



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 31st July 2023

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the University of Sydney has rejected multiple freedom of information requests for evolutionary biologist Professor Eddie Holmes' correspondence, saying he has faced continuing extreme vilification and harassment, including death threats for his work on the genomic sequence of Covid-19. Correspondence subpoenaed by the US Congress revealed Professor Holmes and his colleagues initially believed a laboratory leak could plausibly be the origin of the COVID-19 virus.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 4) reports the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is lobbying senators in a bid to delay legislation around new pharmaceutical dispensing rules to allow for the finalisation of government-commissioned modelling and more extensive industry consultation. Health Minister Mark Butler last week announced a \$148.2 million four-year investment in regional, rural and remote pharmacies to help chemists transition to 60-day prescriptions.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports iconic rugby league player Wally Lewis has been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a form of dementia caused by repeated blows to the head. Mr Lewis' diagnosis comes ahead of the release this week of a senate inquiry into concussions and repeated head trauma in contact sports.

- The [**Canberra Times**](#) (page 8) reports the ACT has a higher rate of caesarean births than any other state or territory, new data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found. Over 42 per cent of all births and 38 per cent of first births in the ACT are delivered by caesarean, Australian National University academic Dr Kai Hodgkin said the territory's high rate of caesarean delivery was "reflective of a wider systemic issue of over-intervention, fear of risk, a culture of hierarchy, low staffing, people in a rush, risk-averse policies."
- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 12) reports genomic screening able to identify disease risks from thousands of cells will take "a very conservative approach" as society comes to grips with the transformative new technology's diagnostic capacity, health experts say. Five major Australian health studies examining the application of genomic screening to thousands of newborns will attempt to establish cost-effective ways to roll out publically available screenings. *Also reported by: [The Age](#)*
- The [**Cairns Post**](#) (page 1) reports Australia's health system has been completely inadequate addressing suicide in Indigenous children and teens, health experts say. The 2022 Suicide in Queensland report found Indigenous children and teenagers are three times more likely to die by suicide than non-indigenous youth. National Mental Health Commission advisor Dr Mark Wenitong said a lack of infrastructure in remote areas made accessing early childhood programs and social support especially difficult. *Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin](#)*
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (online) reports COVID-19 remains the third-largest cause of death in Australia, responsible for 5,000 deaths so far in 2023, the latest government figures have shown. Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler urged people to get COVID booster shots, saying they had proven an effective counter to the virus, especially within more at-risk environments like aged care facilities.
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (online) reports six in ten Australians support being offered the option of becoming an organ donor when applying for a driver's license, a new YouGov poll has found. South Australia is the only state to offer a driver's license organ donation opt-in service. DonateLife figures show it has the nation's highest registration rate, while seven in 10 families say yes to loved ones becoming donors while in hospital.

MINISTER BUTLER

PM stares down plans to dash agenda

The Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Geoff Chambers, Page 4

Pharmacists are lobbying senators to block Anthony Albanese's 60day dispensing policy in the parliament, as chemists start scaling back essential services, restricting hours, letting go of staff and shutting their doors ahead of new rules coming into effect. [...] The guild is urging Coalition, Greens and crossbench senators to support a disallowance motion in the upper house to block Health Minister Mark Butler's double dispensing rules due to begin on September 1.

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

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Extended GP Access hours at two clinics

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/07/2023, Michael Parris, Page 3

The federal government has restored opening hours at two of the Hunter's GP Access After Hours clinics after reinstating the service's funding. The Belmont Hospital clinic has resumed operating from 6pm to 10pm on weekdays, 1pm to 10pm on Saturdays and 3pm to 10pm on Sundays. [...] "The much-needed service at Belmont will again be able to provide families in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie the care they need, when they need it - and reduce pressure on local hospitals," the health minister, Mark Butler, said.

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Covid killing 25 a day on average in Australia, as people stop getting booster shots

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, Charles Miranda and Julie Cross

COVID is killing on average 25 people in Australia every day with more than half the nation not getting any form of booster shot in the past six months. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said vaccinations have proven to work in aged care settings and urged people to get their boosters.

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Australia leads world with vaping crackdown

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023

Recently announced vaping reforms are to be commended, with Australia finally taking a stand against commercial interests and putting the health of our population ahead of corporate profits. But some industry actors are already spreading misinformation in an attempt to undermine vaping control policies. In May 2023, federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced plans to introduce a raft of new vaping reforms.

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[Back to Top](#)

MINISTER WELLS

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Free clinics set to open

West Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 9

Two new clinics providing free adult mental health care are opening in Perth. The Federal Government-funded Head to Health clinics are in Gosnells and Mirrabooka. The adult mental health clinics which will be open from 9am to 5pm and don't require GP referrals or appointments offer mental health information, services and support. Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride said the clinics provide free mental health support and advice close to home.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

'Reactivated' contracts

Canberra Times, General News, 31/07/2023, Miriam Webber, Page 14

The eSafety Commission has come far since commissioner Julie Inman Grant started in 2017, but it hasn't all been smooth sailing, she told a summit held by The Australian Financial Review on Tuesday.

[...] The Department of Health and Aged Care's paused \$2.3 million audit contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers "could be reactivated at a later time".

