



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 23rd August 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Age** (page 1) reports that former federal sports minister Senator Richard Colbeck has claimed that his Victorian state counterpart Martin Pakula told him in a phone conversation that Victoria would not require additional funding from the Federal Government to assist with covering the costs of holding the Commonwealth Games. The claims come after Victoria was forced to cancel the Games due to cost overruns taking the budget well beyond that outlined in their business case, which also factored in funding from the Federal Government which was allegedly never requested. *Also reported by: [The Guardian](#)*
- **Daily Telegraph** (Page1) reports that NSW Premier Chris Minns will remove laws requiring cruise ship passengers in NSW to be vaccinated against Covid-19, stating the state needs to "move on and get life back to normal." The rules were previously based on advice from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care, who has announced it is reviewing its guidelines.
- **Hobart Mercury** (page1) reports that the Tasmania's Health and Community Services Union has welcomed news that Southern Cross Care CEO Robyn Boyd has resigned, stating that it is a chance for the aged care provider to "restore the faith of staff". HACSU Tasmania secretary Robbie Moore is calling on the new CEO to conduct on-site staff and resident meetings, saying

that its "important that SCC's new leadership try to restore the broken-down relationships between SCC management and their staff and residents."

- **Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports that ongoing staffing shortages and an ongoing pay dispute with the State Government has the potential to see an exodus of Tasmanian health care professionals leaving to take advantage of recruitment bonuses being offered by other states. "It's up to the government to actually put an offer on the table that's actually going to allow us to retain our graduates here...being competitive with other states and territories who are really trying their best to recruit", Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation state secretary Emily Shepherd said. "I just feel that the government hasn't really caught on to that". *Also reported by: Hobart Mercury.*
- **Herald Sun** (page 5) reports that Pembrolizumab, sold as Keytruda, a potentially lifesaving cancer medication is a step closer to becoming accessible to a wider range of Australian women after the drug was recommended for a federal government subsidy by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on Friday. The medication, which works with the immune system to fight cancer and stop it returning, was already available on the PBS for a number of cancers but may soon have its eligibility criteria expanded for more.
- **Northern Territory News** (page 12) reports that Home and Away star Lynne McGranger and AFL star Leigh Matthews have joined an advertising campaign urging Australians over 50 to take part in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has also urged Australians over 50 to use the free testing kits sent to them in the mail, stating that "Doing the test as soon as you get it could save your life." *Also reported by: Daily Telegraph, Hobart Mercury.*
- **Daily Telegraph** (page 17) reports that experts are calling for funding to help develop a series of vaccine candidates for the Strep A disease, with infection rates tripling compared to pre-pandemic levels. The call comes as the nation enters the most dangerous period for Strep A — which most affects young children, the elderly, pregnant women. and Indigenous Australians — which typically sees cases shoot up during the end of winter and early spring. *Also reported by: Herald Sun, Adelaide Advertiser, Hobart Mercury, Northern Territory News, The Guardian*
- **ABC Online** reports that the full scope of Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital's failure to correctly program cochlear implants since 2006 has now come to light. SA Health Minister Chris Picton has warned the problem may not be contained to Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital, with the problems potentially replicated in other parts of the country. Mr Picton says a further review into how audiologist are accredited is needed, stating that "Already we've raised this with federal health minister Mark Butler [and] we'll be raising it with all the other state and territory ministers."
- **ABC Online** reports that a review from the Australian Coalition for Endometriosis has found more services are needed, with many patients forced to travel hours to access treatment. Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney says the government is looking into where to put new clinics, stating that "We know these clinics are an important primary care service for women with endometriosis and pelvic pain, and the government continues to work closely with Primary Health Networks on the implementation of this package, including the evaluation of the clinics into the future."

## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Embrace living longer'

Northern Territory News, General News, 23/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 12

Home and Away star Lynne McGranger has revealed she is deeply ashamed of tossing out her free bowel cancer screening kits for more than a decade. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said Australians who received the kit in the mail should not delay.

*Also reported by: Hobart Mercury (Hobart), Geelong Advertiser (Geelong), Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba), Townsville Bulletin (Townsville), Daily Telegraph (Sydney), Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide).*

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## Pharmacy warning

Community pharmacy customers may soon have to start paying for previously free services, as pharmacists scramble to offset costs incurred by the Federal Government's looming 60-day dispensing rules. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said 60-day dispensing would ease cost of living pressures and alleviate stress on the health system.

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## Clinic to ease pressure

Blue Mountains Gazette, General News, 23/08/2023, Staff S, Page 22

Blue Mountains residents now have access to fully bulk-billed urgent health care following the opening of a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (UCC). [...] "The Penrith Medicare UCC will make a big difference to patients in the region, who will be able to walk in during extended hours and receive urgent care bulk billed from a nurse or doctor," said Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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## Change to 60-day prescriptions has a side effect

Myrtleford Times, General News, 23/08/2023, Steve Kelly, Page 7

People accessing prescription medications are expected to be \$180 better off each year depending on the quantity of medicines they receive under 60-day medicine dispensing reforms that have come into effect immediately for vulnerable people and for others from September 1. [...] "I wrote to Health Minister Mark Butler to outline their concerns and made sure they were understood."

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## Pharmacies and customers will feel the pain

Yarrawonga Chronicle, General News, 23/08/2023, Robert Muir, Page 1

If the Federal Governments proposed 60-day dispensing legislation rolls out on September 1, it will be detrimental to the viability of small rural pharmacies. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the changes would effectively halve the cost of medication for patients.

