worming precautions. Medical professionals have revealed that it's 'essential' for adults and children to ingest de-worming tablets or chocolate every six months. Tegan and Jarrod, from the Gold Coast, recently went to the doctor after finding several worms in their toilet.

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## **Call to 'get on' with vaping reforms**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/07/2023

An Australian Standard nicotine vaping products (NVPs) manufacturer wants the Federal Government and respective State Health administrations to "get on with the job" of implementing major health reforms to tackle the nation's vaping black market. The above snippet is the first part of an article sent to subscribers in Pharmacy Daily's issue from 17 Jul 23

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 17/07/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings**

The race is on to bring a tablet version of the world's most popular weight loss drug to Adelaide pharmacies. The pills will replace weekly injections on something health experts claim could reshape the future of dieting. The Danish drug maker says it plans to apply for approval of the daily tablet version of Ozempic in the US and the EU in the coming months, which means it could hit international shelves as soon as next year.

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## **Channel 9, National Nine News, 17/07/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes**

Medically backed drugs used to treat diabetes are now helping those struggling with obesity and weight loss while injections have been the only treatment option. Ozempic manufacturers now developing a once-a-day pill called Rybelsus.

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## **KIIS 97.3fm, 14:00 News, 17/07/2023**

There's a growing push for school canteens to be healthier. New research has found 40% of Queensland children rely on them more than once a week. Deanne Wooden from the Queensland Association of School Tuck Shops says 88% of parents want them to have better options.

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# **CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

## **White blood cell hope for cancer treatments**

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2023, Joanna Panagopoulos, Page 3

Australian scientists have discovered the origin of a specialised white blood cell that protects against infection and disease, and could lead to new immunotherapies for cancer or vaccines for infectious

diseases such as strep A, tuberculosis and Covid. Monash Children's Research Institute and Federation University Australia researchers showed for the first time "gamma delta T cells" were formed in a threestage process in the thymus gland, a small organ close to the heart.

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

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## Scammer hits sick child

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Isabella Holland, Page 15

The mother of a little boy fighting for survival after a bone-marrow transplant earlier this year has been targeted by an alleged "serial scammer". Mateoh Eggleton's mum Shalyn said she was devastated to learn she and her family had been scammed by a well-known Facebook con-artist.

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## Adeline gets a boost from Thai therapy

Border Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Beau Greenway, Page 5

A Wodonga-born mother is already seeing vast improvements in her daughter's quality of life after stem cell treatment. Lauren Hillier recently returned to Melbourne with her two-year-old daughter, Adeline Bickley, after 17 days of intensive treatment in Thailand, aimed at helping her better live with the brain injury she's had since birth, which preceded a cerebral palsy diagnosis at six months.

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

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## Cash pumped into cancer fight

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/07/2023, Matt Carr, Page 9

A grant of almost \$800,000 will help University of Newcastle researchers tackle one of the most deadly afflictions facing cancer patients. The Cancer Institute of NSW grant will fund research into cancer-related heart disease, the second highest leading cause of death for patients with cancer behind that disease itself.

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

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## Cruel blow for young Aussie, 25, living with a debilitating disease as 'last-resort' surgery results in a raft of complications: 'I'm drowning in my own body'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/07/2023, Carina Stathis

A young woman who required a bone marrow transplant as a 'last resort' to combat her Crohn's disease thought she was going to die in the process. Jordan Lambropoulos, from Adelaide, was diagnosed with the incurable inflammatory bowel disease at nine years old - and for the last 10 years doctors have 'exhausted every available conventional therapy' to try to help her.

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## Mum, 39, with olive skin who tanned easily and thought she was 'invincible' shares the shocking moment an 'annoying bump' on her face turned out to be skin cancer

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/07/2023, Carina Stathis

A mum-of-two who had a 'reality check' after being diagnosed with skin cancer in her 30s is urging others to be diligent with checks and sun protection. Frances van der Velden, from Sydney, was diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma (BCC) in late August 2020 after a 'blind bump' appeared on her left temple along the hairline. 'It looked like a sweat pimple - every now and then it would feel tender but never had a pimple head. I just thought I needed to cleanse my skin better,' Frances, now 39, told FEMAIL.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 17/07/2023, Michael Thomson

A world first cancer trial could be a key to improving outcomes for patients with advanced melanoma. It involves patients receiving a new type of immunotherapy not yet available to the public.

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## Sky News Live, Newsday, 17/07/2023, Kenny Heatley

Interview with Kris Thurecht, Research Director, Centre of Advanced Imaging. Thurecht discusses the opening of Australian Cancer Research Foundation facility at the Centre of Advanced Imaging. He says radiopharmaceuticals are becoming very popular overseas

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, 14:00 News, 17/07/2023

Australian researchers say a discovery could pave the way for preventative cancer treatments. Scientists at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute have found the way a particular type of immune cell develops in the body and protects against infection and disease.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### ACT has highest rate of staph infections

Canberra Times, General News, 18/07/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

Canberra hospitals have the highest rate of golden staph infections in the country, data has shown. The ACT was also the only jurisdiction to report a rate of infections higher than the national benchmark, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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### Dozens of hospital beds 'temporarily unavailable'

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 2

Dozens of hospital beds across some of Queensland's busiest hospitals, including those in maternity wards, were temporarily offline during a monthly census, new data has revealed. The census of beds across the state's 106 hospitals in February, obtained by the Opposition through right to information, revealed spots in maternity wards, overnight wards and intensive care units across a few hospitals were temporarily unavailable.