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University of Sydney urged to 'come clean' on payment to company it part-owns with PwC

The Guardian, Other, 30/07/2023, Henry Belot and Melissa Davey

The Greens have criticised the University of Sydney and called on management to "come clean and disclose" more detail about a payment to a for-profit company it part-owns with PwC. The university paid the company Innowell Pty Ltd to provide "a health and wellbeing portal" to its staff and students. Innowell's major shareholders are the University of Sydney (32%) and consultancy firm PwC (45%). University of Sydney professors Ian Hickie and Jane Burns are also minor shareholders.

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[Back to Top](#)

CORONAVIRUS

Aussie scientist's Wuhan fears

The Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Sharri Markson and Noah Yim, Page 1

A leading Australian virologist privately discussed signs Covid-19 may have been genetically engineered, writing "the furin cleavage site is an issue" and "it's the epidemiology that I find most worrying" before publicly insisting a laboratory leak was a conspiracy theory. Some scientists say the presence of a furin cleavage site in SARS- CoV2 - which is unusual in that location in similar viruses indicates it could have been developed in a laboratory.

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

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Seven cases in seven days

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 2

Greater Bendigo recorded seven new COVID-19 cases over the past seven days, up from the five recorded in the previous week. According to data released by the Department of Health, the municipality recorded no new cases in the 24 hours leading up to July 28.

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Why we want to forget masks, lockdowns and social distancing but shouldn't

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, Steve Robson

COVID has really been an extraordinary story and I think difficult to grasp because it's out of the range of experience and really nothing of this magnitude has happened for 100 years, so it has been a big learning curve for every single person. If we look at the data we see the effect around us at the moment, we know Covid infection is the third most common cause that Australians still die.

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Two Covid survivors speak of trauma and ongoing effects of 'Long Covid'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, Adella Beaini

Sophie van Reijswoud went from a bright, bubbly and sporty girl to a teen slowly wasting away. The 15-year-old got Covid in March 2022, and her parents say she has never recovered since. She has spent nearly a year of the past 18 months in a hospital. And her life now involves being tube fed, vomiting up to 40 times a day and always constantly dizzy.

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Australian National Clinical Evidence Taskforce COVID-19 drug

treatment guidelines: challenges of producing a living guideline

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023, Bridget Barber, Heath White, Alexis Poole, Joshua Davis, Steven McGloughlin and Tari Turner

The National Clinical Evidence Taskforce (NCET) established coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) drug treatment guidelines in March 2020 to provide clinicians with living evidence-based recommendations for the care of patients with COVID-19.

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ABC Media Watch program won't correct record on Wuhan lab leak theory until it proves to be source of Covid-19

The Australian, Other, 30/07/2023, Sophie Elsworth

New claims that America's leading infectious diseases adviser Anthony Fauci downplayed concerns that Covid-19 originated from a laboratory will not be acknowledged by the ABC's Media Watch program and its host Paul Barry until a lab leak "proves to be the source of the Covid-19 outbreak".

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

AGEING AND AGED CARE

130 jobs for care home

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 7

Up to 130 staff with a range of skills are wanted ahead of the official opening of a new dementia care village at Daw Park - the first of its kind in South Australia. HammondCare is looking for registered nurses, nursing assistants, administrative staff, pastoral care workers, volunteer co-ordinators, education officers and other roles over the coming months.

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

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Recognising those people who care

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 29

Aged Care Employee Day - next Monday, August 7 - recognises the dedication and compassion of aged care workers who support older Australians. South Australian retirement living and home care services provider ECH has an extensive team of more than 850 employees - from support workers and care co-ordinators to allied health workers and maintenance officers - who are all making a difference in the lives of residents and clients.

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[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Mother drops gender action

The Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Ellie Dudley, Page 3

The mother of a 13-year-old with gender dysphoria has abruptly withdrawn an application seeking a Family Court order to allow the child to take puberty blockers, after trying to have the independent children's lawyer assigned to the matter thrown off the case. The girl, who is being treated at a Melbourne hospital, "socially transitioned" at the age of four and is seeking medical treatment to put off the onset of puberty.

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

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Healthy eating on the tuck shop menu

Canberra Times, General News, 31/07/2023, Sarah Lansdown, Page 3

Xavier Bolla has one of the toughest jobs in a school. He's responsible for keeping hundreds of students fed at Telopea Park School's canteen - known as La Cantine. As a chef by trade, he's not daunted by preparing fresh meals and snacks every day, from pizzetta and corn fritters to salads and wraps.

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The true cost of a sleep-deprived Australia

Canberra Times, General News, 31/07/2023, Justin James, Page 18

Sleep is one of the three key pillars of health, alongside diet and exercise, but if we're honest about it can we really say we're getting the amount or quality we need? With the help of market research consultancy CoreData WA, we surveyed 2000 Australians (including more than 1000 HIF members) and discovered there's a clear link between poor health, lower disposable income, and quality of sleep.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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He almost didn't make it

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Lauren Novak, Page 11

Lockie Marston weighed just 620g when he was born in a rush at the end of last year. At 23 weeks' gestation, he was classed as a "micro-prem" and only just old enough to be resuscitated if his lungs failed. "He actually came out crying, which was amazing," said mum Kate Richardson of her "teeny, tiny" son's dramatic birth via emergency caesarean section on Boxing Day morning.

