



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 11th August 2023

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| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
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| [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](#) |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports a Senate inquiry into school refusal has called for extra Medicare rebates for child psychology to better support mental health care for students. The inquiry found the anxiety and trauma that often prompted school refusal stemmed from bullying and neurodivergence.
- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the NSW Government has announced an incentive to help health workers fill regional shortages, offering up to \$20,000 in support for those moving to regional areas. All regional health districts in NSW are facing nursing shortages, particularly those with emergency qualifications.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a lack of appropriate equipment has been blamed for healthcare workers using their phone torches to examine patients at an Ipswich Hospital. A review of the hospital made 9 recommendations following a patient's complaint about her care at the facility, with Queensland Health confirming the changes will be rolled out at hospitals across the state.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that staff at Sunshine Coast University Hospital say shifts have been cut and junior nurses left unsupervised as the Queensland government looks to

recoup a \$40 million debt. With efficiency measures put in place to find savings in the state's health system since 2018, Nurses Professional Association of Queensland president Marg Gilbert said "The issue of unsafe staffing and skill mixes is of epidemic proportions across all of Queensland Health."

- **The Adelaide Advertiser (page 1)** reports that Australian medical researchers have pioneered a new bowel cancer detection test that improves detection rates and could pave the way for blood test screening. Using an engineered bacteria, the research team was able to identify the cancer in 100 per cent of samples.
- **The West Australian (page 1)** reports that the Australian Nursing Federation has said it is considering forming a political party to contest the 2025 Western Australia election to campaign for healthcare changes. The union said that having healthcare experience in Parliament would be beneficial to help fix holes in the system.
- **The Australian (page 5)** reports that Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells has announced that new data on Thursday indicated that eight in 10 aged-care facilities now had continuous nursing coverage after new regulations were implemented. Minister Wells also said that the aged-care taskforce will examine the use of personal superannuation to cover aged care costs.
- **The Australian (page 5)** reports that the Australian Medical Association has labelled state and territory government refusal to rule out a new payroll tax for general practitioners a "tax on Medicare". Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson said "The commonwealth government has put together a package to increase funding for patients and GP consultations. Having ... state or territory governments plotting to take it back through payroll tax is an outrage."
- **The Australian (page 6)** reports that the government's 60-day dispensing reforms are expected to save patients \$1.6 billion over the next four years. "In the three months since I've announced this measure, there have been twice as many applications for new pharmacies to be opened as there were in the same period last year," Health Minister Mark Butler said, "Clearly this sort of massive hit to business confidence that the pharmacy lobby and Coalition have claimed would happen is not being reflected in investment in the pharmacy sector."
- **The Age (page 2)** reports that Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has rejected criticism of a \$500,000 spend on consultants to overhaul the state's Ambulance service in the wake of adverse findings by a human rights commission inquiry. Mr Andrews said the spend was a necessary investment in making Ambulance Victoria safer, more professional and more inclusive.

MINISTER BUTLER

Medicine costs to halve after Labor wins vote

The Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 6

More than six million Australians will have the cost of their medicines halved within weeks as the government's 60-day dispensing changes clear parliament, despite a last-ditch Coalition push for more consultation on the policy. [...] The Coalition sought to delay the disallowance motion until September to give Health Minister Mark Butler "the opportunity to get back to the table and resolve legitimate concerns" and convince crossbenchers to join the push for the policy to be tweaked.

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

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Senate twist in pill cost fight

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Ellen Ransley and Courtney Gould, Page 3

Six million Australians will have access to 60-day dispensing, half-price medicines within weeks, after a bizarre series of events in the Senate on Thursday. [...] After months of warnings from the Mark Butler powerful Pharmacy Guild that the policy due to take effect on September 1 would cause community pharmacies to close and put thousands of people out of work, the Coalition hatched a plan to move a disallowance motion, to seek to delay the rollout.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

[Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Mayhem over cheaper medicines

Canberra Times, General News, 11/08/2023, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 14

A Coalition-led effort to block Labor's prescription dispensing scheme descended into chaos in the Senate on Thursday. [...] Speaking to journalists on Thursday, Health Minister Mark Butler said he hadn't seen the new motion, but criticised the move.

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

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Overburdened

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/08/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 1

Psychology cafe founder and director Tracey Martin-Cole says the mental health service sector in the North-West is experiencing a surge in people seeking help and struggling to keep up with demand. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said that the Albanese government was committed to improving the mental health system for all Australians.

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

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

Pharmacy transition not all rosy

Narrandera Argus, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 2

Pharmacies in regional, rural and remote Australia with average script volumes equalling dispensing income of under \$1 million in the 12 months to April 1, 2023 will be eligible to receive a new Regional Pharmacy Transition Allowance (RPTA). [...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said 60-day prescriptions meant twice the medication for the cost of a single prescription and would save money and time for more than six million Australians with an ongoing health condition.

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Long road to ease shortage

South Burnett Today, General News, 10/08/2023, Daniel Burdon, Page 8

An injection of \$17 million to get more junior doctors into rural and regional towns will not "turn the tide in the next year or two" on the state's doctor shortage, the head of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his state counterpart Shannon Fentiman announced the funding on 23 July, saying it would create some 340 positions for young doctors to rotate through various roles in Queensland's hospitals, health services and general practices in line with their interests.

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Hold pharmacy plan - MP

Swan Hill Guardian, General News, 11/08/2023, Peter Bannan, Page 3

The Federal Government must pause its planned 60-day pharmacy dispensing rollout because of the "adverse impact on regional people", Member for Mallee Anne Webster says. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said people with a Medicare card buying just one of the medicines on the list would save up to \$180 every year.

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Coalition tries to block prescription plan

The Saturday Paper, Other, 10/08/2023, Max Opray

The Coalition will today move to block Labor's budget measure that will halve the price of common medicines and allow for the purchase of 60-day scripts. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said that if the disallowance motion passes, he will cancel expedited negotiations about expanded pharmacy funding.

Health Minister Mark Butler committed to extended hours for urgent care clinics

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Jade Gailberger

Some of Victoria's urgent care clinics continue to operate at reduced hours due to staff shortages, prompting the federal government to undertake significant recruitment activity. Health Minister Mark Butler insists Labor will keep its promise to have urgent care clinics operating every day between 8am and 10pm but says the government can't "click our fingers" and make it happen from the outset.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Health and Aged Care Minister slams Pharmacy Guild's "scare campaign" over aged care dispensing

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Caroline Egan

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, has slammed the Australian Pharmacy Guild (APG) for suggesting aged care residents could be faced with additional costs of \$800 per year to have their medications packed and delivered to them. The APG released a statement on Monday urging the government to pause the implementation of 60-day dispensing, due to come in on 1 September, which will double the amount of medication doctors can prescribe in a single prescription.

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Coalition backflips on plan to block cheaper medicines

South Western Times, Other, 10/08/2023, Kimberley Caines

Six million Australians will be able to get two months' supply of common medicines for the price of one from next month with the Coalition backing away from a plan to kill off 60-day dispensing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said Labor was determined to make medicines cheaper and dismissed criticism the policy had been rushed.

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Crunch vote coming on plan to cut medicine costs

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2023, Tess Ikonomou

Changes to allow people to fill two months' supply of medicines at a time could be voted down in the Senate as Labor tries to clinch support for the policy. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was determined to make medicines cheaper, dismissing criticism that the policy had been rushed.

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Cheaper medicines uncertainty after Senate antics

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2023, Dominic Giannini and Tess Ikonomou

The future of cheaper medicines and 60-day dispensing is again up in the air, with the Senate likely to consider a push to scrap the change. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was determined to make medicines cheaper, dismissing criticism that the policy had been rushed.

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Cheaper medicine policy to start, veto threat remains

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2023, Dominic Giannini

The federal opposition will launch a fresh bid to overturn a Labor plan for cheaper medicines and 60-day dispensing. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the sector could afford the hit after pharmacies had accrued \$100 billion in revenue over the past four years and the industry grew 30 per cent.

Also reported by: [Australian Associated Press \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Government scrambles to block Coalition's attempt to unwind half-price medication scheme

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Jake Evans

The federal government is scrambling to find enough support to prevent the Coalition from unwinding its reforms to pharmacy scripts, which allow for two months' worth of a medicine to be dispensed using a single script. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government had been in discussions with independent senator David Pocock and senators Jacqui Lambie and Tammy Tyrrell.

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Cheaper prescriptions plan to proceed as Senate votes down Coalition attempt to block 60-day dispensing

The Guardian, Other, 10/08/2023, Paul Karp

Patients with chronic conditions are set to receive two months of medicine for the price of one from 1 September, after the Senate voted down a Coalition push to tear up Labor's 60-day dispensing changes. [...] The Coalition attempted to delay its own disallowance until 4 September to give the government time to pause its policy and offer the health minister, Mark Butler, declined to take up.

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Pharmacy peak warns of aged care medicine 'crisis'

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

One in three pharmacies will stop providing services to residential aged care homes if the federal government goes ahead with its 60-day medication dispensing scheme, claims the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. [...] Meanwhile, speaking to Sky News on Thursday, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler rubbished the Guild's claims that residents would have to pay \$800 for their Webster packs.

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Pharmacy transition not all rosy

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 10/08/2023, Ted Rogers

Pharmacies in regional, rural and remote Australia with average script volumes equalling dispensing income of under \$1 million in the 12 months to April 1, 2023 will be eligible to receive a new Regional Pharmacy Transition Allowance (RPTA). [...] Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said 60-day prescriptions meant twice the medication for the cost of a single prescription and would save money and time for more than six million Australians with an ongoing health condition.

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Senate to vote on the disallowance of dispensing change today

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 10/08/2023

Health minister Mark Butler spent much of last night directly engaging with the few crossbench senators who will decide the fate of the Coalition's disallowance of maximum dispensed quantities.

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Catholic Health Australia warns cuts to services looming

CathNews, Other, 10/08/2023, Jess Malcolm

Catholic Health Australia says hospitals could be forced to cut back services and patient costs for surgery could soar after the Department of Health and Aged Care backtracked on ensuring funding would continue to flow from private health insurers for almost 500 essential medical devices. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has since reneged on that policy.

