



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 5th August 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Australian Sports Commission Chief Executive Kieren Perkins has expressed disappointment at the collapse of Canada's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, as the Victorian government attempts to navigate the fallout after dumping the event. "One of the frustrating things about the way the Victorian decision has been made is it has perpetuated this idea that the Commonwealth Games are epically expensive to put on," said Perkins, "We need to get back to basics and understand how you make it worthwhile and deliver it in a fiscally responsible way. I still believe that is possible."
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a lack of available mental health beds has been blamed for a 16-year-old girl being kept in leg and wrist restraints for 12 days at Melbourne's Northern Hospital. "The NDIS and the mental health sector have cost the taxpayer millions of dollars in emergency services managing my daughter," the girl's mother said, "In an ideal world there would be no restrictive practices, but if you shut them all down then I worry the only place left for her is a jail cell."
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a chronic shortage of key medical specialists has meant biopsy results are taking months to reach Queenslanders with suspected cancers. "The concern is that we're delaying treatment plans for the odd one that does come back with

cancer. It's four to six weeks now before they get a result," a Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital informant said.

- **The Adelaide Advertiser (page 1)** reports that a video played last month at a Community Concussion Research Foundation forum has showed some of the 20 concussions suffered by Port Adelaide AFL player Jay Schulz over his time at the club. "So many players were allowed to play concussed and returned to play too early. Many of them are now suffering from BTI (brain trauma injury), or having the early onset of brain and head issues," Adelaide lawyer Greg Griffin said. The Port Adelaide Football Club were recently issued a \$100,000 fine for failing to adhere to AFL concussion protocols.
- **The Saturday Age (page 5)** reports that doctors have warned that Victoria's system of emergency departments are crumbling, with the number of people waiting more than 24 hours for treatment increasing significantly. 3567 patients were stuck in emergency departments for more than 24 hours between April and June as they waited for an available bed, more than double compared to the same period last year, health performance data shows.
- **The Courier Mail (page 6)** reports that legal challenges have stalled an investigation into two surgeons at a major Brisbane South hospital more than three years into the process. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has confirmed there are four major investigations occurring across the Queensland Health system.
- **The West Australian (page 7)** reports that doctors have been angered by a move which will allow pharmacists to start providing diagnosis and treatment for women in WA suffering urinary tract infections. "Any woman can present to a trained pharmacist," Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson said, "This is for simple, straightforward episodes of UTI..." "Those with a more complex history should see their GP."

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Town's GP push gathers speed

Cairns Local News, General News, 04/08/2023, Page 8

The Department of Health and Aged Care is working with the North Queensland Primary Health Network and the Rural Workforce Agency to find solutions for GP services for people in the Cardwell area. [...] A spokeswoman for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the primary health network was "providing assistance to explore options to connect patients affected by the closure to connect to care when they need it.

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### Devastating side effects of vaping in children are revealed - after a 13-year-old was rushed to hospital after smoking an e-cigarette at school

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Pranav Harish

A leading health expert has revealed the terrifying effects of vaping on teens after a school student in Victoria became the latest victim of e-cigarettes. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said new laws would be introduced, which would only allow Aussies to purchase vapes in plain packaging with a prescription at pharmacies.

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### Vapes store no longer opening next to top Ashgrove school after protest

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 04/08/2023, Brendan O'Malley

A massive pile-on by residents and local politicians has seen a win for parents, with a vapes store no longer opening near Queensland's top primary school. [...] (Federal Health Minister) Mark Butler has announced the government will soon bring in regulations around (brightly coloured) packaging and flavours," she said.

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

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## How to get more GPs into rural areas

Grattan Institute, Other, 04/08/2023, Peter Breadon

Everyone reading this knows how hard it is to get a GP appointment in Tasmania. Yet Tasmanians should be getting more GP care than other Australians. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has declared that primary healthcare is a top priority, and the May budget was a good start.

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## Teenager found unconscious after vaping in school toilets, rushed to hospital

Herald Sun, Other, 04/08/2023, Alexandra Feiam

A teenager is in hospital after reportedly passing out while vaping in the school bathrooms. [...] "Vaping has now become the number one behavioural issue in high schools, and it is becoming widespread in primary schools as well," said Federal Health Minister Mark Butler earlier this year.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Move over Star Wars, this football franchise makes Portman marvel

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 05/08/2023, Emma Kemp, Page 5

Natalie Portman is in Australia right now, and it's not for a reason you might think. [...] That includes capitalising on the Women's World Cup by hosting an Equity House forum featuring stakeholders from Portman, Uhrman, Nortman and FIFA secretary-general Fatma Samoura to Football Australia's head of women's football and former Matilda Sarah Walsh, Australia's WWC chief operating officer Jane Fernandez and federal Sport Minister Anika Wells.

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

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### Treasurer funding blow for GC2026

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/08/2023, Greg Stolz, Page 19

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has ruled out funding the Gold Coast's bid to save the 2026 Commonwealth Games unless the Queensland government is involved. [...] Mr Tate made a formal pitch to federal Sports Minister Anika Wells this week to salvage the Games after Victorian Premier Dan Andrews sensationally dumped the event claiming multibillion-dollar cost blowouts.

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### ACCPA pitches solutions for sustainable aged care system

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/08/2023

Following on from its aged care financial sustainability summit earlier this year, the Aged & Community Care Providers Association has submitted an issues paper to Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells and the Aged Care Taskforce. The provider peak's 38-page document contains a number of potential solutions to funding Australia's aged care system, including:

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### 4 August 2023: The Week in Australian Foreign Affairs

Australian Institute of International Affairs, Other, 04/08/2023

[...] On 28 July, Wong, alongside Minister for Finance and Minister for Women Katy Gallagher and Minister for Sport Anika Wells hosted a "landmark" Gender Equality Symposium on the sidelines of the FIFA Women's World Cup in Brisbane.

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## Sunrise host Nat Barr confronts government about radical proposal for your superannuation money

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Jesse Hyland and Stephen Johnson

Sunrise host Nat Barr has questioned Labor minister Jason Clare over a bold proposal to set aside some of a person's superannuation for their future aged-care costs. [...] ' The association argued the existing funding model for aged care, based on general taxation revenue, wasn't working despite the Department of Health and Aged Care receiving special appropriations funding of \$31.154billion in 2022-23, compared with \$14.441billion for Defence.

