



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 10th August 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [**Hobart Mercury**](#) (page 1) reports Tasmania's government has been criticised for manipulating language in the frames of reference for a parliamentary inquiry into the state's ambulance ramping crisis. State health Minister Guy Barnett has also denied claims ambulances and patients waiting outside Royal Hobart Hospital's emergency department were shifted to improve the optics of his inaugural press conference last month. *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Launceston Examiner](#)*
- The [**Daily Telegraph**](#) (page 3) reports healthcare workers at Sydney's Concord Hospital have alleged senior staff threatened disciplinary action to prevent them going public with negative allegations about the hospital's operations. Staff say hospital data has been forged, waiting lists manipulated and patients put at risk by a backlog of over 40,000 radiological scans and outdated medical equipment.
- The [**Herald Sun**](#) (page 3) reports weight loss medication Wegovy can reduce the risk of heart attack and strokes by up to 20 per cent, new data from a large-scale trial by the Iverson Health Innovation research Institute and Swinburne University has found. Heart Foundation chief medical adviser Gary Jennings said "The top-line results [for Wegovy] have not been seen

before with anything with any other medical treatment." *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [West Australian](#)

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 5) reports calls about poisoning from vapes to Victoria's poisons hotline have risen more than 75 per cent in the last year, while cases involving children under the age of four have more than doubled. VicHealth chief Sandro Demaio said "My message to parents is that these products are not safe and they're not safe to have in a home. These products are deadly and dangerous and they are designed to attract and manipulate children."
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports Health Minister Mark Butler will hold talks with crossbenchers overnight to prevent the Coalition from scrapping changes to medication dispensing rules. Mr Butler said the cost-of-living relief measure was "good for health" and would "free up millions of GP consults that we desperately need for important health conditions rather than routine scripts being issued by doctors". *Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review](#), [The Australian](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Canberra Times](#), [The Guardian](#)
- [The Australian](#) (page 7) reports the cost of tasks being carried out by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency are driving up doctor's registration fees and should be funded instead by the Commonwealth, the Australian Medical Association says. AMA president Steve Robson said "While health ministers appear more than willing to increase the workload of the AHPRA, you do not appear willing to help support this work with extra funding and have simply decided to impose what is effectively a tax on the profession."
- [The Age](#) (page 14) reports the EG5.1 or Eris variant of COVID-19's Omicron on the rise in Asia, Europe and the US has been detectable in Australia since April and is unlikely to cause a new wave of infection, experts say. NSW infectious diseases modeller Associate Professor James Wood said "we may still need to see one or two additional spike mutations on top of these changes before these start to move the needle on wave risk". *Also reported by:* [News.com.au](#), [SBS](#)
- The [West Australian](#) (online) reports a two-kilometre exclusion zone has been declared in West Australia's east Pilbara region after an incident with a truck carrying ammonium nitrate. Emergency services declared a HAZMAT incident and advised locals to avoid the area and stay out of smoke and fumes by remaining inside with doors and windows shut.

MINISTER BUTLER

Showdown on 60-day dispensing plan

The Australian, General News, 10/08/2023, Geoff Chambers, Page 7

Health Minister Mark Butler has accused the Coalition and Pharmacy Guild of Australia of wanting to permanently scrap access to cheaper medicines, after Liberal and Nationals senators moved to torpedo Anthony Albanese's 60day dispensing rules in the Senate. Ahead of a parliamentary showdown on Thursday - the last sitting day before the double dispensing changes come into effect on September 1 - Mr Butler urged crossbenchers to back the government's policy.

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

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Doctors damn 'stealth tax' on registrations

The Australian, General News, 10/08/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Doctors' groups are protesting plans to significantly hike medical registration fees as a result of ramped-up activities of the medical regulator in cosmetic surgery regulation and the recruitment of international doctors. [...] Mr Robson has written to all state and territory health ministers as well as federal Health Minister Mark Butler to protest at the steep fee hike.

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

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Coalition push to scrap Labor's 60-day prescription policy

Australian Financial Review, General News, 10/08/2023, Ronald Mizen, Page 8

Health Minister Mark Butler is threatening to blow up negotiations with the pharmacy lobby on the next five-year deal for medicine dispensing if the Senate successfully overturns its 60-day script policy. The Coalition yesterday announced it would attempt...

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

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Coalition threat to cheaper medicine

Daily Telegraph, General News, 10/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 5

Six million Australians could lose access to half price scripts from next month after a controversial move by the Coalition to disallow the measure in the Senate. And pharmacies will lose access to \$1.2bn of government investment as a result of the move. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said patients would lose hundreds of dollars as a result of the Coalition's move and pharmacies would also be impacted.

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

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Pharmacies unhappy with measures to offset impact of dispensing rule changes

Oakey Champion, General News, 09/08/2023, Page 3

Nathan Jervis of The Oakey Pharmacy says the Government's reaction to pharmaceutical dissatisfaction isn't enough to properly assist rural pharmacies. The announcement by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler of last month of a "major financial boost" seemed on the surface to be good news for rural pharmacies who are struggling to cope with the impact of the Government's new 60-day dispensing companies.

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Coalition threatens disallowance motion over Labor's 60 day dispensing policy

The Australian, Other, 09/08/2023, Ellen Ransley

The government has accused the Coalition of standing in the way of millions of Australians accessing cheaper medicines, as they seek to delay the rollout of 60-day dispensing. On Wednesday, senators Anne Ruston and Bridget McKenzie said if Labor didn't pause their 60-day dispensing policy set to come into effect on September 1 they would move a disallowance motion. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was committed to the policy, which would be "good for the hip pocket".

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Coalition will seek to stop Labor's 60-day medicine policy in the Senate

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos

The Coalition will move to block Labor's 60-day medicine script policy in the Senate and seek to stop it from coming into effect on September 1, on the basis that the government did not properly consult pharmacies on the change. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler this week vowed to bring forward by a year the government's talks with pharmacies in an attempt to placate the sector and assure concerned crossbench senators that he is dealing in good faith.

Also reported by: [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Brisbane Times \(Online\)](#), [WA Today \(Online\)](#).

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Labor has slammed Coalition plans to block Labor's prescription dispensing policy

Canberra Times, Other, 09/08/2023, Natalie Vikhrov

Health Minister Mark Butler has denounced Coalition plans to block Labor's prescription dispensing policy in the Senate, saying the move will prevent millions of Australians from accessing cheaper medicine. Coalition senators Anne Ruston and Bridget McKenzie on Wednesday said they will move a disallowance motion on Thursday if Labor doesn't delay the introduction of the planned measure and renegotiate with community pharmacists.

