



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 21st August 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports the number of Australians over 85 will triple over the next forty years, the latest Intergenerational report has projected, requiring a rapid expansion of health and aged care sectors to meet demand. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the report showed the need for a sustainable model for the aged-care sector. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#), [West Australian](#), [ABC News](#), [The New Daily](#).
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports doctors are calling for an overhaul to remuneration agreements between private health insurers and private hospitals amidst claims unprofitable surgeries are being unnecessarily delayed. Some patients have been forced to pay thousands out of pocket for surgeries despite being fully covered by private health insurance because hospitals declined to schedule their surgeries within an appropriate timeline.
- The **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports more than 80 per cent of vaccinated adults haven't had a COVID booster vaccination within the last six months despite the availability of newer vaccines offering better protection. A spokesperson from the Department of Health said "People who have taken up the 2023 booster are well protected against severe disease from COVID-19." *Also reported by:* [The Age](#)

- The [\*\*Herald Sun\*\*](#) (page 1) reports Melbourne research has developed the first reliable test for ovarian cancer which scientists say will see an end to the unnecessary removal of women's ovaries due to the inability to accurately diagnose their condition. The test will also allow for better, earlier treatment of ovarian cancer, which currently kills more than 1,000 Australian women every year. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Northern Territory News](#)
- [\*\*The Australian\*\*](#) (page 3) reports patients in New South Wales could face a fee increase of between \$15 and \$20 to see a GP after confirmation Friday the state will not give doctors a retrospective amnesty on impending payroll taxes. Health Minister Mark Butler said "I'm concerned that the impact of our record \$6.1 billion investment in strengthening Medicare could be impacted by new payroll tax obligations being imposed by state governments on GPs at the same time." Mr Butler said the federal government was unable to intervene.
- [\*\*The Australian\*\*](#) (page 3) reports cancer survivors suffering from post-treatment exhaustion can significantly improve their quality of life and emotional well-being through regular exercise, new research has found. Research lead Professor Anupam Datta Gupta said "We are increasingly getting better at helping patients survive cancer, but we are not helping them cope with some of the side-effects of cancer and cancer-related treatment." *Also reported by:* [Canberra Times](#)
- The [\*\*Herald Sun\*\*](#) (page 4) reports the federal government will call on the research sector to give input on Australia's potential to become a global producer of new mRNA treatments for humans and animals. Industry and Science Minister Ed Husic on Monday will release a discussion paper identifying mRNA technology as a promising sector for government investment. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)
- [\*\*The Guardian\*\*](#) reports a risk management workshop conducted by PwC for public servants was delivered before the consultant's breach of confidential information was known, a Department of Health spokesperson says. Community and Public Sector Union national assistant secretary Michael Tull said "The strongest action that the public service can take to manage risk and improve transparency and accountability is to reduce the use of consultants."
- [\*\*The Guardian\*\*](#) reports midwives will march on Queensland parliament on Monday to protest what their union has labelled an "unsafe" maternity crisis across the state. A recent audit by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union found staff shortages meant some midwives were being allocated up to 20 mothers and babies at a time. The Union is calling for some of a recent \$42 million state government funding pledge to be allocated to train more midwives.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Tax grab sending GPs to wall

The Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, James Dowling, Page 3

The NSW tax office is refusing to follow the lead of other states and institute a GP payroll tax amnesty, amid warnings plans to impose the tax in the nation's two biggest states will drive up the price of doctors' appointments and saddle clinics with hundreds of thousands of dollars in back pay.[...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he was concerned about the state taxes and the implications for the erosion of bulk-billing incentives, but the federal government was unable to intervene.

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

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Ageing population comes at a cost

The Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 1

Australia's population will reach 40.5 million within the next 40 years, with the tripling of people aged over 85 predicted to increase the value of the care sector to 15 per cent of GDP, according to the nation's latest Intergenerational Report. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the report

demonstrated the need for a sustainable model for the aged-care sector, with measures such as means testing being considered by a government-led taskforce.

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

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## Fan-fest lets rock-star Matildas feel the love one more time

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/08/2023, Brittney Deguara and Matt Dennien, Page 3

Sam Kerr, Mary Fowler and the history-making Matildas were given a rock-star reception yesterday as they stepped on stage to an almighty roar from fans. Thousands gathered at Brisbane's Riverstage to cheer for the Matildas one last time after their momentous run in the Women's World Cup. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells, a Brisbanite, declared Queensland the "new heart of football".

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Age \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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## Business reforms to unlock cash win

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 4

Stronger trade ties beyond China, lower company tax rates and a "detailed" road map to net zero emissions have been touted by businesses as the key to lifting the nation out of its economic "slump" and would leave every Australian \$7000 a year better off. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the report showed the need for "sustainable and equitable funding" in the sector to meet the requirements of an ageing population.

