



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 22nd August 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 5) reports Queenslanders and Victorians are facing the highest health insurance premiums in the nation, paying upwards of \$2,000 more for cover than the cheapest state, South Australia. Private Healthcare Australia analyst Ben Harris said "Our health system is not consistent across the country, be it access to Medicare, public hospital systems, private hospitals or doctors. Private health insurance has different gaps to fill, which can lead to different premiums across the country." *Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser](#)
- The [Adelaide Advertiser](#) (page 5) reports families of children impacted by poor cochlear implant treatment by Adelaide's Women and Children's Hospital will receive a one-off payment of up to \$50,000. The state government said it will act on 59 recommendations made by an independent review of the hospital's cochlear implant program. *Also reported by:* [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [ABC News](#), [9News](#)
- The [Courier Mail](#) (page 7) reports a new Brisbane GP clinic is offering patients a membership-style payment model giving priority access to doctors, appointments and after-hours care for \$45 a month. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Dr Nicole Higgins said a membership payment model could be more cost-effective for patients seeking regular care, but said it should enable patients to see the same GP consistently.

- The [**Sydney Morning Herald**](#) (page 9) reports record numbers of healthcare workers are applying to join healthcare system, with overall numbers rising 18 per cent since the COVID-19 pandemic, new data from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has shown. Health Minister Mark Butler said the government is working to boost worker numbers through 2,600 Commonwealth-supported places to train nurses and 92,000 fee-free TAFE courses for the care sector. *Also reported by: [**The Age**](#)*
- The [**Australian Financial Review**](#) (page 10) reports a review of Australia's response to the COVID pandemic should be held within 12 months before operational memory is lost, a capability review of the Department of Health and Aged Care has found. The review called for DOHAC to take a leadership role in the discussion of reforms ahead of the planned establishment of an Australian Centre for Disease Control in 2024.
- The [**Adelaide Advertiser**](#) (page 11) reports Medicare is outdated and needs an overhaul to better incentivise and enable nurses working independently from doctors, Australian College of Nursing chief executive Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward says. "Registered nurses who choose to work within the community or as entrepreneurs or autonomously should be paid just like every other clinical professional," Ms Ward said.
- The [**Courier Mail**](#) (page 11) reports a single-injection drug being trialled by Queensland's Mater Research may offer protection to people more vulnerable to COVID, scientists say. Mater Director of Infectious Diseases Dr Paul Griffin said the drug had the potential to offer the same protection as a full course of vaccines for immunosuppressed people for up to six months.
- [**The Australian**](#) (page 17) reports health insurance premiums will likely rise between four and five per cent this year, NIB chief executive Mark Fitzgibbon says. Mr Fitzgibbon said he did not want to pre-empt a decision on premium rises expected from Health Minister Mark Butler later this year, but said the days of premium rises under three per cent were over. "We know hospitals in particular are under pressure, economic pressure, and will be looking for greater compensation," Mr Fitzgibbon said.
- The [**Hobart Mercury**](#) (online) reports mental health organisations are calling for a dedicated federal Children's Minister to address soaring mental health issues in Australia's young people. Child Psychologist Cassie Xintavelonis said "We've seen a real increase in the number of mental health referrals for anxiety and even things like self-harm, which used to be an issue more for teenagers – that is very concerning."

MINISTER BUTLER

Review calls for COVID inquiry before memory is lost

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/08/2023, Tom Burton, Page 10

There should be a thorough and significant inquiry into the national COVID19 response within the next 12 months, before organisational memory is lost, according to a capability review of the Commonwealth Health and Aged Care department. The review called ...

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Pharmacy Guild bends ears at Labor national conference

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 35

What else is a Labor national conference for but bringing warring tribes together? In Brisbane at the weekend, Pharmacy Guild of Australia chief (and Cairns pharmacy magnate) Trent Twomey was a familiar sight as he vigorously pressed his case with Labor d...

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Prepare for jump in prices: NIB chief

The Australian, Business News, 22/08/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 17

NIB chief executive Mark Fitzgibbon is forecasting a return of health insurance premium price rises of 4-5 per cent, saying the days of sub-3 per cent increases are over as inflation sweeps through the healthcare sector. [...] But Mr Fitzgibbon mindful of not pre-empting Health Minister Mark Butler's

decision on premium rises, expected later this year said "there was no question healthcare spending will return to some new normal".

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Healthcare ranks rise despite crisis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 9

Record numbers of doctors, nurses and psychologists are applying to join the country's health system, lifting the number of registered health professionals by 18 per cent since the COVID-19 pandemic. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the government was also working to boost domestic workforce numbers.

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

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Bleak outlook for pharmacies

Buloke Times, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 3

A new report by the Commonwealth Bank and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has revealed a bleak outlook from pharmacists because of the Federal Government's introduction of 60day dispensing. [...] Professor Twomey referred to Health Minister Mark Butler's comments to Parliament in June when he said, "We want a viable community pharmacy sector."

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"Uneducated statements...take the cake"

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 2

Greg Everett has seen many politicians and ministers come and go, as he has been a business owner since 1995. However, the pharmacist owner of Swansea Discount Drug Store, Newcastle, NSW, posted on his LinkedIn that the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's "uneducated statements on ABC News takes the cake!".

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

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The problematic pathway to smoking cessation

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2023, Margaret Mielczarek, Page 48

In our July issue, Retail Pharmacy presented an overview of the latest government crackdown on vaping and what this means for pharmacists. [...] Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler announced in May that following public consultation led by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in December 2022, the government planned stronger regulation and enforcement of all e-cigarettes, including controls on their importation, contents, and packaging.