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## Push for super savings to be used to tackle aged care funding crisis

Starts at 60, Other, 04/08/2023, Ysabelle Alesna

A new radical proposal has been presented to the federal government which may see older Australians using their superannuation for aged care expenses or potentially face an inheritance tax on their estate. [...] Earlier this July, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announced that an aged care task force comprised of experts and professionals had been set up to help improve the standards of care and decide how to best fund aged care.

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## 2GB, Afternoons, 04/08/2023, Deborah Knight

Interview with Angus Taylor, Shadow Treasurer and Bill Shorten, NDIS Minister. Shorten notes Aged Care Minister Anika Wells asked a group of independent experts to help resolve the matter of using superannuation to support aged care sector. He admits there is a challenge around funding, but he will leave it to the independent taskforce to give recommendations. Taylor says the aged care sector needs to be sustainable and inflation has made it more difficult.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## DEPARTMENT

### Town's GP push gathers speed

Cairns Local News, General News, 04/08/2023, Page 8

The Department of Health and Aged Care is working with the North Queensland Primary Health Network and the Rural Workforce Agency to find solutions for GP services for people in the Cardwell area. [...] A spokeswoman for Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the primary health network was

"providing assistance to explore options to connect patients affected by the closure to connect to care when they need it.

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## The Andrews' government has seemingly failed to deliver another Covid promise

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Mandy Squires

The Victorian government has seemingly failed in its promise to continue updating Covid death and hospitalisations numbers on its coronavirus website beyond July 28. [...] Furthermore, Victorians pointed out a note on the site now stated: "This is a historical snapshot from July 28, 2023; the page below will no longer be updated", and went on to advise that to access the latest Covid data for the state, Victorians should instead search the federal government's Department of Health and Aged Care website.

*Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).*

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## Doc Holiday: Which European Christmas markets are best?

Herald Sun, Other, 04/08/2023, Dilvin Yasa

Europe is famous for its Christmas markets, but which ones deliver the most bang for your buck? [...] A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesman said they recommend travellers check with their cruise provider for up-to-date travel requirements for their vessel and destination.

*Also reported by: [Escape \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).*

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## The latest COVID-19 news and case numbers from around the states and territories

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2023

The states and territories are now reporting their COVID-19 statistics weekly, instead of through the daily updates that were provided from the early days of the pandemic. [...] Source: Department of Health and Aged Care

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## 60-day dispensing never off the table: Shakespeare

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 04/08/2023

Department of Health and Aged Care officials reject claims that implementing double dispensing mid-way through the 7CPA is unfair. Suggestions that the government's decision to roll out 60-day dispensing while the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) is ongoing was "unfair" are being dismissed by bureaucrats.

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## Sunrise host Nat Barr confronts government about radical proposal for your superannuation money

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Jesse Hyland and Stephen Johnson

Sunrise host Nat Barr has questioned Labor minister Jason Clare over a bold proposal to set aside some of a person's superannuation for their future aged-care costs. [...] 'The association argued the existing funding model for aged care, based on general taxation revenue, wasn't working despite the Department of Health and Aged Care receiving special appropriations funding of \$31.154billion in 2022-23, compared with \$14.441billion for Defence.

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## Thousands of patients on the brink as government dumps promised funding for essential medical devices

Health Industry Hub, Other, 04/08/2023

In a startling announcement, the Department of Health and Aged Care has confirmed that the private...

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## Don't let arthritis become a...pain

HealthTimes, Other, 04/08/2023, Rahima Saikal

With a wet and chilly July behind us, many Australians are feeling aches and pains in their joints. According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, one in three Australians has a musculoskeletal condition that affects their joints and approximately 3.6 million Australians have arthritis with the numbers on the rise.

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## Gig Guide: Health dept exec joins robodebt taskforce

InnovationAus, Other, 04/08/2023, Brandon How

Federal Health department deputy secretary Penny Shakespeare has been appointed to support the taskforce inquiring into potential breaches of the public service code in the wake of the Robodebt Royal Commission. As a supplementary reviewer, Ms Shakespeare will make inquiries into the conduct of former agency heads.

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## RACGP seeks to ban vaping and tobacco companies' political donations

Ipswich News Today, Other, 04/08/2023

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) says new tobacco legislation should crack down on the predatory tobacco and vaping industry to help prevent younger generations getting hooked on nicotine. [...] In a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care on the Exposure Draft, Public Health (Tobacco and Other Products) Legislation, the RACGP recommended the consolidated legislation: prohibit tobacco and vaping industry donations to political parties or individual politicians; ensure services and resources supporting smoking cessation are more accessible for harder to reach groups...

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## 16 public servants referred for code of conduct investigations over Robodebt

RiotACT, Other, 04/08/2023, Chris Johnson

A total of 16 current and former APS employees have been referred to Australian Public Service Commissioner Gordon de Brouwer for code of conduct scrutiny over the illegal Robodebt scheme. [...] Department of Health deputy secretary Penny Shakespeare has now also been appointed as a supplementary reviewer to make inquiries into the conduct of former agency heads.

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## AMA rejects telehealth 'principles' on principle

The Medical Republic, Other, 04/08/2023

The MBS Review Advisory Committee is calling for stakeholder feedback on telehealth, but one major player it won't be hearing from is the AMA. [...] It will ultimately provide the Department of Health and Aged Care with advice on the appropriateness of the current settings for video and phone telehealth.

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## Hero or heretic? The tale of suspended doctor William Bay

Umbrella News, Other, 04/08/2023, Rebekah Barnett

William Bay, a former GP registrar, lost his medical licence after a widely publicised outburst decrying the COVID vaccines at the National Conference of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), in July 2022. During the confrontation, which was live streamed to social media, Bay accused Professor Paul Kelly of lying and of gaslighting doctors, and called on the medical professionals present to, "join with the people of Australia and stop forcing these vaccines on people who are being killed by them.

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## CORONAVIRUS

No relevant coverage

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Investors beware! Your super savings are a target

Weekend Australian, Business News, 05/08/2023, James Kirby, Page 30

It's official: They're coming after super. If there is a policy problem in Australia it seems the automatic solution is to see what can be lifted from retirement savings.

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### Superannuation savings could be used to fund aged care crisis

Aged Care Insite, Other, 04/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The aged care funding crisis should force Australians to set aside some of their superannuation savings in order to improve standards in aged care, a new blueprint from the sector's peak advocacy group has cautioned. Released at the Aged and Community Care Providers Association's (ACCPA) national summit on Thursday, the new issues paper also canvassed a new social insurance scheme or Medicare-style levy as alternatives to help fill the aged care funding black hole.