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## Australian psychologists write to Health Minister Mark Butler calling for 40 psychology sessions for struggling parents

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Tahlia Roy

Mother Rachel Lear has described the "absolute desperation" of battling perinatal depression as she supports calls to increase government-subsidised psychology sessions for struggling parents. The Australian Association of Psychologists has written to Health Minister Mark Butler calling for the number of cheaper psychology sessions to be boosted from 10 to 40 for parents experiencing perinatal mental illness.

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## Cochlear implant bungle went undiagnosed for more than 15 years, but what happens now?

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Catherine Marciniak

The full scope of a cochlear implant bungle is only now becoming clear, after more than 15 years of going undetected at a major public children's hospital. [...] "Already we've raised this with federal health minister Mark Butler [and] we'll be raising it with all the other state and territory ministers."

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## Bleak outlook for pharmacies

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 22/08/2023

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 60-day 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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## Single photo shows how King's Cross in Sydney is changing forever

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 22/08/2023, Freddy Pawle

Once renowned as one of Australia's premier nightclub destinations, King's Cross has now transformed into a thriving hub for tobacco and vape retailers. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced a major vaping crackdown in May, including banning popular single-use disposable vapes and barring the import of non-prescription vaping products into Australia.

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## Pharmacies go digital to stay ahead of 60-day dispensing

HelloCare, Other, 22/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Pharmacists are turning to digital technology in response to an anticipated decrease in profit as a result of the Federal Government's new 60-day pharmacy dispensing policy. [...] In April, Health Minister Mark Butler announced the move towards 60-day prescriptions to allow patients to pick up two months' worth of prescriptions at a time for the price of one from September 1 in order to help ease the cost of living pressures particularly those with chronic conditions.

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## Mandaviya, Australian Minister Butler discuss ways to enhance collaboration in digital health, medical education

iranherald.com, Other, 22/08/2023

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya met Australian Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler on Monday and discussed ways to enhance collaboration in digital health and medical education. On his social media account X (formerly known as Twitter), Mandaviya said, "Wonderful meeting with H.E. @Mark\_Butler\_MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Australia.

Also reported by: [iraqsun.com \(Online\)](#), [Move FM \(Online\)](#).

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## Sixty-day dispensing to cost pharmacy jobs, but federal Health Minister Mark Butler says Australians will get 'twice the medication for the cost of a single prescription'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 22/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw

Patients will receive two medications for the price of one under a new federal policy to be introduced on September 1, but up to 510 pharmacy jobs are on the line in the Hunter, the region's pharmacy association says. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said "60-day prescriptions mean Australians get twice the medication for the cost of a single prescription".

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## Major funding boost sparks exciting new chapter for Men's Sheds across Australia

Starts at 60, Other, 22/08/2023, Matthew Hart

The Australian Government is injecting a whopping \$670,000 into 131 Men's Sheds across the country, ensuring these community hubs can continue to offer much-needed support to their communities. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler underscored the significance of Men's Sheds in providing essential support to men and promoting their mental and physical well-being.

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## Australia-India to recognise nursing and age-care qualifications for ease of workforce mobility

The Australia Today, Other, 22/08/2023, Jai Bharadwaj & Julius Sans

Health Minister Mark Butler's visit to India has not only underscored the importance of global collaboration in healthcare but has also laid the foundation for bilateral partnerships aimed at mutual growth. Minister Butler is in India from August 17 and attended the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting in Gandhinagar.

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## Out-of-pocket costs for medical scans soaring with worse to come, experts warn

Your Life Choices, Other, 23/08/2023, Brad Lockyer

Out-of-pocket costs for medical scans have become a significant burden for many Australians, with expenses reaching hundreds of dollars for a single visit. . [...] It's true that the federal government lifted the moratorium on Medicare rebate increases in this year's federal budget , with health minister Mark Butler claiming his government had delivered the biggest increase to the rebate in 30 years.

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### ABC News, Mornings, 22/08/2023, Karina Carvalho

South Australia's Health Minister says there could be a nationwide problem with incorrectly programmed cochlear implants. Dozens of children and their families are set to be compensated for lifelong developmental problems linked to the issue. Health Minister Chris Picton has apologised to all the families involved and said that what has happened should never have happened and that the Government is accepting all 59 recommendations from the independent review. He notes he already raised the issue with the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, and he will be raising it with all the other states and territories across the country.

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### ABC News, News Breakfast, 22/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with South Australia's Health Minister Chris Picton on SA hospital incorrectly programmed cochlear implants. Picton says the issue stemmed from a whole range of system failures in the service and the hospital over 17 years. He adds the SA Government will provide upfront payments for immediate assistance of up to \$50,000 for affected families. Picton says the state government is accepting all 59 recommendations from the independent review. He states he already raised how audiologists are accredited and their training with the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### 2GB, Mornings, 22/08/2023, Ray Hadley

Hadley says patients are set to pay up to \$20 more to see a GP after a NSW and Vic payroll tax ruling that doctors warn will kill off bulk billing that the federal Health Minister has labelled concerning. The Victorian New South Wales State Revenue offices published rulings that confirm for the first time many independent GPs working in medical centres will be subject to payroll tax.

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### ABC Radio Canberra, 14:00 News, 22/08/2023

Psychologists are calling on the federal government to provide 40 cheaper psychology sessions for parents with perinatal mental illness. The Association of Australian Psychologists says the current ten subsidised sessions are inadequate. A spokeswoman for the Health Minister, Mark Butler, pointed to a previously announced plan to establish a dozen new perinatal health centres. Registered psychologist Alicia Lee firmly says the centres are welcome, however, it's drastically insufficient.