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### AEDs on the way for trains

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Gabrielle Hodson, Page 3

Sharon Van Der Kaay is a widow on a mission. Last week, the State Coroner recommended all V/Line trains carry a defibrillator after the potentially preventable death of Ms Van Der Kaay's husband Carl. Almost 50 country stations - including Ballarat, Ballan and Wendouree - carry Automated External Defibrillators, but there are none on the trains themselves.

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### Pressure builds for a major health check-up

Shepparton News, General News, 18/07/2023, Murray Silby, Page 3

Community Health First, an alliance of 24 registered community health services from across Victoria, including the Goulburn Valley, has presented the state government with five points of reform it says are essential. The services met with government and sector leaders, including Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas, on Tuesday to officially launch the Community Health First position paper Strengthening Victoria's Health System through Community Health.

Also reported by: [Shepparton News Online \(Online\)](#)

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## Regional infrastructure, health and business should be top of PM's agenda say leaders

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 17/07/2023, Rachel Clark

Business and health professionals want Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to bring some solutions for the challenges regional communities are facing, during his visit to Tamworth next month. The Leader has spoken to local experts about what they think should be the PM's top priorities.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 17/07/2023, Anna Vidot

The ACT Government says Covid and escalating construction costs are partly to blame for the recent decision to axe plans for a specialist elective surgery centre. The ACT Labor Party promised to build a \$21 million day surgery facility at the University of Canberra Hospital by 2025 if it retained power at the 2020 election. Now the Health Minister, Rachel Stephen-Smith says feasibility work revealed an opportunity to do a bit more at other health facilities.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Warning on ADHD online quiz assessment

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 7

More ADHD assessments are being rushed over Telehealth and there is a "significant risk" of patients being misdiagnosed because the process is falling short of best practice, the peak psychologists body has warned. Institute of Clinical Psychologists president Marjorie Collins said there was a "lot of poor practice" in diagnosing ADHD, including a growing number of clinics operating exclusively through Telehealth using online quizzes to assess patients.

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

### Guy crows about mental health program

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Todd Lewis, Page 2

A new partnership between the Adelaide Crows and pop superstar Guy Sebastian will aim to improve the mental health of thousands of South Australian students. The Sebastian Foundation and the Adelaide Crows Foundation will subsidise the Open Parachute program, which teaches practical mental health skills to students across the state.

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

### Liam Manning's struggle to find eating disorder support in Dubbo

Canberra Times, Other, 17/07/2023, Sarah Falson

When Liam Manning was 17 years old and living with an eating disorder, he had to travel 400 kilometres to Sydney and stay there for five months to get the medical help he needed to set him on a path to recovery. Liam needed specialised eating disorder treatment and this simply wasn't available in Dubbo.

[Read More](#)

### Defence suicide rates 'a national tragedy'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 18/07/2023, Sam McKeith, Page 12

Australia's military has serious questions to answer about the wellbeing of personnel and veterans amid a "national tragedy" of defence force suicide, the chair of an inquiry into the issue says. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is sitting in Adelaide for two weeks.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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

## Mental health and wellbeing in focus

Shepparton News Online, Other, 17/07/2023

Following the announcement that a Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) will be established in Benalla, Council is seeking expressions of interest from individuals, not-for-profits and businesses interested in improving community mental health, wellbeing and support. The new project, inspired by the findings of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health system, will be led by Benalla Rural City Council program coordinator Matt Debreceeny.

[Read More](#)

## Truckies to open up on struggles while on the open road

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/07/2023

As a young boy, like many others, Rod Hannifey was enamoured with big trucks. It fuelled a curiosity about the vehicles and those who drove them that ran deeper than most. "The bloke down the road actually had trucks, and I went down there and asked what he did and how it all worked," he says. Mr Hannifey went on to fulfil his childhood dream, and has ridden the long open roads for the past 30 years. But the job isn't all it's cracked up to be.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, Mornings, 17/07/2023, Karina Carvalho

Longitudinal studies show Australians are having less human contact than ever before and reporting higher rates of loneliness, a trend exacerbated by Covid lockdowns as the main drivers include people working longer hours, increasingly living alone, spending more time on social media and being less interested in community activities and volunteering. Michelle Lim, who heads a coalition of research organisations called Ending Loneliness Together, says while spending time alone is healthy, chronic loneliness has serious impacts.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 17/07/2023, Narelda Jacobs

A new study has found activities like crosswords and chess could prevent older people from developing dementia more than knitting or painting. The research by Melbourne's Monash University found Australians aged 70 and older who took on adult literacy and mental tasks were 9 to 11% less likely to develop dementia than their peers. Creative hobbies like crafting, knitting and painting reduce the risk by 7%.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 17/07/2023, Anna Vidot

Interview with Dr Anastasia Hronis. clinical psychologist about recent research that shows that more Australians are reporting feeling disconnected. Hronis says they're seeing that about a third of Australians were saying they were experiencing at least one episode of loneliness and since Covid it's increased to about 50%.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Criminal case over nurse deaths

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/07/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 3

NSW Health is facing criminal prosecution over allegations the agency failed in its duty of care over two nurses who died while working at the largest psychiatric hospital in the state. Friends of the two nurses, who worked in an acute mental health ward at Cumberland Hospital, have been kept in the dark over why, in late 2020, the two women, who were in a relationship, died within weeks of each other.

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

## 'A kind of grief': UK nurse told to retrain

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Alex Gretgrix, Page 2

Our people after taking time away to raise her family, Tamaryn Lim was ready to rejoin the nursing workforce this year. [...] A Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia spokesperson said people who have not worked in a number of years do "not meet the minimum Recency of practice registration standard".