Pharmacists set to swallow bitter pill over dispensing

Canberra Times, Other, 09/08/2023, Dominic Giannini

A last-ditch effort to block pharmacies needing to bring in 60-day medicine dispensing is expected to fail. The opposition is moving in federal parliament to disallow Labor's key health policy, saying while it supports the idea of 60-day dispensing, the implementation would hurt community pharmacies by stripping them of revenue. [...] 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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Backing our local pharmacies

Murray Pioneer, Other, 09/08/2023

There's no question, cost-of-living pressures are making it tough for Australians right around the country. It's having a real impact, the Australian Bureau of Statistics tells us every year, nearly a million Australians delay buying medicine their doctor has said is necessary for their health, because they can't afford it.

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Coalition will seek to block Labor plan for cheaper medicine after backlash from pharmacies

The Guardian, Other, 09/08/2023, Paul Karp

The Coalition has asked the Senate to tear up changes allowing patients to buy two months of medicine for the price of one unless Labor pauses the policy and blunts the impact on pharmacies. [...] The health minister, Mark Butler, immediately stared down the threat, suggesting the issue should be dealt with within 24 hours because patients had already missed out on hundreds of millions in savings.

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Health Minister labels \$806 medicine claim as a 'scare to vulnerable aged care residents'

Aged Care Insite, Other, 09/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Health Minister Mark Butler has condemned the community pharmacy peak body over its latest attack on impending changes to drug dispensing rules, in a move he labelled a "cynical scare campaign" designed to "scare vulnerable aged care residents". It follows a new cost analysis released by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia on Monday, which claimed aged-care residents will be hit with an \$806 annual bill for weekly prescriptions as a result of Labor's controversial 60-day dispensing rules.

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Butler spruiks pharmacy changes

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/08/2023, Megan Haggan

"Australian pharmacies are strong and resilient," says the Health Minister in a new statement about Labor's plans for the community pharmacy sector Health Minister Mark Butler has released an opinion piece on the Health Department's website, in which he says the Government recognises the importance of community pharmacies.

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'Shame on you, Labor!'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/08/2023, Megan Haggan

One Senator has labelled the Health Minister's behaviour intransigent over 60-day dispensing, saying the policy "boggles the brain" Western Australian Senator Linda Reynolds has spoken out against the Albanese Government's policy on double dispensing, reiterating Guild claims that it will cost aged care facilities heavily and threaten the viability of community pharmacies.

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8CPA: what we know so far

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 09/08/2023, Chloe Hava

After hinting at PSA23 that the Eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations might be brought forward, federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler confirmed this week (7 August) that the process will begin now. Negotiations were brought forward 12 months, so pharmacists can expect a new CPA in less than a year.

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A unique political problem that is entirely the government's making

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 10/08/2023

Mark Butler faces a unique challenge for a health minister - political and stakeholder opposition to a change that will effectively halve the cost of over 300 PBS-listed medicines. How did this happen?

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EDs aren't clogged by 'GP-type' presentations

The Medical Republic, Other, 09/08/2023

The need for urgent care clinics is based on an AIHW model that is significantly off the mark, according to a new study. [...] They emerged as a Labor government idea in April last year, when federal Health Minister Mark Butler said they would be "a level of care somewhere between what you get at a standard general practice and a fully-equipped hospital".

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PSA welcomes early 8CPA talks

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/08/2023

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). Fei Sim, PSA National President (pictured), said it was vital to secure the short-term viability of the community pharmacy sector, particularly in light of the huge changes taking place such as 60-day dispensing.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 09/08/2023, Sandra Sully

The Coalition is trying to block the Government's plan for 60-day dispensing for pharmacies. The Coalition is trying to delay the change until it's sorted with pharmacies first. Health Minister Mark Butler says the Coalition backed the pharmacy lobby instead of 6 million patients. A couple of crossbenchers will support the Coalition while the Greens won't, so the Health Minister will be working the phones tonight.

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Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 09/08/2023, Ashlea Hansen

Interview with David Littleproud, Nationals leader. Hansen says report out today from the Royal Flying Doctor Service paints a bleak outlook for people in the bush in terms of their health. Littleproud attributes it to Health Minister Mark Butler and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's move to extend the designated priority areas for foreign doctors to work in peri urban areas around the outskirts of Melbourne and Sydney.

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2MCE, 19:00 National Radio News, 09/08/2023

The Opposition is threatening to block the 60-day dispensing rule. Health Minister Mark Butler is calling on the Senate to deal with the issue quickly. With only one sitting day remaining before the policy is due to come into effect The Greens say they will not support the Coalition's motion.

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ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 09/08/2023, Scott Levi

Interview with Dr Con Marthaler about funding for after-hours clinics for NSW's Central Coast. [...]
We've also asked the Primary Health Network to comment and we've also contacted the officer of the Health Minister, Mark Butler, who sent us a statement, who said that they're putting a lot of money into pharmacy services.

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2GB, 19:00 News, 09/08/2023

The Senate is being told not to delay new dispensing rules which would give patients access to a 60 day of medication. The Opposition's Anne Ruston says it's a good proposal, but it needs to be delayed until there's greater consultation with the sector and deal with the consequences that we've been told to us as we travel around the country. Health Minister Mark Butler maintains the policy is sound.

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5AA, 18:00 News, 09/08/2023

The Federal Government is urging the Senate not to block changes to dispensing rules from next month. Patients would be able to buy up to 60 days' worth of medication using one script. Health Minister Mark Butler says the policy is sound and needs to pass. T

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ABC Radio Melbourne, 18:00 News, 09/08/2023

The Federal Health Minister has criticised a move by the Opposition to block 60-day prescriptions from next month. Coalition senators have sought to disallow the change in the Senate, arguing it would have a negative impact on pharmacies. But Mark Butler has urged senators to allow the change when it comes to a vote within 24 hours.

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ABC Radio Perth, 19:00 News, 09/08/2023

The Federal Government is warning there will be consequences if a move by the Opposition to block 60-day medicine prescriptions goes ahead. The Federal Opposition is threatening to stop the Government's 60-day medicine script policy. Health Minister Mark Butler wants the Senate to deal with this quickly. Already the Greens have said they won't back the Opposition.

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MINISTER WELLS

Enable people to stay in their homes, says taskforce

Community Care Review, Other, 09/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

Enabling older Australians to remain in their own homes as long as they are able leads a set of principles drafted by the aged care taskforce last month. [...] Meeting for the second time on 25 July and chaired by Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, taskforce members also noted that significant community engagement and data analysis will be required to inform its deliberations and advice to government.

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Sector shows gratitude to workforce

Community Care Review, Other, 09/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

For the fifth year, Australia's aged care industry celebrated its workforce on Aged Care Employee Day. With the theme of Thanks for caring, the annual event held on 7 August every year provides an opportunity for providers, residents and families to show their gratitude to the 427,000 residential care, home care and retirement living staff who look after 1. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells took to social media to thank the workforce.