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Evenings, 22/08/2023, Indira Naidoo

Psychologists say parents experiencing perinatal mental illness are discontinuing treatment due to costs despite the risk. The Australian Association of Psychologists says the current ten government subsidised sessions are drastically insufficient, with a group writing to the Health Minister Mark Butler, calling for it to be increased to 40.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Forty years from now, an extra 13.8 million people will call Australia home, Intergenerational Report says

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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### Albanese Government pledges \$200m for women's sporting facilities

Facility Management, Other, 22/08/2023, Sophie Berrill

The Albanese Government has promised to spend \$200 million on sporting facilities and equipment for women and girls following unprecedented support for the Matildas at FIFA Women's World Cup. [...] Minister for Sport Anika Wells acknowledges similar hurdles for women and girls participating in sport in Australia.

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### New complaints and info hotline targets poor food in aged care

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 22/08/2023, Eileen Wood

Australians living in residential aged care can now complain about the quality of their food via a dedicated telephone hotline. [...] "What older Australians consume and their dining experience has a significant impact on their overall wellbeing," said Aged Care minister, Anika Wells.

Also reported by: [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Goulburn Post \(Online\)](#), [Forbes Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Gloucester Advocate \(Online\)](#), [The Advocate \(Burnie\) \(Online\)](#), [Inverell Times \(Online\)](#).

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Early support trial

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 22/08/2023

The Distress Brief Support Trial is set to be rolled out in Greater Shepparton and the City of Darebin in Victoria, specifically tailored for people who do not require emergency or hospital-based care. [...] Pharmacist and Assistant Minister for Health Emma McBride said, "supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Victorians is a top priority for the Albanese Labor Government, we know there are often barriers to entry for people in distress to access the care they need".

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### Call for greater care for debilitating condition missed amid outrage over ABC's inclusive language

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/08/2023

The ABC has split the public over inclusive language used in an article calling to improve care for a debilitating condition that affects one in nine Aussie women. [...] Labor's Assistant Minister Health Ged Kearney, who is responsible for women's health, said the government is evaluating where to put more clinics, telling the ABC in a statement women "deserve to have their concerns be taken seriously with better access to specialised care".

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

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## Calls for endometriosis clinic expansion as research reveals major gaps

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Claudia Long

More than 50,000 people with endometriosis have helped map the impact of the condition around the country, as the federal opposition calls on the government to expand its new pelvic pain clinics. [...] In a statement, Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney who is responsible for women's health said 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

### Cruise Control

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2023, Lachlan Leeming, Page 1

Outdated Covid restrictions forcing cruise ship passengers to be vaccinated will be axed by the Minns government. [...] The eastern seaboard and WA cruising rules are based on advice from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care, which earlier this month announced it was reviewing its guidelines.

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### Campus is increasing community access to mental health support

Wangaratta Chronicle, General News, 23/08/2023, Page 5

A psychology clinic has been established at Wangaratta's Gateway Health campus to provide affordable mental health services to the community while drawing on the skills of provisional psychologists. [...] It is also supported by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program.

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### Applications open for First Nations Aged Care Commissioner

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/08/2023, Natasha Egan

The Department of Health and Aged Care is seeking a "talented and experienced First Nations person" to become the nation's inaugural aged care commissioner dedicated to fostering and promoting culturally safe aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Previously announced in the May budget with \$1.

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### Department faces 'critical challenges' ahead

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

There will be "enormous strains" across Australia's health and aged care systems over the immediate future, reports a government body. In a capability review of the Department of Health and Aged Care , the Australian Public Service Commission established to ensure the country's public services meet the demands and expectations of the federal government and the Australian people finds that over the next four years and beyond there will be a number of challenges facing the health and aged care sectors.

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## Private health insurance has been on 'set and forget' for too long

Australian Medical Association, Other, 22/08/2023

The Australian Medical Association is calling for significant reform to the country's private health system to ensure customers are provided with more affordable private cover amid rising cost-of-living pressures. The AMA is concerned many Australians are effectively being priced out of private health insurance policy products that meet their needs, as reports reveal some providers are increasing Gold health premiums by up to 8 per cent. In a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care, the AMA welcomed proposed reforms to ensure private health policies better meet consumer needs, but acknowledged there was still much more work to be done.

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## National Rural Health Alliance celebrates 30 years as voice of rural health

Beef Central, Other, 22/08/2023

The National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2023, having become an incorporated association on 11 August 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. [...] We also recognise and appreciate the ongoing support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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## Scholarships support diverse voices at peak palliative care conference

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 22/08/2023

Close to 80 scholarships have been awarded allowing a diverse range of health professionals and volunteers to attend the southern hemisphere's peak palliative care conference. The? [...] "I want to thank our scholarship sponsors for making this possible the Department of Health and Aged Care, Cancer Australia, Calvary, and NSW Department of Health."

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## Australia-India to recognise nursing and age-care qualifications for ease of workforce mobility

The Australia Today, Other, 22/08/2023, Jai Bharadwaj & Julius Sans

Health Minister Mark Butler's visit to India has not only underscored the importance of global collaboration in healthcare but has also laid the foundation for bilateral partnerships aimed at mutual growth. Minister Butler is in India from August 17 and attended the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting in Gandhinagar.

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## Burnt-out staff and high turnover in Health and Aged Care post-pandemic

The Mandarin, Other, 22/08/2023, Anna MacDonald

Staff at the Department of Health and Aged Care are feeling "tired" and "burned out" after dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the capability review of the department. While the review noted Health's staff engagement was "well above the APS average", the review team reported staff feeling "overwhelmed" in the post-pandemic era.

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## A lack of maturity: Department of Health and Aged Care falls short on first report card in a decade, says Capability Review

The Weekly Source, Other, 22/08/2023, Lauren Broomham

The Department of Health and Aged Care needs to improve its game if it is to help lead the reform of Australia's aged care sector, according to the first review of the Government department since 2014. The 67-page report, released last Friday morning, is the second to be completed under the Federal Government's reinstated pilot Capability Program and follows a review of the Department by former



senior public servants Andrew Tongue and Larry Kamener and Infrastructure deputy secretary David Hallinan.