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## Kisses for our amazing Tillies

Courier Mail, General News, 21/08/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

Thousands of fans cheered on our superstar Matildas yesterday, but it was the players themselves who became starstruck when pop singer Nikki Webster made a surprise appearance at their Brisbane civic reception. [...] Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells and Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner all commended the Matildas and spoke of their inspirational affect on the nation.

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## All women's sport should reap benefits

Courier Mail, Editorials, 21/08/2023, Page 22

The political benefits for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk being front and centre during the Matildas' World Cup campaign cannot be underestimated - and now it is time to pay it forward. As we reveal today, significant funding needs to be directed to community football clubs where poor facilities post an "existential" crisis. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells touts herself as the minister representing the people in sport.

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

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## Forty years from now, an extra 13.8 million people will call Australia home, ABS reports

ABC Online, Other, 20/08/2023, Evelyn Manfield

The number of Australians aged 85 and over is set to more than triple in the next 40 years as the country's population swells to 40.5 million about 13.8 million more than the current population. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said the government was already working to address the sector's financial sustainability through an aged care task force.

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## Matildas gifted keys to the city after FIFA Women's World Cup semifinal in Brisbane

ABC Online, Other, 20/08/2023, Gemma Ferguson

The Matildas might've missed out on a place in this year's FIFA Women's World Cup, but they've certainly won Australia over, with one capital city handing over the keys to the city and vowing to build a statue in their honour. [...] Minister for Sport and self-confessed Tillies fan, Anika Wells, thanked the crowd for their role in "the greatest World Cup of any code, ever".

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## Governments face the quandary of an ageing nation

The New Daily, Other, 20/08/2023, James Robertson

Australians can expect to lead longer, healthier lives with fewer responsibilities. The good news stops there, according to a new report on demographic trends that finds Australia's economy is seriously unprepared for its coming twilight years. [...] "This report shows the need for sustainable and equitable funding in aged care to meet the requirements of an ageing population," said Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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## FIFA World Cup the "best four weeks", says Australia captain Kerr

tasmanianews.net, Other, 21/08/2023

Matildas captain Sam Kerr has praised Australian football fans for their support during the FIFA Women's World Cup. [...] Anika Wells, the Minister for Sport, said on Sunday that it was a "transformative" moment for Australian football.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Mental health assistance for Victorians

Shepparton News Online, Other, 20/08/2023

Groundbreaking: Victorian Mental Health Minister Gabrielle Williams has announced a mental health support program that will be trialled in the Greater Shepparton region. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride said supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Victorians was a top priority for the Albanese Labor Government.

Also reported by: [Kyabram Free Press \(Online\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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## DEPARTMENT

**PwC charged health department to provide 'risk management' workshop in weeks before scandal**

PwC Australia billed taxpayers to deliver a "risk management workshop" to a department that was subsequently forced to suspend the firm's \$2.3m contract in the aged care sector, pending an investigation into potential conflicts of interest. The \$36,000 engagement has been described as "frankly absurd" by the public sector union and criticised by legal academics given a Senate committee report released in June 2023 that confirmed the consultancy firm had been engaging in a "calculated" breach of trust.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Luck's one chancy ride

West Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, Andrew Miller, Page 13

That summer I had a compressed-foam surfboard, fresh sunburn, cricket Techoing from a non-streaming TV, and a bike. [...] Interest in COVID-19 prevention has gone, even in hospitals. We know the Eris variant is rolling in, as bad as any other dreaded "hospital-acquired infection", but mask-wearing is now rare.

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### The WHO is closely monitoring another new COVID-19 variant, nicknamed Pirola. Here's what we know about BA.2.86

ABC Online, Other, 20/08/2023, Dannielle Maguire

The World Health Organization (WHO) is closely monitoring a new COVID-19 variant BA.2.86, which has been nicknamed by scientists on social media as Pirola. Here's what we know about the new strain so far.

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### Prevalence, pathogenesis and spectrum of neurological symptoms in COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 syndrome: a narrative review

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

Neurological symptoms are not uncommon during severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection and reflect a broad spectrum of neurological disorders of which clinicians should be aware. The underlying pathogenesis of neurological disease in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be due to four mechanisms of nervous system dysfunction and injury: i) direct viral neurological invasion; ii) immune dysregulation; iii) endothelial dysfunction and coagulopathy; and iv) severe systemic COVID-19 disease.