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Albanese meets with Wallabies ahead of Rugby World Cup

Sky News Australia, Other, 09/08/2023

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.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 09/08/2023, Greg Jennett and Matthew Doran

Interview Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health. Medical Research Future Fund is allocating money to around of new projects dedicated to mental health research. McBride says children who have difficulty with speech and language and writing are much more likely to develop mental health problems through childhood and later in life. She states that the \$1 million funding for research at Curtin University for good evidence-based approaches for better detection and early intervention.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Obstetrics without insurance: how independent midwives get away with it

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/08/2023, Craig Lilienthal

The Federal Government has just announced it will extend the exemption to the law requiring independent midwives to hold professional indemnity insurance in order to provide home birth services. How crazy is this, and how has it come about? [...] According to a recent statement from Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, this exemption is for the benefit of midwives and the women in their care.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Sod turning at Parliamentary Triangle car park marks first step to new national security precinct

RiotACT, Other, 09/08/2023, Chris Johnson

It's just a car park, but as car parks go this one will be impressive, and it signals the start of a whole new precinct for the Parliamentary Triangle. Finance Minister Katy Gallagher has broken ground and turned the sod on the John Gorton Campus Car Park. [...] Its previous projects in the ACT include 27 Scherger Drive, an office building completed last year at Canberra Airport's new Fairbairn East Gateway precinct and tenanted by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Stuck in a (Covid) time warp

Spectator Australia, Other, 10/08/2023, Rebecca Weisser

Supposedly, the pandemic is over. The World Health Organisation (WHO) says it ended on 5 May. [...] That was after the secretary of the federal Department of Health, Professor Brendan Murphy said in a parliamentary committee on 1 June, that in his view, as a clinician rather than as a public servant, Covid vaccine mandates were no longer justified.

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CORONAVIRUS

State Covid mandates 'vindicated'

The Australian, General News, 10/08/2023, Paul Garvey, Page 5

Western Australia's handling of the pandemic, including its border closures and sweeping vaccination mandates, has been largely praised in an independent review. The review, led by former Liberal minister John Day, former WA Department of Arts chief executive Margaret Seares and former Australian Competition & Consumer Commission deputy chair Michael Schaper concluded WA had been a "world leader in maintaining both low case numbers and a strong economy" throughout the pandemic.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Perth\)](#).

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COVID variant 'not new wave risk'

Age, General News, 10/08/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 14

The new coronavirus variant nicknamed Eris is unlikely to cause a new wave of infection in Australia, experts say. Eris a variant of Omicron, real name EG.5.1 is now the most prevalent variant in the US, and is rising in prevalence in Europe and Asia. It was first spotted in Australia in April and some 68 cases have been detected.

Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC Radio Sydney \(Sydney\)](#).

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COVID-19 hospitalisations are rising in the US, fuelled by heat

Australian Financial Review, Other, 10/08/2023, Matthew Griffin

Covid-19 hospitalisations are creeping up in the US for the first time this year as extreme heat keeps people indoors and protection against infection fades. COVID hospital admissions rose 43 per cent in the last week in July from a low in the week ending...

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Covid vaccine mandates: Pauline Hanson grills Pfizer and Moderna representatives during Senate hearing over whether Australians were 'forced' to get the jab

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/08/2023, Jesse Hyland

One Nation leader Pauline Hanson erupted during a Senate hearing last Thursday when the boss of Pfizer Australia said no one was 'forced' to get the Covid vaccine. Hanson grilled representatives from Pfizer and fellow pharmaceutical giant Moderna about the efficacy of vaccine mandates during the Covid pandemic, later saying their responses were 'pathetic' and 'arrogant'.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Low-pay visa 'key to filling shortages'

The Australian, General News, 10/08/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 4

The Business Council of Australia is calling on the federal government to establish a lower-wage migrant worker category to urgently fill critical labour shortages, after the minimum wage for temporary skilled migrant workers was hiked to \$70,000. [...] The BCA also criticised the "explicit promotion and embedding of specific unions" in aged care, with the Albanese government requiring providers to sign a memorandum of understanding with a union to secure foreign workers.

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Yallambee Lodge aged care home 'likely' to be transferred to not-for-profit Respect

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Floss Adams

The fate of the aged care home where 95-year-old great-grandmother Clare Nowland was allegedly tasered by a police officer three months ago remains unclear. Aged care provider Respect is in talks with the council Respect is expected to take over the Cooma facility early next year if it accepts the offer

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All workers to receive pay rise, says ADSSI

Community Care Review, Other, 09/08/2023

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

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Career hub opens to boost home care workforce

Community Care Review, Other, 09/08/2023

A new facility 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.

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Home care packages

Echo NetDaily, Other, 09/08/2023, Scott Hyams

One would think that after the Royal Commission into Aged Care exposed the deplorable standard of care and a system characterised by neglect and elder abuse that it should have been a wakeup call for government. But here we are four years later, and it is the government, through bureaucrats in the Department of Health and Aged Care, who are subjecting recipients of home care packages to what can only be described as elder abuse.

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High school students learn the value of volunteering in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 09/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Volunteering in Australia has been on the decline, particularly among young people, for a while particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. That's why this National Student Volunteering Week has adopted the theme "Give. Grow. Belong." to celebrate student volunteers and promote volunteering to young people across the country. The theme highlights a generation of young people who are more socially conscious than ever before and are committed to creating positive change.

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Foxtel treats aged care residents to a day at the footy

HelloCare, Other, 09/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Last month, Foxtel Business hosted a group of aged care residents from different Estia Health aged care homes in a corporate suite at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) for the Richmond versus Hawthorn game. Estia Health residents and carers from across Victoria including Bendigo, Yarra Valley, and Glen Waverley were treated to corporate hospitality in the suite and enjoyed a premium view of the action.

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NSW Shoal Bay aged care residents have nowhere to go after being told to leave

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/08/2023, Caroline Egan

Five aged care residents have been asked to move out of their homes by 13 October to make way for new residents who require higher levels of care.

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Aged care workers taking on second jobs due to cost of living pressures: what happens when the tide turns?

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/08/2023, Caroline Egan

More Australians – particularly aged care workers – are taking on a second job, most likely due to rising cost of living pressures, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

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MiCare appoints Jos van de Ven as new Chair, replacing Ignatius Oostermeyer

The Weekly Source, Other, 09/08/2023, Caroline Egan

Melbourne-based aged care provider MiCare has announced the appointment of Jos van de Ven to the position of Chairperson, replacing Ignatius Oostermeyer, who was with MiCare for 24 years, including 14 years as Chairperson.

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Money's tight for young people. Adding a Medicare-style levy to everyone's tax bill is the wrong way to increase aged-care funding

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 09/08/2023, Nicole Sutton

Nicole Sutton, Senior Lecturer in Accounting, University of Technology Sydney The funding of Australia's aged care is fast reaching a critical point. As our recent report shows, the costs of providing high-quality services will likely escalate to A\$40 billion by 2026 as the first baby boomers reach their eighties.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Teals shoot first in Hard Solo battle

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 10/08/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 7

Teal crossbenchers will confront industry figures about the growing number of alcoholic drinks marketed to underage drinkers after a "hard" version of the popular soft drink Solo was approved for sale in Australia.

