



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 24th August 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 1) reports a majority of parents are giving the wrong care or over-medicating sick children, new research from Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital has found. A survey of 2,000 parents found more than 40 per cent of respondents believed fever could cause death if left untreated, while 80 per cent said it was necessary to lower a child's temperature if they had a fever, 66 per cent saying they would do so with paracetamol.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 1) reports Darwin and Palmerston hospitals have deferred elective surgery as they reported their sixth code yellow in six months due to "continued peaks" in patient admissions and hospital demand. Australian Medical Association NT president Dr Robert Parker said Royal Darwin Hospital had been under pressure since the last code yellow was cold on August 9, blaming a lack of funding by successive governments and beds being filled by patients who should be "in a nursing home setting". *Also reported by:* [Northern Territory News](#), [Channel 9 Darwin](#), [ABC Radio Darwin](#)
- The [West Australian](#) (page 1) reports A North Perth daycare centre has urged parents to have children tested for tuberculosis amidst a rise in cases across the state following the end of pandemic-era restrictions. Parents were told the risk of infection following exposure to the case at the centre was low, but testing would be offered as a precaution.

- The [\*\*Sydney Morning Herald\*\*](#) (page 3) reports the New South Wales government will today announce a once-in-a-generation overhaul of the state's health network, including a crackdown on wasteful spending and reforms to spending on locum doctors and hospital emergency departments. Health Minister Ryan Park will announce terms of reference for a special commission of inquiry into health spending with royal commission-like powers, to be headed by senior counsel Richard Beasley.
- The [\*\*Adelaide Advertiser\*\*](#) (page 3) reports Flinders Medical Centre experienced a bomb threat and power outage on Tuesday, prompting the evacuation of high-risk patients and cancellation of some surgery. FMC chief executive Kerrie Freeman has ordered an independent inquiry into the electrical problem that caused the outage. *Also reported by: [9News](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- The [\*\*Courier Mail\*\*](#) (page 4) reports ongoing staff and recruiting shortages have forced multiple hospitals in regional Queensland to go on maternity bypass for days at a time, internal Queensland Health documents reveal. Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman this week announced \$16 million funding for midwifery services across the state and the appointment of a Chief Midwife.
- [\*\*The Australian\*\*](#) (page 6) reports the Voice to Parliament is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to break a cycle of poor health outcomes for Indigenous Australians, Health Minister Mark Butler says. "Just like a good doctor listens carefully to their patients, a voice to parliament involves listening to ... Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people about better ways to make a real difference to their healthcare," Mr Butler said. *Also reported by: [The Australian](#) (Minister Butler editorial)*
- The [\*\*Daily Telegraph\*\*](#) (page 7) reports support available to victims and survivors of domestic violence will be overhauled under a \$103 million government plan to provide long term mental health care and better train staff to recognise instances of DV. Mental Health Minister Emma McBride said "Primary care workers can be the first point of contact for women and it's important that workers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to respond in a trauma-informed way." *Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#)*
- The [\*\*Sydney Morning Herald\*\*](#) (page 8) reports nurses, paramedics, pharmacists and physiotherapists will use a federal review of healthcare professionals' roles to lobby for expanded roles in the treatment of patients and prescription of medication. Health Minister Mark Butler appointed former chief executive of Health Workforce Australia and ACT Health Professor Mark Cormack to lead the review in response to recommendations made by a government Medicare taskforce earlier this year. *Also reported by: [The Age](#)*
- [\*\*The Australian\*\*](#) (Online) reports a surge in cases of Step-A infections is placing children, elderly and Indigenous Australians at risk, researchers have warned. Murdoch Children's Research Institute Director of Infection, Immunity and Global Health Professor Andrew Steer said "More research is required into the causes of this spike and how we can prevent future surges. With ongoing funding, we can begin to answer some of these complex questions and work towards an effective and accessible Strep A vaccine." *Also reported by: [Canberra Times](#), [9News](#), [7news.com.au](#), [3AW](#), [Channel 10](#)*

## MINISTER BUTLER

### 'Six-week voice campaign a slap in the face': No camp claim

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2023, Rosie Lewis, Page 6

The No campaign has hit out at Anthony Albanese for overseeing a six-week referendum campaign on an Indigenous voice to parliament, labelling it "an absolute slap in the face" to Australians struggling with cost-of-living pressures. [...] Writing in The Australian on Thursday, Mark Butler said the voice was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to break the cycle of poor health for Aboriginal Australians.

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

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### Voice will help fight against endemic disease

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2023, Mark Butler, Page 11

Later this year Australians will get the chance to vote to change our Constitution to recognise the place of First Nations Australians. It's a chance to unify the country. As Health Minister, I can't think of an area of policy where that voice will be more important and more valuable than in health. With the best of intentions and substantial investment from both sides of the parliament, the current approach simply isn't working.