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### Vale Mary-Louise McLaws: epidemiologist and advocate

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

Emeritus Professor Mary-Louise McLaws OA, an epidemiologist and world-renowned public health researcher, has passed away. A world-renowned public health advocate, Professor McLaws (nee Viney) understood that a health crisis needs experts as well as leaders.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Australia at 40 million: grey haired and in need of care

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/08/2023, Shane Wright, Page 5

Australia's population is on track to surpass 40 million within four decades, but it will be grey-haired and

require an army of aged care workers that will increase the stress on the entire jobs market. Treasurer Jim Chalmers will use the latest intergenerational report, to be released on Thursday, to reveal the ageing of the population will require significant investments in skills and training to ensure older people receive the care they need.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Raising the GST is the only fair way to fund aged care system

Canberra Times, Business News, 21/08/2023, Noel Whittaker, Page 18

Challenges in the aged care system continue to dominate the news. [...] It's been nearly three years since the Royal Commission into aged care, which proposed a simple solution: charge an aged care levy, like a Medicare levy, on all taxpayers.

*Also reported by:* [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#).

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## How to pay for 30 years of retirement

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/08/2023, Anthony Keane, Page 20

Australians are living longer retirements but working shorter careers to pay for them, creating a financial crunch for people who do not plan ahead. Back in 1909, when the age pension was introduced for over-65s, the average life expectancy of Australians was around 55 meaning many people died before they got to enjoy the fruits of the government retirement purse.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Yes, two-day hangovers are real

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/08/2023, Dani Blum, Page 16

And there are a few different ways to deal with them, writes Dani Blum. The margaritas you downed on Friday night leave you slumped in bed all Saturday. On Sunday, you wake up, and you're still parched and jittery. Your head hasn't stopped throbbing. Could you be in the throes of a two-day hangover?

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

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### Feds Shed cash for good

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 15

The Men Shed at Victoria's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre is one of more than 131 sheds to win federal grants that together total almost \$670,000. The grants, up to \$10,000 each, were designed to help local organisations upgrade their facilities, buy new tools and equipment, run healthrelated training or hold a men's health event.

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### Heath fund premium price rises for Australians and how to avoid them

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy

Major health funds will raise their Gold health premiums by up to a staggering 8 per cent in coming months, more than twice the "average" rise announced by the government. It will push the cost of top cover in some states to over \$8,600 a year for families before the government rebate is applied. The

boss of Australia's health fund lobby group admits this level of insurance is becoming unaffordable and she has revealed funds are discussing major reforms with the government.

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## How diet became a dirty word and what science really says about losing weight

ABC Online, Other, 20/08/2023, Catherine Taylor

Here's a sobering statistic: more than 55 per cent of those who begin the year planning to lose weight have given up within six months. If that sounds like you, don't despair. [...] They agree that the need to address weight gain is urgent: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare classifies 67 per cent of Australian adults as overweight or obese making us among the world's most overweight people.

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## Woman with big boobs face 'discrimination', says Dr Nicola Dean

NEWS.com.au, Other, 20/08/2023, Carla Mascarenhas

Attempting to function at work while in the wrong headspace can be a lot to handle. A leading medical practitioner says large breasted women are being discriminated against by being denied potentially life changing surgery due to state government restrictions.

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## My innocent symptoms were written off as 'normal pregnancy pains' - but what happened next turned into the most traumatic experience of my life

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 20/08/2023, Carina Stathis

Maria Henderson had always wanted to be a mum. Growing up with five siblings in Margaret River, Western Australia, the 34-year-old dreamt of starting her own family one day. Her wish came true in 2017, when Maria and now-husband Ash were excited to announce to the world they were expecting their first child together.

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## Channel 10, 10 News First (Weekend), 20/08/2023, Chris Bath

Australian families with private health insurance are being urged to check their policies ahead of a premium price hike. Some of the nation's biggest private health funds will raise gold health premiums by up to 8% way beyond CPI. Just as families struggle to make ends meet, it's a major sting to the household budget, with funds making top tier coverage unaffordable for most.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Exercise the key to wellbeing after cancer

The Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, Sofia Dmitrieva and Elise Kaine, Page 3

Exhausted cancer survivors can significantly boost their quality of life and emotional wellbeing through regular exercise, a groundbreaking new study has found, amidst claims Australian hospitals are not investing enough in those who suffer. Fresh research from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians revealed patients who attended supervised exercise programs twice a week presented with notably decreased levels of fatigue, and an improved quality of life.

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

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### Research set to assist in cancer exhaustion

Canberra Times, General News, 21/08/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 4

Up to 60 per cent of cancer patients suffer from cancer-related fatigue, but a seemingly counterintuitive

method can help cure it, research has found. Researchers at Adelaide University followed 268 cancer patients over a five-year period. Patients participated in a three-month supervised exercise program, twice a week. Data was collected over a five-year period from 2015 to 2020.