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Union Education Minister Pradhan, Australian Minister discuss mutual recognition of qualifications

Asia Bulletin, Other, 22/08/2023

Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday met Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler on Monday. As per the Ministry of Education, "The Ministers had good discussions on working towards mutual recognition of qualifications in nursing and age-care related courses through sharing of training content and harmonisation of skills.

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Long road to ease Doctor shortage

Burnett Today, Other, 21/08/2023

An injection of \$17 million to get more junior doctors into rural and regional towns will not "turn the tide in the next year or two" on the state's doctor shortage, the head of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland says. [...]Federal Health Minister Mark Butler and his state counterpart Shannon Fentiman

announced the funding on 23 July, saying it would create some 340 positions for young doctors to rotate through various roles in Queensland's hospitals, health services and general practices in line with their interests.

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Labor praised for supporting push to end ban on gay men donating blood

OUTinPerth, Other, 22/08/2023

Advocates for gay blood donation have welcomed a motion passed at Labor's National Conference recognising the need to end the gay blood ban and adopt individual risk assessment for all blood donors. Spokesperson for campaign group, Let Us Give, Rodney Croome, welcomed the support. [...] Dudman thanked Health Minister, Mark Butler, and Assistant Health Minister, Ged Kearney, who he said were supportive of the motion.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC News Afternoons, 21/08/2023, Ros Childs

The families of more than 200 children caught up in Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital Cochlear implant bungle are to be offered compensation after a review found long standing systemic problems with the programme dating back nearly two decades. There are national implications off the back of the release of this report today. There are some questions around mapping of devices in Queensland as well, and SA Health Minister Chris Picton has written to his federal counterpart Mark Butler, to make him aware of the findings.

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ABC Illawarra, Mornings, 21/08/2023, Nick Rheinberger

Interview with Dr Vincent Roche, Southern Highland Division of GPS. Peri Pausers' Julia Browne is calling on the Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler for a comprehensive menopause education programme to be implemented so GPs are better equipped to support women. Roche says menopause is important, but the amount that a GP can do and the extra training that's involved in going and doing one of these courses often means that other training and other expertise has to be forgone.

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2SM, 19:00 News, 21/08/2023

The Government is investing in men's mental health and wellbeing through a new grants round. Mikaela Egan reports. The men's shed programmes around the country will share \$670,000 worth of grants in the aims of increasing support for men's health. 131 projects will receive up to \$10,000 each to improve facilities, run health and wellbeing training and purchase equipment. Health Minister Mark Butler says men's sheds are helping men and boys find mateship and social support to help them stay mentally and physically healthy.

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MINISTER WELLS

Competition prompts women's sport cash

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 11

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says the Women's World Cup has "changed sport in Australia forever" as he detailed a \$200 million boost for women's sport and an overhaul of broadcast rules. Mr Albanese said the Matildas had given Australians "a moment of national inspiration" as he announced funding for the Play Our Way program in Brisbane on Saturday. [...] Sports Minister Anika Wells said providing safer facilities was vital.

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Matildas feted for World Cup run

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 21/08/2023, Page 8

Although they missed out on a Women's World Cup medal, the Matildas certainly lost no admirers - and they also received the keys to a city. A big crowd gathered at Brisbane's Riverstage yesterday morning to celebrate the efforts of the Australian women's soccer team, who made history by progressing to the third-place play-off match, which they lost 2-0 to Sweden on Saturday night. [...] Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells also paid tribute to the fans for "the greatest World Cup of any code, ever".

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Australian football cannot afford to mess up the opportunity presented to it by golden month of Matildas, FIFA World Cup

The Australian, Other, 21/08/2023, Adam Peacock

Last night, walking out of Stadium Australia in the swirl of Spanish celebration and English sorrow, a single thought struck me. Every prejudice about football in Australia is gone. [...] 1 scarf wearer, federal sports minister Anika Wells who, it must be said, has been more receptive to football's needs than any of her predecessors made the salient point that when it comes to asking for help, football has five different parts of the game banging on the door.

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Aussies women's sport scores a \$200m upgrade

Adelaide Now, Other, 19/08/2023, Clare Armstrong

Sporting facilities for women and girls will get a \$200 million upgrade as the federal government moves to ensure more events such as Matildas games are on free TV. Sporting facilities for women and girls will get a \$200 million upgrade as the federal government moves to ensure more events such as Matildas games are on free TV. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells said the Play Our Way program will help the next generation of female athletes enjoy safer sporting facilities.

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Australia's care workforce to soar as population ages

5AU 1242 AM, Other, 21/08/2023

Australia's population will age rapidly over the next four decades, with women expected to live to almost 90 years, and demand for aged care and social assistance workers to surge. The Intergenerational Report, to be released by Treasurer Jim Chalmers on Thursday, will show Australians will live longer, healthier lives. [...] Aged care minister Anika Wells said the report demonstrated the need for sustainable and equitable funding.

Also reported by: [River 1467 \(Online\)](#).

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Opposition refutes Labor's 98 per cent claim

Aged Care Insite, Other, 21/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

An article by The Australian claimed the government's promise of 24/7 registered nurses remained unfulfilled, despite last week's announcement. Government data revealed the share of homes meeting the 24/7 registered nurse in aged care facilities remained at 81 per cent just one per cent above the level estimated by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells last year.

Also reported by: [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#).

