



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 16th August 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports more than 80 per cent of Australia's aged care facilities now have 24/7 nursing staff and nurses are available in homes 98 per cent of the time, new government data has shown. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells rejected criticism the government's roll-out of the policy had been more focused on announcements than delivery, saying the government was proud of the reforms and their results.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports peak medical bodies have called for action to clear a "critical" backlog of patients waiting for elective surgery, with waitlist numbers estimated to be as high as 500,000 in the wake of the COVID pandemic. A letter sent to Health Minister Mark Butler called for a long-term national plan co-funded by federal, state and territory governments aimed at improving the hospital system's capacities.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 7) reports an Australian study mapping brain changes in people with different mental conditions could lead to more targeted treatments for people with depression and schizophrenia, scientists say. Monash University's Turner Institute PhD candidate and research lead Ashlea Segal said she hoped the results will prompt an end to "one-size-fits-all" treatments and encourage clinicians to "develop a personalised understanding of the challenges faced by a given individual".

- The **Herald Sun** (page 7) reports a world-first trial run by the Royal Melbourne Hospital will assess the benefits of common antidepressant Lexapro as a treatment for the chronic cardiac condition atrial fibrillation. Study co-ordinator RMH electrophysiology fellow Youlin Koh said the trial had the potential to "revolutionise the management of AF". *Also reported by: Adelaide Advertiser, Hobart Mercury.*
- **The Australian** (page 9) reports a form of gene therapy being developed to treat Parkinson's has potential as a cure for serious alcoholism. Animal trials conducted by a team of researchers at Oregon Health and Science University found glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor treatment had reduced alcohol consumption by 90 per cent.
- The **Courier Mail** (page 12) reports almost 75 per cent of regional aged care homes are running at a loss, with industry operators saying the sector's crippling staff shortages are having a dire impact outside cities. Aged and Community Care Providers Association CEO Tom Symondson said the sector faced a shortfall of 12,000 nurses, while some facilities were using expensive fly-in-fly-out carers.
- **The Guardian** reports health experts have welcomed news legislation will be used to implement bans on non-prescription vapes. University of Sydney's school of public health professor Becky Freeman said while legislative changes would take longer, they would add power to the reforms and would be harder to reverse than regulatory changes.
- **The Guardian** reports PwC failed to disclose conflicts of interest to the government before it was awarded a \$2.3 million contract by the Department of Health and Aged Care to audit the Morrison government's aged care workforce bonus program. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation said polling found 70 per cent of aged care workers received no payments through the scheme during its first four months of. A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care said the contract remains suspended.
- **The Guardian** reports Queensland doctors are calling for voluntary assisted dying services and associated care to be available under Medicare, saying out-of-pocket costs have created a financial barrier to patients accessing care. The Queensland Voluntary Assisted Dying Working Group has proposed a standardised private billing structure for VAD in lieu of Medicare funding.
- **Australian Doctor** reports bulk billing rates for GP services have fallen to their lowest levels in a decade, new data from the Department of Health and Aged Care has shown, with 33 million fewer bulk billed GP visits funded over the 2022-23 financial year compared to the previous year. Only 52 per cent of patients treated were bulk billed during the period, a fall from 66 per cent the previous year, while the number of overall GP visits fell by 22 million.

MINISTER BUTLER

Plea to slash surgery wait lists

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 7

Top medical groups have called for immediate action to reduce the "increasingly critical backlog" of patients waiting for elective surgery, with public hospitals failing to clear waiting lists that ballooned to unprecedented levels during the pandemic. [...] "A national plan is urgently needed to address the growing and increasingly critical backlog of elective surgeries," a joint letter sent to the federal Health Minister Mark Butler recently said.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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Cheaper medicine ignites debate

Bunyip, General News, 16/08/2023, Imogen Evans, Page 3

Local pharmacists have voiced their concerns amidst a fiery debate between Federal Government and the opposition over newly introduced 60-day dispensing laws, claiming the move could cost thousands of workers their jobs. [...] The Coalition has also claimed a lack of consultation between Health Minister Mark Butler and pharmacists like owner of Direct Chemist Outlet in Gawler Rabia Kajani, who said there was inadequate communication with industry before the policy was announced.

Also reported by: The Bunyip (Online).

Hold pharmacy plan - MP

Gannawarra Times, General News, 15/08/2023, Peter Bannan, Page 6

The Federal Government must pause its planned 60-day pharmacy dispensing rollout because of the "adverse impact on regional people", Member for Mallee Anne Webster has said. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said almost one in four of the 1000 community pharmacies surveyed had reduced opening hours and 54 per cent had increased fees for services. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said people with a Medicare card buying just one of the medicines on the list would save up to \$180 every year.

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Cystic fibrosis ward honours doctor who fought brave battle

Parra News, General News, 15/08/2023, Ellie Busby, Page 3

Australia's first purpose-built Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Specialist Service ward has opened at Westmead Hospital, honouring a young doctor who passed away after his own struggle with CF. At just 27-years-old, Sydney doctor Malay Rana died in 2015 following complications from the genetic condition, after dedicating his life to helping patients and his fellow CF warriors. [...] Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler said the ward will make a big difference to patients and their families.

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"Legal chaos" to unfold

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 15/08/2023, Page 1

The Federal Health Minister Mark Butler (pictured) has warned of impending "legal chaos that would unleash on thousands of general practices and pharmacies" if on 04 Sep another disallowance motion against the 60-day dispensing (60DD) is lodged, while on 01 Sep the measure takes effect. Butler, speaking in the media this week, emphasised that 60DD "will certainly take effect".

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

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Medicare Urgent Care clinic opens at Jamisontown

Blue Mountains Gazette, Other, 15/08/2023

Blue Mountains residents now have access to fully bulk-billed urgent health care following the opening of a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC). Located at Our Medical Home in Jamisontown, the clinic is open extended hours, seven days a week, easing pressure on the Nepean Hospital. [...] "The Penrith Medicare UCC will make a big difference to patients in the region, who will be able to walk in during extended hours and receive urgent care bulk billed from a nurse or doctor," said Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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Penrith's Urgent Care Clinic is officially open

The Western Weekender, Other, 15/08/2023, Makayla Muscat

Penrith's promised Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) was officially opened by the Federal Government this week. Macquarie MP Susan Templeman opened the facility in Jamisontown on Monday. [...] Templeman, who attended the opening on behalf of Health Minister Mark Butler, said patients will be able to receive bulk billed treatment for things like wounds, burns, fractures and infections.

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Australia's vaping crackdown to be enforced with new laws

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2023, Melissa Davey

Australia's ban on non-therapeutic and single-use vapes will be underpinned by new laws rather than a focus on regulation in a development that has been welcomed by public health experts. [...] She said that may explain why none of the reforms announced by the health minister, Mark Butler, on 1 May have yet been implemented.

