



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 15th August 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Mater director of Infectious Disease Paul Griffin has dismissed the proposed link between historical flu peaks around Ekka time as “coincidence.” “I think it is probably largely a coincidence most years although it is a fairly large gathering so it does have the potential to facilitate some spread, particularly to some rural areas,” Dr Griffin said, “I think most of the season peaking around the time at the Ekka is largely a coincidence.”
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 3) reports that Opposition leader Peter Dutton will support a \$500m community sporting infrastructure fund for local and grassroots sporting facilities. Mr Dutton has also criticised Anthony Albanese's response to the Matildas FIFA World Cup success, stating the Prime Minister has made it all about him. “We are opposed to Mr Albanese's public holiday and we are announcing a policy that will instead make a lasting difference to the community and the lives of our young people,” stated Mr Dutton. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [West Australian](#)
- **[Adelaide Advertiser](#)** (page 3) reports that the State Coroner is investigating the death of a six-year-old boy who died from influenza after been discharged from Riverland General Hospital. Liberal MP for Chaffey Tim Whetstone is calling for the investigation to go further to investigate a “pattern of circumstance”. “This is not the first time there's been issues with early

release...clearly there needs to be change in the hospital's processes with patients," stated Mr Whetstone. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [ABC Online](#)*

- **[The Herald Sun](#)** (page 7) reports that the federal government will not set new deadlines to prevent young Australians with disabilities from being accommodated at aged care facilities, but has pledged an additional \$7.3 million in the May budget to transition people between 45 to 65 out of aged care facilities. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has confirmed that the government remains committed to its 2025 target, saying "We meet regularly about a number of issues that span across our two portfolios as part of our broader push to improve the status of the care economy".
- **[The West Australian](#)** (page 10) reports that a shortage of general practitioners in regional Western Australia has prompted communities such as Lake Grace to offer a \$650,000 salary, with extra benefits totalling up to a \$1.2 million package, and comes as local governments increasingly burden the cost of healthcare. "The Australian Department of Health funds over \$1.6 billion for workforce programs each year, primarily designed to help rural and remote communities," a Federal Department of Health spokesperson said.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 13) reports that Masonic Care Tasmania, now known as Derwent Views, gave only partial information to Coroner Simon Cooper as he tried to investigate if Peter Joseph Guy had a sustained history of falls in relation to a discovered L2 compression fracture. "It is apparent that the response was deliberate. Whether it was deliberately misleading is unclear," Mr Cooper said.
- **[ABC Online](#)** reports that in a statement released by Hannah Mason, a James Cook University's School of Public Health, has warned that Australia's upcoming heat waves as a result of El Niño may exasperate the nation's hospital system, increasing the risk of death in Queensland by 5 per cent and ambulance demand by 12 per cent. In a statement, the Department of Health and Aged Care has affirmed the department's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, saying "The National Health and Climate Strategy will consider opportunities to build healthy and climate-resilient communities by collaborating with sectors outside of the health system".
- **[SBS Online](#)** reports that epidemiologist Mary-Louise McLaws, who helped lead Australia at the height of COVID 19, has died at age 70. Health Minister Mark Butler stated that he was saddened to hear of Ms McLaws's passing and that her voice during the pandemic "was an incredibly calm, articulate voice at a time that was very frightening to Australians."

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Pharmacy lobby's policy hypocrisy must be called out

Australian Financial Review, Editorials, 15/08/2023, Page 38

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's opposition to moves to allow people to buy two months - up from one month - of commonly prescribed medicines once again shows that Australia's health system remains arranged around the interests and structures of health p...

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### Wait on vape crackdown

Newcastle Herald, General News, 15/08/2023, Page 10

A crackdown on vapes could take longer than the federal government anticipated as it seeks to work with state and territory leaders to close multiple legal loopholes. Health Minister Mark Butler insists the planned health campaign to address teenage vaping, announced as part of the May budget, has not been delayed.

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### COVID 'voice of calm' Mary-Louise McLaws dies at 70

SBS, Other, 14/08/2023, Liz Maddock

Prominent epidemiologist Mary-Louise McLaws, who helped lead Australia through the COVID pandemic, has died aged 70. She became a nightly news staple during that time, but spent decades

before then making significant contributions to other public health emergencies. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says he was saddened to learn of her passing.

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## Tricky task ahead to close legal loopholes on vaping

Mudgee Guardian, Other, 14/08/2023, Maeve Bannister

A crackdown on vapes could take longer than the federal government anticipated as it seeks to work with state and territory leaders to close multiple legal loopholes. Health Minister Mark Butler insists the planned health campaign to address teenage vaping, announced as part of the May budget, has not been delayed.

Also reported by: [Muswellbrook Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Power FM 103.1 \(Online\)](#), [Hot100FM \(Online\)](#), [2NM AM981 \(Online\)](#), [4MK AM 1026 \(Online\)](#), [River 1467 \(Online\)](#).

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## Health Minister renews promise for urgent care clinic hours

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 14/08/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler insists Labor will keep its promise to have urgent care.

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## PM's cheaper medicines pledge hits snag

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/08/2023

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. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was committed to the policy, which would be "good for the hip pocket".