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### Partnership aims to create cutting-edge home care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/08/2023

Australian provider Silverchain has partnered with Israel-based telemedicine company Sheba Beyond to deliver digitally enabled in-home care. The collaboration between the two organisations which has been formally recognised with a memorandum of understanding will provide pioneering new models of home care to tens of thousands of older Australians through digital technologies.

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### Racetrack champion brings joy to residents

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/08/2023

An equine visitor has dropped by a HammondCare aged care home this week to celebrate Horses Birthday Residents at Strathearn House located in Scone, a country town in the Upper Hunter Shire of New South Wales were delighted on Wednesday to interact with retired racehorse Osborne Bulls, otherwise known as Ozzie.

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### Survey shows benefits of personalised care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

A report from aged care provider Whiddon reinforces the positive impact relationship-based care can have on its residents and home care clients. Released ahead of Aged Care Employee Day on 7 August which recognises the individual efforts and contributions of the aged care workforce the 2023 True Colours Report gathers feedback from residents, families, and community care clients to gauge satisfaction levels with Whiddon's services and staff.

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### Superannuation for aged care? Peak body calls for changes to super

HelloCare, Other, 04/08/2023, Alex Jacobs

A new Government submission pitched by the peak body for aged care providers has suggested a

portion of superannuation could be set aside to specifically fund aged care services in retirement, easing the sector's financial burden. By allocating a set amount of super for aged care, individuals would be able to afford better support services while reducing the leftover funds used for bequests or inheritance.

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## **Lump sum, daily payments or a combination? What to consider when paying for nursing home accommodation**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Anam Bilgrami

Moving yourself or a loved one to a nursing home can be emotional and difficult. While some have their nursing home accommodation costs fully covered by the government (based on a means test ), most will have to pay their own way.

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## **Calls for Aussies to use superannuation to fund aged care: 'Unfair'**

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Tamika Seeto

There are calls for a major overhaul of the way we pay for aged care in Australia, with one group proposing Aussies could dip into their superannuation savings to fund the costs. An issues paper by industry peak body Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) said chronic underfunding for aged care services had resulted in the sector becoming "unsustainable".

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## **Channel 7, Sunrise, 04/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington**

Panel discussion with Education Minister Jason Clare and Deputy Opposition Leader Sussan Ley. Clare discusses the proposal to use part of superannuation for aged care costs. He recalls the Royal Commission revealing the appalling conditions of elderly Australians, and notes they are implementing recommendations of the Royal Commission. Ley says she wants to recognise the great work that the workforce in aged care does. She notes the Aged Care Minister did not rule out taxes and she hopes the Government does not immediately choose taxes to address the issue.

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## **Channel 7, The Latest: Seven News, 03/08/2023, Michael Usher**

Panel discussion with Caroline Overington, author and journalist, and Brooklyn Ross, Kiss FM Newsreader. There is a suggestion the wealthy Australians could be forced to ring fence a slice of their superannuation to pay for quality aged care. That would essentially set aside a portion of retirement savings with a virtual barrier to cover future funding. Overington believes it is outrageous, and notes boomers are forced to put money into superannuation and now the government is essentially forcing to spend them on what they wanted to spend it on. Ross says superannuation is there so people do not live in poverty when they are older.

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# **POPULATION HEALTH**

## **Fears of unknown river risks**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/08/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 25

The state government doesn't have a handle on potential pollutants in the Upper Derwent River, the Tasmanian Greens say, with leader Rosalie Woodruff calling for a parliamentary inquiry into the management of freshwater. Dr Woodruff, an epidemiological expert who researched the impacts of climate change on health before entering parliament, said the government needed to sharpen its focus on water quality in Tasmania's rivers and "flow-on risks to human health".

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## Drugs 'may have been cut with fentanyl'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2023, Jenny Denton, Page 3

"Meth" sold to drug users in Bendigo may have been deliberately mixed with the more dangerous and addictive synthetic opiate Fentanyl, a local health service worker believes. Tim Townsend, a "mobile drug safety worker" with Bendigo Community Health Service, has a theory that Mexican drug cartels have mixed the drug with more commonly used substances here in Australia in a move to get more people addicted.

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## Support for mums returning to work

Central Western Daily, General News, 05/08/2023, Tanya Marschke, Page 1

Mums around the region have been supporting each other help navigate the sometimes tricky task of breastfeeding. The Australian Breastfeeding Association runs support groups like the one in Orange to pass on experience and advice.

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## Tourette's made Jack swear, now he yells out shapes and colours

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/08/2023, Jackson Graham

Most people with Tourette's actually don't swear but their tics can be hard to control. Still, many succeed in reframing Tourette's as just one part of who they are.

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## Warning over white powder with opioid metonitazene being mis-sold as cocaine in Melbourne

7news.com.au, Other, 04/08/2023, Lucy Mae

An opioid that can have life-threatening toxic effects is being mis-sold as cocaine, with at least two people recently requiring hospital treatment in Melbourne after taking it. On Friday, the Victorian Department of Health warned about the dangers of the potent opioid metonitazene, saying it has been mistakenly ingested at least twice.

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## Opinion divided over whether government vape regulations will minimise harm

SBS, Other, 04/08/2023

They were initially promoted as a tool to help people quit smoking but electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes or vapes', have since transformed into a recreational product that's particularly popular among young people. Amid increasing reports of harm to users, the Federal government is now aiming to regulate them and cut the number of youngsters taking up the habit.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### The good fight

Weekend Australian, Magazine, 05/08/2023, Cameron Stewart, Page 12

A team of crack Aussie scientists' goal to beat children's cancer, once and for all, feels closer than ever Vivian Rosati fingers the cross around her neck and speaks of faith and miracles. She is at the kitchen table of her home in -Sydney's North Ryde when her 15 year-old son Jack bounces home from school with a grin.

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

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### Deadly cancer delays

Queenslanders with suspected cancers are being forced to wait months to receive results of their biopsies, scans and MRIs due to a chronic shortage of key medical specialists. Women suspected of having breast cancer as well as those receiving pap smears are being affected by the staff shortage that concerned hospital workers say is putting patients' lives at risk due to the delay in diagnoses and treatment.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## Cancer crisis puts many lives at risk

Courier Mail, Editorials, 05/08/2023, Page 62

It is disappointing that once again another chronic crisis has been revealed to be plaguing Queensland Health, one that is very much life and death. Once again it is not an issue that sprung up overnight, but has been allowed to spread unchecked until it became malignant.