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

## 285 jobs that need filling: Bosses call for more migrants to solve South Australian skills crisis

The Courier Mail, Other, 17/07/2023, Miles Kemp

Staff shortages have hit critical levels across almost 300 roles in South Australia with businesses buckling under pressure. A wide range of hospitality, nursing, building and automotive industry jobs are listed among the 285 most in trouble by the National Skills Commission. The shortfall has pushed businesses to resort to new measures to find workers, according to a recent Business SA survey.

[Read More](#)

## How will the new nurse to patient ratios at WA hospitals work?

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Keane Bourke

Nurse to patient ratios of one nurse to every three patients will come into effect from today at Perth Children's Hospital emergency department, with other hospitals around the state to follow. So how will this new structure be rolled out across WA?

[Read More](#)

## 5AA, Afternoons, 17/07/2023, Angie McBride

Interview with Elizabeth Dabars, CEO, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) on workforce shortage. Dabars says what they need is to have proper workforce planning. She states even before Covid people were feeling really overwhelmed by a system that simply wasn't able to cope with the load upon it. She adds they've been asking for incentives for midwives in rural and remote areas.

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## ABC Radio Perth, 07:00 News, 17/07/2023

WA Premier Roger Cook says a lot of work has been done preparing for new nurse to patient ratios at Perth Children's Hospital's Emergency Department today. More than two years ago, seven year old Aishwarya Aswath died of sepsis while waiting almost two hours to be admitted to the hospital. Following recommendations from a coronial inquiry, there will be a 1-to-3 nurse to patient ratio at PCH's emergency department. Cook says a lot of work has been done to prepare for this.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 17/07/2023, Fran Kelly

Interview with Hannah Dahlen, Professor of Midwifery in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University. Dahlen says they got data collecting measures in Australia that predominantly we still can't separate nursing and midwives because some midwives are double certificate. She states more midwives are leaving the system early. She notes they're working on a highly medicalised system and increasing trauma amongst women with midwives feeling that they are running from room to room.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Plea for rural GPs

Local Government Focus, General News, 01/07/2023, Page 10

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has urged governments across Australia to boost rural general practice care so that no patients are left behind. It comes following new data in a Nous Group report commissioned by the National Rural Health Alliance revealing that each person in rural Australia is missing out on nearly \$850 a year of healthcare access (equating to a total annual rural health spending deficit of \$6.5 billion).

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

## **Pilbara emergency services receive specialised skills training to overcome the 'tyranny of distance'**

West Australian, Other, 17/07/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

Some Pilbara emergency service staff have received free skills training to better prepare them to deliver trauma care in the vast north west of the state. The specialised training was provided by the emergency service not-for-profit CareFlight in Port Hedland on Saturday (July 15) and in Karratha on Sunday (July 16).

[Read More](#)

## **Calls to re-open Collie nurses quarters as accommodation shortages plague country towns**

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Jacqueline Lynch

Doctors and nurses are among those struggling to find accommodation in regional Western Australia, yet a 12-bed nursing quarters at a country hospital remains closed with no plans to fix it. The nursing quarters at Collie Hospital, in WA's south-west, shut in 2021 due to safety concerns about the ageing infrastructure.

[Read More](#)

## **I don't regret moving to Australia, but I still have my gripes about the treatment of IMGs**

Australian Doctor, Other, 17/07/2023, Paul Muthiah

Moving to Australia was one of the biggest decisions I ever made, one born out of frustration with the UK's NHS. And it seems that 10 years after my big move to the other side of the planet, with UK doctors on strike and the system in crisis, the time is right for Australia to take advantage of the situation and attempt to plug its own healthcare holes with a new recruitment drive.

[Read More](#)

## **2CC, 15:00 News, 17/07/2023**

There are hopes a trial of GPs training model could be rolled out across the Monaro following success in Murrumbidgee. The rural Practitioners model aims to target doctor shortages by allowing GP registers to be employed by the state government.

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## **TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS**

### **Pharmacist appeals PBS fraud sentence**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 17/07/2023

A pharmacist has cited financial pressures, including due to the pandemic, in his appeal against his jail term for PBS fraud. The NSW pharmacist made false claims for medicines including high-cost hepatitis C antivirals during the course of his offending, News Corp media report.

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## **MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH**

## 21st-Century Cures Act Down Under

The Medical Republic, Other, 17/07/2023

If our First Assistant Secretary of Digital Health achieves this one big thing, he could bring massive new value to the system and patients. You'd be forgiven for missing it, but we may well be in the midst of the most important health reform in Australia since Medicare. If you attended last Wednesday's major MedInfo23 plenary with Australian Digital Health Agency CEO Amanda Cattermole and the First Assistant Secretary of Digital Health with the DoHAC, Daniel McCabe, you could easily have blinked and missed what was going on between the lines of their rehearsed and prim presentation on the future of digital health and the release of the ADHA's National Healthcare Interoperability Plan 2023-2028.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Deep cuts

Age, General News, 18/07/2023, Davidest Court and Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

Much has been written in recent years about the toxic culture within Victoria's surgical profession. The industry seems to chew up and spit out doctors at a rate even faster than Spring Street dispenses with staffers. So it caught this column's eye when one of the surgeons at the centre of a 2015 sexual harassment scandal, Dr Chris Xenos, was going to court again, this time accused of malpractice.