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

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Kills fat and saves lives

Herald Sun, General News, 10/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 3

Weight-loss drug Wegovy has been found to also slash heart attacks and strokes by 20 per cent in a large-scale trial that could help speed up its approval for subsidy in Australia. The UK's health minister

claimed the drug could help ease pressure on that country's National Health Service. And Australian obesity expert Professor John Dixon has described the clinical trial results as an "absolutely seminal event" for the one million Australians battling obesity.

Similar coverage reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Vape haze traps bubs

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 10/08/2023, Suzan Delibasic and Susie O'Brien, Page 5

The number of babies potentially exposed to deadly vapes has more than doubled in the past year, data from Victoria's poisons hotline shows. The Herald Sun can reveal calls to the hotline about poisoning from e-cigarettes have surged by 75 per cent in the past year, from 103 in 2021 to 181 in 2022. Alarming, the figures show cases involving children under four have risen from 51 to 134 during that time.

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Fewer steps to be healthy

Herald Sun, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 13

The number of daily steps needed to start seeing health benefits is lower than we thought, according to a team of international scientists. They reanalysed data from 17 previous studies on 226,889 people and found the risk of death from any cause or from cardiovascular disease decreased with every 500 to 1,000 extra steps.

Similar coverage reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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Black market tobacco: dark side of surging cigarette costs

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 38

After years working in front-line policing of the illegal tobacco racket, I believe there are two things every Australian should understand about this nefarious and growing industry. Street tobacco is worth billions of dollars to serious, organised criminals, and they use the proceeds to fund other activity.

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Why a siesta could help us adapt to extreme heat

Canberra Times, Other, 09/08/2023, Simon Quilty

After being all but eliminated in recent decades, the modest siesta or afternoon nap might be about to make a comeback. The siesta has been around for millennia, but in western countries like Spain it has been disappearing, mainly to conform to a "normal" 9-to-5 work schedule.

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'My baby's allergy is too extreme for him to go to any daycare.'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/08/2023, Josephine Agostino

When Katie looked at her newborn son, Hugo, her instinct told her everything was "fine". "He had what we thought was some baby acne and some tummy troubles," the Canberra mum tells Kidspot. "I was breastfeeding and we just thought it was normal." Want to join the family? Sign up to our Kidspot newsletter for more stories like this.

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Domestic violence victims who suffer repetitive head injury should be screened for CTE, Australian experts say

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2023, Hayley Gleeson

Before they're diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, footballers have sustained countless concussions and body blows, sometimes years of subconcussive hits that would quietly develop into the degenerative brain disease that would cost them their peace of mind, their ability to think straight and, eventually, their lives.

New survey reveals surprising dental hygiene practices among Australians

SBS, Other, 09/08/2023, Alex Anyfantis

According to the Australian Dental Association's new report, three quarters of Australians rarely or never floss their teeth, and one in five only brush once a day.

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

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Flipping the model presents a new way to treat sleep apnoea

Bite Magazine, Other, 09/08/2023

New Australian research that flips an existing therapy model will introduce a whole new way of treating sleep apnoea. The research team at the Adelaide Institute for Sleep Health: Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute Sleep Health Research Program, has examined shortcomings in some people's response to the popular Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine (CPAP) and found that adding combinations of therapies gets impressive results in those who are unable to tolerate CPAP.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Quest to defeat awful disease

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/08/2023, Jackie Sinnerton, Page 3

Queensland scientists have made a world-first breakthrough in the decades-long quest to eradicate the devastating disease multiple sclerosis. QIMR Berghofer has developed a cutting-edge vaccine candidate that offers durable and potent protection against the EpsteinBarr virus in preclinical models the virus that is the leading cause of MS.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 10 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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Test 'predicts' risk of death

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/08/2023, Justin Vallejo, Page 16

A new blood test could indicate people who are at a high risk of suffering a heart attack in as little as two years, according to researchers. [...] Heart attacks, a sudden blockage of the blood supply to the heart that prevent it from getting enough oxygen to pump blood to the rest of the body, cause almost one in 20 deaths in Australia, according to the Heart Foundation.

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

Concerns over breast cancer treatment delays in Queensland

The Courier Mail, Other, 09/08/2023

Breast Cancer Network Australia Vicki Durston discussed concerns over delays in diagnosis and access to treatment for breast cancer patients in Queensland. "What we're hearing is that in Queensland there are significant delays in those test biopsy, results to actually confirm a cancer," she told Sky News Australia.

[Read More](#)

Raising funds to support Zac

Border Watch, Other, 09/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

"My head and heart are the same, some of my limbs don't work but it doesn't change who I am and I just have to make it work," former Mount Gambier/Berrin resident Zac Watson said following a devastating motorbike crash that left him paralyzed. Mr Watson was in Alice Springs, training for the Finke Desert Race when he had a serious motorbike accident where he was "spat off" his bike.

What is POTS? And how is it related to long COVID?

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Marie-Claire Seeley and Celine Gallagher

Pots or "postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome" is a poorly recognised condition we've been hearing more about recently. When people stand up, get out of bed or off the sofa, their heart races and they feel dizzy and fatigued, severely impacting their quality of life.

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

[Read More](#)

South Australian researchers are making a vaccine to prevent painful ear infections in children

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Imogen Hayne

Researchers are on the cusp of creating a vaccine to fend off bacterial ear infections in children. Key points: The jabs will target one of the main types of germs that cause infections, called non-typeable *Haemophilus influenzae*.

[Read More](#)

'It's really only the beginning': are we on the cusp of a breakthrough in endometriosis?

The Guardian, Other, 10/08/2023, Gabrielle Jackson

"There's an excitement at the moment," says Andrew Horne. After decades of inaction, something is happening in endometriosis. Now, says the professor of gynaecology and reproductive sciences at the University of Edinburgh, "I do think things are changing. There are more people working on it, so it's bringing in people from different disciplines with new ideas."

[Read More](#)

Australians face an increasing risk of stroke

SBS, Other, 09/08/2023, Alex Anyfantis

Strokes are the number one cause of disability in Australia, with one in four people expected to experience a stroke during their lifetime. During this year's National Stroke Week (7-13 August), the Australian Stroke Foundation is hoping to raise awareness about the impacts they can have in their life and how they can be prevented.

[Read More](#)

Stomach cancer causes: Love sharing food with your friends? This doctor has a terrifying warning

7news.com.au, Other, 09/08/2023, Cindy Tran

'I'm never eating someone's food ever again.' A doctor has shared a terrifying warning about why you should think twice before sharing your food or water. [...] According to Cancer Council, the bacteria is one of the factors that can increase your risk of stomach cancer.