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## Strong support for cancer gym lifting spirits

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/08/2023, Madeline Link, Page 12

It's one of a few places where cancer patients and chronically ill people feel like their bodies are their own. Newcastle's Kaden Centre provides targeted exercise programs grounded in medical research, but beyond that it's a place to share scars, to laugh and to confide in a listening ear.

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## Booting goals for Daisy

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 05/08/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 8

The mother of a six-year-old Irymple girl battling leukaemia is urging parents to stand up for their children if they think they are unwell. Ash Pearce had to call an ambulance for her daughter Daisy on April 24, as her health had rapidly declined.

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## Trials a lifeline for blood cancer patients

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Jan Hallam, Page 20

Blood cancer was in the spotlight this month with a new report highlighting national inconsistencies in treatment access. Professor Chan Cheah at Blood Cancer Research WA is addressing that here.

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## Child-to-adult transition needed for cancer care

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Rachel Seeley, Page 22

Two families spoke to Health Consumer Council's Rachel Seeley about childhood cancer survivorship and the fragmented transition to adult services. Around 750 children aged 0-14 years are diagnosed with cancer every year in Australia, according to Cancer Council.

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## Ontological shock

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Dr Joe Kosterich, Page 47

Data shows that, not surprisingly, cancer screening took a hit during COVID. This even applied to bowel cancer screening which, compared to breast or cervical cancer screening does not require one to attend a facility outside the house unless one counts a post box as a facility.

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## High-risk patient melanoma surveillance

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Dr Tony Caccetta, Page 49

There is no systematic (population or targeted) screening for melanoma in Australia, however, there is

evidence of significant ad-hoc (opportunistic) screening as well as early detection. There is currently insufficient evidence to support a change from ad-hoc to systematic screening.

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## Melanoma in the crosshairs

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Eric Martin, Page 1

There is tantalising new hope for melanoma sufferers with West Australian researchers playing a significant role in the trial of a personalised, cancer vaccine therapy the first of its kind in the world. The drug trial is testing mRNA 4157, which uses the DNA from a patient's tumour to help develop a unique treatment for that individual.

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## Breast Cancer Network Australia marks 25 years of supporting patients

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Samantha Landy

Breast cancer was "secretive and shameful" when Lyn Swinburne was diagnosed in the '90s. Twenty-five years later, she and her supporters have transformed how the disease is seen and treated.

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

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## Perth toddler Tommy Bacon in cancer battle after illness initially dismissed as virus from daycare

7news.com.au, Other, 04/08/2023, Jordan Cutts

It's not going into remission. It's not going to disappear.' A West Australian toddler initially told he had a virus caught at daycare is now in an agonising wait for life-saving treatment after doctors realised he had been struck down by something far more sinister.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### More patients waiting longer in emergency

The Saturday Age, General News, 05/08/2023, Henrietta Cook, Page 5

The number of Victorians languishing in emergency departments for more than 24 hours has increased significantly, with doctors warning of a system that is crumbling. Health performance data released yesterday shows that 3567 patients were stuck in emergency departments for more than 24 hours between April and June as they waited for an available bed - more than twice as many patients compared to the same period last year.

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

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### Sector is in a critical state

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 05/08/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 10

The extent of Victoria's health crisis has been laid bare through new data which has revealed the problem is continuing despite the worst of the pandemic having ended. Ambulance Victoria is failing to meet its key target of getting to priority code-one call outs within its 15 minute benchmark, and ramping continues to cause havoc on the state's embattled health system.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Labor's ailing health record

Herald Sun, Editorials, 05/08/2023, Page 58

The number of seriously ill kids waiting for urgent surgery at Melbourne's specialist children's hospital has almost doubled in a few months. While the Andrews government played politics with the dire pressures on Victorian hospitals during the pandemic and in the aftermath the reality is being demonstrated in ever-growing surgery wait lists.

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## Emergency care mishaps increase

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2023, Des Houghton, Page 60

The number of "adverse events" suffered by Queenslanders in state hospital emergency departments is rising. And overall health care delivery in hospitals is in decline and "lurching from one crisis to another". [...] The AMA has also been critical of bed shortages and congestion in EDs.

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

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## State falls short of thousands of beds

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2023, Des Houghton, Page 60

Queensland hospitals are short of 1500 beds, the AMA says. The Palaszczuk government has pledged to provide more beds by 2026 but has not said how they will be funded.

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## Libs hit Health's 'perfect week'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 23

SA Health's "perfect week" aimed at improving the flow in hospitals didn't fix ramping but has been hailed by SA Health and blasted by the Opposition. SA Health held its "Focus Week" in May seeking ways to improve efficiency in clogged hospitals and has faced repeated calls to release the results.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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## Back from the brink

Adelaide Advertiser, Weekend, 05/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 30

He survived the hell of the Cudlee Creek bushfires and now John Glatz is giving back at the Royal Adelaide Hospital unit that saved his life He's been to hell-on-earth and back and died three times and now bushfire survivor John Glatz is giving thanks for his extraordinary recovery.

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## Script win for women

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 05/08/2023, Rebecca Le May and Claire Sadler, Page 7

'Big step' in UTI treatment Women in WA suffering urinary tract infections will no longer have to book a GP for relief from the painful symptoms, with pharmacists stepping up to provide diagnosis and treatment a move angering doctors. [...] But the move has aggravated perennial tensions between doctors and pharmacists, with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian Medical Association WA issuing a joint statement saying they could not endorse the move because of potential harms.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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

## RFDS given Hollywood treatment

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Edition Changes, 05/08/2023, Shannon Hampton, Page 29

A Hollywood movie mogul and close friend of Prince Harry and Meghan has donated thousands of dollars to WA's Royal Flying Doctor Service after seeing a Perth man's remarkable replica of their lifesaving plane. Billionaire Tyler Perry, who offered his Los Angeles mansion to the Duke and Duchess

of Sussex after they stepped back from royal duties and is their daughter Lilibet's godfather made a \$25,000 donation after coming across the replica RFDS plane built by Darlington's Andrew Herzfeld.