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

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## Dreams saviour

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

A Melbourne discovery on ovarian cancer is set to prevent women from unnecessarily having their ovaries removed and losing their fertility. The blood test, developed by the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, will also improve treatment of the disease. The test determines whether a woman has a non-malignant condition or cancer before surgery.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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## Cancer advance is promising

Herald Sun, Editorials, 21/08/2023, Page 22

Early detection is the key for fighting cancer, offering the best chance of beating the disease and extending life. Whether it be breast, bowel, lung, liver, blood or brain cancer, that early diagnosis is vital for effective intervention. Sadly, in a range of cancers, the rates of early detection are not where they need to be. For ovarian cancer the 10th most common cancer in Australia only about 20 per cent of cases are identified early.

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## School on the road

Northern Territory News, General News, 21/08/2023, Bethany Griffiths, Page 1

Emily Robinson is the first to admit her parenting style is unconventional to say the least. But when Ms Robinson was faced with an unexpected health battle coupled with a stressful job in a hometown she did not love, she decided a change was what her family needed. And the lessons she learnt from her lifestyle change has informed a thriving business to help other parents stuck in a similar rut.

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## Breast cancer surgeon to speak at fundraiser

Launceston Examiner, General News, 21/08/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

Tassie born leading breast cancer surgeon Chantel Thornton will return home to speak on trends and research surrounding breast cancer at a women's health brunch next week. The fundraising event, hosted by the Clifford Craig Foundation, will help support the Foundation's medical research program at the Launceston General Hospital.

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## Link between saliva and heart disease

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 6

Researchers have found a link between white blood cells in the saliva of healthy young adults and early risk of heart disease. Knowing that periodontitis is a health problem involving infected gums is linked to heart disease, the team recruited 28 nonsmokers and asked them to rinse their mouths with saline, which was collected for analysis.

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## Brenton Westley's plea for law change so his kids can get genetic testing for cancer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 20/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy

Cancer survivor Brenton Westley's children have been forced to put off a genetic test that could reveal whether they are at risk of a number of cancers because of a controversial rule. The lives of Brenton



Westley's children are at risk because a controversial rule allows insurance companies to slug people higher premiums or deny them cover if they have a genetic test.

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## **'Friendly reminder to make use of the free mammograms': BreastScreen WA brings mammogram mobile to Manjimup**

West Australian, Other, 21/08/2023, Daniel Hocking

Local MLA Jane Kelsbie has shared her very personal journey with cancer in a bid to persuade women to take advantage of a local visit from a mobile breast-screening van. The van is currently at the Manjimup Indoor Sports Pavilion until the end of September, set to move to other towns within the Warren-Blackwood area for the remainder of 2023.

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## **Can CTCA provide health care equity for people in rural Australia with coronary artery disease?**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023, Taylor Strube and Derek Chew

Decades of clinical research have consolidated the evidence that managing high risk acute coronary syndromes with an early invasive strategy coronary angiography coupled with coronary revascularisation when appropriate reduces cardiac mortality and the risk of recurrent myocardial infarction.

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## **Controversies and dilemmas in the diagnosis of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023, Sandhir Prasad, David Holland and John Atherton

Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) comprises up to 50% of heart failure cases, has an increasing prevalence in ageing populations, and is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Recent landmark trials have provided evidence for the use of sodiumglucose cotransporter type 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors in the treatment of HFpEF, such that our focus must now pivot to streamlining the diagnosis of HFpEF in clinical practice.

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## **Evidence supporting the choice of a new cardiovascular risk equation for Australia**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023, Sinan Brown, Emily Banks, Mark Woodward, Natalie Raffoul, Garry Jennings and Ellie Paige

This article reviews the risk equations recommended for use in international cardiovascular disease (CVD) primary prevention guidelines and assesses their suitability for use in Australia against a set of a priori defined selection criteria. The review and assessment were commissioned by the National Heart Foundation of Australia on behalf of the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance to inform recommendations on CVD risk estimation as part of the 2023 update of the Australian CVD risk assessment and management guidelines.

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## **The burden of traumatic brain injuries**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

More effective strategies are required to reduce the burden of traumatic brain injuries in Australia, new research has found. New research, published today in the Medical Journal of Australia, has shed light on the number of people taken to hospital with, and dying in hospital of, a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury.

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## **Recommendations for breast cancer therapies**

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

The Breast Quality Audit of Australia and New Zealand has undergone a refresh to help clinicians stay

up to date with contemporary recommendations for breast cancer therapies. International efforts to improve outcomes for patients with breast cancer has resulted in a deluge of information from clinical trials and resulting changes in practice that can be overwhelming for clinicians to keep up with.