Mark Butler highlights 'additional funding' record since July last year

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 15/08/2023

Health minister Mark Butler said that since 1 July last year, the Albanese Government had approved additional funding for 108 new and amended listings on the PBS.

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NeedleCalm founder wins nursing innovation award

Inside Small Business, Other, 15/08/2023

Lauren Barber, a clinical specialist nurse and founder of medtech device company NeedleCalm, was awarded Australia's most prestigious innovation award for nurses, the Health Minister's Award for Nursing Trailblazers for her notable contributions to the medical field with her ground-breaking device. [...] 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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Migraine and sarcoma medications added to PBS

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/08/2023, Michelle Wisbey

Subsidised treatment options for people with metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer have also been expanded. The cost of treatment for some sarcoma patients will drop from \$44,000 a year to just \$30 a script under new PBS additions. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler said the PBS additions will provide immense relief for sufferers.

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2SM, Breakfast, 15/08/2023, Richard King

King says according to authorities, more than 300,000 vapes worth an estimated \$10 million were discovered. He plays an audio of Health Minister Mark Butler telling The Guardian podcast that there's a strong consensus right across the country to take clear and strong action to stamp out the recreational use of these vapes, which are so clearly targeted at our young people.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Perth, 16:00 News, 15/08/2023

The WA Premier has defended plans to establish a hub for the state in Canberra, with the Opposition pointing out a similar plan was put forward by a former government nearly two decades ago. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Commonwealth is always open to new ways of improving its relationship with states and territories.

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MINISTER WELLS

Matildas inspiring not just girls

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/08/2023, Tracey Holmes, Page 38

Our women's soccer team has shown us what happens when a nation unites. It is much more fulfilling than the politicised, media-driven, divisive alternative.

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Round-the-clock aged care progress stalls

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 2

Labor's plan to have a registered nurse on site 24/7 in all aged-care facilities has stalled, with government data revealing the share of homes meeting the criteria remains stuck at about 80 per cent

more than a year after the government declared its goal. Department of Health and Aged Care figures show just 81 per cent of facilities have achieved 24/7 coverage, 1 per cent above the level estimated by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells last year.

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

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Aged care homes in country areas running at a loss

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2023, Matthew Killoran, Page 12

Almost three-quarters of regional aged care homes are running at an operational loss, with the industry describing it as "simply unsustainable" and warning the workforce shortage crippling the industry was even worse in the bush. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the Albanese Government was spending \$11.3 billion to fund a pay rise for aged care workers, including 60,000 in Queensland, which would help improve workforce numbers in regional areas.

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

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HammondCare opens \$31m dementia care village with its own grocery store at Daw Park

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/08/2023, Shashi Baltutis

It has two-way cupboards, a fake supermarket and secret doors – see inside the SA-first dementia care village that's opened in Adelaide today. HammondCare chief executive Mike Baird at the grocery store, fitted out by Coles, in the dementia care village. [...] Federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells praised the "positive impact thoughtful design can have" on the lives of people living with dementia.

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

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The undeniable power of a diverse parliament, with MPs whose hardships have forged their resilience and shaped their politics

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023, Annabel Crabb

Nearly 50 years ago, Dai Le was a small, frightened child aboard a boat, her father vanished, her life up-ended by the war in Vietnam. Her long journey to Australia was Homeric in scale. [...] In fact, only one of the MPs featured came to parliament that way Labor Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells.

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Sport Minister Anika Wells wrote Matildas' 'personal notes'

Sky News Australia, Other, 15/08/2023

Sky News host Jenna Clarke says Sport Minister Anika Wells is "invested in her portfolio" after she was spotted crying on the side lines of the Matildas' thrilling win over France on the weekend. "She wrote all of the Matildas' personal notes," Ms Clarke told Sky News host Sharri Markson.

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Albanese Government delivers 24/7 nursing mandate

Nursing Review, Other, 15/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

The Albanese Government has fulfilled its promise of implementing the 24/7 nursing mandate across aged care facilities. From July 1, aged care homes were required to have a registered nurse on-site for 24 hours, seven days a week. 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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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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DEPARTMENT

Last round of wellbeing grants

Blue Mountains Gazette, General News, 16/08/2023, Page 21

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

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PwC did not disclose any conflicts of interest before winning aged care auditing contract

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2023, Henry Belot

PwC Australia did not disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest to the federal government before it was awarded a \$2.3m aged care contract that has been suspended since June amid a continuing investigation. The firm was contracted by the Department of Health and Aged Care to audit the Morrison government's workforce bonus program, which provided two pre-election payments in 2022 worth up to \$800 to attract and retain staff in the struggling aged care sector.

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In Other Government ICT and Digital news, 16 August 2023

Intermedium, Other, 16/08/2023, Cameron Sinclair

The Department of Health and Aged Care has issued a request for information (RFI) on current and future ICT trends to inform a new sourcing plan for service management, infrastructure, and network services requirements over the next 3 to 5 years.

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CORONAVIRUS

A nose for Covid-19

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2023, Page 21

It's an idea that has finally gained scientific consensus: Dogs can be a faster, more precise, less expensive not to mention friendlier method of detecting Covid-19 than even our best technology. A growing number of studies has highlighted the power of dogs in detecting the virus and its variants. After examining 29 peerreviewed studies involving more than 400 scientists from more than 30

countries, US researchers say their research demonstrates that trained scent dogs are "as effective and often more effective" than the antigen tests we're keeping handy at home.

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Scientists unravel a major mystery behind the Covid-19 pandemic

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2023, Adella Beaini

Researchers have made an unexpected discovery which may finally explain why Covid spreads so easily and will never leave us. Covid uses "multiple doors" to jump from one species to another, which may explain why the virus spreads so easily and will never leave us, researches have found.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care exemption complications

Sydney Morning Herald, Money, 16/08/2023, Noel Whittaker, Page 4

My sister entered aged care almost two years ago in NSW. My niece is busy trying to sell her home before the two-year "aged care exemption" expires. The house is empty and on the market. There seems to be conflicting advice regarding what happens after the exemption expires. Could you clarify this for me?

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

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'So happy with the career I have'

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2023, Alex Gretgrix, Page 2

More women are filling aged care skills shortages in Bendigo thanks to peer supported traineeships. For Kristy, the traineeship has been invaluable. "I'm so happy with the career I have," Kristy said. "And that is thanks to WomenCAN. They have changed my life."

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Warramunda opens its doors to community

Shepparton News Online, Other, 15/08/2023

A new caf-style facility in the gardens will offer a meeting place for volunteers, family and visitors. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a marked effect on freedoms and interactions in Australian society, with living conditions perhaps forever changed.