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Aussies living longer by about six years

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 3

Over the past 30 years or so, Australians have gained an extra six years of life expectancy. But in 2019, non-communicable diseases such as cancer and heart disease still contributed to more than 90 per cent of all deaths. Australian data in the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Study shows that ischaemic heart disease was the top cause of years of life lost in 2019, while 10 of the 25 top causes of years of life lost were cancers.

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Prison not good for your health: study

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 3

Young Australians who have contact with the justice system in their teens go on to die from non-communicable diseases at a higher rate than the general population, according to Australian research. The researchers compared nearly 50,000 Aussies who'd had contact with the justice system from the ages 10 to 18, then followed up about 10 years later to find a substantially higher rate of death from disease among the group compared with a sample of the general population.

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Australians would support changes to organ donor registration system

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, Samantha Landy, Mercedes Maguire and Vanessa Crol

A major change to the way Aussies register as donors could save more lives like those of young recipient Mia Geise, whose family celebrates her transplant day every year. The majority of Australians want the ability to register as organ and tissue donors when renewing or applying for their driver's licence, new research shows.

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'That's when reality hits': Wynyard family urges Tasmanians to discuss organ donation after boy's battle

The Mercury, Other, 30/07/2023, Amber Wilson

For two days and two nights, Xander Redman survived without a liver. The young Wynyard boy, who underwent his first liver transplant as a baby, had just received a new liver but it had clotted off at the

two main vessels. With his body going into toxic shock, and his pregnant mum unable to donate, Xander's grandmother stepped up to the plate as a "living donor".

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Isabella finds leaving the house 'very overwhelming'. Here's how wearing a sunflower has helped

SBS, Other, 30/07/2023, Amy Hall

Millions of Australians have non-visible disabilities. A sunflower-themed initiative is aiming to make day-to-day activities easier and more inclusive experiences for them. Whenever Isabella Fantasia leaves her house, she takes her "autism survival kit" with her. "Entering the outside world is very overwhelming and can be quite stressful because I have to take into consideration sensory components like noise, smells, fabrics, anything I touch, things being too bright," the Melbourne-based disability and youth advocate says.

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Blake collapsed minutes after arriving home from hospital. He died days later

7news.com.au, Other, 30/07/2023, Dominique Tassell

The father-of-two had been sent home from hospital, twice, before his test results came back - too late. Blake Chown's family are seeking answers as to why he was sent home from hospital twice before collapsing, unable to breathe. He died just days later. But they are also honouring his generous nature which led them to decide, without having previously discussed it with him, to donate his organs to save other people's lives.

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Jenna Croman was planning her future when she was given a tragic diagnosis

NEWS.com.au, Other, 30/07/2023, Mary Madigan

Rare Cancer Australia General Manager Christine Cockburn says the national genomic innovative program launched in Australia has given hope to thousands of Australians with incurable and end of stage cancer. Her comments come as more than 23,000 cancer patients in Australia will soon have access to the world's largest genomics initiative which will see experts create personalised treatment over the next two years for each person's DNA, including early-stage clinical trials.

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Huffing and puffing during housework cuts cancer risk

The New Daily, Other, 30/07/2023, John Elder

Are you so fed up with housework that it seems like it might give you a heart attack? Or cancer? Here's a neat trade-off. Pick up the pace while mopping the floor or carrying groceries through the supermarket car park and your risk of certain cancers can drop by nearly a third. The key is to go all out, vigorously, for at least a minute to the point where you're huffing and puffing like an athlete at the finish line.

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Rare diseases — more common than you'd think

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023

Rare diseases have a huge impact on individuals, their families and society, and all doctors must be prepared to respond and help patients on their medical journey. All doctors have vital roles to play in advocating for patients who may have a rare disease, including GPs who come across unusual symptoms and initiate a referral, paediatricians who may make the diagnosis, and other specialists who contribute to complex care.

4BC, Weekend Breakfast, 30/07/2023, Bill McDonald

Experts say Australia needs to do better with primary prevention and health promotion strategies. Associate Professor Shariful Islam from Deakin University's Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition, says Australia ranks better for diabetes and stroke than many of the countries. However, several diseases, including chronic diseases and diseases in older age groups are worse. Australia ranks poorly for anxiety and depressive disorders as well as Alzheimer's disease and dementia and falls among the elderly.

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

PRIMARY CARE

Elite police to bolster DNA lab

The Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Lydia Lynch, Page 1

A crack team of specialist police embedded inside Queensland's DNA laboratory is set to be expanded as a historic review begins into 30,000 major crimes impacted by botched forensic testing. Queensland Police confirmed five officers have already been assigned to the forensic lab to "assist with case management, including case prioritisation, and to ensure scientists have access to all necessary case information to maximise testing effectiveness".

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Hospital go-ahead despite council unease

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 8

Melbourne's 65-year-old Cabrini Hospital would be fast-tracked for redevelopment under plans to be considered by the state government. Stonnington Council is tonight expected to support the expansion of the Malvern Hospital but voice its concerns about plans being submitted directly to Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny.