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## National anti-vaping strategy on its way 'very soon'

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/08/2023, David Rowley

Feds "working..furiously" across jurisdictions for "uniform approach"; Butler Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has taken to mainstream media to talk up the Federal Government's crackdown on vaping, promising to have a national strategy in place "very soon".

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## Health department contradicts minister on medicine charges for aged care residents

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 14/08/2023

While Mark Butler rubbished claims that aged care residents could face new charges for medicines, his own department has acknowledged the reality in a letter to aged care providers that even includes suggestions on how to manage the issue.

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## Leading epidemiologist Professor Mary-Louise McLaws dies aged 70

Central Western Daily, Other, 14/08/2023, Anna McGuinness

Australians are paying tribute to epidemiologist Professor Mary-Louise McLaws who became a guiding voice during the COVID-19 pandemic. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler reacted to the "sad news" during an ABC radio interview on August 14.

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

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## NeedleCalm Founder bags Nursing Trailblazers award

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 14/08/2023

Monday, 14 August, 2023 Conferred by Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Award for Nursing Trailblazers recognises innovators in nursing whose work transforms health and aged care

systems by significantly improving health outcomes for the Australian community through evidenced-based processes.

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## **\$10 Million Worth Of Vapes And Nangs Seized In Perth**

Purple Sneakers, Other, 14/08/2023, Jessie Lynch

Around \$10 million worth of illegal vapes and nangs weighing 25 tonnes have been seized from a warehouse in Perth, marking one of the most significant crackdowns of its kind in Australia. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the crackdown comes amid concerns over the number of young people addicted to nicotine, adding that vapers are three times as likely to take up smoking.

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## **IAS 2023 call to finally end Australia's HIV visa restrictions**

Q News, Other, 14/08/2023, Andrew M. Potts

Advocates at last month's 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science in Brisbane used the event to call for the Albanese Government to finally remove the last restrictions around people who are living with HIV from migrating to Australia. [...] Giles says he has "engaged on the issue" with Health Minister Mark Butler, as well as HIV advocates, but is yet to announce plans to reform the policy.

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## **ABC News, ABC Evening News, 14/08/2023, Gemma Veness**

The West Australian Health Department has seized 15 tonnes of vapes from a warehouse in Perth's northeast. It's the biggest vape bust in Australia's history. It's been three months since the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, announced a crackdown on the importation and use of non-prescribed vapes. However, there has been no timeframe announced for when the ban will come into action or how long it'll take to see results. This week, state and territory health ministers will come together and receive advice on how to prevent the spread of vaping.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News Qld at 4pm, 14/08/2023, Kendall Gilding**

A breakthrough drug used to treat rare cancers is now more affordable after being listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Patients will save tens of thousands of dollars a year, plus the overall survival rate is increasing as a result. Yondelis is giving hope to patients with soft tissue sarcomas. Health Minister Mark Butler says it will be life changing for about 50 patients every year who without this listing might be paying as much as \$44,000

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## **SBS, World News Australia, 14/08/2023, Janice Petersen**

Prominent epidemiologist Mary-Louise McLaws, who helped lead Australia through the pandemic, has died at the age of 70. Her face became well known, but she'd spent decades working to eliminate HIV and hepatitis, among other public health emergencies. Health Minister Mark Butler says McLaws was an incredibly calm, articulate voice at a time that was very frightening to Australians, but it was only a small part of a lifelong career.

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## **2MCE, 11:00 National Radio News, 14/08/2023**

The way state and territory leaders will this week receive advice on how to crack down on vaping. The Federal Government has promised to take action on vaping and is proposing stronger regulation and enforcement of all e-cigarettes, with legislation currently before Parliament. The Health Minister, Mark Butler, says he wants a uniform approach across all jurisdictions.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 14/08/2023, Sarah Dingle**

Australian epidemiologist Professor Mary-Louise McLaws has died on the weekend at the age of 70. With her calm and considered advice, she became a familiar presence on our TV screens and on the airwaves at the height of the Covid pandemic. Australia's Health Minister, Mark Butler, has described Professor McLaws as a poised and guiding force who'll be missed.

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## **Radio National, Breakfast, 14/08/2023, Patricia Karvelas / Hamish Macdonald**

Interview with Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care on how to crack down on vapes. Butler says they're working hard to make sure they'll get a uniform approach across eight different state and territory jurisdictions and at international borders. He states the Government knows that there will be a furious response by the industry, so it needs to make sure it gets the legislation right.

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## **MINISTER WELLS**

### **Young 'stuck' in aged care**

Herald Sun, General News, 15/08/2023, Jade Gailberger, Page 7

Despite missing two deadlines, the federal government will not set new targets to prevent young people with disability entering nursing homes. [...] Asked if the federal government would now set new deadlines, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said: "No".

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### **The Matildas' courage is changing the Australian narrative. The question is: what next?**

The Guardian, Other, 14/08/2023, Craig Foster

We are not so much watching a national team compete, as a changing nation at play. [...] Call on sports minister Anika Wells and prime minister Anthony Albanese to properly fund Australia's largest participant sport.