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

### Surgery scam

Herald Sun, General News, 18/07/2023, Alex White, Page 1

The state government's \$1.5bn elective surgery blitz is "being rorted" by dodgy doctors, with whistleblowers calling for an urgent review of the program by the Auditor-General. Concerned health workers say the taxpayer-funded plan to ramp up procedures on weekends and at night to tackle the massive elective surgery waiting list is being manipulated for personal gain by "a few bad apples".

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

### Nurse allegedly tells mental health patient to 'die at home' at Queensland hospital

9News, Other, 17/07/2023

An investigation has been launched into a Queensland hospital after recordings emerged of a nurse allegedly telling a mental health patient to "die at home". Single mum-of-four Kristina Smith has struggled with severe mental illness including borderline personality disorder, depression and anxiety but says her children are the glue holding her together.

*Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

### Qld vet used 'fake dog' scripts to get restricted drugs for a mate

The Courier Mail, Other, 17/07/2023, Vanda Carson

A Queensland veterinarian has been struck off the professional roll after he wrote prescriptions for commonly abused drugs for anxiety and pain in the name of non-existent dogs, then gave them to a friend, or took pills themselves. The male vet, who has had their identity kept secret by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, was practising from a clinic in Innisfail when he abused his prescription privileges.

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## SPORT

### Football Australia backs women's push for boost to pay, prizemoney

Australian Financial Review, General News, 18/07/2023, Zoe Samios, Page 9

A senior Football Australia executive has backed the Matildas' demands for pay parity for female players and improvements to the FIFA prizemoney gap, as disputes among between some teams and national federations threaten to derail their Women's World Cup ...

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

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

### Cathy and Thorpey give Matildas a helping hand

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2023, Erin Smith, Page 7

Sydney Olympic heroes Cathy Freeman and Ian Thorpe have reached out to give the Matildas support and advice about handling the suffocating pressure of performing with expectation at a major world event on home soil. No athletes have greater insight into the pressure facing the Matildas as their World Cup campaign kicks off in front of a soldout stadium in Sydney on Thursday night than do Freeman or Thorpe.

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

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

### 'World is watching': Optus tunes up for cup redemption

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2023, Bianca Farmakis, Page 7

Twenty millions Australians are expected to tune into at least five minutes of the women's world cup, Optus predicts, as the telco confronts the controversies of the streaming services past. Clouds still shroud the company eight years on from the "floptus" saga that saw the platform fail to cover the Russia world cup because of technical problems and subsequently handing over a lucrative \$8m campaign to SBS to broadcast the matches.

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### 'Rough' cricket fans told to up their game

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 18/07/2023, Daniel Brettig, Page 1

Usman Khawaja says he would not want to take his children to the cricket in England given some of the language he has heard from the terraces and has decried the abuse directed at cricketers on tours to both England and Australia. During the lunch break on the final day in the second Test at Lord's, Khawaja pointed out individual members to MCC staff and Australian team security for abuse that he felt went too far, incidents that were captured on video shared with the Herald.

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

### Why MCG was a no go for Matildas

Age, General News, 18/07/2023, Greg Baum and Emma Kemp, Page 1

As more than 50,000 cheered the Matildas to victory in their preWorld Cup friendly against France at Marvel Stadium last Friday, visions of 80,000 or even 100,000 for a match at the MCG in the tournament proper would have danced in the minds of soccer authorities, knowing all the while they could never have been realised. The Matildas' only scheduled appearance in Melbourne in the tournament, against Canada on July 31, will be at AAMI Park known for the purposes of the World Cup as Melbourne Rectangular Stadium where the capacity is 30,000.

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

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## Trans cyclists face ban at top races

Age, General News, 18/07/2023, Carla Jaeger, Page 3

Transgender cyclists could be banned from some national women's events in Australia after the sport's global peak body imposed a blanket restriction that prevents them riding in the Tour de Femmes and Road World Championships. Some Australian events, such as the Elite Road Race National Championships, are governed by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), which banned trans cyclists.

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

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

## Blunder crashes Games event

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Andreas Nicola, Page 9

An epic technical blunder that sent hundreds of drones falling out of the sky has seen Brisbane's first major 2032 Olympics event cancelled over safety concerns. Up to 500 drones were set to illuminate the symbols of the Olympic and Paralympic Games over Brisbane's Story Bridge this Saturday night as part of the "9 Years to Go" celebration.

Similar coverage reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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

## It's Perth's magnificent Sevens

West Australian, Edition Changes, 18/07/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 1

Perth will be a host city for the 2024 and 2025 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series. The global tournament is a tourism drawcard and Premier Roger Cook described it as a "major coup".

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

## \$1.2m boost to sport precinct plan

Burnie Advocate, General News, 18/07/2023, Helen Kempton, Page 3

The federal government has given 1.2 million to upgrade facilities at Devonport's Byard Park as the city works to become a regional sporting hub. In July, Devonport City Council voted unanimously to prioritise investment in two key sports infrastructure projects - a new indoor sports complex to cater for multiple sporting codes at Devonport Oval and better facilities at Byard Park.

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

## Champ says it's time for women to kick ahead

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 18/07/2023, James Wigney, Page 11

This week's Women's World Cup is a golden opportunity to raise the profile of women's sport in Australia, according to one of the country's top competitors. Former Australian cricket vice-captain, Rachael Haynes, who won six world championships as part of the women's national team, said that the global soccer tournament that kicks off on Thursday is one of the biggest events that the country will ever host and comparable to the 2000 Sydney Olympics in terms of international profile.