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Hospital buildings set to go

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/07/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 12

The Department of Health plans to demolish four buildings, some of which date back to the 1960s and '80s and form part of the Launceston General Hospital campus, to make way for a future private hospital to be co-located on the site. The department has lodged a development application over 34-40 Howick Street, South Launceston, to demolish the Anne O'Byrne Centre Building, the Supply Building, the Old Boiler House and a garage.

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Murdoch plan is best

West Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 5

Health Minister AmberJade Sanderson has backed the decision to locate the Government's planned \$544 million maternity hospital in Murdoch as the Premier and Minister met regional community members during an invite-only town hall Q&A session in the Goldfields. Ms Sanderson said while the QEII site in Nedlands was originally ideal for the relocation of King Edward Memorial Hospital, an assessment found it wouldn't provide the best healthcare for high-risk mothers.

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Doctors 'want to be involved' with end of life choices: Gaffney

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/07/2023, Rodney Woods, Page 2

The politician behind Tasmania's voluntary assisted dying legislation believes the state's health professionals have trained up in record numbers because they have a stronger relationship with their patients compared to those in other states. Independent Mersey MLC Mike Gaffney's comments come

following the release of the Report on the End-of-Life Choices (Voluntary Assisted Dying) Act 2021's operation in its first six months.

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Fearmongers of assisted dying, quieten

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/07/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 11

As of May last year, voluntary assisted dying (VAD) had been legalised in all Australian states. New South Wales was the last state to adopt VAD legislation and the services will be accessible there from November. In December last year the federal government repealed legislation initially imposed in 1997 that prevented the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory from implementing their own VAD laws, which the ACT is expected to now do this year.

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Belmont hub aims to smooth health journey

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 2

Health insurer GMHBA is opening its first health hub in Belmont, allowing patients to see connected health services in a single location. The multidisciplinary centre brings together medical, dental and physiotherapy services with an adjoining pharmacy. Located on High St, the purpose-built facility featuring modern consulting rooms and technology will open on Monday, July 31.

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New skin health centre

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 31/07/2023, Andrew Potts, Page 2

Construction of a giant exclusive skin cancer hospital in the middle of a \$1.3bn mini-city will begin in 2024. The Skin Centre's state-of-the-art Australian Mohs Hospital, led by director and wellknown dermatologist Dr Andrew Freeman, has been given the green light by the Gold Coast City Council to build the complex at Sunland Group's The Lanes precinct.

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Hospital to be left without doctor for 60 hours in one week

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 6

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall has again called for immediate action to rectify the situation at Armidale Hospital Emergency Department, which he says will be left without any doctor for 60 hours during the next week, according to internal hospital rosters. Mr Marshall has slammed Hunter New England Health for their failures in the administration and functioning of the rural referral hospital, which has been left for many shifts without doctor coverage.

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Medical centre plans expansion

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2023, Tom Gillespie, Page 7

The owner of a medical centre in one of Toowoomba's future growth areas has laid out expansion plans in response to increased demand for services. AK Medical has put forward a proposal to the Toowoomba Regional Council to relocate the Drayton Medical Centre from the nearby shopping centre to a 2400 sqm parcel on Brisbane Street in Drayton.

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State of the art sleep medicine centre to open at Royal Hobart Hospital

The Mercury, Other, 30/07/2023, Sue Bailey

A new state of the art sleep medicine centre - the first of its kind in the public health system is up and running at the Royal Hobart Hospital. With inadequate sleep affecting between 33 and 45 per cent of Australians, Tasmanian doctors are hailing the new centre which as well as diagnosing and treating sleep disorders, also will undertake important research in coming years.

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La Trobe Bendigo says funding issues defy logic

It "defies logic" that only Melbourne based dental schools get funding for a rural clinical placement program, La Trobe University says. The education provider wants a funding rethink for its Bendigo dentistry school and has told a federal inquiry that programs pushing only city-based students into rural clinical rotations are flawed.

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Townsville Hospital and Health Service plan maps Magnetic Island health future

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 30/07/2023, Bethany Westwood

One of the key priorities will be palliative care, allowing residents to die at home on "their island". A 10-year plan to improve healthcare delivery for Magnetic Island residents includes a focus on palliative care allowing residents to spend their final days "on their island".

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[Back to Top](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mental health for LGBTIQ+

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 7

The state's first government mental health service exclusively dedicated to clients in the LGBTIQ+ community, will be officially launched this week. One of the country's largest LGBTIQ+ health organisations, Thorne Harbour Health has announced it will launch its first mental health services in South Australia.

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Disorder ignored too often

West Australian, General News, 31/07/2023, Kyle Hoath, Page 49

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is the most common neurodevelopmental disorder in Australia. According to the Australian ADHD Professionals Association, an estimated 6-8 per cent of Australian children and 3-5 per cent of Australian adults live with ADHD.

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

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Daniel on a mission to help others

Central Western Daily, General News, 31/07/2023, Alise McIntosh, Page 5

Daniel Lamb is aware he could have been part of Australia's tragically high male suicide statistics. But thanks to the support of good friends and close family, he has been able to overcome the worst of his mental health struggles - and is now helping to empower others. Mr Lamb, now a resident in Blayney, has become an ambassador for an online brand, Chin Up Mental Health.