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South Australia's first dementia village opens

HelloCare, Other, 15/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

A unique dementia care village where residents will live in small household cottages and help with daily tasks such as preparing meals in their own kitchens has opened in Adelaide's Daw Park. [...] The village has been designed around small, home-like cottages to maximise autonomy and minimise disability, as recommended by the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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Care workers can only afford 1% of Australia's private rental

HelloCare, Other, 15/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Australia is facing the worst rental crisis yet with new research indicating nurses and aged care workers in full-time work can only afford as little as one in 100 rentals. According to an Anglicare Australia survey released earlier this week, the figures showed Australia's housing affordability crisis is getting even worse ahead of Wednesday's National Cabinet meeting where rental stress will be a key talking point for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and State and Territory leaders.

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

Nursing Review, Other, 15/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

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

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The retirement village sector is not growing, so it must be dying

The Weekly Source, Other, 15/08/2023, Chris Baynes

A leading executive in our sector told me last week that we are building around 1,000 new village homes a year. They were wrong it is about 3,000. But this is rubbish if we truly believe in our product, that it has value, because if we did believe this, we would be fighting to build more homes. But we aren't fighting or even raising our fists.

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5AA, Mornings, 15/08/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Mike Baird, CEO, Hammondcare. Baird says the new dementia care facility at Repat is a great partnership with the SA Government and Federal Government. He states they have created a home-like environment with individual cottages, yards, and kitchens. He adds their experience has shown that it is the best way they can improve the quality of life of people living with dementia.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 15/08/2023, Ryk Goddard

Interview with James Vickers, medical researcher in Tasmania on their partnership with Dementia Support Australia. Vickers says Dementia Support Australia has dementia support staff across Australia, and they will be doing the mentoring part in particular of the project [funded by the Australian Government, and it relates to supporting people who work in dementia, respite, education and mentoring program].

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POPULATION HEALTH

Jab could rewire brains of alcoholics

The Australian, International News, 16/08/2023, Kaya Burgess, Page 9

An injection could reset the brain's "pleasure pathways" and help alcoholics become sober, a study suggests. Scientists have adapted a form of gene therapy under development to treat Parkinson's disease to become a cure for the most serious forms of alcoholism. It aims to allow the brain to feel pleasure normally again without the need for alcohol.

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Price of neglecting dental health is greater than you may realise

Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2023, Adrian Kat, Page 14

What seems to be forgotten in the treatment of a patients oral health is the direct connection between the mouth to the body. The mouth is more than a smile, it's a health barometer and can serve as a gauge to a patient's overall health.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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National plans to protect women

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 10

Agreed targets to end DV Australia's record of one woman killed on average every week at the hands of a current or former partner needs to be reduced by 25 per cent every year under a historic national agreement to stamp out domestic and family violence within a generation.

Similar coverage reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Prime example of flouting law

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2023, Adrienne Tam, Page 18

Medical experts have warned parents against shopping online for the highly caffeinated energy drink Prime for their children, saying it is "dangerous". Although the drink has been banned in Australia, it is advertised online with Australian and global distributors.

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Firing up the Victa could save lives

West Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, Page 7

Mowing the lawn puts your garden in top condition, and it could save your life. Researchers claim one in 10 early deaths could be avoided if inactive people mowed the lawn for 11 minutes a day.

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Ozempic settles the obesity debate: it's biology over willpower

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2023, Betsy McKay

Ozempic and similar drugs are transforming the world's understanding of obesity. It isn't so much about willpower : It's about biology. The success of the powerful new class of diabetes and weight-loss drugs shows how important chemistry is to determining a person's weight. The brain is the body's chief chemist, regulating appetite and making it difficult for many people to shed pounds and keep them off.

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New warning for diabetes drug Ozempic used for weight loss

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2023, Hayley Goddard

A new warning has been issued for Australians using Ozempic to shed kilos, with experts saying it could be deadly. Australians using the diabetes drug Ozempic to lose weight have been warned about the life-threatening risks it poses if they undergo surgery or fall pregnant prompting local medical experts to work on clinical guidelines.

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Breast reductions are on the rise

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023

If you or someone you know has larger breasts, you'll be all too familiar with the difficulties of wearing a big cup size. Having a sore back, neck and shoulders, difficulty finding properly fitting bras and clothes, and receiving unwanted attention are just a few reasons why more Australian women are seeking medical help.

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Dental hygiene habits of Australians revealed in survey

Bite Magazine, Other, 15/08/2023

A new report by the Australian Dental Association shows that three-quarters of Australians never floss their teeth, while one in five brush only once a day. Meanwhile, just two-thirds of Australians visit their dentist when there's a problem.

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Does coffee cause inflammation, or fight it? Experts explain

The health pros and cons of your morning flat white. For many people, coffee is an essential part of every morning. Without our daily dose of caffeine, it can be a struggle to feel motivated throughout the day. Yet, for those who fight chronic inflammation, your morning cup of joe may be quietly causing more harm than good. And if you've heard conflicting views on the matter, you may be wondering, "Does coffee cause inflammation or not?"

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New GP-led group to strengthen transgender care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/08/2023, Morgan Liotta

Recognising a lack of education in this space, the latest RACGP Specific Interests group aims to give GPs confidence and support. Many transgender and gender-diverse people could be effectively cared for in primary care if GPs are adequately supported to do so, according to an expert.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cochlear investors hear siren call of big profits

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 16/08/2023, Liam Walsh, Page 13

Hearing device maker Cochlear aims to boost margins and revenue this year, amid plans to boost market penetration for its products. Wielding new studies about the effectiveness of hearing aids in assisting people with a higher risk of cognitive decline, C...

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#).

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Fear for little boy's future

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/08/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 1

Natalie Wright does not know whether she will ever hear her son Ryder speak and fears a shortage of speech pathologists will impact his potential to talk. Ryder, almost 3, was recently diagnosed with level three autism and after babbling a few words when he was one, his speech regressed. Recently Ms Wright has phoned many speech pathology clinics in Ballarat and, in some cases, was told to call back in four months just to be placed on a waiting list for an appointment.

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

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Hidden cancer warning

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 7

Torquay's Kim Hurley is urging others to pay attention to their health, after she potentially lived with cancer for years before being diagnosed. The 49-year-old mother of two children, aged 12 and 14, was diagnosed with stage 4 malignant follicular lymphoma in 2019. [...] Cancer Council Victoria's Victorian Cancer Registry estimated there were 1024 fewer cancer diagnoses than expected over 2020 and 2021 in regional Victoria, prompting concerns for people unknowingly living with cancer.