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

## Charity event sets \$150,000 target to boost health services

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 05/08/2023, Amber Lilley, Page 10

With a goal of raising \$150,000 for two health services, Topdrill will once again host its Resources Industry Charity Sundowner on Sunday night. This year's event hosted at Topdrill headquarters will be in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Full Circle Therapies.

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

## Big rise in patient numbers at EDs

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/08/2023, Keith Woods, Page 12

There has been a surge in the number of patients treated at the emergency departments (EDs) of Robina and Gold Coast University Hospitals. A total of 46,816 patients were seen at the EDs in the April to June quarter.

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

## The real issue is access to theatre time

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Dr Brigid Corrigan, Page 12

The article in the July issue of Medical Forum on the difficulty faced by plastic surgeons accessing theatre lists in private hospitals, provided a good overview of a problem that has been developing for a few years. However, comments made by HBF's Executive General Manager Insurance and Health Services, Dr Heredia, require clarification.

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

## Perinatal loss service cares

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Dr Bligh Berry, Page 32

The death of a baby, while in utero, is devastating for parents. A late stillbirth (28 weeks or more) can have a profound and long-lasting effect. For many parents, the baby has been named, nursery painted, car seat installed, and grandparents are excited.

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

## A roadmap for paediatric palliative care

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 35

Most clinicians will relate to the emotional and professional responsibility that comes with caring for people medicine is a science but one that is deeply rooted in our humanness. For those who work exclusively in paediatrics, there are the added dimensions of innocence and vulnerability that comes with children and young people.

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

## St John of God Geelong maternity ward faces bypass, doctors warn

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Tamara McDonald

Doctors have warned heavily pregnant women due to give birth at St John of God Hospital Geelong that they may be forced to deliver elsewhere. Obstetricians Dr Kara Thompson, Dr Aleisha Gorski and the team at Berth told the group's patients that due to a shortage of paediatrician cover, the hospital may go on bypass.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## SA Health boss concedes there is a 'long way to go' to reduce health system delays

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2023, Tom Fedorowytch

SA Health has stopped short of committing to fully implementing recommendations from its own review

based on a week of trials across the health system designed to improve its performance. SA Health held what it called "Focus Week" from May 15 to 21, in which it cancelled non-clinical work and regular meetings.

[Read More](#)

## Victoria's first dedicated sobering up centre to open in inner-Melbourne suburb

The Guardian, Other, 04/08/2023

Victoria's first permanent sobering up centre will be set up in the inner-Melbourne suburb of Collingwood ahead of the decriminalisation of public drunkenness in the state. The 20-bed facility has been announced as the Andrews government shifts away from treating public drunkenness as a crime and towards making it a health issue.

*Similar coverage reported by: [SBS \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

## GPs want 'to clip that Medicare ticket'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 04/08/2023

Budgetary measures aimed at curbing out-of-pocket healthcare costs, including 60-day dispensing, are unlikely to reduce patients' spending at their GP, Senator Hollie Hughes warns. Speaking in the Senate on Thursday, Hughes said while the government's policy would result in fewer trips to the pharmacy to collect medications,

[Read More](#)

## 'Get dead set' day

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 04/08/2023

Dying to Know Day, a national annual campaign that helps Australians live, grieve, and die better, is calling on the Australian Government to fund community-led approaches for end-of-life care.

[Read More](#)

## Complexities of genetic carrier screening in focus

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/08/2023, Alisha Dorrigan

With MBS access to screening starting soon for those who are pregnant or planning pregnancy, newsGP looks at the likely impact on general practice. Upcoming changes to the MBS are expected to generate more interest in reproductive carrier screening testing.

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# MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Why mental health conversation is critical for success

Weekend Australian, General News, 05/08/2023, Fleur Heazlewood, Page 37

Rising levels of stress, burnout and mental illness mean mental health conversation skills are no longer a nice-to-have, but necessary. Leaders are expected to provide psychologically safe and mentally healthy working environments yet often lack the skills and training to support the wellbeing of their people.

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

## Teen shackled for 12 days

Herald Sun, General News, 05/08/2023, Julie Cross and Melanie Burgess, Page 1

A 16-year-old girl was kept in leg and wrist restraints in a public hospital round the clock for 12 days and was even made to wear nappies because there were no mental health beds available. Staff were

forced to restrain her day and night after she attacked 10 nurses, leaving one concussed.

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

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

## 'National shame': Call for birth trauma help

The Saturday Age, General News, 05/08/2023, Wendy Tuohy, Page 15

As others took to sourdough baking during COVID-19 lockdowns, Tara and Andrew Clark chose to learn all they could about childbirth as their new hobby of 2020. They were engaged a few weeks before the pandemic hit, and discovered the next day they were expecting their first baby.

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

## More farmers seek mental health help

Burnie Advocate, General News, 05/08/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 10

Farmers making the difficult first step to ask for mental health and suicide support are losing their motivation and turning away from services after waiting months. The issue has led one support service to ensure a 48-hour response time from a psychologist for individuals whose doctors see a need for urgent assistance.

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

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## 'Fabulous' exercise for PTSD and addiction

Newcastle Herald, General News, 05/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 43

Cessnock's Paul Hokin has spent more than nine months a year in a psychiatric hospital for five years. Mr Hokin, 69, suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), due to being brutally assaulted in an Australian Army initiation ritual at age 18.

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

## CSU FC wants the Headspace Cup back on a big weekend

Western Advocate, General News, 05/08/2023, Bradley Jurd, Page 1

Football players will descend on Proctor Park this weekend to compete for the Headspace Cup. The event was launched by CSU Football Club in partnership with Bathurst District Football, back in 2016, an initiative to raise funds and awareness for mental health.

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## Helping hand for truckies on road

Big Rigs, General News, 04/08/2023, Page 12

Radio communications company GME has partnered with Rural Outreach Counselling (ROC) in a bid to encourage truckies to open up about their mental health. The Open Road, Open Up initiative uses the UHF CB Channel 24 as a free support platform for those who need it, spearheaded by high-profile driver and road safety advocate, Rod Hannifey.

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## Mates4Mates expands support

Navy News, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 20

Support services have been boosted for current and ex-serving ADF members and their families in the Northern Territory and southeast Queensland. With the official opening of dedicated centres in Stuart Park and Ipswich, Mates4Mates is one of Australia's leading veteran charities actively changing the lives of those impacted by service.