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My struggle led me to support teens

Daily Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Emi O'Brien, Page 9

The last few years have not been a walk in the park. From lockdowns and remote working and learning, to the climate crisis and ever increasing cost of living - young people in Australia have had it tough. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the proportion of 16-24 year-olds experiencing mental health difficulties has almost doubled since 2007, and suicide remains the leading cause of death for young people.

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'Last line of defence' support can't falter

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 14

It is hard not to stand in awe of Mayfield's Emma Haining and Booragul's Mitchell Patterson. Both have been through dark days, and their stories show they struggled to receive the help they required at those low ebbs. Yet both are turning those experiences towards the greater good, in hoping they might show gaps in a strained health system. It is concerning to wonder about others who may have faced similar situations without their fortitude.

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Bushfires take toll on mental health

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 3

We must rethink how we measure the impact bushfires and other extreme weather events on our mental health and wellbeing, Australian National University experts say. ANU researchers surveyed more than 2000 residents in the aftermath of the Black Summer fires to gauge not only residents' physical loss but also the emotional toll.

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Nicole called an ambulance for help. She ended up shackled to a bed

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/07/2023, Charlotte Grieve

When Nicole Lee threw a plastic cup of tea at a wall at the Northern Hospital in Melbourne's Epping, by her own admission she had "lost touch with reality". Lee's weight was dangerously low. She had fasted for two weeks and underwent emergency surgery after a self-harm incident. Her brain was starved, she says, and she tried to escape. In response, two security guards shackled her arms and legs to a bed for six hours. The restraints remained fastened to the bed for the next three weeks, and were used multiple times when Lee became agitated.

[Read More](#)

Independent ACT senator David Pocock seeks to introduce climate 'duty of care' for young people

Canberra Times, Other, 31/07/2023, Karen Barlow

A national survey from the Climate Council and Beyond Blue has shed new light on the mental health impact of Australia's climate disasters. Independent ACT senator David Pocock is looking to the "devastating" extreme heat and wildfires of the northern hemisphere summer as he insists Australian politicians have a duty of care to protect young people and future generations from climate change.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 30/07/2023, Fauziah Ibrahim and Kathryn Robinson

Interview with Clare Stephens, Executive Editor, Mamamia about a disturbing trend particularly on TikTok that's promoting self-harm. Stephens says mental health experts in Australia are calling for some more guidelines and censorship around TikTok and other social media apps.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Concern over C-section motives

Canberra Times, General News, 31/07/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 8

Mother-of-four Catherine Nillson has a lot of personal experience with Canberra's public maternity system. "I've had a water birth, a theatre birth, a land birth and a chaotic birth," she said. When an obstetrician told Ms Nillson to have a caesarean section for her fourth, when she wanted a vaginal birth, she felt confident to make her own choice.

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Plea to fund extra midwives

A peak midwifery body is calling on the state's health minister to fund midwives and midwife-led models of care as a means of combating the ongoing maternity crisis in regional areas. It comes at a time when women in the Far North are having to choose between a public system and a private hospital with an uncertain future while maternity units in Cooktown and Weipa are still on bypass.

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Positive birth stories exist and pregnant women deserve to hear them

The Guardian, Other, 30/07/2023, Sophie Walker

Mothers who have experienced a positive birth often stay silent because they don't want to gloat. On the flip side, if you've ever been pregnant, you've likely been a magnet for careless remarks and grief-filled birth recounts. It's understandable; birth processing is a management tool for birth trauma but unfortunately, not all women have a safe space to debrief.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Our North-West paramedics are exhausted

Burnie Advocate, General News, 31/07/2023, Anita Dow, Page 11

As a former nurse, I know that every minute counts when someone is experiencing a medical emergency. For far too long now our hardworking and dedicated paramedics have been at breaking point. Our workers are physically and mentally exhausted and yet they are constantly asked for more while running on empty.

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Wollongong professor Justin Yerbury dies from motor neurone disease

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2023, Nick Rheinberger, Ainslie Drewitt-Smith and Tim Fernandez

Renowned Australian molecular biologist Justin Yerbury has died following a lengthy battle with the very illness he spent years researching to find a cure motor neurone disease (MND). Key points: The award-winning University of Wollongong (UOW) professor died at his home in the NSW Illawarra, surrounded by his family on Friday night, aged 50.

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Overcoming challenges in running a medical practice: David Williams' success story

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023

Running a medical practice comes with its own set of challenges, especially for doctors who are not trained in business management. When neurologist Associate Professor David Williams was starting out as a consultant, he faced several difficulties in setting up a private practice.

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New approaches needed to address the rural workforce health shortage

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023

A strategic approach is needed to address the health workforce challenges for regional Australia to encourage more rural generalists, specialist training, nursing, and allied health professionals. Improved coordination and integration are needed to help address health workforce challenges in rural and regional Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

UTI treatment added to NSW pharmacy prescribing trial

The Border Mail, Other, 30/07/2023, Kathryn Magann

Women suffering from urinary tract infections (UTIs) can now receive treatment and medicine without first having to see a GP. A NSW government trial treating basic health complaints at the local pharmacy is expanding from tomorrow to include women with uncomplicated UTIs.