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Ear, ear ... it's time to get the message loud and clear

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 16/08/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 4

Local audiologists are urging tradies to drop the tough guy stuff and start looking after themselves to mark Tradie Health Awareness month. Menitsa Pretorius, one of the audiologists at Specsavers Willows audiology clinic, says one of the most worrying issues is hearing loss, which can be caused by heavy machinery and other things that those who work in the trades, or in engineering, will find themselves alongside for long periods of time.

Race Oncology's fresh corporate strategy puts it right at the heart of cancer care

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2023

Clinical stage global biotech Race Oncology (ASX:RAC) has announced a new corporate strategy detailing its clinical program and key areas of discovery for its core asset bisantrene RC220. CEO and managing director Damian Clarke-Bruce, who took up his roles in February, says RAC's core focus is to impact cancer outcomes and address challenges of chemotherapeutic cardiotoxicity.

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RFDS report reveals heart disease hits western NSW hardest

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 15/08/2023, Allison Hore

If you live in the Bourke-Brewarrina/Walgett-Lightning Ridge areas you are almost three times more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than the general population of Australia, an alarming new report reveals.

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Take charge of skin health

Shepparton News Online, Other, 16/08/2023, Emma Prior

Yarrowonga Medical Clinic General Practitioner Clyde Ronan and skin cancer prevention program SunSmart are issuing a crucial call to action for men especially to prioritise their skin health by conducting regular skin checks. [...] This urgent reminder from Cancer Council Victoria is part of SunSmart Victoria's latest "Save your skin" campaign, funded by the Victorian Department of Health, which aims to heighten awareness and empower Victorians to take charge of their skin's health.

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Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) explained by the experts

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023, Rachel Rasker

Polycystic ovary syndrome has a misleading name. The hormonal condition's title essentially means "many cysts" which aren't even a symptom. "It's a misnamed condition because we didn't understand the nature of it when it was named," Helena Teede, a Professor of Women's Health at Monash University says. "[With PCOS], there are no cysts at all in the ovary, just partly developed eggs, and pelvic pain is not a feature of this condition."

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

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Australians face an increasing risk of stroke

SBS, Other, 15/08/2023, 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. Key Points Stroke is one of Australia's biggest killers. 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.

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UNSW researchers develop new walking app for people with Parkinson's

The Senior, Other, 15/08/2023

A new app for people living with Parkinson's disease has been launched in order to help them learn to walk better and stay on their feet for longer. Developed by UNSW researchers and co-designed by people with Parkinson's Disease, the Walking Tall app was developed with the help of funding from Shake it Up Australia Foundation and the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

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YouTube will tackle cancer misinformation as part of its updated health

policy

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 16/08/2023, Sarah Fielding

New guidelines lay out how health content will be reviewed. The internet is a source of many things, such as yummy recipes, tech deals and horrible misinformation. The latter often spreads through social media sites, something they have to combat (or usually choose to ignore). Right now, YouTube is choosing to fight, announcing a new long-term policy plan to grapple with medical misinformation, especially about cancer.

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

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1 in 6 women are diagnosed with gestational diabetes. But this diagnosis may not benefit them or their babies

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

When Sophie was pregnant with her first baby, she had an oral glucose tolerance blood test. A few days later, the hospital phoned telling her she had gestational diabetes. Despite having only a slightly raised glucose (blood sugar) level, Sophie describes being diagnosed as affecting her pregnancy tremendously. She tested her blood glucose levels four times a day, kept food diaries and had extra appointments with doctors and dietitians.

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PRIMARY CARE

Stats fly in latest ramping rumble

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 15

More ramping flak has erupted between the government and opposition over how many ambulance hours are being lost in the northern suburbs Labor says it is falling while the opposition says it is rising. The opposition claims ramping has "skyrocketed more than 120 per cent at Modbury and Lyell McEwin over the past year", which the government immediately ridiculed.

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Pharmacies to prescribe UTI treatment

Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

Five Canberra pharmacies will be able to provide treatment to women suffering from urinary tract infections as part of a year-long trial. The ACT pharmacies are joining the NSW trial after securing an agreement with the state government. Pharmacists will be able to prescribe antibiotics to people with uncomplicated urinary tract infections who are aged between 18 and 65 years, circumventing the need to visit a general practitioner to receive the prescription.

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

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More calls for care

Border Watch, Other, 15/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

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.

[Read More](#)

Study before tenders

Border Watch, Other, 15/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

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.

[Read More](#)

Voluntary assisted dying costs are creating 'substantial barriers' for patients, Queensland doctors say

The Guardian, Other, 15/08/2023, Melissa Davey

The out-of-pocket costs of voluntary assisted dying are creating "substantial barriers" for patients seeking to access euthanasia, according to doctors in Queensland who say Medicare reforms are urgently needed. The government does not subsidise euthanasia and its associated costs under the Medicare Benefits Schedule, which means doctors privately bill patients. Psychology and counselling services used to assess a patient's eligibility for voluntary assisted dying may attract Medicare subsidies.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 15/08/2023, Kate Freebairn

The SA Opposition has presented figures showing ramping outside hospitals in the northern suburbs is ballooning at an alarming rate. New data reveals ramping has skyrocketed at Modbury and Lyell McEwin Hospital by more than 120% over the last year. The Ambulance Employee Association is also calling for a solution. They say patient safety is continually being affected.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 15/08/2023, Brenton Ragless and Kate Collins

There are major concerns for the state's struggling health system, with a Code White declared at all metro hospitals last night, meaning there wasn't a single emergency department bed available for those in need. Opposition Spokesperson John Gardner says the union has belled the cat, saying that patient safety was put at risk.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 15/08/2023, Leon Delaney

Interview with Simon Blacker, Branch President, Pharmacy Guild ACT about five Canberra pharmacies have been selected to take part in that trial in New South Wales, allowing pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics to some people for uncomplicated urinary tract infections. Blacker says ACT is participating in a New South Wales pilot that's being conducted with a study being done by the University of Newcastle. He notes that ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith has supported the trial and adds that pharmacists are not looking to replace any other health practitioner, including GPs. He adds ACT Government's own data suggests around 2000 people a year do present at accident and emergency for uncomplicated urinary tract infections and they could help these patients out and free up resources.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#).

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 15/08/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Walter Abhayaratna, President, AMA ACT on trial allowing pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics to some people for uncomplicated urinary tract infections. Abhayaratna says the issue is access to primary care and had that issue addressed they wouldn't be talking about this. He notes it's fine to have a well-constructed pilot unlike the North Queensland pilot. He argues pharmacists don't have access to the diagnostic testing through the NBS system and chances of a misdiagnosis.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 15/08/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Simon Blacker, Branch President, Pharmacy Guild AC, about trial in the ACT for pharmacists to provide treatments for UTIs. Blakers says strict diagnostic criteria will be followed

through the pilot. He adds the pharmacist is expected and would always refer to a GP and follow those protocols.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Brain mapping targets key treatment zones

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, James Dowling, Page 7

A breakthrough Australian-led study that mapped brain changes in people with different mental disorders has opened the way for more targeted treatment of conditions like depression and schizophrenia. The brain mapping study, published in Nature Neuroscience by a team from Monash University's Turner Institute, analysed the wide variety of grey matter volume in the different parts of the brains of participants diagnosed with schizophrenia, depression, autism spectrum disorder, and more.