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### **Pollies get swept away by Matilda Mania**

WA Today, Other, 14/08/2023, Kishor Napier-Raman & David Estcourt

The Matildas' agonisingly tense penalty shootout victory over France on Saturday night provided a moment of national sporting euphoria not seen since Cathy Freeman at the Sydney Olympics. [...] Sports Minister Anika Wells summed up the mood best, captured bawling her eyes out as she joined Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk on the Lang Park turf to greet Australia's new defence minister Mackenzie Arnold.

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### **Albanese Government delivers 24/7 nursing mandate**

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Albanese Government has fulfilled its promise of implementing the 24/7 nursing mandate across aged care facilities. [...] A month after the reform, Aged Care Minister Anika Wells announced that 98 per cent of homes had an RN on-site.

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### **Socceroos legend Craig Foster has drawn up a hit list of every Aussie politician who's publicly supported the Matildas so he can out them as hypocrites after the World Cup**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Josh Alston

Socceroos and Matildas remain underfunded despite World Cup success. [...] I heard sports minister

Anika Wells recently saying that the game itself still has challenges to overcome.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### New mental health support centre opens its doors

South West Voice, Other, 14/08/2023

People with a lived experience of mental health and wellbeing challenges helped design the newest support centre in South Western Sydney. [...] Keith McDonald, Emma McBride, assistant minister for mental health, Kim Holmes and Caleb Rivers from Neami National.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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## DEPARTMENT

### Doctor drought a blight on bush

West Australian, General News, 15/08/2023, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 10

WA regional towns suffering a severe doctor drought are forking out more than a million dollars to attract a GP and calling for urgent government intervention to help carry the cost. In a desperate bid to lock in basic medical services, the Wheatbelt community of Lake Grace is offering a GP \$650,000 with perks pushing the value up to \$1.2 million, according to Shire president Len Armstrong.

Also reported by: [Pilbara News \(Online\)](#), [Bunbury Herald \(Online\)](#), [Geraldton Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#).

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### Medical experts warn hospitals need to be prepared for heatwave demands

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Holly Richardson

Global heat records have toppled and there is a high chance in the coming weeks of an El Nio declaration in Australia, which is linked to hot, dry weather. [...] In a statement, the Department of Health and Aged Care said it remained committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and there was core funding to deliver its action plan.

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### Private health insurance is set for a shake-up. But asking people to pay more for policies they don't want isn't the answer

New Daily, Other, 14/08/2023

One proposal is for higher-income earners who don't have private health insurance to pay a larger

Medicare Levy Surcharge – an increase from 1.25% or 1.5%, to 2%. [...] The report , by Finity Consulting and commissioned by the federal health department, reviews a range of health insurance incentives.

Also reported by: [OverSixty \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Doctors feel coerced into PSR repayment deals: AMA

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/08/2023

An independent review into repayment settlements found the process to be fair, but that doesn't mean there wasn't coercion, says the AMA. [...] Despite over 90% of practitioners under PSR review opting for S92 agreements, expressions of distrust and suggestions of duress and undue stress, including an outcry from the AMA in 2019, prompted the Department of Health and Aged Care to commission an inquiry.

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## AI vendors need to lift regulation game

The Medical Republic, Other, 14/08/2023

Artificial intelligence is so new to the regulation space that vendors are making approval of their products more difficult. Artificial intelligence vendors are shooting themselves in the foot by not paying closer attention to ticking the regulation boxes come approval time. [...] Tracey Duffy, first Assistant Secretary for Medical Devices and Product Quality at the TGA, told a room full of software vendors earlier this week how they could make their approval process shorter and smoother.

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## 4LM 666, 06:30 News, 14/08/2023

A new company dedicated to improving the health of people who live in remote and very remote Australia will hold their first conference in Charleville in September, introducing new place-based models of primary health care that are co-designed with community. Chair Annabelle Brayley says delegates will consider and vote on motions Pre-submitted by remote Australians for advocacy to state and federal governments. The Quilpie and Murweh shires are early backers of Remote Australians Matter, which has invited National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Ruth Stewart to be September 26th's keynote.

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# CORONAVIRUS

## 'It's aerosol, stupid': the professor who challenged medical chiefs

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/08/2023, Tom Burton, Page 9

When doctors - most of them male were still convinced COVID-19 was being spread by germ droplets on surfaces, prompting a nationwide rash of cleaning, epidemiologist Mary-Louise McLaws was telling anyone who was listening that the deadly pathogen was bein...

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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## From needle-free 'patches' to nasal sprays: What's next for COVID vaccines?

SBS, Other, 14/08/2023, Emma Brancatisano

As Eris, a new SARS-CoV-2 sub-variant, takes hold around the world, here's what kind of vaccines could be on the horizon.

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## Pandemic handling lauded by review

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/08/2023

An independent review of the Western Australian Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic has "recognised the state's successful management and response to the crisis". The review, conducted by John Day, Emeritus Prof Margaret Sears, and Dr Michael Schaper, has commended Western Australia's approach to managing economic, health, and social outcomes during the pandemic.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### 'Substandard' aged care

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/08/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 13

Coroner blasts provider after patient's death A Tasmanian aged care provider, which has since been subsumed into another company, "deliberately" gave partial information to a coroner investigating the death of a patient amid substandard care.