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

## Ange Postecoglou hopeful that Australian football can take 'advantage' of current boom

The Australian, Other, 17/07/2023, Marco Monteverde

Ange Postecoglou is hopeful but cautious about Australian football making the most of renewed interest in the sport. The former Socceroos coach, who is Perth with his new club Tottenham ahead of Tuesday night's pre-season friendly against Premier League rivals West Ham at Optus Stadium, is encouraged by the state of football in Australia.

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

[Read More](#)

## Matildas ready to fight for FIFA Women's World Cup trophy in Australia

The Australian, Other, 17/07/2023, Aisling Brennan

It's almost time for football fans across the world to tune in to watch the best of the best compete for the FIFA Women's World Cup trophy as countries battle it out in Australia and New Zealand. The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup will be the ninth time in history women's football teams from around the globe try to hoist the trophy above their heads in victory.

[Read More](#)

## World Cup set for lift-off with women's football at all-time high

The Australian, Other, 17/07/2023

The first 32-team Women's World Cup kicks off in Australia and New Zealand on Thursday, with the United States favourites to win an unprecedented third consecutive title in a landmark month for women's football. It has been a rapid expansion for a tournament that started in 1991 and featured only 16 teams as recently as 2011, then 24 in France four years ago when the USA retained the trophy.

[Read More](#)

## Football Australia reveals plans to transform game on eve of World Cup

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 17/07/2023, Nick Wright

Football Australia CEO James Johnson has pledged to transform soccer's grassroots, including plans to increase the number of fields available to the community to stop families being turned away. The Matildas' success will be front and centre of Football Australia's plans to grow the game well beyond 2023.

[Read More](#)

## Aussies prepare to cheer on Matilda's in their world cup bid

Canberra Times, Other, 17/07/2023, Millie Costigan

The world's largest women's sporting event will take place in Australia from July to August. Fans across the nation are gearing up to support the Matilda's in their bid for the world title as Australia and New Zealand prepare to host the FIFA Women's world cup. The month-long world cup kicks off on July 20 when co-hosts New Zealand and Australia face Norway and Ireland respectively.

[Read More](#)

## 'Where we get our Matildas from': Sarah Walsh on the importance of community sport

Canberra Times, Other, 17/07/2023

Former Matilda and Head of Women's Football, World Cup Legacy, and Inclusion Sarah Walsh sits down with ACM to discuss the importance of community and local sport around Australia.

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

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## Tourism Australia launching new campaign as FIFA Women's World Cup kicks off

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/07/2023

Tourism Australia launching new campaign as FIFA Women's World Cup kicks off Countries taking part in the FIFA Women's World Cup will soon see a special edition of Tourism Australia's latest campaign. Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison said, "for four weeks, one billion eyes are going to be on Australia.

[Read More](#)

## WA Cricket confident a \$7.4 million shortfall can be raised for WACA Ground redevelopment project

West Australian, Other, 17/07/2023, Glen Quartermain

WA Cricket is optimistic construction of its \$154.7 million WACA Ground redevelopment will begin in September and be completed in 18 to 24 months. WA Cricket has raised \$143.7 million, which includes \$139.7 million from the Federal, State and Local Governments and \$4m from Cricket Australia.

## **Institute of Indigenous Wellbeing and Sport WA receives major grant to fund youth cultural camps on Country**

West Australian, Other, 18/07/2023, Hannah Cross

The Institute of Indigenous Wellbeing and Sport WA has welcomed a significant grant to fund its cultural camps for young Aboriginal people in the Kwinana area and beyond. South Metropolitan MLC Stephen Pratt presented the \$36,822 Lotterywest grant to the Institute's chief executive Barry Winmar last Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

## **Gymnastics Australia backs away from pledge to assist survivors of childhood sexual abuse**

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Russell Jackson

Three years after publicly pledging its commitment to a redress scheme that could offer apologies and compensation to gymnasts who suffered childhood sexual abuse, Gymnastics Australia has declared itself financially incapable of assisting abuse survivors.

[Read More](#)

## **New Matildas and Socceroos expected to 'rise' at National Youth Championships in NSW**

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Kelly Fuller

Wollongong and Western Sydney's Glenwood have been selected to host a major soccer tournament where "stars will rise", according to Football Federation Australia (FFA). FFA Girls Youth development manager Debbie Fisher said the nation's single biggest talent identification event for soccer would occur when the National Youth Championships for under 14s, 15s and 16s were played in October.

[Read More](#)

## **G'day World Cup: why Australia can't wait for the action to start**

The Guardian, Other, 18/07/2023, Caitlin Cassidy

The hype has been building for months and as the tournament arrives has hit a fever pitch. Finally, it is our time. At 6am on a Sunday morning in November 2022, hundreds of fans and families gathered in a park in Sydney's inner west to watch a men's World Cup football match between Australia and Argentina.

[Read More](#)

## **Football Australia boss criticises Fifa ban on rainbow armbands at Women's World Cup**

The Guardian, Other, 17/07/2023, Kieran Pender

Football Australia's chief executive, James Johnson, has expressed disappointment at Fifa's refusal to allow players to wear rainbow armbands during the 2023 Women's World Cup, which begins on Thursday. Fifa recently confirmed players wearing a rainbow armband in support of LGBTQ+ rights would face on-field sanctions, such as yellow cards, as was the case at last year's men's World Cup in Qatar.

[Read More](#)

## **'It's gonna be massive': Matildas poised to move #BeyondGreatness at FIFA Women's World Cup**

The New Daily, Other, 17/07/2023, Ross McGravie

If you're seeing more than a few Sam Kerr jerseys in the streets, round balls in unfamiliar surrounds and cries of 'Tillies' echoing where you least expect them, it's a sure sign that World Cup fever is on our shores. From Thursday, July 20 until Sunday, August 20, Australia and New Zealand will co-host the globe's largest women's sporting event, the FIFA Women's World Cup, in a month-long festival of football.