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The Women's World Cup was a resounding success for football - This is what must happen next

SEN SportSENtral, Other, 21/08/2023, Laurence Rosen

There's been a lot of talk about morals in sport recently. I'm looking at you England, who spent much of the recently-completed Ashes series claiming moments of victory and superiority where in fact there were none. [...] It can no longer be good enough for Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells to shed tears of joy on the Brisbane Stadium pitch following Australia's epic quarter final win against the French, but

then not ensure that every boy and girl that wants to take up football after this World Cup has an affordable means and a spare patch of grass to do so.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Essential assistance

Campaspe News, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 9

A groundbreaking new support program for Victorian adults experiencing psychological distress is being jointly delivered by the Albanese Government and Andrews Government. A recommendation from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, the Distress Brief Support Trial is set to be rolled out in Greater Shepparton and the City of Darebin. [...] 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.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Sad update on girl who is refusing the Covid jab that her family claim has stopped her from getting a life-saving lung transplant

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/08/2023, David Southwell

The Albanese government says it cannot intervene in the case of a 16-year-old cancer patient whose family says she is being denied a lung transplant because of refusing the Covid vaccine as her condition continues to deteriorate in hospital. [...] Despite saying she was 'sorry' to learn of Dazelle's situation Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney had advised 'the Australian Government is unable to intervene in clinical decisions'.

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Endometriosis clinics are opening around Australia, so what does it mean for women's health?

Fashion Journal, Other, 21/08/2023, Gabrielle O Hagan

Every state and territory will receive a clinic. Back in March last year, the Australian government announced they will be allocating a record \$58 million in funding toward endometriosis diagnosis and treatment. [...] "These clinics are about providing women with an accessible front door to the care that they need," Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney MP says.

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ABC Newcastle, Breakfast, 21/08/2023, Dan Cox and Jenny Marchant

The Federal Opposition wants the Government to expand the new pelvic pain clinics. Merchant says Newcastle is requesting for one. She states the Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney has said that the Government is currently evaluating where to put more clinics.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Review finds 'department needs to lift its evaluation capacity, culture and capability

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 21/08/2023

A review of the Department of Health and Aged Care has negatively assessed its policy-making capability, approach to consumer and stakeholder engagement, and relationships with ministers.

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CORONAVIRUS

Unvaccinated deaths data for Victoria was incorrect

Age, General News, 22/08/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 5

It was a striking statistic. According to a Victorian chief health officer update in January, almost 47 per cent of Victorians who had recently died from COVID-19 were unvaccinated, despite this group comprising a tiny proportion of the state's population. But information obtained by The Age via freedom of information has revealed this data, covering three months in 2022 and 2023, was incorrect by a large margin.

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Jab trial means freedom

Courier Mail, General News, 22/08/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 11

A new drug that provides instant vaccine-like protection from Covid will help the most vulnerable Queenslanders get back to their pre-pandemic lives in an Australian first trial. The drug Supernova is a single injection designed to give instant protection to people with weakened immune systems, such as those with organ or blood cancers, transplant recipients and people who are immunosuppressed due to medications to treat auto-immune or inflammatory issues.

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

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Channel 7, Seven News, 21/08/2023, Mark Ferguson

Australians are falling behind on their Covid booster shots despite warnings of a possible Covid wave in late spring. More than 80% of vaccinated adults haven't received a booster in the past six months. One booster shot is recommended this calendar year, with new bivalent vaccines providing greater protection against serious illness.

Similar coverage reported by: [2GB \(Sydney\)](#), [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Ageing population poses govt challenge

Canberra Times, General News, 22/08/2023, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 1

Australia's economy is expected to more than double in the next four decades but its growth will slow, partly due to an ageing population, according to an extract from the intergenerational report. The report, to be released in full on Thursday by Treasurer Jim Chalmers, projects that Australia's population will climb to 40.5 million in 2062/63, a growth that will generate a bigger labour market over the coming decades.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader](#)

[\(Tamworth\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#), [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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Voice for dementia patients

Herald Sun, General News, 22/08/2023, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 13

Late-stage dementia patients will be able to vote Yes or No in the upcoming Voice referendum unless their families and GPs have taken the step to have them removed from the electoral roll. Elderly patients with limited mental capacity must vote when the Australian Electoral Commission's polling teams turn up to their aged-care homes if they remain on the roll.

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

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Paying for a longer retirement needs super and other strategies

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/08/2023, Anthony Keane

Superannuation does a lot of the heavy lifting, but there also are other ways to afford a comfortable and active retirement. Plans to change superannuation to fund aged care will see people who can afford to pay more towards their care being asked to do so, says Aged and Community Care Providers Association CEO, Tom Symondson.

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Female aged care workers still earn less than men

Aged Care Insite, Other, 21/08/2023, NCA NewsWire

Working women in Australia are still earning hundreds of dollars less per week than men. On average, women earn \$252.30 less per week than their male colleagues, according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

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

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ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 21/08/2023, Yvonne Yong

Australia's population is expected to hit 40 million within 40 years and with it a ballooning aged care economy. That's the picture painted by the Federal Government's latest forecast of the decades ahead. Warning of a looming shortage of workers to care for an older Australia.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Vape alert for primary school kids

West Australian, General News, 22/08/2023, Hannah Cross, Page 1

Parents have been warned their primary school children are bringing vapes to class. Ocean Road Primary School in Dawesville sent parents a text message notifying them children had been bringing them to school having acquired them on their way to class. "It has come to our attention that there are some illegal substances e.g. vapes, out in the community that some students have found on their way to school," the text, sent on Friday, read.

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Healthy eating habits found to pay off

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 22/08/2023, Anthony Brady, Page 8

Warrnambool's Heather Ryan has long been ahead of the game when it comes to the health benefits of herbs. Monash University has released a study showing, based on genetic modelling, that women who

eat herbs during pregnancy can positively affect the health of generations to come. Eating herbs and apples is said to protect the brain health of not only the mother's child, but also her grandchildren.

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'What I wished I knew about IVF': emotional mum reveals all

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/08/2023, Angela Saurine

Fiona Anderson hadn't always wanted to be a mum. She'd been in a relationship since she was 25 with someone who already had children and didn't want more, and she thought she was OK with that. But when she turned 30, things began to change. "That biological clock started to tick," she says.