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## The Robodebt scheme resulted in significant harm, including suicides. But the 2,030 deaths figure spread by some is not supported by the data

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2023, Toby Hunt

Coinciding with the release of the Robodebt royal commission's final report , claims about the devastating impact of the program have resurfaced online. In a slew of posts across social media, users have blamed the scheme for more than 2,000 deaths, with many citing the figure of 2,030.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Bulli Hospital tries out staff shuttle bus

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 05/08/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 5

Parking and congestion has become such an issue at Bulli Hospital the health district is now running a free staff shuttle to and from Bulli Showground. Residents and staff have grown increasingly concerned about traffic in the streets around the hospital, saying there have been several serious accidents in recent years.

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

### Aged staff thanks

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 05/08/2023, Page 23

Mildura's The Vines Retirement Village and Irymple's Oasis Aged Care will present service awards to team members this Tuesday in recognition of their commitment to caring for the elderly as part of Aged Care Employee Day. Held on August 7, Aged Care Employee Day (ACED) is a national day which acknowledges the more than 360,000 people who care for and support around 1.3 million older Australians who receive aged-care services.

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

### Aged care roles on offer

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 05/08/2023, Monique Patterson, Page 11

At least 80 roles in the aged care and disability sector are on offer across the south-west. Job seekers will have the chance to learn about the range of opportunities at information sessions next week.

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

### ADSSI to include support staff in pay rise deal

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 04/08/2023

Hunter and Central Coast home care and disability group ADSSI has announced it will lift wages for all of its workers following the Fair Work Commission's recent decision to increase award wages by 15 per cent for selective staff only. The FWC ruling include includes direct care workers nurses and personal care workers and some non-direct care workers such as head chefs and cooks, and recreational activities officers.

[Read More](#)

### Payroll tax threat: Why rewriting GP contracts is no certain fix

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Tax adviser Paul Copeland says restructuring is not an option for all practices. At the RACGP practice owners' conference this year, a snap poll found about one-sixth of 300 GPs were restructuring their practice financially due to the payroll tax threat.

[Read More](#)



## New Fellows recognised at PSA23

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 04/08/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced its new Fellows in recognition of their outstanding and sustained contribution to PSA and the pharmacy profession. PSA National President Dr Fei Sim FPS congratulated PSA members who were recognised for their significant advancement and achievement in the practice of pharmacy over an extended period of time.

[Read More](#)

## Sharp rise in exam success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 04/08/2023, Morgan Liotta

The latest RACGP CCE exam saw a 100% pass rate among the cohort, which has been hailed as a phenomenal achievement'. The exam successes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GPs in training is testament to the commitment of trainees and wraparound supports', the faculty's Censor says.

[Read More](#)

## Rural Health West survey reveals Mid West one of three regions to see increase in GPs

West Australian, Other, 04/08/2023, Anna Cox

The Mid West's healthcare workforce has been boosted by four extra GPs, according to a comprehensive survey that saw this region emerge better than the State average. A 4.4 per cent increase in GPs was reported in the Mid West in 2022 compared with the State average of a 2.2 per cent rise.

[Read More](#)

## 4BC, Drive, 04/08/2023, Peter Gleeson

Interview with Tammy Copley, Founder, Nurses and Midwives Against Bullying Australia. Copley discusses the issue of doctors and nurses experiencing mental health issues due to toxic work environment in Queensland Health. She notes there are huge amounts of depression, anxiety, PTSD and death by suicide among nurses, midwives and doctors as a result of burnout and toxic culture.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Opioid replacement hits the PBS

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Eric Martin, Page 36

National changes to the way opioid replacement treatments are dispensed may only be minor for WA, but it has gone some way to break the stigma. [...] However, from 1 July this year, changes to how ODT medicines were listed under the Community Access Program meant that patients for the first time have gained a PBS co-payment for up to 28 days' supply, with the amount paid contributing towards their Safety Net threshold.

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## Channel 9, Nine News Late, 03/08/2023, Jane Goldsmith

New medication for migraines is now more affordable after being added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It's the first intravenous treatment to be subsidised to prevent attacks in chronic sufferers.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Surgeon probes hit legal delay

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 6

An investigation into two surgeons at a major hospital in Brisbane's south has stalled more than three years into the process due to legal challenges. It comes as Health Minister Shannon Fentiman confirmed there were a total of four major investigations and reviews occurring across the Queensland Health system, all of which were publicly known.

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### Doctor referred to prosecutors over wife's death fights suspension of medical registration

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 04/08/2023, Emily Woods

A physician has labelled a coronial investigation into his wife's death that recommended him for criminal charges "dubious" as he tried to fight suspension of his medical registration. Peter Spencer, a Melbourne sleep and respiratory doctor, was referred to prosecutors in June to consider a negligent manslaughter charge, after a coronial investigation into the death of his wife Mayumi.

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

[Read More](#)

### 'I believe medical negligence caused my son's disability'

Adelaide Now, Other, 04/08/2023, Joel Erickson

A young family is preparing to sue their local hospital after claiming medical negligence led to their son's disability. 9News reports Torquay mum Lisa Otsen's four-year-old boy Landon lives with cerebral palsy, but she claims medical records obtained through her lawyers revealed it's likely Landon's brain injury could have been avoided.

[Read More](#)

### Criminal standard under review

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 04/08/2023, Chris Brooker

Australia's health practitioner regulator is inviting the public to contribute towards its review of the national standard that sets the bar for criminal history for registered health practitioners.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## SPORT

### Wheels turning in battle of the sexes

Weekend Australian, General News, 05/08/2023, Jason Gagliardi, Page 11

A female cyclist banned from racing against the blokes in the 1960s says she is in lockstep with a

landmark Union Cycliste International decision to ban transgender women who have been through puberty from racing against biological females. "Fair is fair. It's common sense," says Margaret McLachlan, 79. "I always found it harder racing against men. They are biologically stronger than females so I don't agree with [transgender women in women's racing]."

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## Bol ready to return but could be upstaged by his housemate

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 05/08/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 53

While Peter Bol was fighting to clear his name, his longtime housemate quietly broke the Olympic hero's national record. Again.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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## Canada axes Games, blames Victoria

The Saturday Age, General News, 05/08/2023, Chip Le Grand, Page 1

The collapse of a Canadian bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games has dramatically upped the stakes for the Andrews government as it seeks to extricate itself from its contract to stage the 2026 event. Commonwealth Sport Canada revealed yesterday that Alberta had abandoned its interest in hosting the Games in seven years' time, citing the Victorian government's shock move to dump its planned regional Games as a "significant factor" in the decision.

*Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#). *Similar coverage reported by:* [AFR Weekend \(Australia\)](#), [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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## Matildas mania hits suburbs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/08/2023, Jessica McSweeney, Page 8

Australia has Matilda-mania - with record breaking ticket sales, huge television ratings and fans pouring into parks and pubs across Sydney to watch the Tillies play. As the Matildas gear up for a Monday clash with Denmark, ticket sales for the FIFA Women's World Cup have hit 1.7 million, smashing the 1.1 million sold in France 2019.

*Also reported by:* [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#). *Similar coverage reported by:* [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#).

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## Plan to keep the Cup ball rolling

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/08/2023, Erin Smith, Page 9

The FIFA Women's World Cup still has two weeks to go but Football Australia is already looking ahead, with chief executive James Johnson revealing he hopes to hold the AFC Women's Asian Cup on home soil in 2026 and the Men's World Cup in 2034. Johnson, speaking exclusively to CODE Sports, said Football Australia had already lodged a bid and expression of interest for the Asian Cup with the next step dependent on \$45m of joint funding from the federal and state governments.

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## Ban tackling and heading

Daily Telegraph, General News, 05/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 27

Junior players should be banned from tackling in football and performing headers in soccer to prevent brain injuries, a Senate inquiry into concussion has been told. And any child under 14 who suffers a head-knock should wait six weeks before returning to the field.

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## Qld loses out in failed Suncorp merger

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2023, Glen Norris, Page 1

ANZ's \$4.9bn offer to take over Suncorp Bank has been rejected by regulators, depriving Queensland of billions of dollars in the lead up to the 2032 Olympics. The deal, thwarted by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission yesterday because it would reduce competition in home loans and business banking, would have pumped billions of dollars into the Queensland economy.

Story continues in: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## It's a knockout

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2023, Michael McGuire, Page 1

Port Adelaide is reeling from a \$100,000 fine for failing to adhere to AFL concussion protocols, and a growing in jury list that threatens to derail its premiership aspirations. And now Jay Schulz's lawyer says the former Port spearhead, left, played for the club at least 20 times the week after a suffering a probable concussion.

Similar coverage reported by: [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [In Daily \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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## Giant mound of dirt blocks new sports field for Shell Cove

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 05/08/2023, Connor Pearce, Page 9

Shellharbour sports clubs say they are being held back by delays in the delivery of sports fields promised as part of the development of The Waterfront by Frasers Property Australia and Shellharbour Council. The site of a combined AFL ground and cricket pitch is currently covered in giant mounds of spoil, dredged up in the construction of the Shell Cove Marina.

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## Search for our lost Paralympians

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 05/08/2023, Janine Graham, Page 69

The names of the Illawarra's Paralympians from the Tokyo 2020 (summer) and Beijing 2022 (winter) games are included on the Illawarra Olympic Tribute Wall, but now the search is on for the trailblazers. The Paralympian project is intent on tracking down as many of the region's athletes from the first games in 1960 to 2020 as possible. By one estimation, about five per cent of Australia's 1100 Paralympians have come from the Illawarra.

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## Centre plans 'not viable'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 05/08/2023, Tess Kelly, Page 1

The price Tamworth council is willing to pay for a brand new aquatic centre has been reeled in to try and keep its head above water. The budget for a new multi-million dollar aquatic, sport and health centre has been reduced by \$17 million.

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## City warned to build new stadium or miss future opportunities

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 05/08/2023, Paul Weston, Page 34

The Gold Coast has a deficit of indoor entertainment stadiums for its population and must pursue a new major event centre or risk losing billions of dollars, a report warns. City councillors, in a closed session briefing, have been told Brisbane, the Olympic host city, will gain a stranglehold on the lucrative entertainment, convention and sporting market courtesy of the 2032 Olympic Games.

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## Swimming world champ Kaylee McKeown reveals why she wouldn't be

## in the sport if it wasn't for Gina Rinehart - and opens up on her clash with teammate Cate Campbell

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Andrew Prentice and Ollie Lewis

aylee McKeown has revealed she wouldn't be a global swimming superstar if it weren't for a stunning act of generosity by Gina Rinehart - and why she personally doesn't agree with Cate Campbell's explosive comments on the US swim team. McKeown, 22, won the women's 50m, 100m and 200m backstroke at the recent World Championships in Japan - and acknowledged that without funding from Rinehart, her glittering career in the pool would never have happened.

[Read More](#)

## ACL injuries more prevalent in female athletes, study finds

NEWS.com.au, Other, 04/08/2023

A South Australian researcher has found menstrual cycles may be contributing to a crisis of knee injuries in female football. Women are cited as having a significantly higher risk than men with 37 women missing from the FIFA Women's World Cup due to ACL injuries.

[Read More](#)

## Rugby league swaps inclusion for pragmatism at next World Cup

The Guardian, Other, 04/08/2023, Gavin Willacy

Three World Cups, two Ashes series, a series of tours for men's and women's teams the announcement from International Rugby League after their meeting in Singapore sounded like the gift that kept on giving. Then reality kicked in.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Race against time for George as gene therapy offers lifeline

Weekend Australian, General News, 05/08/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 9

Little George Stalley is in a race against time. The four-year old has the rare disease Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and by the time he is 11 it is likely he will no longer be able to walk.

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

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### Trauma hits pregnancy

Courier Mail, General News, 05/08/2023, Page 9

Women who experienced childhood trauma such as abuse, neglect or violence may be at higher risk of pregnancy complications, according to Australian researchers. They reviewed 32 relevant studies published between 1994 and 2022 and found that women with childhood trauma were 37 per cent more likely to have pregnancy complications and 31 per cent more likely to give birth to an underweight or premature baby.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Body bequest

Northern Territory News, General News, 05/08/2023, Leisa Scott, Page 28

What happens when you donate your body to medical science? The team at QUT takes us inside their body donor program to explain the extraordinary decision that Queenslanders are taking to give up their bodies to advance medical knowledge and to help others.

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

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## Raine the Next Gen

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 40

One of Charlotte Diaz's earliest memories were special outings to meet a woman named Sue, based in the Raine Study's then centre in Subiaco. There, Charlotte would be involved in fun activities, an experience the now 32-year-old professional and mother says were something she looked forward to.