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Program aiming to close the hearing health gap for First Nations children

HealthDispatch, Other, 10/08/2023

The federal government's Hearing Assessment Program Early Ears (HAPEE) program provided over 14,000 First Nations children with free clinical assessments of their ear and hearing health over the

past year. [...] "The early identification of otitis media and hearing loss and referral to specialist treatment and support services is crucial to closing the gap in hearing health and preventing long-term impacts of hearing loss on speech, language, social and emotional wellbeing," said health minister Mark Butler.

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Senate to vote on the disallowance of dispensing change today

HealthDispatch, Other, 10/08/2023

The Senate will vote today on whether to disallow the plan to double dispensed prescription quantities for over 300 PBS-listed medicine. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a plan to bring forward the negotiation of the agreement but will not delay implementation.

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Pharmacists set to swallow bitter pill over dispensing

HealthTimes, Other, 10/08/2023

A last-ditch effort to block pharmacies needing to bring in 60-day medicine dispensing is expected to fail. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler slammed the move, saying Australians would miss out on hundreds of millions of dollars of cheaper medicines if the coalition action was supported.

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60-day dispensing denial

Medical Forum, Other, 10/08/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has ramped up its campaign to ditch 60-day dispensing following a decision by the Government to bring forward the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA). [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mr Mark Butler, made the announcement at a doorstep press conference on 7 August, where he acknowledged the impact of the guild's campaign.

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Fiery Senate row over meds policy

Pharma In Focus, Other, 10/08/2023

The hot issue of 60-day dispensing dominated mainstream news and the Senate today as the Federal Government went head-to-head with the Coalition and the powerful pharmacy lobby. A game of political tit-for-tat saw Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler dominating morning TV and accusing the Senate of hurting the hip pocket of sick Australians if it let pass a disallowance motion, stopping the policy from going live on September 1.

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PD for Thu 10 Aug 2023

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 10/08/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement that negotiations for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) will start as soon as possible and conclude by 30 Jun next year (PD yesterday) has been hailed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

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60DD policy set to go ahead as planned

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 10/08/2023

As reported by SBS News on 10 August, a move by the Coalition "to have the Senate strike out the [60-day dispensing] policy with a disallowance motion", has been delayed meaning the 60-day dispensing (60DD) policy will go ahead as planned from 1 September. [...] Speaking to 6PR Mornings today (10 August) Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care said: "Halving the cost of medicines for 6 million patients who are on the same medicine, often for decades or the rest of their lives, but currently have to go back to the pharmacy every 30 days...

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Senate blocks last-minute attempt to delay 60-day dispensing

Debate over extended dispensing headlined a chaotic day in Parliament House that eventually secured its planned adoption next month. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler slammed the Coalition's defence of the Pharmacy lobby, saying the push for cheaper medications is coming amid a global cost of living crisis.

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Albanese government's cheaper medicines policy set to go ahead after Coalition fails to block 60-day dispensing in Senate vote

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Miriah Davis

Millions of Australians will have the cost of their medications halved from September 1 after the Senate voted down a Coalition push to scrap Labor's 60-day pharmacy dispensing legislation. [...] Addressing media a short time later, Health Minister Mark Butler slammed the opposition for choosing to back the powerful pharmacy lobby instead of patients.

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Labor and Coalition trade barbs as the Opposition backs down from attempt to block signature cheaper medicines policy

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Tyrone Clarke

The Coalition has condemned Labor's claims that it opposes cheaper medicines amid a Senate stoush over the government's 60-day pharmacy dispensing legislation. [...] But in response to Health Minister Mark Butler's claims that the Opposition did not want the proposal at all, Senator Anne Ruston has delayed moving the motion.

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Double dispensing is go as LNP blinks

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/08/2023

A busy day (and night) of trading threats in Canberra ends in a narrow win for the policy. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler was said to have worked late into Tuesday night trying to confirm support from independent senator David Pocock and minor party senators Jacqui Lambie and Tammy Tyrrell.

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Dispensing with pretence

The Monthly, Other, 10/08/2023, Rachel Withers

It must have been a bitter pill to swallow. After yesterday threatening to move a disallowance motion against the government's 60-day pharmaceutical dispensing policy, under which the cost of many medicines will be halved from next month, the Coalition today realised it did not have the numbers and attempted to delay its own motion. [...] Unfortunately for her, Health Minister Mark Butler did have the numbers, with the Greens, David Pocock, Lidia Thorpe and Jacqui Lambie joining Labor to keep the motion on the agenda .

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Shock move on cheaper medicine lashed

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 10/08/2023

A last-ditch move to block six million Aussies from accessing half-price scripts has been lashed by the Health Minister. [...] Mark Butler aired his frustration with the push to tear up the changes, due to come into effect from September 1, during a media blitz on Thursday morning.

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ABC, ABC News , 10/08/2023, Pamela Medlen

Millions of Australians will soon have access to cheaper medicines despite a last-minute Opposition attempt to delay it. A move to disallow the change failed in the Senate, meaning cheaper medicines will kick in as planned from the start of next month. The Pharmacy Guild and Opposition warning it could see pharmacies, particularly those in regional and rural areas, shut their doors. But Health Minister Mark Butler insists that won't happen.

ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/08/2023, Madeleine Morris and Lisa Millar

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler says they had really fruitful discussions with the crossbench and the time for a decision in the Senate is this morning regarding the plan to cut the price of common medicines. He notes the Government would reinvest every single dollar the Commonwealth saves from this measure, which is about \$1.2 billion every single dollar back into the pharmacy sector. About concerns around alcoholic drinks being marketed to underage drinkers. Butler says he asked the health department for some advice about it. He states he's also keen to talk to the Teals who've shown a particular interest in this. He notes it's important that companies and governments, frankly, are focused on making sure that kids in particular are not exposed to cynical marketing of unhealthy products. He adds alcohol should not be marketed to children.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 10/08/2023, Madeleine Morris and Lisa Millar

The government is rushing to save its plan to allow patients to buy two months of medicine at pharmacies after the opposition urged the Senate to tear it up on the eve of the final sitting day before it was due to begin. The move is set to take effect from the 1st of September and would see 6 million Australians able to collect two months worth of medicine at a time. [...] Mark Butler has held this out as one of the government's major cost of living relief measures, effectively allowing Australians to roll up to their local pharmacies and get two months worth of medicine for the cost of a single prescription.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 10/08/2023, Kate Freebairn

There have been chaotic scenes in the federal Senate as the government and opposition went head-to-head over 60-day dispensing by pharmacists. From September, almost 100 medicines will be available for 60-day prescriptions instead of 30. The Pharmacy Guild argues that pharmacies will lose money in dispensing fees, so they're warning of job losses, cuts to trading hours and that some pharmacies may have to close. Health Minister Mark Butler says it has been an important day for patients and cost of living, but also for sensible health reform.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 10/08/2023, Peter Mitchell

Doctors winning a battle against pharmacists. Affordable medication should be available to every single Australian. The Pharmacy Guild demanding further consultation, warning the changes will force hundreds of pharmacies to close and put thousands of pharmacy workers out of a job. Health Minister Mark Butler is dismissing that as another scare campaign.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 10/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister on 60-day dispensing scheme. Butler says the 60-day dispensing scheme is a critically important cost of living measure for 6 million Australians whose medicine bills will halve if this measure is supported by the Senate. He notes it has been opposed by the powerful pharmacy lobby now for five years when it was first recommended by the medicines experts who manage our Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. He states the Coalition five years ago opposed this measure when it was recommended to them.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 10/08/2023, Alice Monfries

The Coalition has backed down from its threat to oppose the Government's bill to provide two months of medication for the price of 1 September. The Government will forge ahead in the rollout of 60 day dispensing from 1 September of 92 common medications. The Government has committed to

reinvesting \$1.2 billion saved by the scheme back into community pharmacies. The Health Minister today standing by one of the Government's key costs of living measures.

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Channel 9, Today, 10/08/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Roz Kelly and Brooke Boney

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler says 60-day scripts scheme will improve medication compliance and so improve people's health. He notes the scheme is supported by every patient group and every doctor's group in the country. Butler says he has worked to quell concerns about its impacts. He states they're focused in that reinvestment on smaller rural pharmacies who tend to rely more on that dispensing income from medicines than on sort of general retail selling perfumes and the like.

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SBS, World News Australia, 10/08/2023, Janice Petersen

A row over policy aimed at delivering cheaper medicines to the public has erupted in Federal Parliament. Labor's proposal would allow people to buy more medicine on a visit to a pharmacist, so they don't have to return again as quickly. Health Minister warned the Opposition intends to continue to use Parliament to delay its uptake.

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 10/08/2023, Peter Stefanovic

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler says the new dispensing scheme will halve the cost of medicines and will also free up millions of GP consults. He states it will save \$1.2 billion as a Commonwealth government from this measure but are committed to reinvesting every single dollar of that back into the pharmacy sector. He adds he held to that commitment and the way in which we reinvest it has been very much informed by my discussions with the crossbench, particularly around making sure that we give good support to smaller rural pharmacies. He notes using people in aged care as ammunition was perhaps the lowest of the scare campaigns.

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 10/08/2023, Peter Stefanovic

The Coalition has moved to stall the government's new 60 day dispensing rule and the Senate before the changes come into effect next month. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia claims Labor's plan could put up to 20,000 jobs at risk. Health Minister Mark Butler has accused the Coalition and the Pharmacy Guild of preventing Australians from accessing cheaper medicines.

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Sky News Live, First Edition, 10/08/2023, Peter Stefanovic

[...] Health Minister Mark Butler has accused the Coalition and the Pharmacy Guild of preventing Australians from accessing cheaper medicines.

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Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 10/08/2023, Ashlea Hansen

The Coalition will move to block 6 million Australians from getting access to cheaper medicines from next month. Let's head to Canberra and it's a very good morning to Trudy McIntosh. [...] The Health Minister, Mark Butler though, is furious about this.

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i98 FM, 06:00 News, 10/08/2023

[...] The Coalition is urging the Government to delay its plan until it can reach a compromise with the pharmacy sector. But Health Minister Mark Butler says the policy is sound and needs to pass. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler says the policy is sound and needs to pass.

2GB, 19:00 News, 10/08/2023

The Opposition has failed in its attempt to block a new prescription rule, allowing patients to use one script to access 60 days' worth of medication. The measure will start from next month. Pharmacists have slammed the move, arguing it will lead to job losses and an end to free services. But Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says it's a key cost of living measure.