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Government disingenuous on 60-day dispensing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/07/2023

Australia is losing focus on pharmacy's value proposition in a race for lower cost, Senator Anne Ruston warns. Disingenuous claims being made by the government are undermining the relationships patients have with their pharmacists, shadow health minister Senator Anne Ruston claims.

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[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Pharmacist's big night

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/07/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 3

A Tasmanian pharmacist who drove drunk to work, then dispensed 114 prescriptions for drugs of dependence while intoxicated, has been disqualified from practising for a year. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency was notified about Mr Schild's conduct and started investigating, taking immediate action to impose conditions on his pharmacist's registration.

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

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Better access to public defibrillators could save lives

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023

Increasing public access to defibrillators in Australia could double the survival rate of cardiac arrests that occur outside of hospitals. Australia has been too slow in regulating improved public availability to defibrillators, contributing to avoidable deaths, according to a Perspective published in The Medical Journal of Australia.

[Read More](#)

Defibrillator access across Australia: the first step in avoiding a chain of fatality

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023, Elizabeth Paratz, Gregory Page and Garry Jennings

There are about 20 000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCAs) in Australia each year. This is almost 20 times the annual fatal road toll. We know that governmental legislation on issues of public safety, such as mandating pool fences or smoke alarms to detect fires, has saved lives. Australia has previously led the world in cardiac arrest innovations; for example, in mandating defibrillator placement on international aircraft and in airport terminals.

SPORT

The 'King' is latest victim of dementia

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 31/07/2023, Ellie Dudley, Page 7

Rugby League great Wally Lewis has announced he has a fatal form of dementia, admitting he struggles to recall much in his shortterm memory and regularly repeats stories without realising. The NRL legend simply known as "The King" announced on Sunday night that he had been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a form of dementia caused by repeated blows to the head.

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

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Matildas ratings awake 'sleeping giant'

The Australian, Media, 31/07/2023, Nick Tabakoff, Page 19

When Australia's national women's soccer team, the Matildas, beat Ireland 1-0 in their opening game of the FIFA World Cup, TV executives were focused on more than the scoreline. From the perspective of the World Cup's free-to-air broadcaster Seven and equally interested rivals who missed out on the rights, it was all about the ratings as a barometer of where women's team sport stood in the Australian public consciousness.

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

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Croatian sports clubs with fascist links promised millions in grants

Age, General News, 31/07/2023, Simone Fox Koob and Ben Schneiders, Page 11

State governments have pledged grants worth more than \$2 million to Croatian clubs that openly display fascist symbols and commemorate anniversaries linked to the Nazi-backed Ustasha regime of World War II. Governments in Victoria, South Australia and the ACT have in the past year pledged grants to Croatian clubs that display pictures of Ustasha dictator Ante Pavelic on their walls and celebrate the anniversary of the creation of the puppet state.

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Aliir did not have key test after head clash, says AFL

Age, Sport, 31/07/2023, Peter Ryan, Page 40

Port Adelaide defender Aliir Aliir was not given a key test before being sent back on to the ground after he was involved in a heavy clash in the second quarter of Saturday night's match against Adelaide. Aliir and teammate Lachie Jones appeared to clash heads as they contested a mark, and both lay motionless on the ground for a moment before they walked from the field.

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

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Kerr, Catley and Raso tell local fans: We need you

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 7

Matildas stars are urging Melbourne to bring the noise as they embark on a highstakes match in a bid to keep the FIFA Women's World Cup dream alive. The nation's best female soccer stars will play their only match of the tournament in Australia's sporting capital as they chase history at a sold-out AAMI Park.

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Houses on track to be spared

Courier Mail, General News, 31/07/2023, James Hall, Page 11

Inner-Brisbane residents will be spared having their homes demolished to make way for the athletics

warm-up track for the 2032 Games, the state government has confirmed following vocal protests rejecting the sports field. Kangaroo Point homeowners will be told on Monday their homes are safe as updated plans for the Raymond Park transformation are released.

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

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

Celebration as \$1.25m Myers Park upgrade opens

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/07/2023, Simon McCarthy, Page 4

The redevelopment of Myers Park at Broadmeadow is officially open. A loose coalition of sports clubs and community organisations spent the better part of the past five years working towards redeveloping the open paddock into a multi-purpose sport hub that could house men's and women's codes across sporting disciplines.

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I'll quit work and uni to beat the Chinese 'robots'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 31/07/2023, Jamie Pandaram, Page 16

Cassiel Rousseau might be a world champion but if he wants to win gold at the Paris Olympics, he'll have to make a few more sacrifices. Like his job, his studies and anything resembling a social life. That is what it will take to beat his Chinese rivals, who will be fired up after the 22-year old became the first Australian to win an individual world diving title in Japan last weekend.

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Off-duty police officer accused of 'king hitting' rival in western Sydney soccer brawl

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, Emily Kowal

A top-level women's soccer game erupted into a brawl with allegations one player was "king hit" by an off-duty police officer during the punch-fest at Penrith. Match reports submitted to Nepean Football Association allege at least 18 players were involved in the fracas this month, which spectators have described as "a disgrace".

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Canberra hosts the largest handball tournament in Oceania

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2023

Canberra will host the largest European Handball tournament in Oceania, as calls for more funding for the sport grows.