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## Cross-disciplinary research opens minds

Medical Forum, General News, 01/08/2023, Dr Jun Wen, Page 44

Thinking outside the box to solve stubborn problems takes courage and imagination, says ECU's Dr Jun Wen. Evidence-based research is integral to academia, driving innovation and improving understanding while informing global policy.

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## Mother's diet can protect her grandchildren's brains, study finds

9News, Other, 04/08/2023, Richard Wood

Mothers who eat apples and herbs in early pregnancy could be protecting the brain health of their children and grandchildren, an Australian study using genetic models has found. The discovery, by Monash University in Melbourne, is part of a project that found a mother's diet can affect not just her child's brain but also those of her grandchildren.

[Read More](#)

## Petting other people's dogs even briefly can boost your health for months on end

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 05/08/2023, Matthew Phelan

Nobody needs to be told that introducing yourself and petting a stranger's dog can brighten your day but a growing body of research suggests that it could be great for your health as well. A new field of scientific study is finding that even brief positive experiences between people and man's best friend can have a lasting impact, lowering stress hormones and increasing what experts sometimes call 'the love hormone.'

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## The risk of kidney stones could be increased by eating biscuits and drinking fizzy drinks, researchers warn

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Xantha Leatham

A study suggests that a greater intake of added sugars - commonly found in processed food - raises the chance of developing the painful condition. Kidney stones affect more than one in ten people, mostly aged between 30 and 60, and are caused by waste products in the blood forming crystals.

[Read More](#)

## Dr Guy Cameron to establish a genomic technology platform through HMRI, University of Newcastle and John Hunter Hospital to fight future infections of ear, nose and throat

Newcastle Herald, Other, 04/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw

A University of Newcastle immunologist will establish a genomic technology platform for the "the future control" of infectious respiratory and ear diseases. Dr Guy Cameron was awarded a \$500,000 early-mid career research grant to develop the technology.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

**A No result in the Voice referendum would represent a new tragic form**

## of division

Hobart Mercury, General News, 05/08/2023, Craig Brown, Page 32

As a young medical doctor I lived on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, cherishing my Anangu friends and culture their pulsating inma/dance, trips for bush tucker, playing footy with the Amata Bombers. In 1985 I was at Uluru for the handback to Anangu a day of unity and joy that had taken two decades of lobbying to achieve.

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

## Mayor says 'welfare' is now at risk

Weekend Post, General News, 05/08/2023, Isaac McCarthy, Page 1

A Far North mayor believes concern for the "mental welfare" of Indigenous Australians is at risk of being lost in the vexing voice debate across the region. The Douglas Shire mayor said it had become a public opinion poll on the constitutional recognition of the Indigenous, mirroring the personal scrutiny of the homosexual community during the marriage plebiscite.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Free meningococcus jabs off cards in NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 05/08/2023, Page 17

NSW Health will not follow the path of their Queensland counterparts in making free meningococcal B vaccines more widespread, despite NSW seeing more cases of the deadly virus this year. The Queensland government yesterday announced children under two and teenagers from 15 to 19 would be eligible for free meningococcal B vaccines.

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### Spike in sickness

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 05/08/2023, Madeleine McNeil, Page 1

Warrnambool schools have had hundreds of students absent as influenza, RSV and winter sicknesses sweep across the south-west. Teachers are not immune from falling ill, presenting challenges for schools facing staff shortages.

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### Meningococcal B vaccine to be included in Queensland's routine childhood, school immunisation program

ABC Online, Other, 04/08/2023, Gemma Sapwell and Sarah Cumming

The parents of a 23-year-old Queensland woman who died from meningococcal B last year say they want the state's decision to make the vaccine available for free to be her lasting legacy. The Queensland government today announced children under the age of two and teenagers aged 15 to 19 will receive the meningococcal B vaccine free of charge and part of the existing immunisation schedule.

*Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).*

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### Fewer patients choosing GP practices for flu vax, official data show

Australian Doctor, Other, 04/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Are GP practices losing their grip on flu vaccinations? Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data suggest maybe so, with the proportion of flu shots delivered in general practice falling almost 20% between 2020 and 2023.

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Down but far from out, here's why biotechs could stage a comeback

The Australian, Other, 04/08/2023, Eddy Sunarto

The COVID-19 pandemic produced windfalls for and attracted fast money to the pharmaceutical sector. [...] Neurotech has received HREC (ethics) approval and Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) scheme clearance by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for its Rett syndrome clinical trial.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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### Is there a cure for chronic pain? Yes, for some people

The New Daily, Other, 04/08/2023, John Elder

About 10 months ago, Victorian pain specialist Dr Murray Taverner began using a Scrambler Therapy device on patients with chronic neuropathic pain. [...] It wasn't approved in Australia as a medical device by the Therapeutic Goods Administration until around 2019.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Cannabis start-up's big hit

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 05/08/2023, Jessica Coates, Page 21

A Geelong-based medicinal cannabis biotech company has crowd-funded \$1.3m in less than 24 hours. Medigrowth, based in Waurin Ponds, launched an online equity crowd-funding campaign last week which immediately attracted more than 6000 expressions of interest.

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### Inside the plan to legalise cannabis in Australia and how it could generate billions in taxes for the government

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 04/08/2023, Ellen Ransley and Jesse Hyland

Thousands of Australians support legalising cannabis, backing in the Greens' plan that could generate an additional \$28 billion in revenue over nine years. Greens Justice spokesman David Shoebridge will hand down his Legalise Cannabis Report on Friday, after nearly 9000 survey responses, dozens of official submissions and many phone calls, social media conversations, and 'real life conversations' in response to a draft bill.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### DNA tests catch out fishy food labelling

Canberra Times, General News, 05/08/2023, Tracey Ferrier, Page 19

More than 10 per cent of the seafood sold in Australia is not what's on the label and threatened species sometimes wind up on the plate, DNA tests suggest. The national study, by the Minderoo Foundation, has exposed a serious problem with labelling and species substitution. Researchers who DNA tested



672 seafood products sold at Australian supermarkets, fish markets and restaurants found 11.8 per cent didn't match what was on the label.

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## Blow for Diet Coke fans

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 05/08/2023, Adella Beaini, Page 22

Swapping full-fat drinks for diet alternatives may be worse than you think, with scientists warning it increases your risk of type 2 diabetes. Experts say they're even more concerned about artificial sweeteners, found in fizzy drinks such as Diet Coke and sugar free gum, being used as replacements for sugar after research in June showed they can cause cancer.

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