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## 2GB, Healthy Living, 20/08/2023, Dr Ross Walker and Ned Green

Interview with Rachel Peters, Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Peters discusses their study of children in Melbourne which found babies who had a food allergy when they were a one-year-old are nearly four times more likely to develop asthma at six years of age compared to infants who didn't have a food allergy.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Health hub opens at iconic Hobart CBD site

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/08/2023, Alex Treacy, Page 4

More than six years after a surf retailer vacated its prime Hobart CBD corner site, not-for-profit health insurer St.Lukes Health has finally unveiled its transformation of the commercial property into a health and wellbeing hub. Jetty Surf vacated its premises at the corner of Liverpool and Elizabeth streets in about January 2017, with the leasehold title advertised for several years until St.Lukes signed a contract.

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### Difficult jobs made tougher

Hobart Mercury, Editorials, 21/08/2023, Page 14

It wasn't that long ago that doctors and teachers were among the most respected professions in society. They were the type of people who became the cornerstones of communities and were valued for the service and example they provided. When you think about it, that role remains. Every community needs teachers and good family doctors are vital to the primary health and care of everyone.

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### In 6 months, the number of patients has soared

Border Mail, General News, 21/08/2023, Ted Howes, Page 2

A state-funded emergency care medical clinic in Wodonga that opened in February is being inundated with more than 200 patients a week. The Wodonga Priority Primary Care Centre, designed as an alternative to overrun hospital emergency departments, said most of its patients heard about the clinic through word of mouth and social media.

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### Shot in the arm for Tully

Cairns Post, General News, 21/08/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 6

A rural community on the Cassowary Coast is rejoicing at the arrival of a new general practitioner to the area who says she intends to stay as long as she can. Resident medical officer Dr Baylie Fletcher is now part of the team at Tully Medical Centre and one of 13 recipients of an incentive package funded by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network to bolster the workforce in rural and remote communities.

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### A wing and a prayer: flying doctors and the struggle to access healthcare in remote Australia

The Guardian, Other, 20/08/2023, Mandy McKeesick

Belle Kidd was eight months and ten days old when she died in Brisbane's Mater Hospital. Born with primary pulmonary hypertension, Belle was not destined for old age but neither was she destined for a life solely within the confines of white hospital walls. "I wanted to take her home so she could pat the dogs and touch a horse," mother Helen Kidd says. "We took her on the four-wheeler and for a swim in the Cooper."

[Read More](#)

## Can VAD patients donate their organs? It's complicated

Australian Doctor, Other, 20/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Dr Harley Powell estimates organ donation from VAD patients could save governments hundreds of thousands of dollars. In several countries including Belgium and Canada, patients who end their lives through voluntary assisted dying are able to donate their organs.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Dad 'led kids to question gender'

The Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, Ellie Dudley, Page 1

A Family Court judge has determined that a father's refusal to conform with traditional gender norms left his three children "confused" and encouraged them to "question their gender identity" after they all began identifying as non-binary, ruling the two youngest children will not be permitted to see their father for an extended period. The matter regarded the breakdown of a 20-year relationship between a mother and a father, who identifies as male but occasionally wears gender nonconforming clothes, including a dress to his middle child's first day of school.

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### Socials' weighty problem

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Jade Gailberger, Page 15

Social media giants including Meta and YouTube are vowing to tackle harmful body image content on their platforms. There are mounting concerns about the regulation of posts about eating disorders on social media in the wake of Covid-19, experts warning it is hindering Australia's recovery. The Herald Sun can reveal Meta will front a parliamentary roundtable in Canberra aimed at developing solutions and prevention measures to better protect young people online.

*Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).*

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### Child mental health crisis looms

Hobart Mercury, General News, 21/08/2023, Genevieve Holding, Page 8

A major national health notfor-profit has called for a dedicated federal children's minister after it was found a staggering seven out of 10 presentations to pediatricians were for mental health. Recent reports by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) have found mental health illnesses and their diagnosis are rapidly increasing, with the potential for a children's mental health crisis growing.

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

### Spotlight on gruelling job

Cairns Post, General News, 21/08/2023, Peter Carruthers, Page 5

How highly trained staff are turning around trauma suffered by the region's most disturbed youth, through treatment of complex PTSD symptoms impacting abused and neglected young people living in resi care, has been explored at the first ever Far North psychology conference. Funded through the Department of Child Safety, Evolve Therapeutic Services primarily treats abused kids living in residential care and foster homes.

## Tony taking up the mental health fight for those in regional Tasmania needing services

ABC Online, Other, 20/08/2023, Fiona Blackwood

After a lifelong battle with depression and anxiety which led to suicide attempts, Tony Read is well aware of the advice around getting help when you're struggling with mental health. He says throughout his life it's been difficult and sometimes impossible to get support when he needed it. "It's fragmented at best and non-existent at worst." Mr Read lives on Tasmania's north-west coast and, like many regional areas across the country, mental health services are stretched.