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## **It was a compelling piece of COVID-19 data. It was also wrong**

WA Today, Other, 22/08/2023, Aisha Dow

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. [...] Victoria's Health Department was including the deaths of people whose vaccination status was unknown in its public reporting of unvaccinated COVID-linked deaths, including many vaccinated people whose vaccination status would later be confirmed.

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## **ABC Illawarra, Drive, 22/08/2023, Lindsay McDougall**

Interview with Dr Kate Manderson, Worrige Street Medical Centre on concerns that Medicare has a systemic bias against women. The federal Health Department says it's established the new National Women's Health Advisory Council and will look at gender bias in the health system. Manderson says when women seek care, they're less likely to have funding support from the Federal Government through Medicare.

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## **ABC News, Drive, 22/08/2023, Compere**

The Australian Medical Association is calling for significant reform to private health insurance, with rising premiums forcing many to reconsider whether they need it or not. In a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care, the AMA is warning private health insurance has been on set and forget for too long. AMA president Professor Steve Robson explains the Government needs to make the system more equitable.

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## **ABC News, Mornings, 22/08/2023, Chris Mitchell**

Interview with Professor Susan Davis, Women's Health Research Program Director, Monash University on concerns that Medicare has a systemic bias against women. The Federal Health Department says it's established the new National Women's Health Advisory Council and it will look at gender bias in the health system. Davis says she doesn't think that Medicare discriminates against women as such but notes there isn't sufficient allowance for longer consultations. On Federal Health Department establishing a National Women's Health Advisory Council, she believes it's a starting point.

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## **ABC Radio Canberra, 07:00 News, 22/08/2023**

The health professionals are raising concerns that Medicare has a systemic bias against women. A 2022 Grattan Institute report found it means they spend more on out-of-pocket health costs than men. Dr Gino Pecoraro is president of the National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and says he believes there's a systemic bias in the Medicare benefits schedule. The Federal Health Department says it's established the new National Women's Health Advisory Council and it will look at gender bias in the health system.

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## **ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 22/08/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos**

Australians are being urged to get their Covid booster to help protect against new variants. The latest Department of Health figures show four out of five Australians have not had their booster. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation is urging everyone aged over 65 to get it and recommends all other eligible adults should consider the booster also.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Covid panic is outdated fear

Daily Telegraph, Editorials, 23/08/2023, Page 20

It made abundant sense, back in the very earliest weeks of the Covid pandemic, to take all available precautions against the virus's spread. After all, the world was dealing with something largely unknown, with obvious potential to destroy lives, communities and economies.

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### What we know about BA.2.86, the 'highly mutated' COVID-19 variant monitored by WHO

SBS, Other, 22/08/2023, Madeleine Wedesweiler

The new variant has been given the nickname Pirola by scientists on social media. BA.2.86 is a new 'variant under monitoring' of the virus that causes COVID-19.

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### ABC News, News Breakfast, 22/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

A trial is being launched for a new Covid treatment for immuno-suppressed patients. The treatment dubbed as Supernova can last for at least six months. Researchers at Mater Hospital are inviting immuno-compromised to come forward and be a part of the trial in Brisbane.

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### Channel 9, National Nine News, 22/08/2023, Michael Thompson

An Australian first trial of new Covid medication could help immunosuppressed West Australians return to their pre-pandemic lives. Developed by AstraZeneca, the injectable supernova drug provides immediate protection against most recent subvariants major research is recruiting vulnerable patients like transplant recipients who don't respond to vaccines because of immune system issues.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Super expected to ease age pension burden

Australian Financial Review, General News, 23/08/2023, Phillip Coorey, Page 4

The burden on the budget created by the age pension will decrease over time, despite the rapid ageing of the population, but will be overtaken by the cost of superannuation tax breaks, the Intergenerational Report says.

*Also reported by:* [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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### Aged care death probe

Adelaide Advertiser, Edition Changes, 23/08/2023, Page 4

An investigation has been launched into the death of a 92-year-old man in a Walkerville nursing home. The man died in the Allity Walkerville Aged Care home on Sunday, according to a Nine News report that said it was understood police were looking at the possibility of a medication mistake.

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## 'New dawn' for aged care giant

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/08/2023, Sam Stolz, Page 1

Tasmania's largest health union says the resignation of Southern Cross Care CEO Robyn Boyd is giving the troubled aged care provider a shot at renewal. After facing a turbulent past few years, the outgoing CEO has been thanked by the organisation for her "dedicated service".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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## Buyer search for troubled Blue Haven aged care centre

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 23/08/2023, Glen Humphries, Page 9

The search for a buyer for its Blue Haven aged care centre - which would dig Kiama council out of an \$11.9 million hole - has been officially launched. A call for expressions of interest in purchasing the site has been opened by the council and potential buyers have until September 12 to put their hand up.

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## Palliative care model ill-suited for people with dementia

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 22/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

Palliative care services in Australia are inappropriate for people living with dementia, an expert has told Australian Ageing Agenda. "A lot of palliative care is not suited for people with dementia," said geriatrician and palliative care physician Elissa Campbell.