[Read More](#)

New app helping people with Parkinson's Disease

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 09/08/2023, Matthew Brodie

A new app, co-designed by people with Parkinson's Disease, has been launched to help those living with the condition learn to walk better and for longer. A team led by UNSW Sydney biomedical engineer Dr Matthew A Brodie developed the Walking Tall app following a clinical trial funded by Shake It Up Australia Foundation and the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

[Read More](#)

University of Queensland trial to put long term cancer treatment to test

The Senior, Other, 09/08/2023

More than 3000 Australian women are diagnosed with endometrial cancer each day, with an average

age of 65, but have we been treating it all wrong? University of Queensland researchers have received a \$3.1 million grant for expansion of a trial they hope could revolutionise treatment.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital 'a risk' to patients: Doctors

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 10/08/2023, Natalie O'Brien, Page 3

Doctors and nurses at a Sydney hospital claim they were warned off going public with allegations of data being falsified, waiting lists manipulated and patients put at risk by a backlog of tens of thousands of undiagnosed scans. At a meeting yesterday to mediate issues at Concord Hospital, doctors and nurses alleged they were threatened with breaches of code of conduct by superiors if they spoke out.

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

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

'Prison food's a crime compared to these'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/08/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas and Emily Olle, Page 12

A social media storm led by Port Pirie Hospital patient Steve Lewis about the quality of hospital food has led to one commenter likening the dishes to prison fare. But now a former Yatala inmate, who doesn't want to be named, has weighed in on the debate, saying patients would be "begging for hospital food" inside prison.

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

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

Ramping up lingo

Hobart Mercury, General News, 10/08/2023, David Killick, Page 1

Tasmania's Parliament will hold an inquiry into ambulance ramping - despite the government managing to remove the words "ambulance ramping" from its terms of reference. Instead, government amendments to a Greens motion means a select committee will instead examine "transfer of care delays". The Department of Health refers to ambulance ramping as "offload delay".

Similar coverage reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

Under pressure

Ballarat Courier, General News, 10/08/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 1

A surge of patients with COVID or suspected COVID infections during May occupied a third of Ballarat Base Hospital beds at its peak, causing a backlog of patients unable to be admitted to hospital from the emergency department and a reduction in elective surgery. Between April and June, 627 patients awaiting admission to hospital spent more than 24 hours in the ED - more than three times higher than the same period in 2022 - many as a result of COVID and suspected COVID patients occupying so many beds preventing timely transfers from ED.

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

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

Calls for funds, not talk

Cairns Post, General News, 10/08/2023, Isaac McCarthy, Page 7

A top Far North industry advocate has called on the state government to release a timeline to construction for a key Cairns health project, demanding its "commitment" transform into project funding "as soon as possible". On Monday a spokeswoman for Queensland's Health Minister's office said the government was committed to "seeing through" the Cairns Health Innovation Centre project, an "integral" part of the Cairns University Hospital transition according to industry advocates.

Countdown to opening

Cairns Post, General News, 10/08/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 13

Atherton Hospital's new clinical services building is all set to become fully operational at the end of the month following nearly three years of work. The \$86.4m project, which was initially expected to finish in 2022, has had its fair share of disruptions from human remains being unearthed on the site, to a more recent issue in May when elevated levels of lead were detected in some water outlets of the new building.

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Mobile clinic brings a smile to rural communities

Launceston Examiner, General News, 10/08/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 1

The Royal Flying Doctor Service highlighted the importance of dental care this week by showcasing its mobile dental service, which travels around the state. Along with their medical services, the RFDS' mobile dental care aids dental staff in travelling to rural and remote locations weekly and tailoring dental care to accommodate a community's needs.

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

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Assisted dying to be based on 'probabilities'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Adults with a terminal illness who will die within six months can access voluntary assisted dying laws in 16 weeks, NSW Health officials said on Tuesday night. The laws also apply to adults with a neurodegenerative condition who will die within 12 months. Their expected deaths from illness are based on "the balance of probabilities". NSW chief health officer Kerry Chant said the process had "important safeguards".

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Death as a choice will 'allay fears'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 10/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 8

Newcastle death doula Ruth Boydell says voluntary assisted dying laws will allow eligible people to have loved ones around them and "their hands held" when they pass. Ms Boydell believes this is important. It's something she could not do when her husband died. She said the VAD laws, to begin in NSW on November 28, were important in several ways. "Even the knowledge of having VAD in their sights is a powerful tool for people," Ms Boydell said.

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Will Labor match price tag on palliative care unit?

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 10/08/2023, Eva Baxter, Page 3

Those pushing for better end-of-life care in Tamworth were "encouraged" by the Labor government's announcement a new palliative care unit promised by the coalition will continue, but some details remain uncertain. While \$93 million has been committed for palliative care units across NSW, including Tamworth, specific funding allocations are unknown.

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

Tasmania Bush Summit 2023: Flinders Island man Andrew Jackson survives heart surgery involving five bypasses

The Mercury, Other, 09/08/2023, Philip Young

Andrew Jackson was enjoying a quiet retirement on Flinders Island when he started feeling "very, very tired". Now he's fighting fit after massive heart surgery thanks to the RFDS. Read his remarkable story of survival. >> Retired Melbourne solicitor Andrew Jackson moved to Flinders Island in 2004 to enjoy the quite life in a home he built overlooking a river.

[Read More](#)

Mum slams Mackay Base Hospital for surgery waitlists

Daily Mercury News, Other, 09/08/2023, Zoe Devenport

A Queensland mum co-sleeps with her 4yo son as she is terrified he will die overnight, as he grows up struggling to breathe with a curable condition that could be treated with surgery. A Mackay mother co-sleeps with her four year old as she is terrified he will die in his sleep.

[Read More](#)

Relocation for Shore Care family practice

Gladstone Today, Other, 09/08/2023

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. Shore Care's relocation from Building 1 to Building 2 represents a significant opportunity for growth and the enhancement of healthcare services for the local GP provider.

[Read More](#)

Little Haven palliative care asks for more govt help

Gympie Times, Other, 09/08/2023, Christine Schindler

Gympie's beloved, gold standard palliative care provider is in its own fight for life, after being let down by a state government funding offer so small the organisation fears it will have to close its books. Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Health Minister Shannon Fentiman have been called on to explain how they will replace end-of-life care in the Gympie region if Little Haven is starved of the funding it needs to keep up with the demands of a growing population.

[Read More](#)

Wagga Base Hospital stroke unit first in state to get certification

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 09/08/2023, Taylor Dodge

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.

[Read More](#)

NT Health calls fourth 'code yellow' for Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals this year

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Michael Franchi

A "code yellow" has been declared for the Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospitals due to "a peak in hospital demand". It is the fourth time this year a code yellow has been called for the two hospitals.