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Pursuing equitable dental care access for everyone

Bite Magazine, Other, 21/08/2023

The Senate Select Committee Inquiry into the Provision of and Access to Dental Services in Australia recently commenced its inaugural public hearing. This significant event marked a pivotal step in the pursuit of equitable dental care access for all people in Australia.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 21/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

More Australians are choosing to downgrade their health insurance policies or drop them altogether because they simply can't afford them. Major funds are preparing to hike premiums once again, but there are a few ways you can still save in the fight for health.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

\$50k to 'kids' trapped in cochlear nightmare

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 5

Families of children caught up in the Women's and Children's Hospital cochlear implant scandal will be paid up to \$50,000 after a scathing review found longstanding systemic problems with the service dating back 17 years. Up to 30 children had their implants wrongly programmed, potentially causing developmental delays these families will receive a one-off \$50,000 payment which does not affect their compensation rights.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#).

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Help fund a cure for child disorder

Barrier Truth, General News, 19/08/2023, Melanie Gates, Page 3

Ataxia Telangiectasia (A-T) is a complex neurodegenerative disorder that one dear little girl in our region is living with. Young Grace inherited the rare childhood neurological disorder that affects the part of the brain that controls her movement and speech, so friends and a supportive rural community started a BrAshA-T fundraising campaign to help with ongoing research into finding a cure.

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Speech Pathology Week Tasmania 2023: Public sector union head Thirza White shares son's journey

The Mercury, Other, 21/08/2023, Sue Bailey

The head of the state's public sector union has shared the "heartbreak" and challenges her young son faces because of a lack of timely access to a speech and language pathologist - but the government hopes a new \$25k cash bonus draws graduates to the state. The head of the state's public sector union has told of the "heartbreak" and challenges her young son faces because of a lack of timely access to a speech and language pathologist.

Imugene cashing up for cancer-crushing mission

West Australian, Other, 21/08/2023, Michael Phillips

Fresh from a strongly supported \$35 million placement, ASX-listed immuno-oncology medtech Imugene is on a steadfast mission to activate the immune system of cancer patients to help treat and eradicate tumours. The company recently entered into an agreement with Precision Biosciences to acquire a world-wide exclusive license for its off-the-shelf cell therapy CAR T drug "azer-cel", which can treat and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL). [...] According to the Cancer Council of Victoria, immunotherapy is a treatment that uses the body's own immune system to fight cancer.

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New test offers hope for early ovarian cancer diagnosis

SBS, Other, 22/08/2023, Kerrin Thomas

Ovarian cancer has the lowest survival rate of any women's cancer, killing roughly one thousand women in Australia every year. But now, there's a new blood test that offers hope for detection, and improving outcomes for the women diagnosed with the disease.

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Cardiovascular disease a leading cause of maternal deaths

7news.com.au, Other, 21/08/2023, Sowaibah Hanifie

The chest pain was absolutely crushing.' When Ursula Bouzaid suffered a heart attack four months after giving birth, it came as a complete surprise because she considered herself healthy but the impact on her will be life-long.

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Aussie woman's warning about chronic and incurable condition lipoedema

7news.com.au, Other, 21/08/2023, Rhiannon Lewin

It is so difficult to move sometimes.' An Australian women has revealed the emotional and financial toll of lipoedema, a chronic condition expected to cost her more than \$150,000 to treat.

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SAHMRI breakthrough could spell the end of the 'poo test' for bowel cancer

In Daily, Other, 21/08/2023, Pier Stamatogiannis

Another breakthrough by cancer researchers at SAHMRI could spell the end of a screening test that most Australians find off-putting, even though it could save their life. This article is sponsored by SAHMRI SAHMRI's researchers in Adelaide's iconic cheesegrater building are working on critical health and medical issues including bowel cancer, which kills 5000 Australians each year.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 21/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with Dr Andrew Stephens, Hudson Institute of Medical Research. Stephens discusses their research, a new blood test to improve the diagnosis of ovarian cancer and could help prevent unnecessary operations.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 21/08/2023, Kate Freebairn

Scientists at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research have developed blood test capable of detecting ovarian cancer could prevent women from having to undergo life changing surgery. Less than half of Australian women diagnosed with the disease survive more than five years because it's so difficult to diagnose in the early stages.

PRIMARY CARE

Patients lose patience

Courier Mail, General News, 22/08/2023, Isabella Holland, Page 6

The state's first satellite hospital, in Caboolture, has drawn the ire of patients who arrived on Monday expecting to walk into a hospital, but found only one doctor working and hours-long wait times. The satellite hospital opened only metres from the main Caboolture Hospital in late July and saw more than 250 patients in its minor injury and illness clinic in its first eight days, a figure the government says proved the concept is working.

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

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GP care? Just join the club

Courier Mail, General News, 22/08/2023, Samantha Scott, Page 7

A new Brisbane GP clinic has opened with a membership-style payment model charging patients a minimum of \$1.50 a day for priority access to doctors, appointments and afterhours care. [...] But Royal Australian College of General Practitioners president Dr Nicole Higgins said, that while the model could prove a "cost-effective option" for patients seeking frequent GP services, she warned that access to consistent care was important.

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

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Western Sydney best bet to see a bulk-billing GP

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

Hunter residents on marginal incomes may have to travel to Western Sydney to find a bulk-billing GP, a prominent doctor says. Dr Lee Fong, a Newcastle-based GP, said numerous bulk-billing doctors in Western Sydney were listed on the HotDoc website - along with two on the Central Coast.