[Read More](#)

2026 Commonwealth Games cancellation uproar: Melbourne and Bendigo business owners slam Daniel Andrews for canning sporting event in Victoria

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, David Southwell

Small business owners and community clubs have been left to pick up the pieces after the devastating decision to scrap the 2026 Commonwealth Games in regional Victoria. Melbourne business owner Simon Kemp says he ordered \$250,000 worth of audio equipment to set up for the Games as one of the contractors providing the infrastructure.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Studies hold promise of genomic screening for all, if we want it

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 31/07/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 12

Hours after a baby comes into this world, a moment of pain is inflicted. The newborn squirms and

grimaces over a pinprick to the heel; three drops of blood fall onto a paper card, which is whisked away by a nurse. As the family swaddle their infant, the blood is searched for the signature of a few dozen destructive conditions. Nearly always, nothing is found, and the test is forgotten.

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

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Help for Newcastle researchers fighting heart disease

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 30/07/2023, Matt Carr

A grant of almost \$800,000 will help University of Newcastle researchers tackle one of the most deadly afflictions facing cancer patients through specialist surveillance clinics, including one in Tamworth. 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 the disease itself.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

The gap won't close without fundamental changes in delivery

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/07/2023, Michael Brennan, Page 39

Governments promised radical accountability as well as partnerships involving Indigenous groups. But they are so far not delivering on these priorities.

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

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Too many lives lost

Cairns Post, General News, 31/07/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 1

Indigenous children and teenagers are taking their lives at a rate three times higher than non-Indigenous youth, data shows, with a stalwart of the Aboriginal health sector calling attention to suicide rates in Indigenous communities. According to the Suicide in Queensland annual report 2022, by the Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged under 20 accounted for 15.8 per cent of all suspected suicides by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in 2021, compared with 4.9 per cent for non-Indigenous youth of the same age.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Voice good for wellbeing

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Chris Mackey, Page 16

I must admit to having felt confused when hearing conflicting arguments about the Voice to Parliament referendum. I've been struck by how those advocating for a Yes or No vote have raised concerns related to equality. This issue particularly interests me, as perceived inequality is something that affects the psychological wellbeing of individuals and societies as a whole.

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Death sparks call to act on safer cells

Newcastle Herald, General News, 31/07/2023, Michael Parris, Page 3

The NSW Bar Association has called on the NSW government to drastically cut the rate of Indigenous incarceration and make cells safer after the death of an Aboriginal man at Shortland Correctional Centre. A state coronial report released on Friday into the suicide of a 26-year-old Bunjalung and Yaegal man at the jail in November 2021 called into question the care the man had received from Corrective Services NSW.

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

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Albanese government should sell Voice as part of framework for reducing Aboriginal disadvantage

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 31/07/2023, Michelle Grattan, Page 6

A report last week from the Productivity Commission has exposed without spelling it out an odd shortcoming in the Albanese Government's sales pitch for its Voice proposal. The commission examined the progress of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap that all governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations reached in 2020.

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Family's grief throws spotlight on an Indigenous 'suicide crisis' in WA's Great Southern region

ABC Online, Other, 31/07/2023, Daryna Zadvirna

"You should be able to say one, maybe two," the Menang woman said, huddled next to her father Donald and sister Kayla. "But we can't even say how many we've lost because there's been so many." Joanne and Kayla's younger brother Donald Junior was laid to rest earlier this month after the 24-year-old took his own life.

[Read More](#)

Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm not being run as promised by ACT government, board members say

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2023, Emmy Groves and Lottie Twyford

More than six years after a \$12 million purpose-built health facility opened south of Canberra, its eight beds have never been slept in. Just 154 people have participated in day programs at the site, at a cost of \$2.2 million per year and, most recently, an advisory board set up more than a decade ago to provide First Nations' expertise and guide decision-making at the facility was quietly suspended.

[Read More](#)

First Nations quit smoking program reaching into Aboriginal community to help people break the habit

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2023, Selina Ross

A Tasmanian Aboriginal program is using cultural connections to help community members quit smoking What's next? The National Tobacco Strategy is focusing on expanding partnerships to prevent and reduce tobacco use among First Nations people Cigarettes were a constant in Tamara Style's life for a long time.

[Read More](#)

NSW police use force against Indigenous Australians at drastically disproportionate levels, data shows

The Guardian, Other, 31/07/2023, Christopher Knaus

New South Wales police used force against Indigenous Australians at vastly disproportionate rates during the past three years, internal police data shows. Records obtained by the Redfern Legal Centre show Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were significantly overrepresented in police use of force incidents from 2018-20 to 2021-22.

[Read More](#)

Voice to Parliament: a Northern Territory doctor's perspective

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 31/07/2023

The Australian Electoral Commission has established a disinformation register to counter false claims being made about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum process. In October, Australians will vote in a referendum to decide whether to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution through a Voice to Parliament.