[Read More](#)

## Rising cost of living forces international student to prioritise rent over mental health care

ABC Online, Other, 20/08/2023, Iris Zhao and Natasya Salim

International student Evania Dai finds herself tossing in bed in the room she's paying \$470 per week for, because of the "broken windows", "big rats" and "cockroaches". The share house in Sydney is cheaper than the \$600 she paid for a week in student accommodation, but the decline in her living conditions including a lack of soundproofing has caused her to develop insomnia.

[Read More](#)

## The impossible dream of joining Queensland police for people with ADHD

The Guardian, Other, 21/08/2023, Eden Gillespie

Cameron Humphreys has always looked up to his father and last year the 22-year-old decided to follow in his footsteps and apply for the Queensland police service. "My inspiration was bettering the community and wanting to be a part of it making a difference," he says. "My dad [who is a police officer] is my hero and he definitely pushed me down that path."

[Read More](#)

## ADHD remains under-diagnosed, despite increased awareness

The New Daily, Other, 20/08/2023, Parker McKenzie

Fewer people than expected are diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Australia because of a "real issue regarding equity of access" to treatment particularly for women despite increased awareness of the condition. Professor Mark Bellgrove, director of research at the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health, said Australia is coming off a "historically low baseline" of people diagnosed with ADHD compared to other countries.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, Weekend Breakfast, 20/08/2023, Kathryn Robinson and Emma Rebellato

Report on shortage of mental health professionals and hospital beds in regional Australia leading to limited access to care. It's led to calls to look at new ways to tackle mental health issues early.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Nurse push for Medicare rebates

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 7

Nurses are pushing for access to Medicare rebates for procedures without needing the oversight of a doctor. Nurses, other than nurse practitioners, don't access the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Australian

College of Nursing chief executive Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward said Medicare is outdated and needs change to allow access by nurses who work independently.

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

## Baby dies of suspected SIDS after being brought into Fiona Stanley Hospital

West Australian, Other, 20/08/2023, John Flint

Emergency staff were tragically unable to revive an unresponsive baby brought into Fiona Stanley Hospital. Resuscitation attempts on Friday were unsuccessful and the cause of the infant's death was unknown. It is understood possible causes included sudden infant death syndrome or co-sleeping.

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

[Read More](#)

## Midwives rally over 'unsafe' conditions and workloads in Queensland's maternity wards

The Guardian, Other, 21/08/2023, Andrew Messenger

Midwives will march on Queensland parliament on Monday as the powerful nurses union calls for urgent funding to address what they say is an "unsafe" maternity crisis across the state. Kate Veach, the secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU), says there are too few staff to guarantee safe conditions for pregnant mothers and newborn babies in the state.

[Read More](#)

## Midwives frustrated with the Australian maternity care system

HealthTimes, Other, 21/08/2023, Rahima Saikal

For many decades, midwives have been crucial to the Australian maternity care system and women nationwide. Offering support and advocating for women and their families, midwives play an important role that goes beyond the delivery room.

[Read More](#)

## Communications about prenatal alcohol exposure risks 'must be targeted'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

Prenatal alcohol exposure risks are serious but can be preventable. For decades, alcohol has been recognised as a teratogen. It crosses the placenta readily and can interfere with the development of all the organs and systems of the developing embryo and fetus.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### ACT govt blocks Dhulwa FOI requests

Canberra Times, General News, 21/08/2023, Lanie Tindale and Lucy Bladen, Page 8

The government has refused to release information about alleged violence towards public health staff because of ACT health privacy laws, while admitting it has not begun a review of these laws due to "competing priorities". The Canberra Times in July submitted freedom of information requests about alleged incidents at the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, a Symonston-based inpatient service for adults with complex mental health issues.

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

### The benefits of career mentoring

In The Know, General News, 01/08/2023, Janelle Dockray and Laura Johnstone, Page 44

Today we see a pharmacy profession that is continuously evolving, welcoming new opportunities, whether in patient care, service provision or digital technologies. Pharmacists are eager to adopt

practice to an expanded scope, undergoing additional training and gaining qualifications and experience in many areas such as wound care, aged care services, medication management reviews, diabetes education, vaccinations, and prescribing.

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## Substandard training for junior doctors risks certain chaos

Canberra Times, Other, 20/08/2023

It's hardly news that medical staff at busy hospitals are overworked. It's almost a given that when it comes to health, hospitals and the medical world, there will never be enough money, time or resources to keep up with the needs of patients.

[Read More](#)

## Migrant doctors stuck in holiday homes as they can't find a place to live

9News, Other, 20/08/2023, Sarah Swain

They're the lifeline helping Western Australia's ailing health system, but migrant doctors are being forced to live in holiday accommodation. Promised a life of sun, sand and sea, the Irish doctors moved to the state as part of a government strategy that is facing questions over its future.