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4BC, 12:00 News, 10/08/2023

Legislation allowing patients to access two months of medication using one script from September is expected to be passed today. Federal Shadow Minister for Health Anne Ruston wants the policy to be delayed until community pharmacist concerns are addressed but won't put technical impediments in the way. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the legislation will deliver six million Australians cheaper medicines. The Federal Government needs the backing of two independents to get the legislation over the line.

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5AA, 18:00 News, 10/08/2023

The Federal Government says allowing patients to use one script to access 60 days of medication is a win for common sense. The measure will kick in from next month. Pharmacy sites argue the move will rip \$4 billion from the sector and will diminish the number of free services that can be provided. But Health Minister Mark Butler says that's nonsense.

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ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 10/08/2023, Sarah Dingle

A new alcoholic version of the soft drink solo is facing mounting criticism with concerns it'll appeal to children. Marketing experts and politicians say it's a fresh example of why the alcohol industry must face tougher regulation. The Cancer Council of WA has launched a formal complaint to the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code, arguing it will appeal to minors. Health Minister Mark Butler says he's asked his department to look into it.

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ABC Radio Hobart, 19:00 News, 10/08/2023

Australians who take regular medication will soon have access to cheaper medicines, but the Coalition is warning it could try to overturn the measure. Political reporter Stephanie Borys has more. The Opposition is threatening to try and overturn the measure, but Health Minister Mark Butler is urging them to reconsider.

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MINISTER WELLS

Aged-care probe considers super funding

The Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 5

The Albanese government's aged-care taskforce will examine the possibility of using personal superannuation to cover some of the costs of care, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said. The minister confirmed the option, floated last week in an issues paper from aged-care advocacy group Aged and Community Care Providers Association, was part of the taskforce's current deliberations on how to ensure the financial sustainability of the ailing sector.

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Gold Coast Games a golden chance

Maybe Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has a point - perhaps his city should indeed step in and host the 2026 Commonwealth Games, and in so doing save the concept forever; following the event being dumped by Victorian Premier Dan Andrews. [...] He thinks the federal government should stump up about half of that, and has already written to federal Sport Minister Anika Wells - a Queenslander - pledging a costed proposal within weeks.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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How the GC 2026 Games will be won

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/08/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 5

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate says once funding is secured for the city's rescue bid of the doomed 2026 Commonwealth Games he will talk with the Commonwealth Games Federation to "determine what sports would be essential". [...] Mr Tate is awaiting a reply from a funding request to federal Sports Minister Anika Wells.

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Paying for aged care through super

Local Ipswich News, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 11

Ipswich residents with substantial Super savings could be forced to "ring-fence" a slice of their superannuation to pay for their own aged care. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has announced a task force of economic, finance, public policy, First Nations and consumer advocacy representatives would be set up to advise the federal government on how to get more funding into aged care.

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Milestone reached on 24/7 nurses for aged-care homes: Wells

Launceston Examiner, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 17

Australia has reached a "milestone" with aged-care homes nationwide having registered nurses on site almost the entire time. Laws were passed last year requiring a qualified and registered nurse in every residential home 24/7. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells on Thursday released the first month of data, which showed 86 per cent of facilities had a nurse on site at all times.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Parkes Champion-Post \(Online\)](#).

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Push for 24/7 nurses in aged care starting to bear fruit: minister

The Australian, Other, 10/08/2023, Stephen Lunn

More than eight in 10 aged care homes reported providing 24/7 nursing coverage in July, with most of the remaining homes within an hour of full daily coverage, new government figures show. [...] Aged care minister Anika Wells said the figures show a "major increase" in nursing care in residential homes.

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Qld's best grassroots rugby union players: Vote for No.1

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/08/2023

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has met with players of the Wallabies ahead of the team heading to France for the Rugby World Cup. [...] Mr Albanese and Labor MP Anika Wells were gifted custom jerseys by two star Wallabies, Nic White and Rob Valetini at Parliament House on Wednesday.

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

[Read More](#)

RN presence almost 100 per cent, says data

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

Registered nurses are in aged care homes 98 per cent of the time, the aged care minister announced

Thursday. During a press conference at Parliament House Canberra, Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said data based on 95 per cent of facilities reporting showed the Albanese government had delivered on its commitment to put nurses back into aged care.

[Read More](#)

Input wanted on new Aged Care Act

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

The government is seeking feedback from providers, stakeholders, older people, their families and carers on the framework of the new Aged Care Act Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells posted a video message on social media Wednesday urging interested parties to have their say. [...] Developed by the Department of Health and Aged Care, a consultation paper outlining the proposed foundations of the new Act is online awaiting people's comments.

[Read More](#)

Working together to deliver better staffing in aged care facilities

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 10/08/2023

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) and its members have welcomed new data showing that the overwhelming majority of aged care facilities across the country have implemented 24/7 registered nursing (RN) staffing levels. [...] The Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells today thanked the nurses who voted with their feet and returned to aged care'.

[Read More](#)

WA falls behind other jurisdictions in number of hours registered nurses in aged care homes

Bunbury Herald, Other, 10/08/2023, Kimberley Caines

WA is falling behind every other jurisdiction in the number of hours registered nurses are at aged care homes, new Federal Government data shows. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells praised the sector, saying she was "enormously heartened" by the results and that she expected to hit 100 per cent "as soon as possible".

[Read More](#)

Food hotline launches for aged care concerns

Healthcare Channel, Other, 10/08/2023, Ritchelle Drilon

A dedicated food hotline has been launched to address complaints and offer nutritional guidance, establishing a vital channel for addressing nutrition-related issues. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells emphasised the profound impact of food consumption and dining experiences on the overall well-being of older Australians.

[Read More](#)

Paying for aged care through super

Local Ipswich News, Other, 10/08/2023

Ipswich residents with substantial Super savings could be forced to "ring-fence" a slice of their superannuation to pay for their own aged care. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has announced a task force of economic, finance, public policy, First Nations and consumer advocacy representatives would be set up to advise the federal government on how to get more funding into aged care.

[Read More](#)

Progress on aged care nursing plan 'heartening'

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2023, Paul Osborne and Tess Ikonomidou

Aged care homes now have registered nurses on site 98 per cent of the time. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells on Thursday released the first month of data, which showed 86 per cent of facilities had a nurse on site 24/7.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Parkes Champion-Post \(Online\)](#), [Campaspe News \(Online\)](#), [Southern Riverina News \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Dispensing with pretence

The Monthly, Other, 10/08/2023, Rachel Withers

It must have been a bitter pill to swallow. After yesterday threatening to move a disallowance motion against the government's 60-day pharmaceutical dispensing policy, under which the cost of many medicines will be halved from next month, the Coalition today realised it did not have the numbers and attempted to delay its own motion. [...] Unfortunately for her, Health Minister Mark Butler did have the numbers, with the Greens, David Pocock, Lidia Thorpe and Jacqui Lambie joining Labor to keep the motion on the agenda .

[Read More](#)

Care improves as care homes employ 24/7 registered nurses

The Senior, Other, 10/08/2023, Eileen Wood

According to the Federal government, registered nurses are now on-site in aged care homes 98 per cent of the time and 23.5 hours on average. [...] "We introduced the 24/7 nursing requirement because older Australians deserve around-the-clock clinical care and this data reveals they are now, on average, receiving that care 98 per cent of the time, or 23.5 hours a day, said Aged Care minister Anika Wells.

[Read More](#)

86% of aged care homes have a Registered Nurse on site 24/7 and exempt homes not counted

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Ian Horswill

The Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, this morning held a press conference in Canberra to reveal the first data after stating all residential aged care homes must have a Registered Nurse (RN) on duty by 1 July.

[Read More](#)

New funding nears – Aged Care Taskforce elevated into PM's office

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Caroline Egan

In an exciting development and a further sign that new funding arrangements for aged care are getting closer, the Aged Care Taskforce's terms of reference and links to communiques have been transferred to the country's top office of Prime Minister and Cabinet. [...] There are just 58 days until October when the Taskforce, chaired by Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells, is due to present its interim advice and just 17 weeks until December when the Final Report is expected to be handed down.

[Read More](#)

We predicted this: Aged Care Labour Agreements a failure

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Caroline Egan

Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, said the Federal Government's new Labour Agreements showed its "ambitions for aged care". The Weekly SOURCE called it a "stop-gap" measure : "The workforce shortages are likely to remain acute across personal care and nursing roles particularly in regional and remote areas.

[Read More](#)

“Big public consultation process”: Aged Care Taskforce accepting written submissions

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Caroline Egan

The Federal Government's Aged Care Taskforce, which was established to advise the Government on ways to make Australia's aged care funding more "fair and equitable", has opened submissions on its six draft funding principles. [...] This follows the Minister for Aged Care, Anika Wells, stating two weeks ago: "We're going to have a big public consultation process and details about that will be out in the next couple of days.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 10/08/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Half price prescriptions for millions of Australians are set to become a reality as months of fighting in Federal Parliament appears to end. Independent senators siding with the Government and the Greens to secure 60-day scripts from the start of next month. Pharmacists had warned about reduced profits, reduced staff, reduced hours and potential closures. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells dismisses it as the latest baseless, fruitless scare campaign from the opposition on health and aged care.

[Play Now](#)

Triple M Townsville, 18:00 News, 10/08/2023

There's now a registered nurse on site across the country's aged care homes 98% of the time on average. But Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the work is not over.

[Play Now](#)

4BC, 16:00 News, 10/08/2023

The Federal Government is close to reaching its target of 24/7 nursing coverage across all aged care homes. New figures show more than 80% of residential care homes now have a nurse on site at all times. Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells says the government is working to help all facilities hit the target.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Brisbane, Drive, 10/08/2023, Steve Austin

The Federal Government says it's closing in on its goal of having a registered nurse on site at all aged care homes at all times. The move was recommended by the Royal Commission into the Sector. Legislation was passed last year, but a self-imposed July 2023 deadline was missed Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says 86% of facilities now have 24 divided by seven.