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### Children are worst elderly abusers

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/08/2023, Julie Cross, Page 12

A shocking one in six people in Australia is the victim of elder abuse and the most likely perpetrators are their sons and daughters. Helen Wallace, from the Caxton Legal Centre in Brisbane, sees around 1000 older clients a year.

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### Age is just a number

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/08/2023, Julie Cross, Page 12

The decades-long fight for better rights for older people is gaining strength with the upcoming Aged Care Act, peak bodies making noise, and those in their twilight years speaking up about ageism, writes Julie Cross. They are the Australians who helped build much of our country's infrastructure, but in their twilight years they've been forgotten, rendered powerless and left to struggle without even the most basic of human rights.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### You might think you take good care of your teeth. But do you really?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/08/2023, Sarah Berry

Most of us are acutely aware that our teeth are a status symbol and a characteristic on which we are (often unfairly) judged. This has driven the surging demand for veneers and teeth-whitening toothpastes.

Also reported by: [Bite Magazine \(Online\)](#)

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### I take weight loss injectables

Canberra Times, Other, 14/08/2023, Grace Ryan

You're not supposed to admit to being on weight loss injectables. Especially not Ozempic. You're supposed to say things like "oh, you know I'm just eating less" or "no, no I haven't lost that much weight ..."

Also reported by: [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#)



## Opioid overdose countering drug naloxone to become standard issue for WA police officers

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Keane Bourke & Zathia Bazeer

A drug which can reverse opioid overdoses, bringing people back from the brink of death will soon become standard issue for WA police officers. The force will become the first in the southern hemisphere to start carrying naloxone, which can restore normal breathing within minutes of its use.

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## Dog bite campaign aims to reduce attacks, better educate about canine behaviour, warning signs

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Timu King

A public safety campaign to address dog attacks on people and other animals includes the message that "Even good, well-behaved dogs can have bad days and bite". South Australia's Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB), the campaign creator, said more than 500 people in the last year were admitted to hospitals for dog bites in the state.

[Read More](#)

## Fitpack needle, syringe exchange demand linked to increased steroid use in young men

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Briana Fiore

As a young man trying to add muscle mass and improve his physique, Shayne Smith found himself experimenting with steroids, a path he's now warning others to avoid taking. The former rugby player was told that was how to succeed in bodybuilding.

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## Optometrist: The six warning signs your eyes tell you about your health

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Louise Allingham

A top optometrist has spilled the six things your eyes can reveal about your overall health. Sophie Koh is an optometrist and National Professional Services Advisor at Optometry Australia and revealed how she can detect a number of chronic diseases like diabetes and even cancer by looking into someone's eyes.

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## How long can Australian's live? AIHW report finds out

The Senior, Other, 14/08/2023

The maximum age that Australians can live to isn't growing as much as our life expectancy is extending, data shows. This finding comes from an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report that explores trends in the country's increasing life expectancy and other measures of longevity, such as maximum age of death.

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## What happens in a 'sobering up' centre?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 15/08/2023

This month the Victorian government announced it's establishing a permanent "sobering up" centre as part the state's decriminalisation of public drunkenness. Instead of arresting or fining you, police can take you to a "sobering up" centre if there is one in the area.

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## ABC, ABC News, 14/08/2023, Juanita Phillips

Australia has one of the worst rates of ice addiction in the world and it poses a huge risk to the next generation. Thousands of babies who've been exposed to their mothers' drug use are being born every year. A Four Corners investigation reveals that the system is failing to deal with the crisis.

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Subsidise prostate scans call

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2023, Samantha Scott, Page 15

A Brisbane father, recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, says all men should be able to access potentially lifesaving technology, as experts call for scans to be subsidised by Medi care. Matthew Henzell, 45, was diagnosed with stage-1 prostate cancer in June after a Matthew Henzell routine prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test revealed he had elevated PSA levels.

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### Diabetes team hits the road

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/08/2023, Page 10

St Vincent's Hospital is launching a diabetes mobile health program to take vital services to rural areas struggling to attract medical professionals. The Diabetes Mobile Health Service was created after a report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), which revealed the impact of diabetes on people in rural and regional Australia.

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### 'I hate losing words; I'm a uni lecturer'

Border Mail, General News, 15/08/2023, Jodie Bruton, Page 6

For university lecturer Dr Jon O'Neill, losing words and trains of thought were not the first signs something was awry. He'd had a quivering in his calves and a tremor that baffled specialists for years.

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### Research reveals the Australians most likely to die of cancer

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/08/2023, Mia Erickson

The insights may surprise you Australia is often praised for its healthcare system, with access to treatments, education and support widely commended by neighbouring nations. But according to new research, wealth disparity across the country is putting certain Australians at risk.

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

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### ABC Radio Perth, Mornings, 14/08/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Norman Swan, co-host, The Health Report. Swan discusses a study which finds short bouts of vigorous exercise significantly reduces your chances of dying prematurely of heart disease or cancer. A new landmark study has found that an obesity drug called Semaglutide brand name Wegovy does reduce the chance of heart problems, but researchers and doctors warn the results don't prove obesity treatments improve heart health on the basis of weight loss. Swan cautions that it's a press release, not a scientific paper. He notes the drug company has released preliminary results from a randomised trial they've done and largely for shareholders rather than the general public.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Roads the way to a better lifestyle

The Australian, Business News, 15/08/2023, Charlie Peel, Page 17

Developing better infrastructure and increasing basic health services are key to boosting liveability in

rural communities and bridging the divide between the city and the bush, Western Australian business figures say. Poor infrastructure, particularly the state's regional roads, was a recurring theme during panel discussions at The Australian's Bush Summit in Perth on Monday.