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Popular GP practice to relocate within IMPACT Community Health Precinct as major refurbishment work begins

Coastal Rag, General News, 19/08/2023, Page 7

Shore Care Family Practice, a well-established healthcare provider in the Discovery Coast region, will relocate within the IMPACT Community Health Precinct as a significant refurbishment project begins this month. Shore Care's relocation from Building 1 to Building 2 represents a significant opportunity for growth and the enhancement of healthcare services for the local GP provider.

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Footscray Hospital a step closer as cranes come down

Herald Sun, Other, 20/08/2023, Robyn Riley

In the heart of Footscray there's a fancy new hospital in the making that has at its heart the diverse community who has made one of Melbourne's oldest suburbs home. has always been a gritty industrial town; tough like its AFL team the Western Bulldogs, colourful like its local characters: think furniture salesman The city's architecture is equally eclectic: beautiful art deco homes and stately Italianate villas sit comfortably alongside timeworn weatherboard cottages.

[Read More](#)

Petition for a rescue helicopter based in the Mid West tabled in Parliament

West Australian, Other, 22/08/2023, Jessica Moroney

A community-organised petition calling for a rescue helicopter to be based in the Mid West was tabled in Parliament last week after receiving more than 1000 signatures. Glenfield resident Ian Dempsey has been campaigning for a local rescue service for six years, launching the e-petition in June after the chief health officer's inquiry into aeromedical services in WA, tabled on May 18, found such a service could have significant benefits for the region.

[Read More](#)

Redlands Satellite Hospital to provide cancer treatment and dialysis

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 21/08/2023, Judith Kerr

Queensland's third satellite hospital will open its doors next week, changing the healthcare landscape and transforming medical access in Brisbane's east and the southern bay island communities. The \$43.8 million Redlands Satellite Hospital will open its doors on Monday, bringing the promise of cutting-edge medical services under one roof. Named Talwalpin Milbul, in a nod to the area's rich First Nations heritage, the hospital is part of the state's commitment to recognising and celebrating deep cultural roots.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Evening News, 21/08/2023, Gemma Veness

The Federal Opposition is calling on the Government to expand its trial of endometriosis clinics. Both Labor and the Coalition promised to open 16 of the new pelvic pain clinics during last year's election campaign, with Labor increasing that number to 20. Jessica Taylor, chair of the Australian Coalition for Endometriosis, says these clinics are vital as they provide access to treatment and education about the condition.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The avalanche

West Australian, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 1

Today's cover looks different. There's a reason for that. The number of teenagers taking their own lives, especially in regional areas, demands front-page attention. And the issue painstakingly hit home recently for The West Australian's illustrator Naomi Craigs when she lost her nephew, Albany youngster Ashton.

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

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Smiling Mind calls for dedicated federal minister to address child mental health problem

The Mercury, Other, 21/08/2023, Genevieve Holding

With seven out of 10 of the most common presentations to paediatricians now for mental health, leading to a major Australian mental health not-for-profit to call for a dedicated federal Children's Minister. Recent reports by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) show that mental illnesses and their diagnosis are rapidly increasing, and the potential for a children's mental health crisis is growing.

[Read More](#)

Beaudesert State High School called out in protest over toxic bullying after two students die by suicide

The Courier Mail, Other, 21/08/2023, Kylie Lang Exclusive

The Education Minister has promised an "action plan" after protests against toxic bullying at Beaudesert State High School triggered by the suicide deaths of two students within 20 months of each other. Concerned children and their families this morning protested against toxic bullying at Beaudesert State High School after two students suicided within 20 months of each other and several remain on suicide watch.

[Read More](#)

Multi-million-dollar, 102-bed Mental Health Unit facility opens at Joondalup Health Campus

West Australian, Other, 21/08/2023, Christopher Tan

The capacity to provide "desperately needed" mental health services for people living in Perth's north has more than doubled following the official opening of the newly improved Mental Health Unit at Joondalup Health Campus this week. The new MHU which is being touted as "world-class", is said to have four times the floor space of the previous unit and to now be able to service 102 individual patients with beds.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 7 \(Perth\)](#).

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 21/08/2023, Leon Delaney

Interview with Ed Cocks, ACT Shadow Mental Health Minister about the ACT Government refusing a Freedom of Information request regarding incidents of assault against staff at the Dhulwa mental health unit. Cocks claims the Government is stretching the definition of patient records simply to avoid releasing information about incidents and problems that might make them look bad.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses push for Medicare rebates, system overhaul

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 22/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 11

Nurses are pushing for access to Medicare rebates for procedures without needing the oversight of a doctor. At present nurses - other than nurse practitioners - do not have access to 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.

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Angry midwives to rally at parliament for funding

Canberra Times, Other, 21/08/2023, Robyn Wuth

Midwives from across the state will march on Queensland parliament to highlight unsafe conditions and call for immediate funding. Regional midwives frustrated with the Palaszczuk government's budget failure to commit to their profession will be bussed in for the Parliament House rally on Monday.

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

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 21/08/2023, Laura Jayes

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union has raised concerns about staff shortages and inadequate funding, claiming they can't guarantee safe conditions for pregnant women and their newborns. A union investigation has revealed some midwives have been assigned up to 20 mothers and babies at once. The union is also calling for some of the \$42 million in the state budget set aside for birthing services to be spent on midwives.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors face state payroll tax threat

Newcastle Herald, General News, 22/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 2

Most Hunter GP clinics will be affected by a state payroll tax ruling on medical centre contracts, raising concerns about their financial viability. Revenue NSW - the state tax office - published a ruling on August 11 confirming many independent GPs working in medical centres would be subject to payroll tax.

Similar coverage reported by: [2GB \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#).