[Play Now](#)

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 10/08/2023, Andrew Clennell

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Regional and Rural Health Minister on double dispensing scheme. McBride says there was a 7% indexation boost to Commonwealth payments to pharmacies for dispensing. She adds there was a doubling of the regional pharmacy maintenance allowance and the new transitional payment, which will make sure that pharmacies aren't worse off as we go through this process. She assures every dollar saved through this will be reinvested in community pharmacy.

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[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

First Nations community advocates call for governments to address rise of rheumatic heart disease

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/08/2023

Remote community representatives and members of community organisations, such as the Snow Foundation and Deadly Heart Trek, attended Parliament House on Wednesday, meeting with Senator Malarndirri McCarthy to raise awareness of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) and the impact this preventable disease is having on First Nations people.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DEPARTMENT

Code red for mental health crisis

Daily Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Zoe Devenport, Page 1

As Queensland regions struggle with a rampant mental health crisis made worse by a lack of services, a Whitsundays psychologist has called on the government to stop a mass exodus of staff. [...] A Health Department spokesman said: "The Government's goal is to develop a more equitable Better Access initiative and mental health system one based on evidence where no one is left behind".

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

Relocation for Shore Care

Gladstone Today, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 7

Shore Care Family Practice, a well-established healthcare provider in the Discovery Coast region, will relocate within the IMPACT Community Health Precinct as a significant refurbishment project begins this month. [...] It also marks the commencement of IMPACT Community Services' major refurbishment project, made possible by a \$150,000 grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

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

Feds boost funding for regional junior doctor program

Torres News, General News, 10/08/2023, Carli Willis, Page 11

A new Commonwealth-funded junior doctor rotation program will further boost doctor numbers across regional and rural Queensland, Queensland Health says. In a statement to Torres News, the federal Department of Health and Aged care said rotations had increased year-on-year nationally, with 440 rotations in 2022 expected to increase to 800 in 2025.

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

Flood recovery grants available

Western Weekender Penrith, General News, 11/08/2023, Makayla Muscat, Page 16

A Community Wellbe- for applications the final round of ing and Resilience Grants are now open to people living in the Penrith floodplain. Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is now accepting applications for the grants, which are funded through the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care as part of the response to the 2022 floods.

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

Home-based care careers are on the rise

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2023

Home-based care is a growing area of need, driven by an ageing population, and is opening up new careers and changing healthcare in Australia. According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, as of June 30, 2022, 16.5 per cent of Australia's population was aged 65 years and over (4.4 million people) and 2.0 per cent were 85 years and above (543,000 people).

[Read More](#)

Input wanted on new Aged Care Act

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

The government is seeking feedback from providers, stakeholders, older people, their families and

carers on the framework of the new Aged Care Act Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells posted a video message on social media Wednesday urging interested parties to have their say. [...] Developed by the Department of Health and Aged Care, a consultation paper outlining the proposed foundations of the new Act is online awaiting people's comments.

[Read More](#)

Widespread breast density reporting 'premature', says cancer researcher

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/08/2023, Kemal Atlay and Rachel Carter

BreastScreen SA's decision to notify women of their breast density after routine mammography is "premature" and not supported by "robust evidence", says a leading cancer researcher. [...] At the same time, the federal Department of Health and Aged Care confirmed that BreastScreen Australia was reviewing its 2020 position statement on the issue.

[Read More](#)

Final round of the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Grants Wentworth Healthcare.

Blue Mountains Gazette, Other, 10/08/2023

Community groups are being invited to apply for wellbeing grants up to \$10,000 in the final round of the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Grants Wentworth Healthcare. The grants are provided through the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network. This is the third and final round as part of the response to the 2022 floods, funded through the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

[Read More](#)

What the new Covid strain, dubbed Eris, means for you

Body And Soul, Other, 10/08/2023, Adrienne Tam

A new coronavirus variant known as Eris is quickly becoming the dominant strain in other countries. Here is everything you need to know. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, 5431 cases of Covid-19 were reported across Australia in the past week.

[Read More](#)

Catholic Health Australia warns cuts to services looming

CathNews, Other, 10/08/2023, Jess Malcolm

Catholic Health Australia says hospitals could be forced to cut back services and patient costs for surgery could soar after the Department of Health and Aged Care backtracked on ensuring funding would continue to flow from private health insurers for almost 500 essential medical devices. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care has since reneged on that policy.

[Read More](#)

Nine key messages for the National Health and Climate Strategy: Lowitja Institute

Croakey, Other, 10/08/2023, Melissa Sweet

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and research sectors must be resourced appropriately to respond to climate change, according to the Lowitja Institute's submission to the National Health and Climate Strategy consultation. [...] Such a body could work alongside government and the Department of Health and Aged Care to co-design the strategy, as well as other policy documents, and implementation.

[Read More](#)

Government mandates prescription exchange monopoly

Medical Forum, Other, 10/08/2023

The Australian General Practice Alliance (AGPA) has called out the federal government for backing a decision that could potentially facilitate a commercial monopoly on prescription exchanges under the National Digital Prescribing Service (NDPS). The AGPA said that the recent decision by the Department of Health and Ageing, attempting to mandate a single prescription exchange provider for

publicly funded prescriptions, runs counter to the interests of primary care sector and its patients, and is anti-competitive.

[Read More](#)

In Practice: Supporting cervical screening self-collection

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 10/08/2023, Matt Woodley

A new webinar will equip GPs to confidently guide patients on how to utilise Australia's newest weapon in the fight against cervical cancer. Self-collection is helping to move Australia closer to the elimination of cervical cancer. [...] Presented in partnership with the Department of Health and Aged Care's National Cervical Screening Program , this webinar will equip GPs with the knowledge and skills to confidently guide patients through self-collection for cervical screening.

[Read More](#)

RACGP responds to aged care medication reform

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 10/08/2023, Morgan Liotta

While generally supportive of the performance outcomes and role of onsite pharmacists, the college says gaps remain in the framework. The RACGP supports appropriately resourced, fit-for-purpose measures to improve medication management in aged care facilities. [...] In response, the APC was engaged by the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoH) to develop the Accreditation Standards for Aged Care and Comprehensive Medicine Reviews Education Programs.

[Read More](#)

Albanese government's cheaper medicines policy set to go ahead after Coalition fails to block 60-day dispensing in Senate vote

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Miriah Davis

Millions of Australians will have the cost of their medications halved from September 1 after the Senate voted down a Coalition push to scrap Labor's 60-day pharmacy dispensing legislation. [...] Addressing media a short time later, Health Minister Mark Butler slammed the opposition for choosing to back the powerful pharmacy lobby instead of patients.

[Read More](#)

Labor and Coalition trade barbs as the Opposition backs down from attempt to block signature cheaper medicines policy

Sky News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Tyrone Clarke

The Coalition has condemned Labor's claims that it opposes cheaper medicines amid a Senate stoush over the government's 60-day pharmacy dispensing legislation. [...] But in response to Health Minister Mark Butler's claims that the Opposition did not want the proposal at all, Senator Anne Ruston has delayed moving the motion.

[Read More](#)

Ex-PwC CEO in \$2m taxpayer bonanza

The Klaxon, Other, 10/08/2023

The private company of the PwC CEO for the entire tax leaks affair has been given millions of dollars in new Federal Government contracts and is being awarded them at three times the rate it was before the government's "crackdown" in May. [...] the Department of Health and Aged Care signed up Sayers Group to \$382,800 in new work , for "management support services", and on July 28 Tourism Australia reported for the first time it has engaged Sayers Group for hundreds of thousands of dollars to deliver a "creative pitch".

[Read More](#)

Exposé puts consultancy giants in public's sights

The Medical Republic, Other, 10/08/2023

Four Corners' opened Monday's program by putting the health sector firmly in the crosshairs of public concern by pointing out that, despite a new Labor government pledging to curb the influence of consultants, it has already appointed three department heads straight from the big firms. [...] But

putting him up front as an example of consultants moving between significant government and private sector consulting roles and then going on to trash the credibility of such arrangements must have some in the Department of Health and Aged Care worried already on matters of transparency.

[Read More](#)

Care improves as care homes employ 24/7 registered nurses

The Senior, Other, 10/08/2023, Eileen Wood

According to the Federal government, registered nurses are now on-site in aged care homes 98 per cent of the time and 23.5 hours on average. [...] "We introduced the 24/7 nursing requirement because older Australians deserve around-the-clock clinical care and this data reveals they are now, on average, receiving that care 98 per cent of the time, or 23.5 hours a day, said Aged Care minister Anika Wells.

[Read More](#)

86% of aged care homes have a Registered Nurse on site 24/7 and exempt homes not counted

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Ian Horswill

The Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, this morning held a press conference in Canberra to reveal the first data after stating all residential aged care homes must have a Registered Nurse (RN) on duty by 1 July.

[Read More](#)

Aged Care Taskforce moving under Prime Minister and Cabinet's Department is good news for Plan B

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Lauren Broomham

News that information on the Federal Government's Aged Care Taskforce has shifted from the Department of Health and Aged Care to the office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is a welcome development in driving forward the discussion about the future funding of Australia's aged care system.

[Read More](#)

New funding nears – Aged Care Taskforce elevated into PM's office

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Caroline Egan

In an exciting development and a further sign that new funding arrangements for aged care are getting closer, the Aged Care Taskforce's terms of reference and links to communiques have been transferred to the country's top office of Prime Minister and Cabinet. [...] There are just 58 days until October when the Taskforce, chaired by Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells, is due to present its interim advice and just 17 weeks until December when the Final Report is expected to be handed down.

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CORONAVIRUS

Covid alert for over 80s

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 7

More than 70 per cent of Covid deaths this year have been in elderly Australians over the age of 80 years. Although on average 23 Australians are dying each day from the virus this year new government data has revealed that most of the deaths are in those aged over 80 prompting concerns for boosters in the age group.

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

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

Elderly bear brunt of Covid

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 3

There have been 72 Covid-related deaths in Tasmania so far this year with the majority in people aged over 80, who are eight times more likely to die from the infection. The Department of Health's fortnightly Respiratory Surveillance Report showed six Tasmanians aged between 40 and 64 died with Covid, while there were 22 deaths in people aged 65-79 and 44 were aged 80 and over.