[Read More](#)

Keith hospital saga set to end with transfer to SA Health under urgent care model

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Eugene Boisvert

Thirteen years of an almost ongoing crisis of funding shortfalls is set to end on Wednesday when the Keith hospital, in South Australia's south-east, officially becomes part of the public health system. It was a Labor minister who first announced a funding cut to the Keith hospital in 2010 along with two other community-run country hospitals and it will be another Labor minister in the town for the handover.

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Evenings, 09/08/2023, Peter Goers

Interview with Peta Rutherford, CEO, Rural Doctors Association of Australia. Rutherford discusses the lack of dentists in rural and remote communities. She says they often see in rural areas reduce sort of public health measures around like fluoride in water supplies.

[Play Now](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Lid lifted on children in care

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 10/08/2023, Stephanie Bennett, Page 3

Nearly half of over-12s in Queensland's under-pressure child safety sector have taken substances in the past 12 months. And while the majority of children feel safe, close to a quarter rate their mental health as poor to very poor. The figures are revealed in a survey of more than 500 young people aged 10 to 18 in residential, foster and kinship homes, to be released on Thursday.

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What's driving our construction industry workers to thoughts of suicide?

Herald Sun, Other, 09/08/2023, Mandy Squires

On the tools into their 60s, long hours and fear for their futures are just some things driving tradies and construction sector bosses to thoughts of suicide. New research into what's driving thoughts of suicides among tradies and bosses in Australia's embattled construction industry reveals long hours, fears over future financial security and "feeling like you'll never get off the tools", are causing many to feel trapped and hopeless.

[Read More](#)

City of Gosnells struggling to cope with Perth hoarders, demands state government support

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Alicia Bridges and Jackson Worthington

The City of Gosnells in Perth's south-east says it can no longer deal with extreme hoarders and people living in squalor and wants the state government to step in. Faced with expensive clean-ups, and unable to provide social support such as mental health services, councillors on Tuesday voted to endorse a statement demanding more state government support.

[Read More](#)

'Record levels of anxiety': Climate woes impact children's mental health

Sky News Australia, Other, 09/08/2023

Sky News host Chris Kenny says a story from the Sydney Morning Herald reports "record levels of anxiety" in primary school children over climate issues.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Health bans phone lights

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 10/08/2023, Nicola McNamara, Page 3

Queensland Health officials have been forced to clarify that mobile phone torch lights are not be used to examine pregnant women. The startling recommendation was made in the formal review of the care given to a young Ipswich mother who was forced to sit with the remains of her baby in a biohazard bag in Ipswich Hospital's emergency department waiting room before she was examined by staff using the torchlight on her partner's mobile phone.

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

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

Community nurse'honoured' by award

Burnie Advocate, General News, 10/08/2023, Simon Mcguire, Page 1

After spending two years working at Queenstown as a nurse, Lucinda de Bruyn said that she had been so embraced by the community that the townsfolk had told her she was not allowed to move away. Ms de Bruyn recently won an award at the 2023 Tasmanian Palliative Care Awards, taking out the Excellence in Palliative Care - Community Setting category.

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CSU nursing student Lilly Meldrum awarded health scholarship

Daily Liberal, Other, 09/08/2023, Alexandra Bernard

Charles Sturt University nursing student Lilly Meldrum wants to help change the health statistics for indigenous and rural communities.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Discussions around medical access issues

Border Watch, Other, 09/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

Medical professionals from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) travelled to Mount Gambier/Berrin last week to discuss key issues affecting the area. The RACGP South Australian chair Sian Goodson visited the region alongside rural chair Michael Clements and vice president Bruce Willett. The RACGP representatives met with Mount Gambier City Council and medical professionals to gather information on the community's medical needs.

[Read More](#)

Ambulance Victoria boss clashes with Neil Mitchell, defends decision to launch new 'values' policy

3AW, Other, 09/08/2023, Neil Mitchell

Ambulance Victoria ceo Jane Miller has defended the decision to hold a five hour function for 70 senior staff at Chadstone Hotel to launch the organisation's new "values" policy. The event has angered paramedics as Ambulance Victoria had previously cancelled award ceremonies to save money.

Also reported by: [3AW \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Melbourne\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy ethics focus of new FIP report

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/08/2023

Practising pharmacists must be "fully engaged and competent to deal with ethical issues arising from the increasing challenges of hi-tech health care and its delivery in a business environment," according to a new report from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 09/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Health Services Union Secretary Gerard Hayes says many workers will leave New South Wales for other states if the Government doesn't come up with a better wage offer. He says that it's a competitive market and frontline workers like paramedics will go to states like Queensland, where pay conditions are \$10,000 higher for the same scope of practice.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 09/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

A key health union is warning thousands of frontline workers in New South Wales could move into state unless wage demands are met. Health Services Union Secretary Gerard Hayes issued the warning, adding new pressure on Premier Chris Minns to deliver an election promise of higher wages. It comes after nurses this week accepted a wage increase of 4%.

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Half-price scripts axe

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 10/08/2023, Page 9

Six million Australians could lose access to half-price scripts from next month after a controversial move by the Coalition to disallow the measure in the Senate. And pharmacies will lose access to \$1.2bn of government investment as a result of the move.

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Pause 60-day dispensing to secure 8CPA

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/08/2023

Coalition Senators are urging the government to pause the roll-out 60-day dispensing as part of a new Community Pharmacy Agreement Prime Minister Anthony Albanese should delay plans to implement double dispensing to negotiate a fresh deal that will secure the viability of community pharmacies, the Coalition believes.

[Read More](#)

Mixed views on Coalition's 60-day dispensing stance

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/08/2023

Medical bodies and patient advocacy groups are taking different views on the Coalition's commitment to ensure medicines are accessible and affordable Better Access Australia is backing the Coalition's call for the government to delay the rollout of its 60-day dispensing policy, however, it is attracting criticism from doctors.

[Read More](#)

Dispensing fees not for cross-subsidising services: Shakespeare

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 09/08/2023

Pharmacies are making commercial decisions to waive medication packing fees to secure exclusive supply deals, a Department of Health official claims Community pharmacies are under no obligation to enter deals to provide free medication packing services to aged care facilities Penny Shakespeare, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care's Health Resourcing Group,

[Read More](#)

Raising the standards

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 09/08/2023, Peter Guthrey and James Chalmers

Pharmacy practice is evolving rapidly, with recent years bringing a near-constant parade of changes. With the steady expansion to scope of practice, the industry is anything but static. Practice is more complex than ever. It is against this backdrop that the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia recently [late July] launched a massive shake-up of the Professional Practice Standards (PPS).