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

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## Review into flu death hospital

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/08/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 3

A clinical review headed by an "external doctor" will be launched into cases at a Riverland hospital, amid claims of a "pattern of circumstance" that includes the treatment of a boy with flu before he died. The State Coroner is investigating why Riverland General Hospital ruled the six-year-old boy was well enough to return to his Berri home with influenza days before his death.

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

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## WA emergency departments record busiest day this winter

West Australian, General News, 15/08/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 16

Emergency departments across the Perth metropolitan faced their busiest day this winter as flu and respiratory syncytial virus continues to be rampant. On Monday, August 7, 3207 people attended emergency rooms across the State with 2186 of these at metropolitan public hospitals.

Also reported by: [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#).

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## Feasibility question

Border Watch, General News, 15/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

The State Government will wait and consider the radiation therapy service feasibility study before signing tenders after Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton visited the region recently. A \$4.3m funding allocation originally for a radiation treatment unit in Mount Gambier/ Berrin was previously reallocated for chemotherapy suite upgrades, despite backlash from the local community.

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## A call for care help

Border Watch, General News, 15/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 1

A hospice facility for those needing palliative care but are unable to receive care in their homes or at local hospitals may be one step closer. In Home Hospice Care representatives met with the Minister for Health and Wellbeing Chris Picton as well as the Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN) and representatives from Member of Mount Gambier Troy Bell's office to discuss opportunities for the broader community.

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## State-of-the-art allied health hub opens in Cairns

Cairns Post, General News, 14/08/2023, Page 9

Enhancing access to high quality rehabilitation and therapy in Far North Queensland Recovering from illness, injury, or managing a chronic condition is undeniably challenging. Excitingly, a new service has emerged in Far North Queensland to support individuals on their path to better health, and greater independence and quality of life: Royal Rehab Life Works Cairns.

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## Cost-of-living, insurance costs contribute to maternity uncertainty at St John of God Bunbury Hospital

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Tom Robinson

The high cost of private health insurance is contributing to the potential closure of the only private maternity service in Western Australia's South West, according to a midwifery expert. St John of God

Bunbury Hospital is currently reviewing its maternity services with local stakeholders, citing a staff shortage in obstetricians, GP-obstetricians, paediatricians, and midwives.

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## **Bulk billing urgent care clinic opens at Browns Plains to cut hospital waiting times**

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 14/08/2023, Judith Kerr

A new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic has opened to take the burden off the Logan Hospital, where waiting times can be more than six hours. Judith Kerr Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Health Minister Shannon Fentiman at the opening of the Urgent Care clinic at Browns Plains, Logan today.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 14/08/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella**

Queensland's first GP super clinic, offering urgent free treatment, has opened its doors. Its among almost a dozen sites rolling out across the state, hoping to ease the enormous pressure on our emergency departments.

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## **Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 14/08/2023, Andrew Clennell**

The first of 11 Medicare urgent care clinics in Queensland has opened designed to reduce pressure on the state's hospital emergency departments. Queensland's first Medicare Urgent Care Centre has opened its doors in Logan. The clinic operates on extended hours seven days a week. It offers bulk billed care for non-life-threatening conditions like sprains, broken bones, stitches and burns.

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

### **Headspace graduate program attracts mental health professionals to regions boosting support for young people**

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2023, Anna Cox

A new approach from headspace is building the next generation of youth mental healthcare workers, and is already transforming the way young people can access support in Geraldton. Gabrielle Lynch joined the headspace early career program after a university peer told her it was "life-changing", and she is yet to look back.

[Read More](#)

### **Kids' emotional literacy program**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/08/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 4

An established early intervention initiative that builds the emotional literacy and wellbeing of primary school children is going digital. For the past seven years, the City Mission's INSIDE OUT 4 KIDS program has been offered in schools across Northern Tasmania with the aim of helping children develop healthy coping strategies for change, grief and worry.

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### **Take the time to listen**

Shepparton News, General News, 15/08/2023, Jay Bryce, Page 6

Steve 'Neffy' Ness is tackling the mental health crisis the only way he knows how. By listening. Mr Ness lost a family member to suicide, and experienced the lack of available services first hand.

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## **Mustering Growth for children in disaster-prone communities**

A wellbeing program designed for rural kids is being rolled out in the New South Wales Northern Rivers, before going nationwide. Many children struggled with their mental health, after floods devastated the region last year.

Also reported by: [4BC \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#).

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## Umair's mum was a hoarder. The experience led him to shape a very different life

SBS, Other, 14/08/2023, Connor Webster

Hundreds of thousands of Australians have a hoarding disorder. It's a debilitating condition that can also lead to extreme reactions from loved ones.