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

Prognosis good as flu, COVID cases fall

Newcastle Herald, General News, 11/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

The Hunter New England district recorded 289 notifiable influenza cases in the week to August 5, a fall of 37 per cent in a month. The latest NSW Health data also showed there were 118 RSV cases and 177 COVID cases in that week, representing declines of 30 per cent and 56 per cent in a month respectively.

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

COVID rules stay at Base

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/08/2023, Bernard Humphreys, Page 3

Mildura's isolation from other major centres is one of the reasons the region's public hospital has continued COVID-19 screening and testing on entry, practices largely abandoned by city health facilities, it has been revealed. Sunraysia residents undergoing medical treatment in Melbourne this winter have raised the discrepancy between city practices and those here, but the Mildura Base Public Hospital has explained that local screening is a precaution in a health-care environment that is very different to that of the city.

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

Why COVID-19 variant 'Eris', or EG.5.1, may not live up to its dramatic name

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Leonie Thorne

A COVID-19 variant nicknamed "Eris" after the Greek goddess of chaos, strife and discord has been in the news after spreading overseas. But the variant has actually been in Australia for four months without causing much strife at all.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Specialised aged and disability services

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 40

The Australian Chinese Community Association is succeeding by not taking a one-size-fits-all approach. In recent years the aged care sector has been under the spotlight, which has prompted providers to reassess and re-evaluate their services.

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

'We want to speak to you of our plans to end life'

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/08/2023, Paul Weston, Page 8

An elderly couple writes an email. They sense their next stop is aged care. This is a love letter, about how they both plan to die together before leaving their home.

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

Meet the aged care flying squad

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 5

A special flying squad of doctors, nurses and specialists is now on hand to visit aged care homes across the Illawarra which continue to suffer from a severe shortage of aged care beds. Health Minister Ryan Park announced the new Aged Care Outreach Service (ACOS), which is designed to help address the "particularly acute" problem with the number of elderly people stuck in hospital in the region.

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

Illawarra Shoalhaven aged care in crisis

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 57

Our region is facing a critical shortage of aged care beds and our public hospitals are serving as makeshift aged care facilities. We currently have around 100 elderly patients in hospital beds across the Illawarra Shoalhaven, waiting for a placement in an aged care facility.

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

Salute to aged care heroes

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/08/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 2

Aged care employees in Sunraysia have been thanked for their efforts to care for older Australians. Four employees at Oasis Aged Care in Irymple marked 10 and 15-year service milestones, recognising their commitment to caring for the elderly.

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

'Committed to bolster the aged care nurses': ACN responds to misrepresentation

Aged Care Insite, Other, 10/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) critiqued yesterday's article in The Australian, saying it misrepresented the College's position on skilled migration for aged care nurses. [...] However, Ms Ward said her comments in the article were misinterpreted and undermined ACN's efforts to manage the ongoing staff shortages "The report in The Australian misrepresented the work the College is doing with the Government to deliver on the Royal Commission's recommendations for aged care," Ms Ward said.

[Read More](#)

Facility aims to plug home care workforce storage

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 10/08/2023

A new career hub to recruit and train home care workers has opened in south-west Sydney. Located in Bankstown and operated by community-based, not-for-profit organisation Settlement Services International the Home Care Experience Centre will also offer assistance to providers with their hiring and retention strategies.

[Read More](#)

OPAN welcomes new 24/7 aged care nursing figures

Australian Seniors News, Other, 10/08/2023

Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) has welcomed the Australian Government's announcement that the majority of residential aged care homes have successfully met the promised 24/7 nursing requirements. "Round-the-clock nursing is key to safe, high quality aged care, including safe, high quality dementia care, which older people and their families have been demanding," said OPAN CEO, Craig Gear OAM.

[Read More](#)

Bethanie accepts losing \$250,000 a year on new \$28M home in southwestern WA

The Weekly Source, Other, 10/08/2023, Caroline Egan

When WA Not For Profit retirement living and residential aged care provider Bethanie first began planning an aged care facility on land outside of Bunbury, they couldn't get the numbers to stack up.

[Read More](#)

Ageing in a housing crisis: growing numbers of older Australians are facing a bleak future

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023

Our report, Ageing in a Housing Crisis, shows safe, secure and affordable housing is increasingly beyond the reach of older people. This growing housing insecurity is system-wide.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

POPULATION HEALTH

Extreme weather prompts fears for coming summer

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2023, Laura Chung, Page 16

The intense heat sweeping much of the northern hemisphere has prompted fears about the summer to come in Australia after the leading climate change authority confirmed July was the world's hottest month ever, with ocean and air temperature records shattered. In the Persian Gulf, the heat index a measure that combines temperature and humidity to reflect the heat impact on a person hit 70 degrees on Tuesday.

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

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

Schools plead for action on vaping

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/08/2023, Eilidh Sproul-Mellis, Page 23

Teachers and principals are "crying out" for help to crack down on schoolkids vaping, but those who can't afford to install vape detectors have little hope of the government coming to their aid any time soon. The NSW Department of Education began a "market testing process" in April, issuing an invitation for suppliers to provide 40,000 vape detectors for schools, but nearly four months on a spokesperson has confirmed "decisions around vape detectors have not yet been finalised".

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

Is white bread that bad for you?

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/08/2023, Susie Burrell, Page 33

For any of us who remember growing up with fresh, soft white bread sandwiches it may seem slightly ridiculous to suggest that white bread is not healthy? How could a food as simple as bread be bad for you?

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

\$2m up in smoke

Daily Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Janessa Ekert, Page 1

Authorities have seized more than \$2m in illicit tobacco and vape products including 54,000 vapes in rolling raids across the state as part of a major multi-agency blitz. Queensland Health led a strike on 10 retail outlets this week in Mackay, Emerald, Townsville, Yeppoon, Ayr and Rockhampton, which coincided with an Australian Border Force-led operation on the Gold Coast.

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

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

Busselton triathlete Simon Fairbrother survives stroke, urges Australians to slow down

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Dominique Bayens and Alan Porritt

A Western Australian triathlete has urged others to reduce their stress levels to minimise the risk of stroke after he undertook a year of intensive therapy and stroke rehabilitation. Simon Fairbrother from Busselton in the state's South West began experiencing stroke symptoms while at work last year.

[Read More](#)

Woman urges young people to get educated about strokes

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Claudia Poposki

Strokes can have life changing effects. Television and radio personality, Ms. Juicy, suffered a stroke in April 2022. A woman has revealed how a fun night out turned into a disaster after she was left unconscious for an hour.

[Read More](#)

Alcoholic drink Hard Solo not aimed at minors, Asahi says, as Australian MPs push for limit on ads

The Guardian, Other, 10/08/2023, emily wind

The company behind the new alcoholic beverage Hard Solo has rejected claims its drink is marketed towards minors, after complaints from politicians and health bodies. [...] According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the number of young people aged 14-24 drinking at lifetime risky levels almost halved between 2001 and 2019 from 25% down to 13.1%.

[Read More](#)

ABC, The Drum, 10/08/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

Panel discussion over the marketing of new 'Hard Solo' alcoholic drink. Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education CEO Caterina Giorgi says currently the industry polices itself and has effectively delayed proper regulation. It's a concern shared by the Cancer Council. Solo manufacturer, Asahi says 85% of solo drinkers are adults, and they strongly refute claims they're pitching to kids. But after a meeting with Asahi this morning, Independent MP Kylea Tink says questions remain if this product isn't passing the pub test.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 10/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

The Poisons Hotline in Victoria has recorded a troubling surge in babies and children being exposed to vapes. Calls to the hotline involving children under four increased from 51 to 134 in the last year. In all, calls about e-cigarette poisoning surged by 75% across the state. Health experts warn the smell and look of vapes make them easier for children to try than conventional cigarettes.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 10/08/2023, Lish Fejer

Interview with Independent member for North Sydney Kylea Tink. Fejer says the Cancer Council of WA has lodged a formal complaint to the Alcoholic Beverages Advertising Code, saying that the drink

breaches the section of the code preventing alcoholic drinks from containing strong and evident appeal to minors. Federal crossbenchers are going to meet today with members of the alcohol industry to discuss concerns around alcoholic drinks being marketed to underage drinkers and whether more regulation is needed. It comes after an alcoholic version of a soft drink was approved for sale in Australia. Tink voices concern over alcoholic drinks being marketed to underage drinkers. She says crossbenchers are asking lots of tough questions about whether self-regulation is really working in area such as alcohol products.

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[Back to Top](#)

CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Don't poo poo a new cancer test

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Hayley Goddard, Page 1

An Australian medical breakthrough could spell the end of awkward stool tests and lead to the earlier diagnosis of bowel cancer. Researchers have discovered an engineered bacteria to find the illness.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Loo beauty! SA is flush with big ideas

Adelaide Advertiser, Editorials, 11/08/2023, Page 66

An engineered bacteria could spell the end of the lifesaving poo detector test. That's good news for the roughly one in 15 Australians who will develop bowel cancer.

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

Poor, middle-aged Australians are more likely to die from cancer – and the gap is widening

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023

A cancer diagnosis is frightening news for anyone. But our fresh analysis shows what happens next can depend on how much money you have and where you live. Among middle-aged Australians cancer is the leading cause of death, accounting for 45% of all deaths among those aged 45 to 64 years.

[Read More](#)

[Back to Top](#)

PRIMARY CARE

Doctors condemn 'tax on Medicare'

The Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 5

The nation's peak medical groups have accused state and territory governments of implementing a "tax on Medicare" by refusing to rule out a new payroll tax for general practitioners, which undermines the federal government's Medicare reforms. Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson said it was "disappointing" the Victorian, NSW and ACT governments were yet to say if they would exempt GPs from the payroll tax, which could force already strained clinics to shut their doors.

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

Online care plugs the gap

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/08/2023, Emma Blake, Page 71

Midwife Edwina Sharrock was 36 weeks pregnant when the local private hospital, where she had planned to give birth, closed down. It was one of many maternity units in regional Australia that had closed and, 12 years on, post Covid, that trend has only worsened.

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

Packed Top End hospitals issue code yellow alerts

Northern Territory News, General News, 11/08/2023, Sierra Haigh and Zizi Averill, Page 7

A surge in patient admissions and bed shortage at Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals has prompted the fourth code yellow of the year. An NT Health spokesman said the hospitals had recorded a "steady increase" in patients over the past week.