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

Mallee in bid for doctors

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 21/08/2023, Jack Evans, Page 4

In an effort to increase GP retention in the Mallee, Monash University has held an information session for medical students undertaking rural placements in Mildura. Ten third and fourth-year medical students attended a seminar and spoke with leaders in the field and working medical practitioners before heading to Coomealla to visit a health service and speak to doctors working in rural placement.

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Alliance celebrates 30 years as the voice of rural health

Gundagai Independent, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 6

This month, the National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) celebrates its 30th anniversary, having become an incorporated association on August 11, 1993. The Alliance began, and has remained, as an important voice for rural, regional and remote Australians, to address their concerns in accessing health care and to bring recommendations and solutions to government and others.

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PSA's new professional practice standards

Retail Pharmacy, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 6

Last month, psa launched new Professional Practice Standards (PPS) to define and articulate the minimum performance expectations of professional behaviour of all pharmacists in Australia. The PPS have been designed to reflect the dynamic healthcare environment pharmacists work within. The safe and effective use of medicines is at the core of pharmacy practice. Pharmacists' roles have evolved significantly and pharmacists practise at all phases of the medicines management cycle.

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Man with hammer allegedly smashes his way into Australian Medical Association's Sydney office

7news.com.au, Other, 21/08/2023, Dominique Tassell

Staff reported hearing a loud smash' at the front door. A man has been arrested after allegedly smashing his way into a Sydney office on Monday morning. The 55-year-old man allegedly used a hammer to break into the Australian Medical Association (AMA) office on Christie Street in St Leonards about 10am. AMA staff heard a "loud smash" at their front door, the AMA said in a statement.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 21/08/2023, Peter Overton

Women now make up more than 50% of the New South Wales ambulance workforce, making it the first emergency service in the state to reach gender parity.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Ozempic diabetes competitor gets PBS knockback

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 21/08/2023, David Rowley

Eli Lilly's Mounjaro would need "substantial price reduction", says PBAC Mounjaro, the type-2 diabetes medication that the New York Times recently predicted "'could overshadow Ozempic" has been refused funding via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). In the latest outcomes from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's July meeting, the body said it "did not recommend tirzepatide

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New protocol to weigh RWE in HTA

Pharma In Focus, Other, 21/08/2023

The PBAC has reviewed a new protocol to estimate overall survival in Australians receiving cancer medicines listed on the PBS, considering that it may be useful in researching real-world medicine use during the HTA process. The Medicines Intelligence Centre of Research Excellence was contracted by the Department of Health and Aged Care in 2021 to produce the protocol, which is to investigate how estimated overall survival (OS) of Australians taking certain PBS-listed cancer medicines compared to the OS of patients taking the same medicines reported in the pivotal trials included in sponsor submissions to the PBAC.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy prescribing trial protocol made public

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/08/2023

After months of speculation the NSW pharmacy prescribing trial protocol for uncomplicated UTIs has been registered on the ANZCTR. The NSW pharmacy prescribing trial aims to accrue 12,000 participants over a 10-month period. The NSW pharmacy prescribing trial for uncomplicated UTIs has been retrospectively registered with the Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry and the study protocol published online

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

More than 11pc of boys aged 5-7 enrolled in burgeoning NDIS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/08/2023, Michael Read, Page 6

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is on track to again exceed official participant projections as children with autism enrol in unexpectedly high numbers.

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

NDIS 'no magic pudding'

The Australian, General News, 22/08/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

The National Disability Insurance Scheme has become a "magic pudding" for governments, service providers and some people with a disability and the \$35bn program's rising costs are greater than have been publicly revealed, the head of the Albanese government's NDIS review warns.

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

Health care at premium

Herald Sun, General News, 22/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 5

Victorians fork out the most for Gold cover Millions of Australians are caught in an expensive postcode lottery paying more than \$2000 a year extra for health cover than they would if they lived in another state. [...] "Our health system is not consistent across the country, be it access to Medicare, public hospital systems, private hospitals or doctors," said Mr Harris the director of policy and research at Private Healthcare Australia.

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

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

Sick of costs

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 12

We already cop higher house insurance premiums, now it's been discovered we pay \$1700+ a year more for health cover just for living in Queensland. Talk about copping the rough end of the pineapple. As reported on Page 3 today, one reason health fund premiums in Queensland (and Victoria) are higher than others is our residents are more likely to have low value surgeries like repeat colonoscopies and gastroscopies using their private cover.

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Watch for payroll tax pitfalls when signing up to MyMedicare, accountant warns

Australian Doctor, Other, 21/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Patients can enrol in MyMedicare from 1 October. The Federal Government's voluntary patient enrolment scheme will "muddy the waters" on payroll tax for GP practices, an accountant says.

[Read More](#)

What are the most reviewed items under Medicare compliance?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/08/2023

Standard gp consultations and chronic disease management services make up the bulk of the top 10 most reviewed item numbers by the PSR. Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023, 131 GPs were referred to the PSR. (Source: PSR) The Professional Services Review (PSR) has provided an overview of data which shows the MBS and PBS item numbers that were most commonly the subject of its reviews over the past two financial years.

[Read More](#)

Yearly bulk billing rates plummet

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 21/08/2023

Practices are being forced to pass on their costs to patients, as owners worry about skyrocketing bills and the looming spectre of payroll tax. A recent survey of more than 200 medical centres found more than half plan to reduce bulk-billing this year. Annual bulk-billing rates have hit their lowest point in more than a decade, as cost-of-living pressures continue to push clinics to the brink. Medicare Benefits Schedule findings have revealed national bulk-billing rates for GP services dropped to just 80.2% in the last financial year.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 21/08/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

Expensive GPs' new figures show there's been a dramatic plunge in the number of people going to the doctor, apparently because of the cost. In a cost-of-living crisis, doctors say it's our health that's paying the price. Medicare claims for standard consults have crashed down more than 100,000 in six months just in Queensland.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Toddler died after repeated ED trips

Age, General News, 22/08/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 6

Photos taken of toddler Dio Kemp in the days before her death show the face of the "happy" and "loving" three-year-old partially covered by a dark pink rash. "I miss holding her," said her mother Miranda Jowett, who was asked to look at and comment on the images in the Coroners Court of Victoria yesterday.