[Read More](#)

The scope of practice changes revolutionising health care access

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 09/08/2023, Chloe Hava

It has been a big week for pharmacy scope of practice, with three states announcing changes to pharmacist prescribing. Scope of practice updates have continued to roll in, as the need for different models of care continues to emerge. To ensure timely and affordable access to care, here's how these jurisdictions have recently widened pharmacy scope of practice.

[Read More](#)

Connection to national PDS is essential

Pharmacies must be linked to the national Prescription Delivery Service (PDS) by 30 Sep in order to be able to dispense eligible electronic scripts, with the Department of Health and Aged Care urging proprietors to make the connection by registering as soon as possible. The system will lead to long-term funding to enable more efficiency and innovation, provide clearer governance and reduce the complexity of the prescription delivery ecosystem, according to an update from the Pharmacy Guild today.

[Read More](#)

AMA pressures opposition

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 09/08/2023

The Federal Coalition's stance on 60-day dispensing remains "shrouded in mystery" according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA), which has today accused the opposition of "failing to be upfront with Australians by not revealing whether the Coalition supports cheaper medicines".

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Doctors not 'coerced' by PSR to pay back rebates, review finds

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/08/2023, Antony Scholefield

A review of the PSR's repayment agreements with health practitioners has rejected claims from medical groups that the system is coercive. The government-commissioned review, led by Emeritus Professor Robin Creyke, was finished in August 2022 but not released until this Wednesday. It has revealed several medical groups raised concerns about the PSR's section 92 arrangements, through which health practitioners agreed to repay more than \$20 million in Medicare rebates in 2020/21.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

'Doc' saw patients

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 10/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 19

An unregistered doctor who treated at least 15 patients at the Port Augusta Hospital emergency department "intentionally and repeatedly lied to staff about the progress and status of his registration application," an inquiry has found. It also concluded: "The doctor also deliberately misrepresented himself to staff and patients at the hospital to gain unauthorised access to the emergency department." He was also found to have "wilfully and deliberately failed to disclose his criminal and disciplinary history", suspecting that if authorities knew about it "they would not have employed him."

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [In Daily \(Online\)](#), [Channel 7 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#).

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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State, council in 'absurd' bidding war for site

Age, General News, 10/08/2023, Rachael Dexter, Page 3

A key piece of land in Fishermans Bend has become part of a bidding war between the state government and the Port Phillip Council, in a spiralling drama with the AFL and Cricket Victoria that the council says is absurd. The 1.54-hectare site at 509 Williamstown Road in Port Melbourne is owned by Australia Post and has been used as a parcel facility for 30 years.

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Parliament House turned green and gold to celebrate the Matildas

Canberra Times, General News, 10/08/2023, Megan Doherty, Page 16

Whether it was Parliament House lit up in green and gold, or a crowd in Garema Place, some sitting happily next to Big Swoop the magpie, Canberra well and truly got behind the Matildas on Monday night. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese joined members of the Australian women's national under-20 football team, the Young Matildas, for the illumination as the senior women's team beat Denmark 2-0 to progress to the final eight in the FIFA Women's World Cup.

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Can Gina revive Games?

Daily Telegraph, Edition Changes, 10/08/2023, Robert Craddock and Greg Stolz, Page 4

Australia's richest person Gina Rinehart has breathed fresh life into the Gold Coast bid to save the 2026 Commonwealth Games that were dumped by Victoria. The billionaire businesswoman and philanthropist has joined forces with major sporting bodies to help Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate in his bold bid to salvage the Games after they were dramatically dumped by Victorian Premier Dan Andrews last month because of claimed huge cost blowouts.

Similar coverage reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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AFL Bigwig is loving at Lavi

Border Mail, General News, 10/08/2023, Steve Tervet, Page 1

Afl chief executive Gillon McLachlan has described Albury-Wodonga as "perfect" for hosting major sporting events. McLachlan was at Lavington Sports Ground on Wednesday watching his son, Sidney, play for Victoria in the U12 Australian Football Championships. The departing footy boss was full of praise for the region and the venue as he watched from the boundary on No.1 oval.

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

We should mine this golden era of sport

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/08/2023, Danny O'Brien, Page 8

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

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

Lisa Alexander column: AFL's blokey culture is destroying female opportunity

The Australian, Other, 09/08/2023, Lisa Alexander

The sports coach development system in Australia is not fit for purpose and will not be until we embrace diversity in all its forms. Sexism in coaching in this country is holding many women back and it's time for change. There should be no closed shops to coaches of either sex so why - Daisy Pearce aside - are the Australian Rules Football's Coaching ranks still confined to men only?

[Read More](#)

'White elephant': The \$8 million netball courts no one has been allowed to use

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 09/08/2023, Cara Waters

Eight new netball courts were officially opened last year in Yarra Bend Park in Melbourne's inner north but netballers have never set foot on them because of red tape over mounds of dirt and a lease. The \$8 million netball facility was opened by Community Sports Minister Ros Spence at a ceremony in September last year, but the unused courts have been gathering dust since then.

[Read More](#)

New world body announces first six official members

West Australian, Other, 09/08/2023

World Boxing, a new body seeking recognition from the International Olympic Committee, has announced its first six official members with Australia and the United States among federations from three continents. The others approved as full members were New Zealand Boxing, England Boxing and the Dutch Boxing Federation.

[Read More](#)

Kathryn Mitchell named in javelin team for World Athletics titles

Warrnambool Standard, Other, 09/08/2023, Greg Gliddon

Kathryn Mitchell has made a remarkable comeback to the Australian World Championship, with recent form seeing her selected for the javelin throw for the titles in Budapest Hungary from August 19-27. The Casterton-raised athlete has been competing overseas this winter and has just recently hit for best form since the Tokyo Olympics, winning the Raiffeisen Austrian Open in Eisenstadt held on the last weekend of July.

[Read More](#)

Public holiday for Matildas victory?

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese floated the idea of a public holiday being implemented if the Matildas won the FIFA Women's World Cup. Sounds awesome at first glance but what're the implications for businesses?

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Craig Foster calls out government for failing to invest in football in Australia

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/08/2023, Brielle Burns

Former Socceroo is calling on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to deliver more funding to support football in the country and foster another "10 more Sam Kerrs". As the Matildas gear up for their against France, the NSW Australian of the Year wants to see the government roll out a national funding program, an initiative he said would not only support players, but bring the county together through the sport.

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

[Read More](#)

Australia's Diamonds won't get a cent from Netball World Cup win

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/08/2023

Australia's Diamonds won't receive a cent of prize money for their triumphant win at the Netball World Cup. The 61-45 in the final to win the World Cup in South Africa, completing their redemption tour after a heartbreaking one-goal loss to New Zealand in the 2019 final.