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## Our older population will triple in 40 years. But a social insurance model won't fix the aged care funding crisis

HelloCare, Other, 22/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Preliminary data from the 2023 Intergenerational Report shows Australia's population aged 85 and over is set to more than triple over the next 40 years. This will exacerbate existing strains on the aged care system.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 22/08/2023, Greg Jennett

Interview with Ian Henschke, Chief Advocate, National Seniors Australia. He discusses with the ABC's Greg Jennett what he wants to see on the upcoming Intergenerational Report, which the Federal Government will release on Thursday. In terms of funding for aged care, Henschke believes Australia's healthcare and aged care systems will be able to take care of older Australians as long as a means to pay for them is found. He says it could be a form of private insurance or levy, which he notes his members agree with. The report has identified aged care services as one of Australia's biggest expenditures in the coming years due to its ageing population.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### 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.

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

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## Vaping found to be the biggest risk factor for teenage tobacco smoking

The Guardian, Other, 23/08/2023, Natasha May

E-cigarette use is the single strongest risk factor for adolescents taking up tobacco smoking, out-ranking social norms, poor mental health and misperceptions about smoking harms, research published on Wednesday has found. The findings come from 4,266 Victorian students aged 12 to 17 who anonymously took part in the 2017 Australian Secondary School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey (Assad), with researchers then focusing on 3,410 students who reported never having smoked even part of a cigarette.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 9, National Nine News, 22/08/2023, Peter Hitchener

Websites selling fertility tests known as egg timers are misleading customers about their usefulness. Researchers from the University of Sydney have found it cannot reliably predict current or future fertility. They also discovered the sites falsely claimed the test could indicate the onset of menopause.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Winning strategy: bringing AI to the challenge of medical imaging

Australian Financial Review, Features, 23/08/2023, Page 6

Our 2010 research paper 'Malignancy detection in digital mammograms' wasn't particularly surprising. This paper found mammograms failed to detect upwards of 30 per cent of breast cancers in Australia, consistent with results in other countries.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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

### 'He didn't deserve to die': Grieving wife's call for action on cancer linked to welding fumes

Age, General News, 23/08/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 9

Eddie Lorenzi was a welder from the day he left school at 16 to the day he died, of lung cancer, at 64. He loved his job it was the only one he ever had but it was ultimately what killed him.

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

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

### New blood test offers promising signs for early ovarian cancer diagnosis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/08/2023

A breakthrough by a Melbourne-based medical institute is set to drastically improve treatment for ovarian cancer and will enable women to retain their fertility through the diagnosis phase. Ovarian Cancer Australia Advocacy and Support Program Chief Sue Hegarty said the new test developed will improve diagnosis for women and reduce unnecessary surgery.

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

[Read More](#)

### Long-term wildfire smoke exposure leading to negative health effects

Northern Territory News, Other, 22/08/2023

The risks of breathing in smoky air have apparent short-term effects from increased asthma to needing

frequent air filter changes. And some experts are saying Canada needs a long-term strategy to deal with poor air quality.

[Read More](#)

## One billion people could have osteoarthritis by 2050

Canberra Times, Other, 22/08/2023, Nina Massey

The most common form of arthritis, osteoarthritis, affects 15 per cent of the global population over the age of 30 and it is estimated that by 2050 nearly one billion people will have the condition, researchers say. Obesity is a major contributor to osteoarthritis, and in 2020 was responsible for approximately 20 per cent of the disability of osteoarthritis - which causes joints to become painful and stiff, the study suggests.

Also reported by: [Bathurst Western Advocate \(Online\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [The Senior \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## National implications for audiology services flagged in review into 'heartbreaking' SA cochlear implant bungle

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Rebecca Opie

The families of more than 200 children caught up in Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) cochlear implant bungle will be offered compensation after a review found long-standing systemic problems with the program dating back over nearly two decades. Earlier this year, the state government launched an independent external review into the hospital to investigate how it wrongly programmed the cochlear implants of 30 children, causing what are expected to be lifelong developmental problems.

[Read More](#)

## How the Heart Foundation chose Australia's new CVD risk equation

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

It was a 'fairly easy choice' in the end, says Professor Garry Jennings. The PREDICT-1 algorithm trumped nine other candidate risk equations for use in Australia even though it is the only one without external validation, say the authors of the new CVD prevention guidelines. The updated guidelines and risk calculator released by the National Heart Foundation of Australia last month replaced the decades-old Framingham equation with New Zealand's PREDICT tool, which is based on a contemporary primary care cohort.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 22/08/2023, Mark Ferguson

Sydney City Council is joining other local councils voting to ban all new gas connections as restaurants say it would be bad for business. But some health experts say it could help bring down asthma rates in Haymarket. Despite calls from councils, the State Government has ruled out a gas ban, saying our energy demands right now are already a big challenge with a rising power station set to close in 2025. Asthma Australia says gas increases children's chance of developing asthma by 32%.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 22/08/2023, Sarah Dingle

Cancer affects thousands of Australians every year and the road to a full recovery is often long and frustrating. One in two Australians will develop at least one type of cancer before the age of 85 and survivors then often have to deal with Cancer Related Fatigue or CRF. But new research published in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Internal Medicine Journal has found this can be overcome with supervised exercise programs.

[Play Now](#)

## Radio National, AM, 22/08/2023, Sabra Lane

There are calls for a national inquiry of hearing services after negligence affecting children in two

states. The South Australian Government has accepted fault after a report found cochlear implants weren't properly programmed at a major children's hospital, potentially leading to lifelong developmental delays.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Hospital threat drama

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2023, Page 15

Police swarmed a busy Sydney hospital yesterday after a threatening email was sent to staff. Emergency services were called to The Children's Hospital at Westmead shortly before 8am.

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

### Playground put through its paces

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/08/2023, Genevieve Holding, Page 1

The Royal Hobart Hospital playground has opened its colourful doors to the public. President of the RHH Auxiliary Canteen Marion Cooper was the brainchild behind the new project, aimed at addressing the community's need for a "joyful" place for families in the hospital.