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## PD breaking news – Paul Sinclair takes over as FIP Global President

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 20/08/2023

The worldwide pharmacy community has paid tribute to International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) President, Mr Dominique Jordan, after his untimely death overnight. A Swiss community pharmacist, Jordan had been a member of FIP for more than two decades and during his career took a leadership role to advance the sector as CEO of pharmaSuisse, the Swiss Association of pharmacists.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Profits put before patients

The Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Private hospitals are refusing to grant surgeons access for procedures that are not profitable in a trend described as a "fiasco", leaving some fully insured patients unable to obtain timely surgery. The practice is resulting in a backlog of patients who need own-tissue breast reconstructions following mastectomy, reconstructive surgery after significant weight loss, and surgeries to prevent the progression of some chronic illnesses.

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

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## 'Top range' payout for Teo patient

A critically ill former patient of Charlie Teo has received a "top of the range" settlement from the neurosurgeon on the eve of a seven-day medical negligence hearing. Grant Schultz's wife, Julieann, also received a payout for her claim against Teo for psychological injury. In approving judgment for Schultz, Supreme Court Justice Richard Cavanagh said "on one view, the settlement reflects the top of the range for the plaintiff".

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

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

## Disgraced doctor's 15yr ban

West Australian, Edition Changes, 21/08/2023, Tim Clarke, Page 11

A disgraced doctor who sexually assaulted six vulnerable patients under the guise of medical consultations has been banned from practice for at least 15 years. Nishanka Sanjeewa Kirumbara Liyanage was a GP at a Banksia Grove family practice when he assaulted the women between December 2016 and March 2017.

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

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Call to vax researchers

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 4

After playing catch-up to other countries with more advanced vaccine technology during the Covid-19 pandemic, Australia is looking to become a global producer of new mRNA treatments for humans and animals. Mass production of medicines for cancer, influenza, malaria, HIV and cardiovascular disease are just a few of the possibilities the federal government is open to as it launches a callout to existing researchers around Australia to identify potential growth areas for the cutting-edge biotechnology sector.

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

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## SPORT

### Matildas' loss caps off ratings bonanza

The Australian, Media, 21/08/2023, Sophie Elsworth, Page 19

The Matildas' bronze playoff may have ended in defeat against Sweden, but it capped off weeks of record-breaking ratings success for broadcasters Seven and Optus. The team's disappointing 2-0 loss in Brisbane drew a national audience of 3.38 million viewers, including a streaming audience of 398,000 viewers on 7plus.

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### Umpire eats crow after wrong goal call stands

Age, General News, 21/08/2023, Peter Ryan, Page 1

A furious Adelaide have slammed the AFL for a controversial goal umpiring blunder that doomed the Crows' chances of making the finals, as the league accepted fault and stood down the goal umpire for the remainder of the season. The Crows have accepted they have no course of action to overturn the one-point loss but are privately seething that the goal umpire did not review Ben Keays' shot at goal, a club source not authorised to speak publicly said.

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

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

## State banked on \$200m federal funding for Games

Age, General News, 21/08/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 7

The Victorian government assumed it would receive more than \$200 million in federal funding when it was bidding for the 2026 Commonwealth Games despite no commitments being made. It comes as the state opposition pushes for an independent review of the costs of projects and programs in the Andrews government's budget, claiming the release of new documents had cast doubt over its calculations.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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## Walloos 'sick' of RA 'lies'

Canberra Times, Sport, 21/08/2023, Caden Helmers, Page 32

Australia's leading women's rugby players have declared they are "sick of being lied to" by Rugby Australia, lashing the governing body and demanding investment in the women's program. With a nation swept up in the success of the Matildas at the FIFA Women's World Cup, rugby's top-line players have fired a shot at Rugby Australia for failing to deliver on a host of promises.

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

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## Strength, unity shine at the 'G

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Grace Baldwin, Page 7

The MCG was pretty in pink as thousands gathered for the sixth Field of Women event. Decked out in bright pink, ten thousand people gathered on the turf of the 'G for the Breast Cancer Network Australia Pink Lady event. Emotion ran high as tributes were paid to those who lost their battles with breast cancer, as well as honouring the survivors who stood on the field and in the stands.

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## Matildas magic squandered without funds boost

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 8

Young girls and boys who want to follow in the footsteps of their soccer heroes will miss their chance unless significant funding is directed to community clubs where poor facilities pose an "existential" crisis. The exploding popularity of the sport off the back of the Matildas' stunning performance at the Women's World Cup and the Socceroos campaign in the men's tournament last year has pushed grassroots clubs to "saturation" point, according to Football Australia.