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

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Teachers taught to be 'lay therapists'

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, Natasha Bitá, Page 7

Schools are training teachers as "lay therapists" to help anxious students "have a go", as principals criticise "helicopter parenting" for stoking high anxiety in one in five primary school children. The biggest governmentfunded survey of students' mental health, involving 19,000 NSW children aged four to 12, has revealed anxiety levels three times higher than the rate recognised by health authorities.

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

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

Rewards delivered among all

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/08/2023, Claudia Grenfell-Uijland, Page 27

Pursuing a career in our mental health sector is one of the best decisions I've ever made. I want people to know, especially school-leavers and people starting out in their careers who are looking to make a difference, that there many varying roles in Australia's mental health workforce.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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

Mental health leader

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2023, Page 15

Taimi Allan benefited from the state's mental health system as a young woman now she is leading it after being appointed as Mental Health Commissioner for South Australia. The appointment marks the first time in more than three years the state will have a full-time commissioner since the former Liberal Government abolished the role in 2019.

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

Inaction weighs on our minds

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2023, Carly Dober, Page 45

Like so many people across Australia, we are growing increasingly alarmed at the state of mental health access in this country. For months, we have been appealing to the government to work with us and to make immediate decisions that could benefit Australians in the here and now. Sunday's Courier Mail article "Dire mental health support for people in regional Qld can no longer continue" regarding the alarming lack of support available to Queenslanders, especially in regional areas, strikes a chord.

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

Health unit not so well

A state government body whose main function is to improve the "mental health and wellbeing" of Queenslanders has among the highest rates of ongoing bullying and burnout, a public service survey has revealed. The Queensland Mental Health Commission, with about 26 employees, is among the unhappiest of government bodies, according to a News Corp analysis of the Working for Queensland survey.

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

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

SafeSPACE program to continue in Bunbury with State Government support

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2023, Breanna Redhead

A crucial mental health program is set to remain in Bunbury, the State Government announcing its decision to retain the initiative throughout WA. Last Wednesday the Cook Government revealed its plans to continue supporting the PCYC's safeSPACE program, as part of a \$6 million dollar commitment to help at-risk-youth can access mental health services free of charge.

[Read More](#)

Rural mental health services see spike in people reaching out as farmers come under more pressure

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023, Sophie Johnson

Mental health support services have reported an increase in people reaching out for help as stress increases on farms. Western Australian farmers have seen new challenges added to existing pressures in the past 12 months, according to Wheatbelt Rural Aid counsellor Roger Hitchcock.

[Read More](#)

Albanese government refuses further one-year extension to royal commission into veteran suicide

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2023, Paul Karp

The Albanese government refused a request from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide for a further one-year extension, after it cited "significant delays" getting information from Defence. In a statement to Guardian Australia the three royal commissioners revealed they had asked for an extra 12 months "in the hope that we could complete the most thorough inquiry possible to induce action" and overcome the "inertia demonstrated by previous governments and commonwealth bodies".

[Read More](#)

Uptick in harmful, disordered eating behaviour among school students, Butterfly Foundation reports

7news.com.au, Other, 15/08/2023, Ailish Delaney

Kylie spent years focused on making herself smaller, battling the voice in the back of her head spouting self-hate as her body changed. The NSW mother-of-two lived with an eating disorder for 13 years and went through countless psychologists and treatments to take back control of her life.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

New medical service established to combat Goldfields' doctor shortage

West Australian, Other, 16/08/2023, Carwyn Monck

A new medical service has been established in the Goldfields to tackle the shortage of health staff in the region. I-Medical Australia opened its first clinic in Kalgoorlie-Boulder last month and plans to open a second clinic in Norseman by the end of August.

Strategy to tackle nursing shortage

Daily Liberal, General News, 16/08/2023, Ciara Bastow, Page 3

With a shortage of nurses in regional and rural areas, Charles Sturt University is trying to combat the issue by offering on-campus positions for international students interested in pursuing a career in the industry. From 2024, 16 international students will have the opportunity to study a Bachelor of Nursing on campus, commencing in the session one cohort.

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Nursing graduates step into instant jobs

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 16/08/2023, Page 4

The Mallee will welcome seven new nurses to the workforce this month as SuniTAFE's most recent Diploma of Nursing students complete their qualifications. Diploma of Nursing teacher Michelle Dent said all of the Mildura students had already found employment and would help fill local shortages.

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

Endocannabinoid system study must be embedded into undergraduate nursing curriculum

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 15/08/2023, Robert Fedele

Education about the body's endocannabinoid system (ECS), which regulates and controls many critical functions such as learning and memory, mood, and pain, must be embedded into undergraduate nursing curriculum across Australia, leading advocates have argued. Speaking at the 2023 United In Compassion Australian Medicinal Cannabis Symposium's Nurses' Conference in Brisbane last Friday, Victorian Nurse Practitioner Simone O'Brien, a founding member of the Australian Cannabis Nurses Association (ACNA), told delegates the push into the education sector was fundamental to increasing knowledge and understanding among the next generation of nurses.

[Read More](#)

Happy International Neonatal Nurses' Day

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 15/08/2023, Natalie Dragon

August 15th is International Neonatal Nurses Day, recognised by the Council of International Neonatal Nurses, which was officially incorporated in 2005 to represent international neonatal nursing and care. A neonatal nurse delivers care to sick or preterm newborn infants and their families during the first 28 days of life and sometimes beyond the first month of life if needed.

[Read More](#)

Minns government makes \$20k offer for nurses

Nursing Review, Other, 15/08/2023

Healthcare workers are being offered \$20,000 worth of incentives to relocate to regional and rural areas in a Minns government effort to fill critical shortages in the bush. The NSW Labor government has doubled the amount being offered to nurses and healthcare staff under the Rural Health Workforce Incentive scheme.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

A cure for GP shortage

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 16/08/2023, Carwyn Monck, Page 1

A new medical service has been established in the Goldfields to tackle the shortage of health staff in the region. I-Medical Australia opened its first clinic in Kalgoorlie-Boulder last month and plans to open a second clinic in Norseman by the end of August. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder clinic currently operates with

two general practitioners on locum contracts, Dr Jeff Green and Dr Sally Partington, and will get a third GP this week.