[Read More](#)

## FIFA Women's World Cup™ Matildas ready to bring the heat in World Cup opener

7news.com.au, Other, 17/07/2023, Anna Harrington

The Matildas are ready to go toe-to-toe with Ireland in the physicality stakes when required in their FIFA Women's World Cup opener. Ireland's build-up to the tournament has been overshadowed by an abandoned friendly against Colombia.

[Read More](#)

## Sydney warned of public transport chaos ahead of FIFA Women's World Cup

9News, Other, 17/07/2023, Savannah Meacham

Thousands of football fans will descend on Sydney's sporting precincts for the biggest event since the Olympic Games in 2000 but there is one message from the NSW government - don't drive.

[Read More](#)

## 'Real own goal': Inner West mayor slams FIFA over latest debacle

2GB, Other, 17/07/2023, Chris O'Keefe

The FIFA Women's World Cup is just days away from kick-off, and FIFA is continuing to cause issues with locals. Inner West mayor Darcy Byrne has slammed organisers for barring kids from attending training sessions at grounds like Leichhardt and Kogarah.

[Read More](#)

## Breast injuries are common for female athletes. Here's why better awareness and reporting are needed

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 17/07/2023, Deirdre McGhee

In the to and fro of daily life, an accidental knock to the breast can hurt for a moment. But in the push and shove on the sporting field such as the upcoming 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup a blow to the breast can cause breast pain, swelling and bruising. Coaches, health clinicians and sporting organisations don't know enough about this silent, female-specific injury.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Penicillin allergy shock

Herald Sun, General News, 18/07/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 9

Just one in 20 Australians in a clinical trial who thought they had an allergy to penicillin actually did, a world-first Melbourne-led study has confirmed. The randomised clinical trial also found more than 95 per cent of adults who have had a penicillin allergy were negative on testing. The results mean, says senior author Jason Trubiano from Austin Health, that more than two million Australians may have been unnecessarily avoiding the best antibiotic available.

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

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### Aussie researchers make stroke drug breakthrough

Canberra Times, Other, 17/07/2023, Millie Costigan

A promising new drug could be the 'Holy Grail' for stroke prevention and recovery, researchers say. Australian clinicians from the Heart Research Institute (HRI) have made a breakthrough after 25 years of research, developing an anti-clotting drug that can promote blood flow to the brain and prevent brain injury.

[Read More](#)

## Health Innovation Living Lab at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle aims to boost jobs and investment in the region

Newcastle Herald, Other, 17/07/2023, Damon Cronshaw

A laboratory that aims to solve health problems in the Hunter with business-minded thinking has been officially launched, but must overcome traditional bureaucratic obstacles to succeed. "I don't underestimate the challenges," said Professor Chris Levi, the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct director.

[Read More](#)

## Research Roundup

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 18/07/2023

This paper is a summary of the Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for deprescribing opioid analgesics. It encompasses 11 recommendations about when, how and for whom opioid deprescribing should be considered, while noting the need to consider each

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Voicing support and concern in equal parts

Daily Telegraph, General News, 18/07/2023, Angira Bharadwaj and James Morrow, Page 6

The official pitches for and against an Indigenous Voice to parliament can now be revealed, ahead of being distributed to millions of Australian households in the lead-up to the referendum. [...] They honed in on the "practical ways" the Voice could help by pointing out confronting statistics, including the fact that Indigenous Australians have significantly worse outcomes for suicide, disease and infant mortality.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Health funding injection

Cairns Post, General News, 18/07/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 6

An Aboriginal communitycontrolled health organisation servicing the areas of Innisfail, Babinda and Tully has been awarded a \$4.7m grant to build a new primary care clinic in Innisfail. Senator Nita Green announced the funding on Monday, with an expansion of capacity to deliver GP clinics, consultation and waiting rooms and staff spaces Mamu Health Services has received the grant as part of a nationwide \$120m investment announced last December towards bettering infrastructure and facilities in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector.

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

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### Domino's Roma, Chinchilla and Dalby stores donate \$20,000 to Goondir Health Services

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 17/07/2023, Chloe Cufflin

The duo who own Dominos stores in Roma, Chinchilla and Dalby have donated a massive \$20,000 to improve Indigenous health outcomes in southwest Queensland. Chloe Cufflin Dominos Roma franchisees Sulay and Prakash own an impressive five stores across Queensland.

[Read More](#)

### Walgett Aboriginal elders demand housing help 18 months after men's homeless shelter demolished

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Kenji Sato

Aboriginal elders in Walgett are demanding more housing support from the state government more than a year after the town's only men's shelter was demolished. The NSW government bulldozed

Namoi House in January last year to make way for domestic violence units, but construction ground to a halt due to a budget blowout.

[Read More](#)

## **Rheumatic heart disease in Indigenous children could be spread by throat bacteria, researchers find**

The Guardian, Other, 18/07/2023, Melissa Davey

An entirely preventable condition leaving Indigenous children with severe and irreversible heart damage may be spread due to a reservoir of bacteria in the throat that causes no symptoms in the host, Australian researchers have found. It is a discovery that will likely have implications for rheumatic heart disease (RHD) prevention and vaccine development, infectious diseases physicians say.

[Read More](#)

## **'Nothing about us, without us' regaining First Nations trust in specialised healthcare**

SBS, Other, 17/07/2023, Catriona Stirrat

A new national initiative has been launched which is looking to fill the gaps in genomic data for First Nations Australians. This data is vital in developing personalised treatments for a range of chronic diseases.