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

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## Revamp vital for Cup win

Herald Sun, General News, 21/08/2023, Peter Rolfe, Page 9

Victoria would need to build a new major soccer stadium or significantly revamp AAMI Park to play a meaningful role in a FIFA World Cup, Football Australia has warned. Record crowds turned out to Melbourne's six Women's World Cup matches and packed live sites to watch the Matildas finish fourth. But Melbourne scored just one Matildas' match their thumping 4-0 win over Canada and the best games went to Sydney and Brisbane where larger rectangular stadiums were available.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Aussie researchers abuzz with net score

West Australian, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 11



Work by Australian researchers has prompted the World Health Organisation to update recommendations for malaria-preventing mosquito nets. Dr Timothy Barker, from the University of Adelaide, led a team which proved the effectiveness of a new combination of insecticides used in such nets.

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## Australian help on malaria

Daily Liberal, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 7

Work by Australian researchers has prompted the World Health Organisation to update its recommendations for malaria-preventing mosquito nets. Dr Timothy Barker from the University of Adelaide led a team that proved the effectiveness of a new combination of insecticides used in such nets.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## Gaps in Australian clinical trials 'must be met by public funding'

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

Research examining clinical trials in Australia has found that data sharing must be improved if we are to solve some of Australia's big health problems. An analysis of the clinical trials held in Australia over a 14-year period has found that health services and state health departments need to improve data and information sharing.

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## Doctors transplanted a pig's kidney into a brain-dead man's body. Then this happened

SBS, Other, 20/08/2023

A pig's kidney transplanted into a brain-dead man has continued to function normally for over a month, marking a critical step in medical research aimed at advancing cross-species transplants. Key Points The pig's kidney was genetically edited and survived over a month in a human.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Don't let my Rose die in vain

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 21/08/2023, Kathryn Bermingham, Page 9

The mother of 19-year-old Rose Hunter-Hebberman, found dead in a backyard shed, has called for an inquiry into the way suspected suicides of Aboriginal women are handled by police. Courtney Hunter-Hebberman said she had been overwhelmed with support from "all walks of life, all races and cultures" since Rose's story was shared last week as part of The Advertiser's Dying Rose podcast investigation.

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### Tamworth team recognised for indigenous chronic care program

Northern Daily Leader, Other, 20/08/2023

A national survey from the Climate Council and Beyond Blue has shed new light on the mental health impact of Australia's climate disasters. Tamworth hospital's Peel Sector Integrated Chronic Care for Aboriginal People team has been recognised for its flexible, holistic and collaborative methods of care, during the Hunter New England Health's annual Excellence Awards, held in Tamworth at August 17.

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## Petting zoo infection warning after QLD mum blisters and turns blue with painful illness

7news.com.au, Other, 20/08/2023, Hayley Taylor

A Gold Coast mother-of-two has a warning for parents visiting petting zoos after she contracted a rare disease. Even though Jade Strang, 29, used the hand sanitiser provided by a petting zoo she visited with her children early last month, she is a nail-biter, and fears this may be how she contracted the excruciating Q fever.

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

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## The alarming rise of invasive group A streptococcal

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

Researchers have called for better surveillance data in the fight against the rising invasive group A streptococcal infection epidemic. Comprehensive surveillance data of invasive group A streptococcal infections in Australia is needed to support the development of a vaccine, according to a perspective published in the

Similar coverage reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Four in five adults overdue for COVID-19 booster shot

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 21/08/2023, Angus Dalton, Page 1

More than 80 per cent of vaccinated adults have not had a COVID19 booster shot in the past six months, despite newer vaccines delivering significantly higher protection against severe disease and hospitalisation. That includes more than half of people over the age of 65, who are urged to get a shot if they have not had an infection or vaccination in six months, according to the latest advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation. [...] Pfizer hasn't applied to the Therapeutic Goods Administration to bring its XBB vaccines into Australia.

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

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Illegal tobacco a drag for grocers

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 21/08/2023, Carrie Lafrenz, Page 23

Australian supermarket sales are being squeezed by the growing illicit tobacco trade with independent stores, led by Metcash's IGA network, describing the "huge problem" as their single biggest issue.

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### 'It's going to annihilate them': Australian Federal Police Association boss issues bleak fentanyl warning

NEWS.com.au, Other, 20/08/2023, Jack Evans

A Georgia teen is in the hospital after he smoked a fentanyl-laced pen. A potent drug that is ravishing the United States could "annihilate" Australian communities too, an expert has said. Since 2019, the

Australian Federal Police has been instrumental in preventing 29 kilograms and an estimated 5.5 million lethal doses of fentanyl from hitting Australian streets.

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

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Woolies' trolley health changes

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 21/08/2023, Chloe Whelan, Page 17

Woolworths has introduced a big change to its shopping trolleys which could mean shoppers make healthier choices about what they eat. Food has been one of the hardest hit expenses since inflation began to soar, and recent data shows Aussies are making less health-conscious choices at the checkout to cope.

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

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