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

Minister assures access as town fears doctor departure

Launceston Examiner, General News, 16/08/2023, Benjamin Seeder, Page 9

Health Minister Guy Barnett has said alternatives are being explored to ensure the continuity of medical services at the St Marys Community Health Centre in case local practitioner Dr Cyril Latt chooses to stop offering services there. Mr Barnett responded to a question in parliament from Lyons independent MHA John Tucker on Tuesday, who asked whether he was acting on fears that medical services in the town could shut down.

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

Rural doctor crisis leads to \$2k a day bids for GP

Midwest Times & Northern Guardian, General News, 16/08/2023, Caitlyn Rintoul, Page 11

The doctor drought in regional WA has been laid bare by desperate recruitment bids, including the offer of up to \$2000 a day for a "FIFO" GP position in Meekatharra. The ad promotes the FIFO nature of the role and offers \$2000 a day if working solo or \$1800 a day with another doctor, plus accommodation, a shared car and return airfares from Perth.

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

GP practices brace for payroll tax in NSW and Victoria after new rulings published

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins

New guidelines in NSW and Victoria have put GPs in the crosshairs over payroll tax without protection from retrospective audits or amnesty offers from either state government. The tax rulings, published in both states on Friday, are near-identical to each other and to those in Queensland and SA, says Belinda Hudson, director of accounting firm William Buck.

Similar coverage reported by: [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Queensland 4th year student takes out Pharmacy Student of the Year

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2023, David Rowley

Samantha Montgomery wants to try a bit of everything in her pharmacy career A fourth-year Bachelor of Pharmacy Honours student from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) has been named the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY). Samantha Montgomery, who hails from Rainbow Beach, 240km north of Brisbane, switched university degrees

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

[Read More](#)

ABC Pilbara, Breakfast, 15/08/2023, Kelly Gudgeon

There is a report in the Western Australian today about the FIFO model of employment becoming the norm for doctors in regional areas. It says regional towns are forking out millions of dollars to attract GPs and are calling for urgent government interventions to help carry the cost. [...] A Federal Health Department spokesperson said the regional difficulties were recognised and the Government has invested in several areas and initiatives to reduce that pressure. The spokesperson said the Australian Department of Health funds over \$1.6 billion for workforce programmes each year, primarily designed to help rural and remote communities to access health workers.

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Australians to get cheaper medications by next month

SBS, Other, 15/08/2023, Soofia Tariq

Nearly six million Australians will have access to more budget-friendly medications. Starting next month, people will have the opportunity to purchase a two-month supply of medication for the cost of a single prescription. This alteration will encompass over 300 commonly subsidised medications currently listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with the implementation occurring in three distinct phases.

[Read More](#)

Labor lauded for holding firm on 60-day dispensing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2023

The government is being urged to call out "the hypocrisy of the pharmacy lobby" over its efforts to expand pharmacists' scope of practice to include prescribing, while opposing pharmacy ownership reform.

[Read More](#)

Why the best contraceptive pill might not be on the PBS

Mamamia, Other, 15/08/2023

The contraceptive pill. Its job is to stop unwanted pregnancies. [...] But when you look at the list of oral contraceptives on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme there's quite a few of those available in Australia not on it, in fact, most of the contraceptive pills available here in Australia are not on the PBS.

[Read More](#)

More treatment options listed on PBS

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/08/2023

New medicines listed on the PBS by the Gov't include Vyepti (eptinezumab) which is an intravenous calcitonin gene-related peptide inhibitor treatment for the prevention of migraines, with over 4,500 patients expected to benefit from this treatment option. Yondelis (trabectedin) will also be on the PBS for the first time to treat patients with leiomyosarcoma or liposarcoma.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

GP bulk-billing rate drops to 80% in last financial year

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2023, Rachel Carter

GPs bulk-billed patients 134 million times in 2022/23, down from 167 million in 2021/22. The bulk-billing numbers are in for the past financial year, and they are the lowest in a decade. The national bulk-billing rate for GP services fell from 88.3% in 2021/22 to 80.2% in 2022/23, according to federal Department of Health and Aged Care figures published on Monday.

[Read More](#)

My Health Record: access and use

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/08/2023

Do you have a good understanding of My Health Record, how and when you can access it, and the consequences of doing so incorrectly? PDL has some timely advice PDL Professional Officers occasionally receive incident reports and notifications relating to breaches or concerns regarding access to a patient's My Health Record.

[Read More](#)

CFC on new telehealth guidelines

Insurance Business Australia, Other, 16/08/2023, Daniel Wood

On September 1, the Medical Board of Australia's revised telehealth guidelines will come into effect.

Among the changes: a patient will be able to consult a doctor for the first time using telehealth, without first having an in-person consultation. Doctors will also be able to issue new and repeat prescriptions as part of a telehealth consultation.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 15/08/2023, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Nicola Dean, President, Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons. Dean calls for breast reduction surgery to be more widely available under Medicare.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Fake nurse gave flu injections

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2023, Sean Fewster, Page 9

A convicted fraudster with no medical qualifications dosed a colleague and his parents with flu vaccine while impersonating a nurse for a second time, a court has heard. [...] The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency said Mibus had already siphoned \$136,290 from one doctor's surgery and impersonated a nurse at another both times while employed as a practice manager before her most recent offending.

Similar coverage reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

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

GP goes to court over his opiate scripts

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/08/2023, Vanda Carson, Page 4

A Queensland GP has gone to court to challenge a ruling by the medical watchdog after they ordered him to study rules governing prescription of opiates and other addictive drugs. Peter Allenby Herbert, who is listed as practising from Racecourse Road Health Centre, in Ascot, had conditions imposed on his registration by the Medical Board of Australia on July 10, according to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website.

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

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

Anti-vax Lindisfarne GP and former One Nation hopeful could be deregistered after Facebook rants

The Mercury, Other, 15/08/2023, Amber Wilson

A suspended doctor and former One Nation candidate who believes Covid is a "bioweapon" is being pursued by the national Medical Board. How he allegedly went down the "rabbit hole". [...] The board suspended the Lindisfarne GPs registration in 2021 after several allegations came to the attention of national health watchdog, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

[Read More](#)

'Unbelievable': How an unregistered doctor worked for six days in ED

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2023, Carmel Sparke

SA Health's chief executive said the man misled staff who were acting in good faith. An "absolute balls-up" is how one SA doctor has described the failures that allowed an unregistered doctor with a criminal history to work for six days in a rural ED.