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

A \$228m bump in the road

West Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Jake Dietsch and Rebecca Le May, Page 4

Documents that detail a cost blowout of \$228 million justify the decision to move WA's new maternity hospital from Nedlands to Murdoch, the State Government claims. [...] Australian Medical Association WA president Michael Page said he had "no doubt" the FSH option would be less efficient and more expensive in the long run.

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

Clinic offers stroke hope

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 1

For the first time in Bendigo, a neurology clinic has been established to help central Victorian stroke patients. According to Bendigo Health, there were 238 stroke presentations to the emergency department last year, along with 338 stroke and transient ischemic attack admissions to acute wards and a further 129 stroke cases to inpatient rehabilitation.

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

\$9m Naracoorte Hospital facelift begins

Border Watch, General News, 11/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 4

Concept plans have been released for the facelift of the Naracoorte Hospital which will receive a total of \$9m funding. It coincided with Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton visiting the region this week to discuss the future of the Limestone Coast's health facilities.

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Women trend away from taking 'the pill'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/08/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 7

Women, including teenage girls, are moving away from the traditionally favoured birth control pill in favour of IUDs, according to a sexual health specialist in Northern Tasmania, who is also seeing a rise in vasectomy requests. IUDs or intrauterine devices, are recommended as the first choice for female contraception by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, providing 99 per cent effectiveness against unwanted pregnancy, and yet the uptake has been slow.

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A 'significant milestone'

Central Western Daily, General News, 11/08/2023, Riley Krause, Page 1

A huge boost for palliative care services in Orange has been announced with campaigners delighted by the news. On August 4, the NSW government revealed it had committed \$93 million to redevelop and refurbish palliative care units throughout the state.

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Wagga Base Hospital sets high standard for the rest of NSW

Daily Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 4

The hundreds of patients admitted to the Wagga Base Hospital Stroke Unit every year have access to some of the best care in NSW. The unit has received certification as a primary stroke centre under the

Australian Stroke Coalition's stroke unit certification program which means it has met a set of national stroke criteria related to patient care, staffing and data collection.

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Mum's anger at public hospital waitlist hell

Daily Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Zoe Devenport, Page 8

A Mackay mother co-sleeps with her four-year-old as she is terrified he will die in his sleep. Little Lincoln has inflamed adenoids, a curable condition which prevents him from playing and running around like other regular four year olds as he struggles to breathe.

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Healthy options needed

Daily Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Madeleine Bower, Page 9

Living in rural and remote Australia is bad for your health, with country Aussies 10 times more likely to die from ischaemic heart disease than their city cousins. The shocking health divide between the city and bush has been exposed in a new report by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, with deaths from preventable heart, stroke and vascular disease up to 1.4 times higher in remote areas.

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

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Opposition squibs Senate veto of 60-day prescription reform

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 6

Cheaper medicines and 60day dispensing will start as planned after a veto push by the Federal Opposition fizzled out. [...] Australian Medical Association president Steve Robson said the Coalition had the opportunity to implement the same measures when it was in government, but instead chose to kill the plan.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Retail Pharmacy \(Online\)](#), [Australian Journal of Pharmacy \(Online\)](#).

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Clinic to release pressure

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 11/08/2023, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

A new urgent care clinic, designed to take the pressure off the region's hospital emergency department, will start seeing patients in October . Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will make the announcement at the Annual Bush Summit in Tamworth today.

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

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Access to medical services difficult

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 22

News photographer Mervyn Bishop has no idea what would have happened had the Royal Flying Doctor Service not flown to the remote town of Brewarrina after he had a stroke. In August last year the 78year-old travelled to the small town near Bourke from his Dubbo hometown for an exhibition opening.

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WA government releases business case for new maternity hospital at Fiona Stanley precinct

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Keane Bourke and James Carmody

WA's health minister has defended not speaking to doctors before moving the location of the state's new \$1.8 billion maternity hospital 20 kilometres away from its current location, saying no amount of consultation could have changed the government's mind. [...] Doctors caught on the hop Criticisms from doctors have been led by the Australian Medical Association, which had questioned why the government did not speak to doctors about its decision before abandoning the QEII plans.

Asthma update

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/08/2023

The National Asthma Council Australia has released two new charts for health professionals managing and caring for patients with asthma. The new items are a Asthma and COPD Medications chart, and a Selecting and Adjusting Medication for Adults and Adolescents chart.

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

[Read More](#)

Cairns Hospital is experiencing a high volume of patients coming through its emergency departments

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 10/08/2023, Kristina Puljak

Cairns Hospital has been smashed with a high volume of patients coming through its emergency department over the past week, with more than 1700 presentations. From Thursday, August 3 to Wednesday, August 9, a total of 1719 people presented to the Cairns Hospital emergency department, with the highest number of presentations on Sunday with 273 needing assistance.

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

[Read More](#)

Why Little Haven Palliative Care must be saved

Gympie Times, Other, 10/08/2023, Christine Schindler

The grieving best friend of a Gympie woman who was able to die in her own home thanks to Little Haven has detailed her final difficult months and everything the organisation did to help them both. In a leafy gumtree yard with a fire pit in sight of a dam, Glenwood woman Rowan Dyer recounts the last few months she had with her lifelong friend, Yvonne Brown, in their home three hours north of Brisbane.

[Read More](#)

WA doctors fight for safer UTI pharmacy trial

Medical Forum, Other, 10/08/2023

On August 4, WA joined QLD and NSW in the UTI pharmacy prescribing trial' though there is no sense of a temporary nature on WA Health website, where it lays down the legal and clinical requirements for local pharmacies taking part, as well as patient elimination criteria. The RACGP (WA faculty) and AMA (WA) have jointly raised concerns about the trial, which will see pharmacists who have completed training requirements set by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Australasian College of Pharmacy, consult, prescribe, and dispense medication to women presenting with uncomplicated" UTI symptoms.

[Read More](#)

Rural Australians Matter focus on rural and remote health and well being

Queensland Country Life, Other, 10/08/2023, Helen Walker

Remote Australians Matter is the name of a newly established organisation born as a result of a group of like-minded people concerned about the lack of access to appropriate primary health care in the outback. The group is made up of five passionate Australians headed up by the Chair, Annabelle Brayley of Morven.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 10/08/2023, Paul Murphy

The Top End's health system continues to show increasing strain, with yet another code yellow at Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals. The Chief Minister has played down concerns insisting it's part of a system response and Government is investing to ease the pressure long term. The CLP says it's not a new problem and is only getting worse.

[Play Now](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

'School refusal' help plea

The Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Natasha Bitá, Page 1

A Senate "school refusal" inquiry has called for extra Medicare rebates for child psychology and more flexible schooling for students struggling to attend class. Attendance has plunged since the Covid-19 pandemic, the inquiry found, with half of all students skipping one in 10 days of school last year.

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Call for action as school refusal rises

Age, General News, 11/08/2023, Nicole Precel, Page 15

When schools reopened after lockdown, East Bentleigh mother Rebecca Dell's children felt it was no longer safe to go back to the classroom. There were traumatic mornings of tears and tantrums three of her four children have experienced school refusal.

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

True grit, but stress on rise

Herald Sun, General News, 11/08/2023, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 44

The rising cost of living, a lack of housing affordability and spiralling interest rates are keeping regional Australians awake at night - contributing to almost 60 per cent of people reporting feeling down. Just 36 per cent of people surveyed by SEC Newgate for the Bush Summit reported feeling more positive than negative in recent weeks.

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

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Gay conversion ban given broader scope

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2023, Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Page 1

The NSW government's plans to ban gay conversion therapy will be expanded to make it illegal to change or suppress a person identifying as trans or gender diverse. Attorney-General Michael Daley confirmed the government is pushing ahead with its own laws, rather than backing independent MP Alex Greenwich's bill this month.

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Loneliness levels higher in rural areas

Daily Liberal, General News, 11/08/2023, Libby-Jane Charleston, Page 2

A landmark report into loneliness has revealed 35 per cent of people in rural areas are lonely - compared to the national average of 32 per cent. That's just one of the significant findings in the first 'state of the nation report into social connection' which puts those claiming to be lonely at a higher risk of lower workplace productivity, poor physical and mental health, and chronic disease.

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Why I'm embracing 'glimmers' for my mental health

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Emily McGrorey

It's a deceptively cold winter's day. The sun is shining, the water is glistening, but the wind hurtling around me has an icy bite.

[Read More](#)

Speaking up for mental health

Border Watch, Other, 10/08/2023, Sophie Conlon

Mental health advocates Ben Pettingill and Mike Rolls will visit Mount Gambier/Berrin next week and

host several community events to help normalise conversations around mental health and suicide. Mr Pettingill, who lost 98 per cent of his vision at 16-years-old, said he and Mr Rolls, who lost both his legs to meningococcal at 18-years-old, would share their stories of overcoming adversity.

[Read More](#)

Gidget House: Free mental health service for new, expectant parents open at Kareena Hospital

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 10/08/2023, Ashleigh Tullis

Pregnancy and the birth of a child are often described as the most joyous time for parents, but for some it can be the hardest, most anxious and even a dangerous time. Now, a service has launched in the Shire to support those needing a hand.

[Read More](#)

Senate report on school refusal recommends subsidised mental health care for students

The Guardian, Other, 10/08/2023, Caitlin Cassidy

School students would get better access to mental health care and parent support groups would get more funding under the recommendations of a Senate inquiry to address the "alarming rate" of low school attendance. The Greens, who initiated the inquiry last October, welcomed the Senate's report as a "positive first step" and urged the federal government to work with states and territories to immediately begin implementing its recommendations.

[Read More](#)

Telstra payphone data exposes sad truth for thousands of Aussies

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Amber Lowther

Australians are increasingly using free calls to seek help. New figures released by Telstra serve as a grim reminder of the tough times people are going through across Australia.

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[Back to Top](#)

CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

RACGP submission to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia on the Consultation regulation impact statement: Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 10/08/2023

The RACGP has provided a submission to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia on the Consultation regulation impact statement: Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Ambo reset cost

Age, General News, 11/08/2023, Patrick Hatch and Megan Gorrey, Page 2

A long-overdue reset at Ambulance Victoria isn't coming cheaply, with Premier Daniel Andrews defending a decision to spend half a million dollars on consultants to implement a cultural overhaul. The consultants were called in after The Age lifted the lid on widespread discrimination and sexual harassment within the service in 2020.