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## Unbreakable Farmer is now comfortable being uncomfortable

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/08/2023

Warren Davies probably should have felt more comfortable at Kyabram Club last week than in front of any audience he has faced since becoming a professional public speaker through his alter-ego as The Unbreakable Farmer. After all, he was speaking in his home community and was staring out into an audience that included long-time friends, teammates from his footballing years, former teachers and a host of people he had acknowledged with a nod or wink at one time or another while walking the streets of Kyabram.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Medics on the way as pressure rises

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 15/08/2023, Gabrielle Hodson, Page 3

Another 64 new paramedics are starting work with Ambulance Victoria - including recruits sent to Ballarat, Ararat, Horsham, Daylesford and Bendigo. Six new staff will be shared this month between the Ballarat, Daylesford and Horsham stations.

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

### New doctors to help relieve Armidale workforce shortage

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 15/08/2023, Page 7

Two new doctors who are set to join the UNE Medical Centre by September, will help redress the workforce shortage that has been affecting the Armidale area for some time. The addition comes at a time when many regional and rural communities Australia-wide are struggling to access ongoing health care.

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### 'Landmark' class action victory for junior doctors over unpaid overtime

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Several other class actions are ongoing. Junior doctors have claimed victory in a class action on unpaid overtime, which lawyers are calling a landmark case for Australia. Two years after the case

began, the Federal Court of Australia handed down its judgement on Friday, finding that Peninsula Health in Victoria contravened the Fair Work Act.

[Read More](#)

## Inverell promises \$180,000 for doctors as northern NSW town struggles to find healthcare staff

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Antoinette Milienos

Inverell, NSW, offering doctors \$30,000 incentives Doctors can claim accomodation and travel expenses Program being offered to six doctors A rural Australian town desperate for medical staff is offering a whopping \$180,000 extra in incentives to doctors willing to make the move.

[Read More](#)

## Tasmania regions and rural areas struggle with general practitioner shortage

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Tia Ewen

While regional towns have a lot to offer across Tasmania, the people that make up the towns are suffering from GP shortages. What could solve the problem.

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

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## Satellite hospital struggles to find doctors as island fire highlights need for byside medical care

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 14/08/2023, Judith Kerr

The tragic deaths of five children after a fire on a bay island has highlighted calls for better medical services for the islands ahead of a soon-to-open satellite hospital at the island ferry terminal. Redlands Satellite Hospital, due to open in Redland Bay next week, is the closest medical facility to the islands, where six people tragically died early last Sunday

[Read More](#)

## Rural incentives double

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/08/2023

In a move aimed at alleviating the chronic shortage of healthcare workers in remote and rural regions, the NSW Government has announced a doubling of incentives for healthcare professionals willing to relocate to underserved areas. The incentives, previously set at \$10,000, will now be increased to \$20,000, as part of the government's commitment to addressing critical staff vacancies.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Breast reduction surgery takes Megan from cup size 'G to H' to 'C to D' – and ready for the gym

Adelaide Now, Other, 13/08/2023, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

Megan's been groped and in hospital with back pain because of her size H breasts, but after a 10-year wait, she's had a reduction - and it's changed her life. Megan Quinlivan had breast reduction in surgery this year and is looking forward to joining a gym.

[Read More](#)

## Patients at healthcare chain must use rewards program to access bulk-billing, Choice finds

The Guardian, Other, 15/08/2023, Natasha May

A chain of medical centres that advertises its bulk-billing services requires patients to sign up for an online rewards program or pay out-of-pocket fees, a Choice investigation has found. The Our Medical chain, which is privately owned by Cornerstone Health and operates 33 medical, dental and radiology clinics along the east coast, launched its own patient rewards program this year.

[Read More](#)

## Call for domestic violence-specific Medicare items misguided: RACGP

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/08/2023, Heather Saxena

A standalone item would allow survivors to be traced, the college says. A coroner's call for standalone domestic violence Medicare items represents the wrong approach for patients and could create privacy risks, the RACGP says.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Anti-vax GP's 'wild west' tirades

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/08/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 4

A suspended Hobart doctor with potent anti-vaccine views is being pursued by the Medical Board of Australia for alleged "wild west" behaviour during the Covid pandemic. [...] The board suspended the Lindisfarne GP's registration in 2021 after several allegations came to the attention of national health watchdog, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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### Struck off in NSW

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/08/2023

The Health Care Complaints Commission recently prosecuted a complaint against pharmacist Michael Stanley Lowe before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. It was alleged that in Jun 2020, while owning three pharmacies in Sydney, Lowe was charged with offences of dealing with property suspected of being proceeds of crime, supplying a commercial quantity of a prohibited drug, and various motor vehicle offences, and was later convicted of these offences.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Slip Slop Slap campaign effective for Queenslanders born after 1980 as general skin cancer rates rise

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Jessica Clifford

Having spent much of her childhood in the sun as a competitive swimmer, federal Senator Penny Allman-Payne's skin cancer diagnosis was not surprising, but it was a wake up call. During the federal election campaign last year, Ms Allman-Payne had a basal cell carcinoma removed from her nose.

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### More than 300,000 vapes seized from Perth warehouse in record-

## breaking WA haul

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Rebecca Trigger

The WA Health Department has seized 15 tonnes of vapes from a warehouse in Perth's north-east in what it says is the biggest-ever bust of its kind in the state and nation. Authorities say more than 300,000 vapes worth an estimated \$10 million were discovered.