[Read More](#)

Rewards program tied to bulk billing triggers patient data concern

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 15/08/2023, Michelle Wisbey

A major medical chain is asking patients to choose between subsidised healthcare and privacy, a Choice investigation has alleged. A medical centre has drawn the ire of consumer advocates after it

only allowed members of its rewards program to access subsidised care.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 15/08/2023, Peter Mitchell

Melbourne doctors are in the firing line for forcing sick patients to choose between privacy and treatment. A chain of clinics has issued an ultimatum to hand over personal data or pay an extra fee. Our Medical patients had to sign up to the rewards programme or pay a \$90 out of pocket fee in order to see a doctor. Non-members will be charged a private fee across its clinics along the East Coast in Victoria, New South Wales and in Queensland. Our Medical says its rewards programme helps deliver better quality and accessible health care, promising to never use personal data for commercial purposes or share it with third parties for financial gain.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Private health insurance is set for a shake-up: here's what's being proposed

Lifehacker Australia, Other, 15/08/2023, Yuting Zhang and Nathan Kettlewell

Private health insurance is under review , with proposals to overhaul everything from rebates to tax penalty rules. 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%. And if they want to avoid that surcharge, they'd need to take out higher-level hospital cover than currently required.

[Read More](#)

AI in healthcare

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/08/2023

Medical care delivered by human beings should never be replaced with Artificial Intelligence (AI), but AI technology can potentially achieve improved healthcare, according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA). The AMA's first Position Statement on the use of AI in healthcare, [HERE](#), outlines a set of ethical and regulatory principles based on safety and equity which should be applied to the application of AI technologies in healthcare.

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SPORT

\$100m play looms for World Cup TV rights

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, John Stensholt and Jessica Halloran, Page 5

Fifa wants a \$100m payday from the next soccer World Cup broadcast rights, and bids are expected from all of Australia's major free-to-air networks as well as SBS and Optus. The world governing body is trying to double the amount it makes from the Australian market, thanks to interest being at fever pitch during the Women's World Cup.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

I love football, but I'm offside with FIFA

Canberra Times, General News, 16/08/2023, Paul Letters, Page 14

I'm a passionate football fan and - as a wheelchair user - a disabled rights advocate. Within the last year, I've been blessed to witness both Messi's magnificence in the 2022 FIFA Men's World Cup and the Matildas' magic in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Also reported by: [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#)

League's diplomacy in Pacific

Courier Mail, General News, 16/08/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 9

Australia will play co-host to a six-country Pacific post-season rugby league tournament for the next two years following a \$7m federal funding injection to boost the level of competition in the region. The Albanese government will today announce it will spend the cash over the next two years to help fund the post-season tournament with the NRL.

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

Call for funding amid fanfare

Daily Advertiser, General News, 16/08/2023, Kerem Doruk, Page 3

The engrossing rivalry between Australia and England is set to take place on the football field but issues such as parity off the field and the future of Australian football require further attention. Dr Thomas Heenan Sports and Australian studies lecturer at Monash University said the Matildas' success is on par with Cathy Freeman's 400-metre Olympic gold medal, and feeds into the broader issue of equality in women's sport.

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

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

CBA's big bet on women's sports pays off

Australian Financial Review, Other, 15/08/2023, Sam Buckingham-Jones

Commonwealth Bank made a huge bet in 2016: to terminate its multi-year deal with the Australian men's cricket team worth up to \$50 million, but keep its sponsorship of the women's game. It was a risky move for a company aiming to put itself in front of as...

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Scammers target Matildas fans with fake tickets, dud livestream links

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/08/2023, Millie Muroi

Matildas fans looking for last-minute tickets have been warned to be wary of scammers ahead of Wednesday's FIFA Women's World Cup semi-final. The National Anti-Scam Centre issued the warning after it received multiple reports of scams targeting Matildas fans on social media, including through fraudulent ticket sale offers and fake live-stream links to matches.

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

[Read More](#)

Coalition commit \$250m to female sport infrastructure instead of Matildas public holiday

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2023, Clare Armstrong

The next generation of Matildas players would have dedicated female facilities at their local sporting clubs under a \$250 million investment made by a future Coalition government led by Peter Dutton. The Opposition leader will on Tuesday announce a new election commitment designed to boost female participation in sport and support grassroots competitions across the country as he takes a swipe at Anthony Albanese's calls for a public holiday in honour of the Matildas if they win the World Cup.

[Read More](#)

Why female concussion is in the spotlight

Adelaide Now, Other, 15/08/2023, Katherine Chatfield

When 28-year-old aflw star Heather Anderson passed away last November, the sporting community was devastated. An army medic who moved from her hometown in the Top End to play for the Adelaide Crows taking home the premiership trophy in the league's inaugural season she's since become the first known professional female athlete to be diagnosed with a brain disease linked to concussion and head knocks.

[Read More](#)

Head of US Anti-Doping Agency pushes for major reform

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023

Just a few weeks ago, Australian Olympian Peter Bol's name was finally cleared, after Australia's anti-doping agency, Sport Integrity Australia, revealed his drug test was a false positive. Now, there is increasing pressure from heavyweights in the anti-doping world for reform, to ensure innocent people aren't being caught in the system.

[Read More](#)

Canberra kickboxer Amir Jafari overcoming sport participation barriers for refugees

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023, Charlotte Gore and Anthea Moodie

People from non-English speaking backgrounds are significantly less likely to participate in organised sport in Australia, but Canberra refugee Amir Jafari got involved right away. The kickboxer began overcoming barriers to sport participation as one of the first things he did upon arriving in the country from Turkey.

[Read More](#)

'You were considered a circus freak': the long road from the Flying Bats to the Matildas

The Guardian, Other, 16/08/2023, Tory Shepherd

Women's football has well and truly broken through to the mainstream but for decades the sport was sidelined in Australia, seen as a haven for "unconventional" women. In the 80s and 90s teams like the Adelaide Armpits "a bunch of ratbag, lesbian feminists" known to many as the Hairy Armpits and Sydney's Flying Bats proudly flew the flag.

[Read More](#)

Attendance and ticket records keep growing at 2023 Women's World Cup

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/08/2023

With Matildas' matches becoming hot tickets, Australia's run to the Women's World Cup semi-finals and the expanded 32-team format have helped set records for attendance at the tournament. Soccer's international governing body said Tuesday that 1.77 million tickets have been sold for the tournament being co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, with a total 1,734,028 attendance for the 60 games.

[Read More](#)

Gina Rinehart in new million-dollar move for Aussie medal winners

7news.com.au, Other, 15/08/2023, Cameron Noakes

Australia's richest person is on a mission to put cash into the pockets of our top performers. Billionaire Gina Rinehart is continuing her mission to hand cash directly to Australia's top performing athletes.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Smoking linked to specific brain site

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 16/08/2023, Page 3

A specific brain region linked to rule breaking could influence whether a teen is likely to take up smoking and get addicted, according to international researchers. The team looked at brain imaging and behavioural data for more than 800 young people at the ages of 14, 19 and 23.