[Read More](#)

Matildas prove why 'the idea that no one wants to watch women's sport is hogwash'

NEWS.com.au, Other, 09/08/2023, Caleb Bond

The idea that no one wants to watch women's sport is hogwash. Monday night's extraordinary FIFA Women's World Cup television and streaming ratings for the Matildas v Denmark game an average of 3.56 million people across Australia proved that. The point is that people simply want to watch good sport and the Matildas and the rest of the World Cup has provided that. They don't, however, want to watch second-rate sport. And most of the inferior quality offerings happen to be played by women.

[Read More](#)

From upsets to record attendances, these are the trends that have emerged at the Women's World Cup

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 09/08/2023

The traditional elite have been cut down to size at the Women's World Cup That has been the standout theme as a tournament that has already set records for attendance and goals scored enters the quarterfinals stage, and it has made for high drama.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

No relevant coverage

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

App hopes to bridge divide

Northern Territory News, General News, 10/08/2023, Zizi Averill, Page 9

A new app bringing together medical experts with Indigenous leaders hopes to tackle worsening suicide rates in a remote corner of the Territory. The Yothu Yindi Foundation has worked in collaboration with Charles Darwin University to create Gundirr, an app to help mental health workers break down the cultural and language barriers in remote East Arnhem land.

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Indigenous hep C fail

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 9

Hepatitis C rates among people who inject drugs have fallen over recent years, but not as strongly among Aboriginal people. Australian researchers used data from a study of 2395 people who injected drugs from 2018-2021 555 of whom identified as Aboriginal. Hepatitis C prevalence was 24 per cent in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups in 2018-2019.

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

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Ear health boost announced during NAIDOC week

Australian Mining Review, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 18

A unique program that tackles ear health for Aboriginal and at-risk children in a bid to avoid permanent hearing damage and associated educational challenges will run locally for at least another three years thanks to support from aluminium producer Alcoa. In celebrating NAIDOC week, Alcoa has announced its global charity, the Alcoa Foundation, will provide Earbus Foundation of WA with about \$450,000 to continue to deliver its program across the communities near where it operates in the Kwinana, Peel and Upper South West regions.

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"Yolngu deserve much better": health crisis still plagues East Arnhem Land

While the nation's eyes fell on Garma Festival for a celebration of Yolŋu culture and history in early August, a local health leader says a crisis faced by the land's people once visitors pack up and return home is "an indictment" on Australia.

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Calls for inquiry into death in custody of Indigenous man previously depicted in hangman game by Canberra prison staff

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Charlotte Gore

The death in custody of an Indigenous man who was previously drawn in a game of hangman by Canberra prison staff has prompted calls for an independent inquiry. On the weekend, TJ Dennis, a young Aboriginal man from Canberra, killed himself in the Silverwater Correctional Complex in New South Wales.

Similar coverage reported by: [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Australia will take 'responsibility' for nuclear waste disposal from subs, says Marles

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 09/08/2023

Defence Minister Richard Marles has confirmed Australia will "take responsibility" for the disposal of nuclear waste from new submarines.

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Goonengerry Public School in the Byron Shire impacted by nasty flu outbreak after warnings to get kids vaccinated

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 09/08/2023, Luke Mortimer

Australians are warned to seek flu vaccines and Covid booster shots in preparation for a "surging" early influenza season, Sydney University's Infectious Diseases Paediatrician Professor Robert Booy says. "Both of them are surging," Mr Booy told Sky News Australia. "The best way to prevent is to vaccinate so you don't get the illness in the first place."

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Why doctors fear Darwin could become a disease hotspot

SBS, Other, 09/08/2023, Sam Dover

A delegation of hundreds of doctors has converged on Canberra to protest fossil fuel projects in the Northern Territory which may have significant health risks for Darwin locals. The Beetaloo Basin oil fracking plans and the Middle Arm industrial hub form two key pillars of the territory's gas-led economic strategy.

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Free HIV medicines now offered in all but two states

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins

From 1 October, only Victorian and Tasmanian patients will face co-payments for HIV medications. Victoria and Tasmania are now the only states where co-payments for HIV antiretrovirals remain after the Queensland Government announced it would waive fees from 1 October, including for patients without Medicare.

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Childhood vaccinations

Ann books in her son Anthony, aged 5, for his flu vaccine and tells you he is slightly anxious about vaccinations. You assure Ann that you will use distraction techniques and support her in holding Anthony comfortably to reduce vaccination fear and pain Ann asks if she should give her son paracetamol immediately before the appointment or apply a local anaesthetic to numb the area.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Obesity jab a lifesaver

West Australian, General News, 10/08/2023, Victoria Allen, Page 19

A wildly popular weight loss jab can cut the risk of a heart attack, stroke or death from cardiovascular disease by a fifth, researchers claim. Semaglutide, the key ingredient in the drug Ozempic that was developed for people with diabetes, has since been hailed as a "miracle" weight reducer by celebrities including Elon Musk and Jeremy Clarkson. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration says though stockpiles are improving, it will be in short supply until at least December 31.

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Family calls for anti-choking devices in NSW schools, first aid kits after two children die

ABC Online, Other, 09/08/2023, Hamish Cole

A mother with 20 years' experience as a paramedic, who was unable to save her daughter when a cocktail frankfurt became lodged in her throat, says anti-choking devices should be mandatory in all schools and child care centres. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved an apparatus that uses suction to remove lodged items from an individual's throat.

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Call to switch anti-epileptic tablet to powder amid global recall

Australian Doctor, Other, 09/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

The shortage has taken doctors by surprise, says neurologist Professor Mark Cook. The TGA has urged doctors prescribing the anti-epileptic vigabatrin to switch patients to oral powder sachets when issuing new scripts amid a national shortage of the drug's tablet form

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Issue of drugs in schools

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 10/08/2023, Page 10

The number of Darling Downs students suspended or excluded from school after they were caught with illicit drugs or tobacco products has more than doubled in the past two years. According to data released by the Queensland Government, 204 suspensions and expulsions were handed down to students from Years 6 to 12.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Bottles of fortified wine in allergen recall

Australia's food safety watchdog has urgently recalled three popular fortified wines, warning they could pose a health risk to some drinkers. Hills Distillery is recalling its 750ml 78 Degrees Rosso vermouth, 750ml 78 Degrees dry vermouth and 750ml 78 Degrees ros vermouth because of the presence of an undeclared sulfite allergen.

Similar coverage reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Eliminating industrially produced trans fats, call for submissions

FoodProcessing, Other, 09/08/2023

The Australian Government, on behalf of the Food Regulation Standing Committee, is leading a consultation into industrially produced trans fats in processed foods. New Zealand and Australia share a joint food regulation system for the composition and labelling of foods.

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AICIS

Exclusion zone declared after WA chemical incident

West Australian, Other, 09/08/2023

A 2km exclusion zone has been declared in Western Australia's East Pilbara, with residents warned to remain indoors, after an incident involving a truck carrying chemicals. Emergency services declared a HAZMAT incident 20km north of Newman in the Shire of East Pilbara on Wednesday.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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