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## Why all Aussie drivers may soon need to pass first aid training if they want to get behind the wheel

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/08/2023, Freddy Pawle

First aid training could soon be a requirement of holding a driver's licence in Australia as state's search for new ways to reduce deaths on the road.

St John's Ambulance, a paramedic service that operates across Australia, has urged the Queensland government to fund first aid courses for L-plate drivers.

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## SPORT

### Dutton's \$500m sporting pledge

The Australian, General News, 15/08/2023, Geoff Chambers, Page 3

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton will back a \$500m community sporting infrastructure fund and launch an attack on Anthony Albanese for trying to "make the Matildas' success all about him". Mr Dutton and opposition sports spokeswoman Anne Ruston on Tuesday will announce that a Coalition government would spend \$250m over four years on sports infrastructure, which would be matched by the states and territories.

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

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### Economy a likely \$7bn loser if public holiday declared

The Australian, General News, 15/08/2023, Rhiannon Down, Page 3

A public holiday to celebrate the Matildas winning the FIFA Women's World Cup could cost the economy as much as \$7bn, as NSW Premier Chris Minns backs Anthony Albanese's push for the nation to celebrate with a day off. AMP chief economist Shane Oliver said a one-off public holiday equated to 0.3 per cent of the year and was the equivalent of about \$7bn in the "worst-case scenario", based on estimates that put the national GDP at \$2.2 trillion.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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### Expect a shootout for next Matildas TV rights deal

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 15/08/2023, Elizabeth Knight, Page 22

The Melbourne Cup claims to stop the nation. The Matildas' World Cup quarter-final against France on Saturday night really did.

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

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### Games demand an open process

Courier Mail, Editorials, 15/08/2023, Page 20

Once you have swallowed the fact the government will spend billions on a new stadium at the Gabba,



your next thought is to hope the best possible new venue is delivered. That is why it is a fair point to call for the procurement process for all the new venues to be transparent as an alliance of architects featuring HKS, Buchan and Nikken Sekkei did over the weekend.

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## Neurologist calls for more action on concussion after Paddy McCartin retirement

The Australian, Other, 14/08/2023, Lachlan McKirdy

A leading neurologist has called on the AFL to update its protocols around concussion to include reference to CTE following the retirement of Paddy McCartin. The Swans defender called time on his AFL career for a second time on Monday after suffering his 10th concussion earlier this season.

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

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## Gina Rinehart's \$3m bonus prize pool for Australian athletes

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2023

Fresh of committing \$60 million in sport funding and cheering on our Aussie swimmers, Gina Rinehart has splashed the cash again. Gina Rinehart has pledged to reward Australian athletes who win medals and break world records at international competitions as part of a new \$3 million funding program.

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

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## Brisbane needs a live site worthy of the Matildas

Adelaide Now, Other, 14/08/2023, The Editor

The Matildas deserve more when it comes to a place for Brisbane fans to gather and watch Wednesday night's blockbuster semi-final against England than a simple expansion of the modest live site at South Bank Parklands. The State Government has taken the easiest approach here, rather than actually doing the hard work and organising a venue deserving of this most amazing of national teams.

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

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## Ann Wason Moore says gender pay gap in the World Cup is still vast, despite making \$2m in sales and smashing attendance records

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Ann Wason Moore

For years, a certain segment of the male population has denigrated women's sports now, they're suddenly the Matildas' biggest fans. Why we have to support their transition.

[Read More](#)

## Gold Coast City Council applies for trademarks for 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Kathleen Skene

Gold Coast City Council has applied for six trademarks for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games five more than the Brisbane Organising Committee. As debate rages over the merits of hosting another Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast is already making its mark on 2032, applying for rights on the words "Festival 2032", "Gold Coast 2032" and "GC2032".

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

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## Why female concussion is in the spotlight

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Katherine Chatfield

Head knocks have made headlines in men's sport for years, now, a new conversation has started. Here's what you need to know.

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

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## World champion Diamonds to play test in Cairns for the first time

Northern Territory News, Other, 14/08/2023, Matthew Mcinerney

Australia's world champion netball team will play a test in Cairns for the first time with confirmation the Diamonds will face off with South Africa in October. The Diamonds will host the Proteas in a three-match series following the Constellation Cup, with the recently crowned world champions hitting the Cairns Convention Centre on October 25.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Academic roped into legal row

West Australian, Business News, 15/08/2023, Neale Prior, Page 20

US lawyers are set to question a renowned WA medical researcher and two successful former genetic research associates ahead of a legal showdown between big drug developers. Japanese pharmaceutical Nippon Shinyaku will use treaty powers to question Professor Sue Fletcher plus research scientists Abbie Adams and Penny Meloni, all warriors in the battle against deadly muscular dystrophy.

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

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### Channel 9, National Nine News, 14/08/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

The world's largest study into the benefits of medicinal cannabis is underway in Australia. Participants will have access to subsidised medication as scientists try to find out if it's a more economical form of treatment. It is legal in WA for seriously ill patients, but researchers say there is a layer of mystery and stigma that shrouds the treatment and it's the last resort if all other options are exhausted. Little Green Pharma is working with Curtin University looking at the potential health and economic benefits for treating chronic conditions.