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

Hearts racing on drug advance

A world-first local trial will test whether a common antidepressant can also treat a debilitating heart condition. Royal Melbourne Hospital will track the impact of the drug on atrial fibrillation, a chronic cardiac ailment that can lead to blood clots and strokes in serious cases. They hope Lexapro and other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) will help AF patients who do not respond well to current treatments and reduce the need for surgical procedures.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Unified DV plan for First Nations

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, Paige Taylor, Page 4

Interventions and mentoring for Indigenous men are part of the first national plan to reduce exponentially higher rates of family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. The Albanese government will on Wednesday release the first action plan to "reduce pervasive rates of family, domestic and sexual violence in communities across Australia".

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

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Voice will build on the successes of Indigenous health

The Australian, General News, 16/08/2023, Donna Ah Chee, Page 11

As the debate surrounding the referendum to establish a First Nations voice to parliament intensifies, we must not lose sight of its primary goal: to make a practical, positive difference to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and make Australia a fairer, more inclusive nation. As an Aboriginal person who has worked in the health sector for many years, I am convinced it will significantly improve the health of our communities.

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

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Local Aboriginal leaders condemn failure to implement visitor schemes after death at Albany Regional Prison

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2023, Eliza Kavanagh and Georgia Campion

Local Aboriginal leaders have slammed poor in-prison support as a "grave injustice" after an Aboriginal man died in custody on Thursday afternoon, saying the failure to implement visitor schemes has worsened the mental health of prisoners. The 41-year-old Aboriginal man was found by prison officers in his cell at Albany Regional Prison at about 1.

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Slain woman removed from domestic violence support

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/08/2023

Nine months before she was fatally stabbed, Ms Yunupingu was removed from a government-funded program designed to protect her from her increasingly violent husband. Over the course of their 13-year relationship, the Aboriginal woman from a remote NT community had 16 interactions with police involving domestic violence perpetrated by her husband, Neil Maraka.

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Engineered stone: union demands ban

Australian Financial Review, General News, 16/08/2023, Ronald Mizen, Page 6

The construction union will push Labor to ban the manufacture, use and import of all engineered stone at its national conference in Brisbane this week, claiming its continued use would "tacitly endorse killing workers".

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

ResMed in sights of short sellers

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 16/08/2023, Jessica Sier, Page 13

ResMed is coming under increasing pressure from short-sellers who are banking on Ozempic, the diabetes treatment which has become a popular weight loss drug, reducing demand for sleep apnoea products. The ASX-listed, San Diegoheadquartered company is amon...

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

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Merchant Group's Andrew Chapman has his eye on these diagnostic biotech stocks

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/08/2023, Emma Davies

Merchant Group MD Andrew Chapman says these ASX diagnostic biotech stocks should be attracting health interest from investors. MoneyTalks is Stockhead's regular drill down into what stocks investors are pondering right now. [...] NTI recently received Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval and Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) scheme clearance by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to investigate the use of NTI164 the company's proprietary cannabis derived drug formulation in female Rett syndrome patients.

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Inflation, currency headwinds take toll on CSL's profit

West Australian, Other, 15/08/2023, Derek Rose

CSL has posted a \$US2.19 billion (\$A3.38 billion) net profit after tax, down three per cent from a year ago as currency fluctuations took a bite out of the blood product giant's earnings. Adjusted for currency fluctuations, CSL's net profit rose eight per cent to \$US2. [...] The IV infusion was approved in the US in November and is under evaluation by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia.

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Radio National, AM, 15/08/2023, Sabra Lane

Legal and illegal opioids are responsible for more than half of Australia's drug overdose deaths. Drug and alcohol experts are calling on all states and territories to follow Western Australia and ensure police officers carry the spray, now known as Naloxone. Curtin University's National Drug Research Institute evaluated a pilot programme in Perth and parts of regional WA which saw police officers receive training and carry the lifesaving drug. It was the first trial of its kind in the country and believed to be the first in the southern hemisphere after being used to treat 20 drug-affected people in a year. WA Police will now roll out naloxone kits to all officers, even though ambulance officers have been carrying this medicine for a long time.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Bioxyne embraces AI revolution with B2B marketplace JV targeting Aussie cannabis industry expansion

The Australian, Other, 15/08/2023

Bioxyne's (ASX:BXN wholly-owned subsidiary Breathe Life Sciences (BLS) and tech company CanXChange have inked a joint venture deal to launch an AI-powered B2B pharmaceuticals platform in Australia. BXN says the platform, expected to go live in Australia in Q4 2023, will target Australia's fast growing \$500 million medicinal cannabis market to facilitate wholesale trading between licensed buyers, sellers, cultivators, and accredited manufacturers in the country.

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'It's the epipen to opioid overdose': Calls to expand naloxone program

ABC Online, Other, 15/08/2023, Isabel Moussalli

Drug and health experts are calling on all states and territories to follow Western Australia and ensure police officers carry the spray known as naloxone to prevent drug overdose deaths. More Information
Featured: Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute

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Opioid initiation leads to sustained use in only 3% of patients: Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/08/2023, Kemal Atlay

Adults with sustained opioid use tend to be older and have more comorbidities. Most patients started on opioids use them short term, with minimal evidence of prolonged use over five years, according to an Australian-first study.

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Medcan's huge new plant

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/08/2023

Queensland's Medtech footprint has expanded today with the official opening of the tech-advanced medicinal cannabis facility in Brisbane. Medcan Australia's state-of-the-art 3,000sqm vertical farming facility can produce six-million grams of dried cannabis flower, twice as much as it's currently selling.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Lunch victim's clue

Herald Sun, General News, 16/08/2023, Brittany Carlson, Brooke Grebert-Craig and Athos Sirianos, Page 1

Brittany Carlson Brooke Grebert-Craig Athos Sirianos A paramedic's final conversation with a victim of the deadly mushroom lunch is being examined by homicide detectives, it can be revealed. Sources close to the investigation have told the Herald Sun an ambulance officer alerted investigators to a conversation with the patient, who ate the toxic mushrooms at the Leongatha lunch and later died. [...] A spokesman referred the newspaper to the latest health advisories published by the chief health officer, as well as the Food Standards Australia New Zealand recalls database.

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Sutton defends handling of listeria case

Herald Sun, General News, 16/08/2023, Miles Proust, Page 3

Former chief health officer Brett Sutton has defended his decision to close catering company I Cook Foods after an alleged contaminated sandwich led to the death of a woman. Owner Ian Cook is suing the Victorian health department, claiming Dr Sutton acted unlawfully and his Dandenong South business was destroyed after he was ordered to shut his doors following the death of an elderly Knox Private Hospital patient from a listeria infection in 2019.

AICIS

No relevant coverage

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