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## **Labor must hear Indigenous voice against Kimba nuclear site**

In Daily, Other, 17/07/2023, David Eccles

Ahead of tomorrow's expected federal court decision on a Barngarla Traditional Owners challenge to the planned Kimba nuclear waste site, Jim Green and Michele Madigan say federal Labor must be consistent on listening to Indigenous concerns. If the Albanese Labor government wants to restore confidence in its plan for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, it needs to walk the talk and respect Aboriginal voices.

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## **Precision meds**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 17/07/2023

A national centre launched today will bring the benefits of genomics medicine to Indigenous Australians, who still have a life expectancy 10 years less than that of the general population. The above snippet is the first part of an article sent to subscribers in Pharmacy Daily's issue from 17 Jul 23

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# **OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

## **Free flu jabs just for the at-risk**

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 9

The state government is resisting renewed pressure to make flu vaccinations free for all South Australians, following the Queensland government's decision to provide shots for all residents. The Queensland move follows more than 51,000 cases in the state so far this year and 56 deaths linked to the flu. SA Health data shows as of July 11, South Australia had 8965 confirmed cases this year - compared to 8405 cases at the same time last year, which went on to have more than 12,000 cases.

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

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## **'We weren't prepared': dad dies from flu**

Canberra Times, General News, 18/07/2023, Bageshri Savyasachi, Page 5

Mate Babic meant the world to his sons. The 37-year-old Downer man died last week after contracting influenza B. Before his death, a doting father, Mate and his eldest, Marko, regularly played video games together. The seven-year-old now stuffs his father's jumper and tracksuit with a pillow, and sitting it up next to him on the couch, with a controller on the lap, so he can still play with "daddy".

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## Flu jabs to be free

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Madura McCormack and Jill Poulsen, Page 1

All Queenslanders will be able to access free flu jabs within days under a state government-funded intervention to get more people protected amid a horror season that has already claimed 56 lives. Young people are being warned they are especially vulnerable, with half of those hospitalised for influenza B this year aged under 20.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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## Low vax alert on measles spread

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Isabella Holland, Page 7

Infectious disease experts have issued a dire warning after a person with measles travelled around the Brisbane and Redcliffe areas. Queensland Health has confirmed a man travelling from Indonesia visited several businesses and locations on Brisbane's northside and the Redcliffe peninsula while infected.

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

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## Airport measles alert

Herald Sun, General News, 18/07/2023, Page 6

Travellers who recently visited Melbourne Airport are being warned to be on the look out for symptoms of measles after an infected passenger passed through the terminal. The person transited through Melbourne Airport's international terminal (T2) and Qantas domestic terminal (T1) on July 3 between 6.20am and 9.50am while travelling to Queensland.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Explosion in gastro cases across Territory

Northern Territory News, General News, 18/07/2023, Bethany Griffiths, Page 7

A parasite known for causing gastro has been doing the rounds across the Territory, with cases increasing by 92 per cent on the five-year-average. There have already been 151 cases of cryptosporidiosis, an infection of the bowel caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum*, recorded this year.

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## Soaring Aussie flu rates a worry

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Eli Green, Page 11

Australia's complacency around influenza has led to soaring cases of the disease and an increase in deaths, experts have warned. There have been 116,473 flu notifications reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System between January 1 to June 25 this year, as well as 107 influenza-associated deaths and 1236 hospitalisations.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [2GB \(Online\)](#), [4BC \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## What parents need to know about vaccination and side effects

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 17/07/2023, Dr Sam Hay

Dr Sam Hay gets real about kids and vaccination, answering all the questions parents often ask. Like all great partnerships in life - Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip , Laurel and Hardy, Barbie and Ken , Charlene and Scott, vaccines go hand-in-hand with side effects

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## Syphilis outbreak as Tasmanians abandon sexual safety

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023

Lalla Mackenzie CEO of Family Planning Tasmania says the increase in STI's in Tasmania is driven by a lack of safe sex practices among all age groups. She offers helpful reminders for the sexually active and people caring for sexually active people on where to access resources, testing and support.

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## Channel 9, National Nine Early News, 18/07/2023, Alex Cullen

Melbourne and Brisbane are on notice this morning, issued with a measles warning after an infectious person returned from Indonesia transiting through Tullamarine before travelling to Brisbane. [...] The Queensland Government is pushing a national immunisation programme as the state battles a surge in infections.

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## ABC News, ABC News Tonight, 17/07/2023, Yvonne Yong

All Queenslanders will be able to get free flu vaccinations from this week with the number of flu cases blowing out. The State Government has announced it's stepping in to make vaccinations free until the end of August. It'll also ask the Federal Government to consider funding the shots into the future.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 17/07/2023, Sandra Sully

The Queensland Government will this week ask for flu shots to be made free for all Australians every year. A killer strain of the virus is taking down young people and 11 year old girl from Queensland and a teenager from New South Wales both died earlier this month after catching the flu.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 17/07/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

All Queenslanders will be able to get vaccinated against the flu for free in an effort to combat rising cases. Of particular concern, the number of children being hospitalised with the virus and fears it will spread through schools.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 17/07/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Free flu jabs are being offered to all Queenslanders tonight with our state battling severe outbreaks and a dangerously low vaccination rate. The chief health officer says unlike Covid, it's children who are most at risk, as many have never been exposed to influenza fresh from conquering Covid.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Nurses, midwives backed over pill

The Australian, General News, 18/07/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 7

Peak nursing and midwifery bodies have hit back at warnings that rolling back regulations restricting who can prescribe the abortion pill presents serious risks to women seeking terminations, arguing it would be more dangerous for them to be blocked from exercising such powers. [...] The RANZCOG said while the decision from the Therapeutic Goods Administration removing regulations on some health practitioners so they could prescribe the medication was a "step in the right direction", unwanted consequences needed to be taken into account.