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20k reasons to go bush

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/08/2023, Lachlan Leeming, Page 1

Health workers who move to the bush will get up to \$20,000 in incentives in a Minns government bid to fill gaping holes in regional workforces. The pledge, to be unveiled today at The Daily Telegraph's Bush Summit in Tamworth, doubles the \$10,000 scheme currently on offer for key health professionals, with Premier Chris Minns saying the lesser figure had failed to improve staffing shortages in regional and remote NSW.

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

Cost cuts put 'lives at risk'

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 1

Shifts have been cut and junior nurses left unsupervised at a major Queensland hospital while bureaucrats attempt to claw back a \$40m debt. Sunshine Coast University Hospital staff say they are under backbreaking pressure with junior nurses left in charge of shifts without a senior shadow, nurses working double shifts and on days off, and one unit manager in charge of two wards with 64 beds.

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Premier backs ambulance spend on 'values'

Herald Sun, General News, 11/08/2023, Carly Douglas, Page 5

Daniel Andrews has backed Ambulance Victoria's \$500,000 spend on its new values policy as paramedics fume over spending cuts. It was revealed on Wednesday that Ambulance Victoria had spent \$500,000 on consultants to assist with the organisation's new values policy, and thousands of dollars on a lunch for its directors at Chadstone.

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WA nurses in 2025 election push

West Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 1

WA nurses could form their own political party to contest the next election, in an unprecedented bid to seize the balance of power in the Upper House. In an escalation of the Australian Nursing Federation's wage deal dispute with the Cook Government, members are expected to be polled on Friday on the historic move to launch the party ahead of the 2025 State election.

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Ambo culture 'at cost'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Carly Douglas, Page 12

Premier Daniel Andrews has backed Ambulance Victoria's \$500,000 spend on its new values policy as paramedics fume over spending cuts. It was revealed on Wednesday that Ambulance Victoria had spent \$500,000 on consultants to assist with its values policy and thousands of dollars on a lunch for its directors.

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Doctor humbled by honour

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/08/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 6

A dedicated Sunraysia GP obstetrician has received an award from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Dr Erin Kelly earned the Organisational Values Award for exemplifying advocacy, education, excellence, integrity, kindness and respect during her work.

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The speech doctors and nurses were barred from hearing

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 10/08/2023, Angus Thomson

Serious allegations of waitlist manipulation and a culture of fear at one of Australia's most prestigious teaching hospitals have emerged as the Sydney Local Health District faces growing discontent among its staff. In a document circulated to staff at Concord Hospital after he was prevented from speaking at

a meeting between staff and the Sydney LHD board on Wednesday night, Royal Prince Alfred cardiologist Professor Ian Wilcox said problems at Concord were "deeper, and even more serious" at its sister hospital, RPA.

[Read More](#)

Raising 'prestige' of GPs key to addressing regional SA doctor shortages

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Sam Bradbrook and Stephanie Richards

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) says the industry needs to raise the "prestige" of general practice to help fix regional doctor shortages in Mount Gambier and other regional centres. Mount Gambier is South Australia's second-largest city, with a population of about 30,000 people.

[Read More](#)

Ambulance Victoria defends lavish spend on work function

9News, Other, 10/08/2023

Ambulance Victoria (av) is defending a \$10,000 workshop for senior managers at a luxury hotel in Chadstone. It comes as there is mounting criticism from the ambulance union, which says budget constraints mean they can't get work jackets for staff during winter.

[Read More](#)

'Lack of transparency a key theme': Section 92 report

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 10/08/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

A review that focused on the process for agreements between health professionals and the PSR includes 14 recommendations for change. There have been previous reviews into the PSR but this is the first to focus on section 92.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 10/08/2023, Peter Hitchener

Ambulance Victoria is defending a \$10,000 workshop for senior managers at a luxury hotel in Chadstone That's despite criticism from frontline paramedics who say budget constraints mean they can't get jackets for winter.

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[Back to Top](#)

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Medico phone torch use rife

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2023, Ayla Connolly and Nicola McNamara, Page 1

Using mobile phone torch lights to examine patients became common practice among medicos at a

Queensland hospital at the centre of a review into the care of a miscarrying mother. A review of the care received by Nikkole Southwell at Ipswich Hospital revealed a discussion with emergency senior medical management "identified that there was a practice of medical officers using phone torches to examine patients" due to a lack of appropriate equipment.

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Chance to 'learn' from review

Cairns Post, General News, 11/08/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 4

An internal review by Townsville Hospital into its treatment of a man shot dead by police on a North Queensland nightclub strip nine days after seeking mental health help found "opportunities for learning", an inquest in Cairns has heard. Luke Gilbert, 24, died after being shot three times in the chest at 12.20am by Senior Constable David Murray and Constable Liam Forster, who were patrolling the safe night precinct on Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach on October 1, 2022.

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Birth trauma is laid bare

Daily Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Daisy Huntly, Page 1

Women traumatised by their birth experiences at Wagga Base Hospital have shared their distressing stories ahead of a parliamentary inquiry next month. A baby being handed to the wrong mother and a woman who was cut before the epidural took effect are among the disturbing submissions to the inquiry, which will hold a hearing at Wagga next month.

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

Chance to 'learn' from death

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 11/08/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 7

An internal review by Townsville Hospital into its treatment of a man shot dead by police on a North Queensland nightclub strip nine days after seeking mental health help found "opportunities for learning", an inquest in Cairns has heard. Luke Gilbert, 24, died after being shot three times in the chest at 12.20am by Senior Constable David Murray and Constable Liam Forster, who were patrolling the safe night precinct on Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach on October 1, 2022.

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Port Augusta doctor lied to staff about criminal history and registration

7news.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Sowaibah Hanifie and Tim Dornin

An independent review has recommended a Google search be performed on all prospective SA Health employees. An unregistered doctor who worked for six days in the emergency department of a South Australian hospital repeatedly lied about his registration status and criminal history, investigations have found.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

SPORT

Fans win bid for Olympic Park big screen

Daily Telegraph, General News, 11/08/2023, James O'Doherty, Page 11

Tens of thousands of football fans will be able to watch the Matildas clash with France on the big screen at Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday before watching England take on Colombia at Stadium

Australia. The government was forced to answer pleas from ticket holders heading to the 8.30pm game at Homebush who were worried they would miss out on seeing Australia in the quarterfinals.

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Let me litigate you

Herald Sun, General News, 11/08/2023, Shannon Deery, Page 1

Melbourne Grand Prix organisers are facing a new \$25m legal action in the ongoing fallout from the cancellation of the 2020 race and Robbie Williams concert. The looming litigation comes on the eve of a Supreme Court trial in which the Australian Grand Prix Corporation is being sued for \$8.7m in damages that music promoter World Touring E Melbourne says it incurred after signing the global star to perform at the abandoned event.

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Matildas might 'play' at the MCG

Herald Sun, General News, 11/08/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 9

The MCG could be turned into a makeshift Matildas party zone for Australia's historic Women's World Cup quarterfinal against France on Saturday - pending FIFA approval. Footy fans flocking to the MCG for Saturday night's Carlton-Melbourne match would be able to cheer for the green and gold before watching the Blues and Dees, with the cut throat contest shown on big screens and hundreds of TVs around Australia's greatest stadium under a plan approved by the AFL, MCC and home team Carlton.

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

Why we have to keep investing in country sports

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2023, Tamaryn McGregor, Page 5

Growing up in the "nice quiet country town" of Bendemeer in NSW helped mould Australian cricket hero Josh Hazlewood to be one of the nation's greatest fast bowlers. "It's got a caravan park, pub and general store," he said of the town near Tamworth.

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

Party weekend will put the Vegas in Brissie

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2023, Jeremy Pierce, Page 10

Brisbane is bursting at the seams ahead of an incredible blockbuster weekend. While the Matildas take centre stage in front of almost 50,000 fans for their FIFA women's World Cup quarterfinal on Saturday night, crowds of 30,000 at the Gabba for the Broncos and Lions, the opening weekend of the Ekka and a pair of concerts by country king Luke Combs will have the city heaving with almost 250,000 revellers.

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Administrators must be ready to capitalise on joyful World Cup

West Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Danny O'Brien, Page 63

Australia is in a golden era of women's sport that could prove to be a golden opportunity to create stronger communities, celebrate our country and drive long-term economic growth. The Matildas storming through the competition in the World Cup on home soil is just the latest example of women's sport demonstrating the massive impact hosting these types of events can have on a nation.

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

Govt mulls over \$25m for city's stadium

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/08/2023, Helen Kempton, Page 6

The location of Devonport's proposed \$60 million new high-ball stadium has been selected along with an architect to deliver the concept. Now the Devonport City Council just needs the state government to come good on a hoped \$25 million contribution to get the multi-sport, 2500-seat stadium over the line.

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

A Matildas public holiday a step too far

Burnie Advocate, General News, 11/08/2023, Alex Fair, Page 51

It is an understatement to say that the Matilda's feats at the FIFA Women's World Cup have captivated the nation. Packed out stadiums and bumper television ratings have ensured the tournament will be one that leaves a lasting legacy, no matter how much further the national side progresses.

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

Matildas great Melissa Barbieri launches furious attack on PM Albanese over football funding

7news.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Joel Martelli

It's one of the biggest issues in football but fans aren't sure why the government should get involved. Former Matildas captain Melissa Barbieri has launched a scathing attack on Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for focussing on a public holiday to celebrate the Matildas rather than the biggest issue in women's sport.

[Read More](#)

AFL makes extraordinary move to show Matildas' clash with France on big screen at the MCG

7news.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Cameron Noakes

The love for the Matildas has officially spread to rival football codes. The AFL has ticked off on showing the blockbuster FIFA Women's World Cup quarter-final between the Matildas and France on the MCG big screen before Carlton's huge clash with Melbourne on Saturday night.

[Read More](#)

Gina Rinehart unmasked as key backer in Gold Coast's bid to host 2026 Commonwealth Games

7news.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Glenn Valencich

Mining magnate Gina Rinehart has emerged as a key backer in Gold Coast's bid to salvage the 2026 Commonwealth Games. But it appears the sporting benefactor will not bankroll the project and is instead leaning on her existing contacts to get the 2018 host city back up to scratch.