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

### Brain injuries worry despite strategies

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/08/2023, Page 5

The number of Australians hospitalised for a traumatic brain injury and the rate of death did not change significantly from 2015 to 2020, Australian researchers say. They say injury prevention and trauma care strategies are not reducing the impact of TBIs.

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

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

### Health cash 'simply not enough'

Border Mail, General News, 23/08/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 3

Government funding flagged for the upgrade of Albury hospital is "entirely inadequate", Wodonga's mayor has told his council's August meeting. Ron Mildren was commenting during debate on a fresh advocacy plan following a health forum last week involving councils from across the southern Riverina and North East Victoria.

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

### Robot on surgery team

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2023, Will Keech, Page 11

Barwon Health doctors are among the first in Victoria's public hospital system to enlist the help of a robot to assist with the nuts and bolts of surgery. The Mako robot, used by Barwon Health, helps orthopaedic surgeons perform joint replacement surgery with greater accuracy compared with the current technology available to doctors, resulting in quicker patient recoveries and less time spent in hospital.

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

### GP clinic gets a lifeline

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 23/08/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 9

Townsville Health Service to oversee things . for now A strategically vital full-time provider of general practitioner services in North Queensland has been granted a last-minute stay of execution for now.

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

## Ambulance Victoria investigating 'unfortunate' data breach

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/08/2023, Sarah Booth

Ambulance Victoria has been slammed after paramedics reportedly found confidential data about their colleagues on the agency's internal website. Ambulance Victoria has begun an urgent investigation into another privacy breach, after staff reportedly discovered confidential data about their colleagues, including medical information, on the agency's internal website.

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

[Read More](#)

## Sharp rise in voluntary assisted dying permits issued and used

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 22/08/2023, Brad Crouch

There's been a big jump in the number of people choosing to end their lives using Voluntary Assisted Dying permits, including 23-year-old Lily Thai. Forty Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) permits were issued in the two months to June 30, a sharp increase on the 28 issued in the previous three months which officials say is due to growing awareness of the option and trust in the system.

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

[Read More](#)

## Petition to improve Patient Assisted Travel Scheme funding launched in Parliament by Nationals

West Australian, Other, 23/08/2023, Anna Cox

Nationals MPs have called on the State Government to drastically improve the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) for regional people, with the launch of a petition in Parliament this week. PATS assists country residents in accessing specialist medical services that are unavailable in their region through funding and other support services.

[Read More](#)

## Caboolture satellite hospital: Long wait times, only one doctor on duty

Adelaide Now, Other, 21/08/2023, Isabella Holland

Patients attending Queensland's first "satellite hospital" have been less than impressed, with long waits and only one doctor on duty. A \$40 million satellite hospital has been slammed as a white elephant but the state govt says it is fit for purpose and will help ease up on emergencies handled by nearby Redland Hospital.

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

[Read More](#)

## Dr Lee Fong says Hunter and Newcastle people may have to travel to Western Sydney to see a bulk-billing GP

Newcastle Herald, Other, 22/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw

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.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Second 'code yellow' declared at Royal Darwin Hospital in three weeks sees elective surgeries delayed

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Thomas Morgan & Jack Hislop

Elective surgeries at the Royal Darwin and Palmerston hospitals have been delayed after authorities at the Northern Territory's biggest medical facility declared the second 'code yellow' in just three weeks. In a statement released on Tuesday afternoon, NT Health confirmed the alert had been called "due to continued peaks in hospital demand and patient admissions".

[Read More](#)

## Brisbane GP clinic introduces new initiative for priority healthcare

4BC, Other, 22/08/2023, Peter Gleeson

A Brisbane GP has introduced an alternative approach to patient care, offering priority and consistent healthcare access. Evercare in Clayfield has implemented a membership-style payment model, charging patients a minimum of \$1.50 per day for priority access to doctors, appointments and after-hours care.

[Read More](#)

## NSW Opposition joins pleas for payroll tax amnesty

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/08/2023

The state Liberal Party will move an amendment to postpone the tax grab, as medical centres warn of mass closures. [...] The move has been welcomed by the RACGP, after it wrote to NSW Premier Chris Minns last week calling for an exemption, or for an amnesty in the short-term.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Sunrise, 22/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Joe Hildebrand, Journalist and Susie O'Brien, Columnist. A new clinic in Brisbane has opened, offering patients a subscription style payment model amid a doctor shortage. Hildebrand calls it a terrible idea and unfair. He notes what needed is to train more doctors here, to bring in more doctors from overseas and to make sure that more people have access to them that way. O'Brien believes this isn't the solution to the doctor shortage because the only winners in this are the sick and the wealthy.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Reaching out to troubled teens can save a life

West Australian, General News, 23/08/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 10

The West Australian's illustrator Naomi Craigs paid tribute in Tuesday's newspaper to her beloved nephew Ashton Bowbanks, who took his own life aged just 17. Her poignant piece has already encouraged others to share their experiences with mental health struggles.

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

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

### Dutton's grim PTSD reveal

Cairns Post, General News, 23/08/2023, Eleanor Campbell, Page 7

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has disclosed that he likely suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of his past career as a police officer. Mr Dutton disclosed his experiences to ABC journalist Annabel Crabb in Tuesday's episode of Kitchen Cabinet.

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

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

### Campbelltown mum Yasmine Patel shares mental health struggles to raise awareness for Liptember

The Mercury, Other, 22/08/2023, Annie Lewis

A Campbelltown mum has bravely spoken out about the challenges of raising children and struggling with mental health to encourage women to have meaningful conversations about mental health. A Campbelltown mum is on a mission to start conversations about how motherhood can be "scary" saying women should not feel bad if they don't love being parents all the time.