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

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## Tests for dementia

Courier Mail, General News, 18/07/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Blood tests and brain scans may soon replace memory tests for earlier and more accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in a move set to revolutionise treatment. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, with around 50,000 new cases diagnosed in Australia every year. [...] This is the drug that has been approved as a therapy for Alzheimer's in the US and is now being assessed by the TGA in Australia.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## TGA 'inquiring' into telehealth corporate's semaglutide emails

Australian Doctor, Other, 17/07/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Eucalyptus Health says the emails to patients complied with advertising rules. The TGA is "making inquiries" after GP telehealth corporate Eucalyptus Health emailed patients to say its doctors could now prescribe Ozempic (semaglutide) for weight loss.

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## Radio National, Health Report, 17/07/2023, Dr Norman Swan

The Therapeutic Goods Administration made changes to the rules around medical termination of pregnancy with MS 2-step soon able to be prescribed like any other medicine. Swan says the problem is that surgical termination is not as widely available as it might be, particularly when you go into rural and regional areas.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Cannabis chat, that's Heaps Normal

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 18/07/2023, Jessica Yun, Page 22

Non-alcoholic beer company Heaps Normal's chief executive, Andy Miller, is based in Bangkok, Thailand. When he steps onto the street, he's often greeted with a strong whiff of weed. "It's everywhere, it's almost on every corner. There [are] wine shops that are now wine and weed shops. It's in local live music venues," Miller said.

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

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### Alert out on synthetic drug

Border Watch, General News, 18/07/2023, Sophie Conlon, Page 1

A deadly synthetic opioid, protonitazene, has made its way into the South Australian drug market and while the substance has not been found in the South East one advocacy service has warned it was just be a matter of time. Substance Misuse Limestone Coast project officer Sophie Bouchier said it was important for people to be aware of the risks protonitazene poses and be wary of taking opioid and non-opioid illicit drugs.

## State 'lagging behind' on key drug issue

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 18/07/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 7

The Victorian government needs to launch its own drug checking services, with experts warning the state is "lagging behind" other jurisdictions. The calls come as a new report found the trial of Australia's first drug checking service, CanTEST in Canberra, helped 437 people reduce their risk of an overdose or poisoning through drug tests.

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

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## Ketamine for depression | Ultrasound instead of X-ray | WHO on Aspartame and dietary guidelines

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023

Health Report In health news Norman and Tegan discuss changes in the health system for medical termination of pregnancy; and about life span vs life expectancy in Australia. Alongside MDMA and psilocybin as treatments for mental health issues is ketamine which shows promise in treatment-resistant depression.

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## Ketamine could help people with depression

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023, Dave Marchese

There's hope for people who've tried everything to treat their depression with a clinical trial finding one in five were almost symptom-free after taking regular low-doses of ketamine. And you've probably heard of companies that are "kind to the planet" or "eco-friendly" but these phrases are basically meaningless according to the consumer watchdog, who are calling out greenwashing.

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## One-in-10 samples at Canberra's pill testing lab binned after analysis, evaluation report finds

Canberra Times, Other, 17/07/2023, Jasper Lindell

More than 10 per cent of samples analysed at Canberra's fixed-site pill testing site were binned after participants found out what was in their drugs, an evaluation has found. Half of the drugs brought in for testing were found to contain substances unexpected by the person who volunteered them for analysis.

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

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## ABC Radio Sydney, 21:00 News, 17/07/2023

A psychiatry expert is urging people not to try using ketamine at home to treat depression. Scientists in Australia and New Zealand have found ketamine can be a safe and effective treatment for some people living with treatment resistant depression. Head of psychiatry at the University of Melbourne, Professor Chris Davey, says it has many trials to go and should only be administered by health professionals.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### The World Health Organisation on aspartame, and dietary guidelines

ABC Online, Other, 17/07/2023

The artificial sweetener aspartame has made news, because of findings from a branch of the World Health Organisation called the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Norman discusses WHO's involvement in food safety, and their dietary guidelines.

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## A new evidence-based report has welcome news about eating red and processed meat

The New Daily, Other, 17/07/2023, Katherine Sievert and Gary Sacks

Emotions can run high when the topic of how much red and processed meat to eat is raised. For many of us, eating these foods is culturally important often tied to specific dishes and traditions.

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## AICIS

### Recycler's toxic waste order

Hobart Mercury, General News, 18/07/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 5

Tasmania's environmental protection watchdog has taken urgent legal action against a metal recycling firm in Launceston - to stop it dumping toxic waste residue that could pose a risk to the marine environment or human health. Earlier this month, a temporary order was made prohibiting Recycal from dumping waste "shredder floc" anywhere other than the Copping Refuse Disposal Site, which was described as the only suitable disposal site for the material in Tasmania.

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### Firefighting chemical found in urban tiger snakes

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 18/07/2023, Page 6

Sickly, skinny tiger snakes living in Perth's urban wetlands have high levels of so-called forever chemicals used in firefighting foam and household goods including cookware and textiles. Researchers have studied the livers of snakes to better understand the impacts of PFAS, the shorthand name for a big family of chemicals valued for their heat, water and stain-repelling properties.

Similar coverage reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [6PR \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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