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

[Read More](#)

'It's time to give these women the pay they deserve'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Mary Wooldridge

The Matildas have well and truly proved all the critics wrong. Now, it's time to pay up – and give our stars what they deserve.

[Read More](#)

AFL's stadium move for Matildas quarter-final is completely unprecedented

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023

The AFL has performed a dramatic backflip with news emerging the league plans to use its own Round 22 matches to promote its rival code. Andrew Demetriou must be shaking his head somewhere.

[Read More](#)

'Justice': Women's World Cup uniform change you didn't notice

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Natalie Brown

The Matildas will field a full-strength team for their quarter-final match against France on Saturday. As the Women's World Cup heads into its quarter-finals, a small but significant change has swept the competition.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7's extraordinary Matildas decision for World Cup quarter-final

NEWS.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Tyson Otto

The Matildas move into the Women's World Cup quarter-finals having shattered TV ratings records and pushing Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to signal a national public holiday, but their most unbelievable achievement might arrive on Saturday. The Australian team has captured the hearts and minds of the nation riding a wave of support into a fourth quarter-final appearance against France at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday.

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'Biggest night of sport since Sydney 2000': Matildas force AFL and Seven to adjust plans

The Guardian, Other, 10/08/2023, Jack Snape

Channel Seven has described this Saturday as the biggest night of sport in more than two decades as the Matildas force the Australian sporting establishment to adapt their plans and scheduling. The 5pm kick-off in Brisbane is the first time in the tournament Australia will play on the same day AFL matches are scheduled. Channel Seven owns the rights to both.

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Has the Women's World Cup killed ratings success for free-to-air TV shows?

The New Daily, Other, 10/08/2023, Louise Talbot

Let's face it, nobody was grabbing the TV remote to change channels before, during or after the Matildas' FIFA Women's World Cup match on Monday night. As the Seven network's lead-in show, The Voice, wrapped, and with a 30-minute Women's World Cup pre-match including plenty of Sam Kerr will-she-or-won't-she-play' hysterics, audiences across Australia were glued to their television sets on August 7.

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[Back to Top](#)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Brain secret to being overweight

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 11/08/2023, Sam Blanchard, Page 19

Being overweight can swell a vital part of your brain and send food cravings spiralling out of control, a study suggests. Cambridge University scientists used head scans to find overweight people have a bigger hypothalamus.

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Only 1 in 10 patients achieve 5% weight loss in a year: study

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/08/2023

Just one in 10 adults with overweight or obesity are likely to achieve clinically meaningful weight loss in a year, a US study shows. But the statistics improve over a longer period, when a third of those with overweight lose 5% of their body weight during follow-up of three to 14 years, the authors report.

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Raised blood sugar levels 'linked to increased risk of cardiovascular disease'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Pa Media

Raised blood sugar levels could be linked to a greater risk of heart diseases, research suggests. The study found that men and women with raised blood sugar levels have a 30-50% increased chance of developing cardiovascular diseases even when these levels are below the threshold for diabetes.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 10/08/2023, Natalie Forrest

It's been discovered a new weight loss drug could lower the risk of stroke or heart attacks in overweight

and obese people. A UK study shows the drug Wegovy can cut the risk of cardiovascular event by 20%.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 10/08/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

For the first time, a weight loss drug has shown promising signs it could also save lives by reducing the risk of a heart attack or stroke. But patients will have to wait as a global shortage means there's none available in Australia. A clinical trial of 17,000 adults treated with Wegovy over five years showed they were 20% less likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke or die from heart disease.

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[Back to Top](#)

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Yolngu mental health tool unveiled at Garma Festival

National Indigenous Times, Other, 10/08/2023

Gundirr, a new mental health tool was recently introduced during the Northern Territory's Garma Festival. It aims to empower mental health service providers, aiding Yolngu patients in adopting patient-centered strategies, encompassing culturally sensitive and informed practices.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Woomera looms as national site for nuclear waste

Australian Financial Review, General News, 11/08/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 5

A federal government decision to scrap plans for a nuclear waste dump outside the South Australian town of Kimba has increased speculation it will instead build a bigger facility on defence land at Woomera that could also accommodate high-level waste from...

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AUKUS alarm after nuke dump axed

The Australian, General News, 11/08/2023, Ben Packham, Page 1

The government has abandoned a decade-long process to establish a low-level radioactive waste dump near Kimba in South Australia, declaring it will not challenge a court ruling in favour of Indigenous people who argued that their voice was ignored in the site's selection. The Coalition suggested Australians should prepare for a surge of such outcomes under the proposed voice to parliament, and of ramifications for the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine deal that requires Australia to establish a high-level nuclear waste dump.

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Sandilands' monkeypox comments broke rules

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2023, Nell Geraets, Page 25

The communications watchdog has found that comments made during a broadcast of KIIS' Kyle & Jackie O program about the monkeypox virus last year breached decency rules. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) said yesterday comments made by one of the show's co-hosts, Kyle Sandilands, during a segment in which he and his co-host, Jacqueline Ellen Last (Jackie O), discussed the outbreak of the virus in Australia were offensive to gay men and not in line with the Commercial Radio Code of Practice.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

Sandilands 'breached decency'

Central Western Daily, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 8

Radio shock jock Kyle Sandilands breached decency rules when he made offensive comments about gay men and the mpox virus, Australia's communications regulator has found. In a segment of the Kyle and Jackie O program broadcast in August 2022, the controversial Sydney media personality "stereotyped gay men as irresponsible in regard to their sexual health", the Australian Communications and Media Authority ruled.

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Nuclear waste dump cops King hit, Indigenous owners rejoice

Daily Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 6

Construction of a nuclear waste dump in regional South Australia has been scrapped with the traditional owners declaring the plan flawed from the start. The facility, to permanently dispose of low-level waste and temporarily store intermediate waste, was to be built on land at Napandee, near Kimba on Eyre Peninsula.

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Mozzie virus likely to survive heat

Daily Mercury, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 15

A bacterium released into mosquito populations to limit the spread of viruses including malaria will likely survive climate change into the 2030s, according to Australian and international researchers who say its effectiveness beyond that time is still unknown. A strain of the bacterium Wolbachia can block mosquito-borne viruses such as malaria, dengue and Zika, so researchers have transferred it into various mosquito species as a biological control for the viruses.

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Nuclear waste dump plans scrapped

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 11/08/2023, Page 12

Plans for a nuclear waste dump in regional South Australia have been scrapped by the federal government following a court decision blocking its construction. The waste facility was earmarked to be built on land at Napandee, near the town of Kimba in the Eyre Peninsula, by the previous Coalition government in 2021.

Similar coverage reported by: [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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ABC News, ABC National News, 10/08/2023, Gemma Veness

After almost a decade of work, the Federal Government has scrapped plans to build Australia's first nuclear waste facility in regional South Australia. A site near the Eyre Peninsula farming town of Kimba had been chosen, but a Federal Court decision last month ruled the local Barngala people had not been appropriately consulted and the project could not proceed. Resources Minister Madeleine King says the Government won't appeal that decision and the process of finding a suitable site will begin again.

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SBS, World News Australia, 10/08/2023, Janice Petersen

A 40-year search for a place to dump Australia's nuclear waste will begin from scratch after the Federal Government abandoned plans for a facility near Kimba in outback South Australia. The Napandee site was acquired in 2021 to store Australia's mostly medical low to intermediate grade nuclear waste.

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[Back to Top](#)

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Tobacco cartel hit

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2023, Samantha Scott, Page 30

Multimillion-dollar raids a large-scale illegal tobacco syndicate has been smashed following a series of raids, executed by the Australian Border Force-led Illicit Tobacco Taskforce in Queensland and NSW. [...] The ABF supported by the Gold Coast Joint Organised Crime Team, consisting of Australian Federal Police, Queensland Police, Queensland Health, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Victoria Police and NSW Police executed warrants at 11 properties across South East Queensland, Tweed Heads and Coffs Harbour on Tuesday.

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

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Are pharma-funded 'awareness' campaigns a drug advertising blind spot?

Australian Doctor, Other, 10/08/2023, Rachel Carter

For almost a decade, US men were faced with TV, online ads and billboards about the risks of low testosterone or low T', as it was branded. [...] The TGA can also step in directly.

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Somatropin stocks hit on two fronts

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 10/08/2023, David Rowley

The somatropin products marketed as Norditropin FlexPro 5mg, 10mg and 15mg will be in shortage until the end of 2023, sponsor Novo Nordisk has told the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

[Read More](#)

No fast track to SA psychedelic therapy

In Daily, Other, 10/08/2023, David Simmons

Despite psilocybin from "magic mushrooms" and MDMA becoming prescribable in Australia on 1 July, those in SA seeking the psychedelic treatments for mental health conditions have no choice but to wait. [...] Doctors need to be approved under the Authorised Prescriber Scheme by the Therapeutic Goods Administration following approval from a human research ethics committee, and none have managed to pass through these hoops yet.

[Read More](#)

Children's medicines in short supply across Australia as cold and flu cases continue to rise

The Guardian, Other, 11/08/2023, Natasha May

Australian parents are struggling to find medicines for their children as cold and flu cases continue to rise this winter, according to health experts and practitioners. [...] The government's medicine regulatory agency, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), said it was aware of increased demand and intermittent supply of non-prescription children's painkillers such as ibuprofen and paracetamol, but information from suppliers suggested there are adequate national supplies overall over the coming months.

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[Back to Top](#)

OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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[Back to Top](#)

FOOD STANDARDS

Hanabi Marinated Pork Bulgogi recalled from Coles and Woolworths stores over allergen fears

7news.com.au, Other, 10/08/2023, Molly Magennis

Consumers have been urged to return the product to where they bought it for a refund. A pork product sold in Coles and Woolworths stores across Australia has been recalled over a potential allergen risk.

[Read More](#)

Meat recall: Coles and Woolworths pull pork item off shelves

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Nicole Iliagoueva

A meat product sold at Coles and Woolworths is being recalled over fears of causing an allergic reaction. The Hanabi Marinated Pork Bulgogi 290g by Oriental Merchant Pty Ltd is being taken off shelves due to the presence of an "undeclared wheat/gluten allergen", according to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

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[Back to Top](#)

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No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

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