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



## New mental health facility opens at Joondalup Health Campus in Perth's north

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Daryna Zadvirna

A new multi-million dollar mental health unit, focusing on a holistic recovery approach, has officially opened at the Joondalup Health Campus in Perth's north. The new facility has 102 individual patient bedrooms, and double the capacity of the existing one.

[Read More](#)

## New research to probe the mental health of young Australian refugees

SBS, Other, 22/08/2023

Refugees are more likely to struggle with mental illnesses including anxiety, depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) than their Australian-born peers and other migrant young people. The Flinders University led research project aims to discover how they can be better supported.

[Read More](#)

## Radio National, AM, 22/08/2023, Sabra Lane

The parents of a young woman fatally shot by an officer during a severe psychotic episode say they're shattered that police have wound back training that was meant to be expanded in the wake of her death. Ron and Leesa Topic have spoken out about the decision by NSW police, which has also been criticised by former police officers. Mental health advocates have also written to the New South Wales Police seeking an explanation.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Call for urgent birthing boost

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 9

Geelong's only remaining private hospital offering maternity services says it is focused on finding more staff as an obstetrics group warns the region urgently needs more birthing resources. Since Epworth Geelong's maternity ward closed at the end of March, St John of God Geelong says it has taken on about 10 extra births a week.

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

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

### Queensland midwives protest over chronic staff shortages

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Kenji Sato

Ashleigh Sullivan says hospital midwives are often forced to choose which patients will receive proper care, and who has to go without. Ms Sullivan says chronic staff shortages and crushing workloads forced her to quit her job as a hospital midwife two years ago.

[Read More](#)

### Nursing board's supervised prescribing proposal too risky, say AMA and RACGP

Australian Doctor, Other, 22/08/2023, Heather Saxena

Proposals to let registered nurses prescribe under supervision could put GPs at risk of lawsuits and higher indemnity premiums, the AMA is warning. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has been looking at possibilities for nurse prescribing for almost a decade and is finally readying a proposal for state and territory health ministers to assess.

[Read More](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### No more bandages

Hobart Mercury, General News, 23/08/2023, David Killick, Page 1

Tasmania runs the risk of a health staff exodus as government pay talks with nurses drag on and interstate health services compete to poach fedup health workers with big wads of cash. Queensland Health is offering nurses cash incentives of up to \$20,000 and doctors up to \$70,000 to take jobs in that state's health system. South Australia offers \$15,000, Western Australia \$6000 and Victoria has offered between up to \$5000.

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

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

### Doctor shortage forces clinic to close

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 23/08/2023, Ben Silvester, Page 3

A Port Fairy clinic that was supposed to bring a range of new medical services to the seaside town has been forced to close after just two years because of a lack of doctors. The Shearwater Medical Clinic opened in July 2021 as the latest step in Moyne Health Services' masterplan to expand services in the greater Port Fairy region and have a dedicated GP service running within the Port Fairy Hospital.

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

### GP shortage bites despite rising IMG numbers

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 22/08/2023

A record influx of doctors has not put an end to ongoing GP shortages in many Australian communities. Despite rising practitioner numbers, Australia is predicted to be short 10,600 GPs by 2031, with demand for GP services increasing by 58%.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Cut-price cancer drug hope

Herald Sun, General News, 23/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 5

Young Australian women newly diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer may soon have access to a potentially lifesaving drug that works with the immune system to fight cancer and stop it returning. Pembrolizumab, sold as Keytruda, is considered a crucial treatment in helping to "return life to normal" for many women diagnosed with deadly early-stage triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

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### Patients win with 60-day dispensing

Launceston Examiner, General News, 23/08/2023, Dr Megan Belot, Page 13

The Cheaper Medicines policy has passed the Senate and will come into effect in just a few weeks, and it will be a great win for patients. [...] Currently, each time a person goes to the pharmacy, they are required to pay a PBS co-payment capped at \$30 for up to 30 days of medication.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#)

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### \$1 a day for half your life: The cost of contraception is a bitter pill to swallow

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos

Everyone has purchases that make them squirm. For me, it's birth control. [...] There are 26 brands of contraception that aren't on the PBS in Australia.

[Read More](#)

## TikTok videos criticised by experts for birth control misinformation

Nursing Review, Other, 22/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

An expert panel has said social media myths could contribute to high rates of unplanned pregnancies in Australia and urged for broader education on birth control. "There has been a lot of misinformation around pain and IUD insertion," Professor Deborah Bateson from the University of Sydney said. [...] Currently, newer birth control options like progesterone-only pills are not listed on the government's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### Women more likely to face health costs under Medicare, experts say, raising concerns about 'gender bias'

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Alison Branley

Breast cancer left Lisa Evans about \$20,000 out of pocket, but the cost of monitoring her health will continue for the rest of her life. The school teacher needs an annual mammogram to check on her condition and said it costs her about \$320 for each appointment.

[Read More](#)

### Poll: Should pharmacists get MBS numbers?

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 22/08/2023, Megan Haggan

Should pharmacists be given MBS numbers? Tell us what you think in our poll Over the last couple of years, there has been a growing number of calls for pharmacists to be recognised as prescribers and given Medicare provider numbers.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### 'Systemic errors in management' factors in Armidale Hospital death, coroner finds

ABC Online, Other, 22/08/2023, Max Tillman

A New South Wales coroner has recommended a doctor be investigated over the death of a 75-year-old Glen Innes woman at Armidale Hospital. [...] Magistrate Grahame recommended Dr Natukokona be referred to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for an investigation into his clinical conduct.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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## State told Canberra funds sewn up for Games bid

Age, General News, 23/08/2023, Chip Le Grand & Rachel Eddie, Page 1

The Victorian government told Canberra it didn't need additional funding to secure the Commonwealth Games and made no formal request for a federal contribution towards costs before it walked away from the event. This is despite Victoria's own business case assuming the federal government would provide up to half the total capital expenditure required to stage the games across multiple regional centres.