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[Back to Top](#)

Illawarra's flu and COVID-19 cases dive to lowest point this winter

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 31/07/2023, Page 3

Illawarra's flu and COVID-19 cases dive to lowest point this winter The number of respiratory illnesses circulating in the Illawarra has continued to drop, with the total number of flu, COVID and RSV cases in the region falling to their lowest point this winter. The latest NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report shows there were 255 cases of influenza recorded in the week to June 22, along with just 145 COVID-19 cases and 43 cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in the Illawarra Shoalhaven health district.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Pregnant pause: Atomo raises capital for US test launch

The Australian, Business News, 31/07/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 15

ASX-listed diagnostics company Atomo plans to release its bloodbased rapid pregnancy test in Australia by the end of the year and in the US within the next 18 months as it pivots from Covid-19. The company, which has a market capitalisation of just \$18.2m, is raising an extra \$4m ahead of the launch into the \$2bn global pregnancy test market. [...] The company is awaiting approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration to sell its rapid pregnancy test over the counter.

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

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Personal cost of vaccine

Herald Sun, General News, 31/07/2023, Alex White, Page 13

Dozens of Victoria's frontline workers remain off work after suffering serious conditions as a result of taking Covid-19 vaccines, leading to \$4.37m in WorkCover claims to date. [...] Both have joined a class action filed by NR Barbi Solicitor in the Federal Court in April, which is arguing negligence on behalf of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which approved the use of multiple vaccine brands in Australia during the pandemic.

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Therapeutic Goods Administration cracks down on banned 'Barbie drug' Melanotan-II

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/07/2023, Suzan Delibasic and Olivia Jenkins

Hundreds of ads spruiking an illegal tanning drug have been wiped from social media platforms, as authorities crack down on the banned substance. The Therapeutic Goods Administration has removed hundreds of illegal advertisements from popular social media platforms spruiking the sale of illegal Barbie drug' Melanotan-II.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [4BC \(Brisbane\)](#).

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2GB, Healthy Living, 30/07/2023, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with Dr Kaele Stokes, Executive Director of the Services Advocacy and Research, Dementia Australia. Stokes discusses a drug called Donanemab that has been shown to slow the progression of symptoms of early Alzheimer's disease. She notes drugmaker Eli Lilly has put an application into the Food and Drug Administration in the United States and is also looking at whether to put an application into the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme so that there will be subsidies available should the drug be approved by the TGA.

[Play Now](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Rehab centre 'not for junkies'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/07/2023, Agnes Gichuhi, Page 14

A proposed rehabilitation centre at Glenelg has been defended by a drug and alcohol services advocate, who believes it is desperately needed as a growing number of people seek help for substance abuse. It comes as residents and Holdfast Bay Council members raise concerns about the centre to be run by Uniting Communities just metres from Jetty Rd.

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

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Labor under pressure for drug reform after Sydney's spate of shootings

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/07/2023, Amber Schultz

The Greens and the Legalise Cannabis Australia Party are fighting to place drug reform back on the agenda with the state Labor government yet to announce details of its promised drug summit. It comes amid a spate of shootings following the killing of a one-time cocaine kingpin in Bondi last month, with five people shot in five days in Sydney last week.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Food fight is only a taste of what's to come

The Australian, Business News, 31/07/2023, Kiefer Casamore, Page 21

If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, according to the National Benchmarking Study Summary Report. Nature Climate Change's recent Future Warming from Global Food Consumption study has also warned that climateheating emissions from food production dominated by meat, dairy and rice will by themselves break the key international target of 1.5C reduction in global warming, if left unchecked.

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Prime energy drinks sold in convenience stores, despite exceeding caffeine limit

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/07/2023, Mary Ward

A dangerously caffeinated drink promoted by YouTube personalities is driving a black market in Sydney after it was banned from sale for not complying with safety standards Prime Energy, which has twice the permitted caffeine content for a beverage under the Australian and New Zealand Food Standards Code, is being sold for up to \$17 a can in convenience stores and online.

[Read More](#)

FOGO system 'overwhelmed' by plastics as industry urges public to get behind rollout

ABC Online, Other, 30/07/2023, Claire Moodie

From small plastics to objects as egregious as rounds of ammunition, lawnmower parts and gas bottles. Those are just some of the things that have had to be pulled out what is supposed to be just household food and garden waste by the industry that processes Australia's Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins.

[Read More](#)

'It's not even ugly': the Australian businesses rescuing 'imperfect' fruit

and veg

The Guardian, Other, 31/07/2023, Jonathan Barrett

Awkward potatoes, conjoined carrots, bulging strawberries and hail-blemished oranges have long had an image problem. Unloved by food retailers, they are among the millions of tonnes of food wasted in Australia each year. The ugly or imperfect food movement is, however, gathering momentum, as entrepreneurs seek to change our perceptions. In a period marked by steep increases in food prices, they might also save shoppers more than a few dollars in the process.

[Read More](#)

Maggie's business sells food destined for the bin. But don't worry, she tests it herself

SBS, Other, 30/07/2023, Madeleine Wedesweiler

Beyond Best Before's shelves are lined with perfectly good chocolate, biscuits, oat milk, ice cream, juice, cheese and loads more. All of this would have been thrown out had Maggie and her sister Katie Quach not stepped in to intervene. The business model of their store, which recently had its soft launch in Sydney, involves them purchasing goods that are deemed unfit to sell at conventional grocery stores from suppliers and distributors.

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[Back to Top](#)

AICIS

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[Back to Top](#)

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