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### Channel 9, National Nine News, 14/08/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Queensland is now home to a multi-million-dollar vertical medicinal cannabis farm, one of the most advanced facilities in the southern hemisphere. Its opening comes as Australian researchers lead the charge in what's expected to be the largest study into the benefits for those with chronic illnesses. Six tonnes of dried cannabis worth \$60 million can be produced here each year to help 25,000 patients.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Family of Aboriginal man TJ Denniss say lack of mental health support contributed to death in custody

The Guardian, Other, 14/08/2023, Sarah Collard

The family of an Aboriginal man who died in custody has said prolonged solitary confinement without adequate mental health support despite repeated suicide attempts and multiple transfers within the

New South Wales prison system contributed to his death. Tian-Jarrah "TJ" Denniss, a Wiradjuri man, took his own life on 5 August at Silverwater prison.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Ekka flu exposed as myth

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2023, Andreas Nicola, Page 1

The mythical link between the flu and the Ekka has been busted, with one of the state's leading infectious diseases experts labelling it a coincidence. But to be safe, you can get a free jab at the show.

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### Fears meningococcal cases will continue to rise unless barriers to B strain vaccine addressed

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Josephine Lim

Nicole Hammat carries her grief every day since her son Khye died from meningococcal disease almost two years ago. After seeing how quickly her son succumbed to the disease, the South Australian woman wants young people to be more aware and hopes the B strain vaccine will be accessible to more people.

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### ABC News, ABC Evening News, 14/08/2023, Gemma Veness

Cases of meningococcal disease are on the rise around Australia. There's concern only two states are currently providing free vaccines against the B strain to children and teenagers. Meningococcal cases have risen by almost 50% more in the first half of this year than the same time last year.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Sanofi's epilepsy med shortage advice

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/08/2023

Pharma company Sanofi-Aventis has notified the TGA about a shortage of vigabatrin (Sabril) tablets that was triggered by a global recall and is expected to last until 30 Sep. Sanofi has also advised that the oral 500mg powder sachet form of Sabril is available and should cover patients' needs until the tablets are available again.

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### Channel 7, Seven News, 14/08/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Families battling a cold or flu are struggling to access medications. There's a national shortage of some tablets and children's antibiotics, sparking calls for more drugs to be manufactured onshore.

Wholesalers are also out of commonly prescribed children's antibiotics like Keflex. The Therapeutic Goods Administration is monitoring the situation and 400 other medicines in low supply.

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## Cannabis crops get really hi-tech

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 15

Brisbane is now home to the most hi-tech cannabis farm in the southern hemisphere, with the impressive facility providing a crucial boost to the nation's manufacturing industry and medical aid to at least 25,000 Australians. Developed by Medcan, the medicinal cannabis facility in Heathwood will eventually produce 6000kg of dried flower per year worth about \$60m.

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

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## Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/08/2023, Hugh Riminton

At least 25,000 Australians could soon be taking medicinal marijuana grown in the Southern Hemisphere's most high-tech factory. The \$12 million lab is growing the plants vertically in controlled conditions before drying them, producing approximately 6000kg of finished dried flower and helping 25,000 people manage their pain every year.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Weapon against foodborne diseases

Courier Mail, General News, 15/08/2023, Amanda Sheppeard, Page 18

Food safety investigators are turning to whole genome sequencing to help identify the causes of foodborne diseases, which are responsible for the deaths of 38 Australians every year. Food poisoning costs the national economy \$2.1bn a year, with an estimated 4.67 million cases in Australia each year with 47,900 hospitalisations.

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

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### Sweet tooth tax could cure hip pocket pain: dentists

Canberra Times, Other, 14/08/2023, Tess Ikonomou

A tax on sugary drinks would reduce their consumption and help fund targeted schemes to improve oral care for vulnerable Australians, the dental association says. In its submission to a parliamentary inquiry examining access to dental services in the country, the Australian Dental Association backs introducing a health levy which could provide revenue to governments.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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### Formula company hits back at contamination claims

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/08/2023, Joel Erickson

The company behind a popular brand of baby formula has rubbished online claims of "contamination" of some tins in Australia. Several mums took to social media to voice their concerns about Karicare baby formula after claiming to find small "black plastic" pieces in the brand's Six Months Infant Formula.

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

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**Helen Mitchell | Hard Solo outrage is warranted. Hopefully the government steps**

There's a new entrant into the alcohol beverage market, and it has sparked what I consider to be justified outrage. Solo - with its iconic tag that encourage us to "slam it down fast" - has been joined by Hard Solo, a ready-to-drink mix of crushed lemon and vodka.

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

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## New Organic Industry Discussion Group to lobby for use of 'organic' word in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 14/08/2023, Jennifer Nichols

Mick Dan is passionate about farming without synthetic pesticides or fertilisers, and especially proud that Australia contains 70 per cent of the world's certified organic farmland, or about 53 million hectares. But the 2021 Australian Organic Limited Farmer of the Year is deeply disturbed that Australia is the only developed country not to have a standard regulation around the word "organic".

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## AICIS

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