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

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## AFLW ready to roar

Herald Sun, Editorials, 23/08/2023, Page 20

Each year the competition grows in popularity, the fan base expands, rivalries are forged and skills are sharpened. The AFLW, on the cusp of season 8, is having a huge impact on the sporting landscape in Victoria and across Australia.

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

## Olympic sparring at Senate Games inquiry

Courier Mail, General News, 23/08/2023, Hayden Johnson, Page 12

A tense exchange has erupted between a Senate committee and the woman responsible for delivering Brisbane's 2032 Olympic Games over how much she is paid to do the job. At a Senate inquiry into the preparedness of the Games, Nationals Senator Bridget McKenzie asked Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee chief executive Cindy Hook to provide her total remuneration package.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#).

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## Girls' sport is deserving of much greater financial support

Daily Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2023, Keith Wheeler, Page 9

The Matildas certainly enhanced the status of women's sport. Following on the heels of record television ratings for women's cricket, girls of all ages will be encouraged to actively participate in sport themselves.

Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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# HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

## Turning research into profit and social impact

Australian Financial Review, Features, 23/08/2023, Agnes King, Page 6

University of Sydney DetectedX University of Sydney spin-off DetectedX will beef up its computing firepower to pivot from a radiology education hub to a social media platform for medical professionals to share informatio...

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## Cancer researcher discredited

Daily Advertiser, General News, 23/08/2023, Page 6

A former leading Australian researcher is accused of never performing experiments used in an important cancer study. The Journal of Clinical Oncology last week published a retraction on its website over the 2016 study, led by Professor Mark Smyth.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

## CSL's New Global Headquarters and Centre for Research & Development

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 22/08/2023

Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese officially opened CSL's new Global Headquarters and Centre for Research and Development (R&D) in the Parkville biomedical precinct in Melbourne. Part of a A\$2 billion infrastructure investment program in Australia undertaken by CSL over the past four years, the facility will house more than 850 professionals dedicated to protecting public health and bringing life-saving innovative therapies to those in need.

[Read More](#)

## Researchers explore Virtual Reality 'superhero therapy' to treat chronic pain

The Senior, Other, 22/08/2023

Suffering from chronic pain? It would be nice to channel the Hulk and crush the problem once and for all, right?

[Read More](#)

## Prostate cancer patients in demand for upcoming clinical trials

The Senior, Other, 22/08/2023, John Piggott

Volunteers are needed for a growing number of clinical trials researching prostate cancer - the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. With more than 81,000 Australian men affected at last count, new drugs and treatment approaches are constantly being developed and researched.

[Read More](#)

## Good news: Stroke therapy research hits important milestone

West Australian, Other, 22/08/2023, Dani Meager

In a significant stride towards revolutionising stroke therapy and mitigating the devastating effects of brain injuries, a neuroprotective drug being developed by Perth-based biotech company Argenica Therapeutics has achieved a remarkable milestone. The company a spin out of the Perron Institute and UWA to drive the clinical trials forward - recently unveiled the promising results of its Phase 1 Clinical Trial for the drug ARG-007, confirming that the drug is safe, well tolerated, and has a favourable pharmacokinetics profile in healthy volunteers.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 22/08/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

A potentially lifesaving treatment is being trialled in Brisbane, designed for people with compromised immune systems. It's called Supernova and is designed to protect patients against all strains of the virus. Researchers at the Mater say if the trial is successful, it would be a game changer for cancer patients and people with autoimmune conditions.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### 'Voice to improve health outcomes'

Cairns Post, General News, 23/08/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 1

A leader in First Nations healthcare says the current approach to solving health issues is not working and believes a Voice to Parliament could be the answer. Dr Mark Wenitong, who co-chairs the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clinical Network, said: "A Voice embedded in the constitution is structurally different."

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The](#)

## Indigenous communities benefit from student-run dental clinic enhancing oral health

National Indigenous Times, Other, 23/08/2023

Research conducted by the University of Queensland has shown a dental clinic managed by students in rural Queensland has significantly enhanced the oral health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. The clinic, located in Dalby in south-west Queensland, was established in 2013 through a collaboration between UQ's School of Dentistry and Goondir Health Services, an Aboriginal community-controlled health service.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Spring a Strep A danger season

Daily Telegraph, General News, 23/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 17

Australia has experienced an intense and unseasonal surge in severe Strep A cases with infection rates tripling compared to pre-pandemic levels. And we are currently in the midst of a new danger period the end of winter early spring when cases typically shoot up.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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### Gem expert welcomes crackdown

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 23/08/2023, Jessica Greenan, Page 3

A Warrnambool gemstone expert has joined the state's peak construction body in welcoming the federal government's crackdown on "killer dust". A national ban on the use, manufacture and import of silica stone products is one step closer after the ALP national platform which sets out the government's policy agenda - was recently amended.

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## WA Health warns West Australians planning Bali trip to ensure they are protected against measles

West Australian, Other, 22/08/2023

WA Health is warning West Australians planning to travel to Bali to make sure they are protected against measles. It follows two recent measles cases being diagnosed in NSW in travellers returning from Bali.

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

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Peels, masks and detox pads: How effective are TikTok's favourite feet products?

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 22/08/2023, Nell Geraets

There's an abundance of strangely satisfying videos on the internet. Watching people pop pimples or

remove earwax may turn our stomachs, but it also seems to scratch a metaphorical itch. [...] They're considered a "listed medicine" by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which means they're tested for quality and safety, but not efficacy.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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## FOOD STANDARDS

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