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‘No confidence’: Riverland residents fearful of Riverland General Hospital

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/08/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas

After a young boy died from the flu, Riverland residents are frightened of their own hospital with staff forgetting about one woman and an elderly cancer patient refused admission. Queensland Health has confirmed an 11-year-old child has died after contracting influenza.

[Read More](#)

‘I was shocked’: Australian Catholic hospitals refuse to provide birth control and abortion

The Guardian, Other, 22/08/2023, Donna Lu and Melissa Davey

When Sarah*, a Melbourne mother, was pregnant with her second child, her GP gave her a surprising warning: if she had any serious complications, concerns about the viability of the pregnancy or believed she might be miscarrying, she should go to the Royal women's hospital rather than the Mercy hospital for women, where she was planning to deliver the baby.

[Read More](#)

Mother’s pleas for antibiotics for toddler who died of sepsis were ignored, Victorian court told

The Guardian, Other, 21/08/2023, Benita Kolovos

A Melbourne mother who sought medical treatment for her toddler six times before the child died of septic shock has told an inquest that her pleas for antibiotics and further tests were ignored and that she was made to feel like an "overly concerned parent".

[Read More](#)

4BC, Drive, 21/08/2023, Peter Gleeson

A whistleblower doctor has exposed shocking double standards within the professional services review process that checks out doctors who have allegedly done the wrong thing by the Medicare system. The doctor who won't be identified publicly because he'd be disbarred has told ABC Drive that the appeal rate within the PSR is at record high levels because of the invention of rules and structures being routine in all hearings.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

AI to the medical rescue

Daily Telegraph, General News, 22/08/2023, Vinayak Sreedhar, Page 19

The world is witnessing a slide in the availability of healthcare. Ageing populations are increasing the strain on an under-resourced sector, and long shifts and burnout are causing many to leave the profession. A recent study predicted a healthcare worker shortfall of more than 200,000 through to 2050.

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SPORT

World Cup final caps television ratings bonanza

The Australian, General News, 22/08/2023, Sophie Elsworth, Page 3

The FIFA Women's World Cup has delivered four weeks of record-breaking TV audiences and finished the series with 3.08 million people watching Spain's impressive victory. Sunday night's 1-0 win against

England at Sydney's Stadium Australia drew 2.702 million on linear TV and another 373,000 viewers on Seven's streaming platform 7plus.

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

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Matildas' legacy: 'W' is for worthy . of investment

The Australian, General News, 22/08/2023, Daniel Cherny, Page 3

One-time Matildas goalkeeper Brianna Davey, now captain of the Collingwood women's Australian football team, says she hopes Australia's landmark semi-final run at the FIFA Women's World Cup will push the AFL and other sporting bodies to up the ante on investment in women's sport.

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Conroy leads pack to take baton from the Matildas

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 22/08/2023, Kishor Napier-Raman and Liam Mannix, Page 2

The Women's World Cup party is over, and it appears Stephen Conroy will have a big role to play in ensuring the good times keep rolling for Australian football. The former minister is set to become the chair of the Australian Professional Leagues, the body that runs the A-Leagues, and he is hoping to carry the momentum of the past month into the start of the new season in October.

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

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AFL may tweak goal review processes

Age, General News, 22/08/2023, Jake Niall, Page 1

The AFL is considering allowing more time for a kick-in to be called back for review as the league puts its score review system under the microscope after the costly goal umpiring blunder in Saturday night's Adelaide-Sydney match. The AFL's key officials "wargamed" potential improvements yesterday, after the league acknowledged that the goal umpire erred in judging Ben Keays' shot for goal to have hit the post when it should have been a goal - a decision that could have cost the Crows a finals spot.

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

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

No cash benefit in Games: report

Age, General News, 22/08/2023, Rachel Eddie, Page 1

The business case for the dumped 2026 Commonwealth Games last year predicted the event would potentially fail to generate any economic benefit even before the projected costs ballooned. Financial workings reveal the Andrews government was told it might generate only 70 for every \$1 spent.

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

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

Matildas statue proposal 'is nuts'

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 22/08/2023, Page 9

The state government's decision to honour the Matildas with a statue outside Suncorp Stadium has been labelled "over the top" and "nuts". The Matildas became the first Australian football team, male or female, to make the semi-finals of a FIFA World Cup as they captured the hearts of the nation on a fairytale run on home soil.

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Rugby Australia concedes it has work to do after being lashed by Wallaroos players

The Australian, Other, 21/08/2023

Rugby Australia has admitted it has a "way to go" to improve conditions for the Wallaroos after being called out by players for inequities in investment between the women's and men's national programs amid claims they had been lied to. Current national players took the unprecedented step of breaching

their contracts by posting the statement across various social media channels calling for appropriate investment in the women's game and pointing out the staggering differences in treatment.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#)

[Read More](#)

FIFA World Cup: Football Australia warns Melbourne to revamp AAMI Stadium

Herald Sun, Other, 21/08/2023, Peter Rolfe

Victoria will need to build a new stadium or significantly revamp AAMI Park to play a meaningful role if Australia wins its bid for the 2035 FIFA Men's World Cup. 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.

[Read More](#)

Football Australia boss looking at 2034 World Cup bid in a 'serious way'

7news.com.au, Other, 21/08/2023, Sarah Burt

We have a lot in store for Australian football.' The CEO of Football Australia says they are seriously considering a bid for the 2034 FIFA men's World Cup following the wild success of the women's tournament the past month.

[Read More](#)

Australian Rules-AFL announces equal prize money for men's and women's competitions

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 21/08/2023

Prize money for the women's top flight of Australian Rules football will almost double for its upcoming eighth season and match the men's total for the first time, the Australian Football League (AFL) said on Monday. A total of A\$1.1 million (\$703,780.00) will be split among the top eight teams in the AFL Women's (AFLW) competition, up from A\$623,922 in its seventh season.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

'No plaything': Labor to end research veto

Australian Financial Review, General News, 22/08/2023, Julie Hare, Page 6

Ministers will no longer be able to veto research grants but the federal government has reserved the right to intervene in areas of national security, under changes to the Australian Research Council.

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CSL to provide 'a beacon for all biotechs'

The Australian, Business News, 22/08/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 15

Brian McNamee says CSL's new headquarters in Melbourne is more than just a building - it's a centre to create the next big Australian biotech joining the blood products and vaccine maker at top of the ASX. And Dr McNamee - who led CSL as its chief executive from 1990-2013 before becoming its chairman five years ago - wants there to be plenty more Australian biotech giants.

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

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Peter Mac embroiled in 'sham' research scandal

Age, General News, 22/08/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 10

Melbourne's iconic Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre has become embroiled in a research misconduct scandal after an investigation discovered experiments in an important cancer study were likely never

performed. The centre could now be required to repay taxpayer dollars used to run the melanoma study.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Scientist taking on BMAA

Hobart Mercury, General News, 22/08/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 14

Dr Arash Zamyadi is one of the growing number of scientists researching the field of cyanotoxins in waterways including BMAA. The Monash senior lecturer in water engineering took part in BMAA research alongside scientists, including two from Harvard Medical School for Water Research Australia. "BMAA detection methods have improved significantly in the past five years but it's hard to detect . It's challenging," he said.

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Scientists hope weight-loss drugs could treat addiction and dementia

The Guardian, Other, 21/08/2023, Nicola Davis

They have taken the celebrity world by storm as a slimming jab and become a vital tool for managing type 2 diabetes. Now drugs such as Ozempic are being researched to look at whether they could help conditions ranging from alcohol misuse to dementia. Ozempic, a type 2 diabetes medication, and Wegovy, which is licensed for weight loss, contain the drug semaglutide, while a similar drug, liraglutide, is available for both purposes under different brand names.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Small team's flexible indigenous care awarded

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 22/08/2023, Page 2

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. The small team's performance earned its members, clinical nurse consultant for the Integrated Chronic Care for Aboriginal People Program Matt Crawford, who heads up the team, with Aboriginal health practitioner Tanikka Moore and registered nurse Tamarla Smith, an Excellence in Aboriginal Health Care award.

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Rolfe told slain DV victim she made up a 'silly story'

Canberra Times, Other, 21/08/2023, Neve Brissenden

Two days before he shot dead an Indigenous teenager, embattled former Northern Territory police officer Zachary Rolfe told an Indigenous woman she told a "silly story" when she called police about her violent partner. Kumarn Rubuntja was murdered by Malcolm Abbott in January 2021 in Alice Springs, after he ran her over outside an emergency department in a fit of rage.

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

[Read More](#)

Calls for inquiry into way police handle suspected suicides of Aboriginal women

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/08/2023, Kathryn Bermingham, Emily Olle and Douglas Smith

The mother of a teenager found dead in a backyard shed has called for an inquiry into the way police handle the unexplained deaths of Aboriginal women. Follow a team of reporters from The Advertiser newspaper as they piece together the untold story of how the authorities react to the deaths of Aboriginal women and girls.

[Read More](#)

Indigenous-owned health clinic to ease pain of Port Hedland GP shortage

West Australian, Other, 21/08/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

In a huge boost for Port Hedland healthcare, it has just been announced a new Indigenous-owned health clinic will open in town. The practice which will be located on Tonkin Street will be run by Marlu Health and will fill the void left after Sonic Health's closure in June.

[Read More](#)

NSW police watchdog to oversee investigation into arrest of Indigenous man with disability in Taree

The Guardian, Other, 21/08/2023, Catie McLeod and Tamsin Rose

The New South Wales police watchdog will oversee an investigation into the violent arrest in Taree last week of a handcuffed Aboriginal teenager with a disability. The Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC), an independent watchdog that has oversight of NSW police, has confirmed it is involved in the force's internal inquiry and that police have received a serious misconduct complaint about the incident.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ban on deadly man-made stone to come

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 21/08/2023

A ban on the manufacture, use and import of harmful engineered stone products is a step closer to reality after the ALP national platform was amended on Fri, shared the union representing building workers. Engineered stone products used in Australian homes produce deadly respirable crystalline silica dust which can cause silicosis during manufacture and when it is cut to fit kitchens and bathrooms where it is currently widely used.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No relevant coverage

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Nutrition boasts: fact or fantasy

The Australian, General News, 22/08/2023, Peta Bee, Page 12

Vitamins and health supplements are big business, but do they do what they claim? Creatine: The promise: Improved muscle health and fitness Creatine's popularity among gymgoers is at an all-time

high.

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Listeria warning after three deaths in US linked to contaminated ice cream machines

9News, Other, 21/08/2023

Investigators found the outbreak was linked to ice cream machines that were not cleaned properly at a Frugals restaurant in Tacoma. The six individuals were hospitalised between February 27 and July 22 and genetic fingerprinting from the bacteria inside the milkshakes showed it was the same strain of Listeria that triggered the hospitalisations, the health department said. [...] Each year in Australia around 15 people die and an estimated 150 people are hospitalised with listeriosis, according to Food Standards Australia.

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