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

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## Prescribing power under new spotlight

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 8

Nurses, paramedics, pharmacists and physiotherapists will push for greater powers to prescribe medicines or treat patients as a review of health professionals' roles examines how to boost capacity in Australia's strained primary care system. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has commissioned Professor Mark Cormack, former chief executive of Health Workforce Australia and ACT Health, to lead the review, which was recommended by the government's Medicare taskforce earlier this year.

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

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## \$103m plan to help domestic abuse victims

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2023, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 7

The approach to supporting domestic violence victims will be overhauled to break the vicious cycle of abuse under a new \$103m federal plan. DV victims will be given long term mental health care plans, allowing more people to leave their abusers permanently, while more cash will also go to training staff to better identify those at risk of abuse. [...] Victim survivors will often require long-term support to recover from the financial, social, psychological, emotional, and physical impacts of family and domestic violence," Mental Health Minister Emma McBride said.

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## Border pharmacists rallying against new dispensing rule

Border Mail, General News, 24/08/2023, Layton Holley, Page 3

Redundancies, reduced hours and increased charges for existing services are some of the ramifications of a 60-day dispensing rule which Border pharmacists say will "devastate" the industry. The changes allow script holders to receive two months' supply from one script, effectively halving the cost of medicines. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in April general patients could save up to \$180 a year and concession card holders would save up to \$48.80 a year per medication.

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## Reprieve for practice

Cairns Post, General News, 24/08/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 5

Cardwell residents have been granted a lifeline after the region's only full-time general medicine practice was granted a last-minute stay of execution after being unable to recruit a full-time doctor despite offering up to \$500,000 a year. [...] Kennedy MP Bob Katter thanked federal Health Minister Mark Butler for his efforts and congratulated the practice staff on the result.

Similar coverage reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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## Doctor crisis hits valley

Clarence Valley Independent, General News, 23/08/2023, Rodney Stevens, Page 1

A growing health crisis in the Clarence Valley which has locals waiting up to a month to see a doctor has seen the Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan call on the Albanese Government to "End the Rural Doctor Crisis now." [...] In a statement to the CV Independent, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there is no higher priority in health for the Albanese Government than rebuilding general practice.

Also reported by: [Clarence Valley Independent \(Online\)](#).

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## Call for more endometriosis health services

Mount Barker Courier, General News, 23/08/2023, Joseph Moore, Page 14

Three Hills women suffering from endometriosis say they have endured years of severe pain and a health system that has struggled to take them seriously, as the local Member for Mayo calls for better services for the disease in SA. Mt Barker residents Deanna Wallis and Lara Holdsworth and Strathalbyn resident Amy Aikman have spent years trying to find the right treatment for a debilitating chronic medical condition. [...] Ms Sharkie has contacted Health Minister Mark Butler and Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney, describing their responses as "pretty underwhelming".

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## Lynne McGranger and AFL great Leigh Matthews join bowel cancer screening campaign

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy

Aussie tv star Lynne McGranger has revealed why she regrets ignoring an important cancer test for years and what prompted her to do it. Home and Away star Lynne McGranger has revealed she is deeply ashamed of tossing out her free bowel cancer screening kits for over a decade. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said Australians who receive the kit in the mail should not delay.

[Read More](#)

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

Euroa Gazette, Other, 23/08/2023, Steve Kelly

People accessing prescription medications are expected to be \$180 better off each year depending on the quantity of medicines they receive. GPs have hailed the 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." Dr Haines said she was pleased the minister listened to the input of Indi's pharmacists.

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## Queensland government to take over Cardwell Family Clinic

North Queensland Register, Other, 23/08/2023, Samantha Campbell

The Cardwell Family Practice has been given a lifeline after weeks of community lobbying to keep it open. The GP clinic looked set to permanently close on September 1 after struggling for years to acquire a permanent doctor and relying on locums to service the community. [...] "Finally, we thank the Federal Minister for Health, Hon Mark Butler, for forcing the Queensland Government's hand here."

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## Pharmacies and customers will feel the pain

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Robert Muir

Mulwala Pharmacist Abbey Hammon is warning about the adverse effects of proposed 60 day dispensing legislation. 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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## Department figures back Minister's claims

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/08/2023

Applications for new Section 90 pharmacy approvals up, despite 60-day dispensing concerns Data from the Department of Health and Aged Care shows that the number of pharmacies approved to dispense medicines funded by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is on the rise. The figures provided to the AJP support claims made by Mark Butler [...]

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## Last days to apply for latest Men's Sheds grants

Community Care Review, Other, 23/08/2023

Applications for grants up to \$10,000 in the twenty-sixth round of the National Shed Development Program close this week, as the minister announces the most recent funding recipients. [...] Meanwhile, Minister for Aged Care Mark Butler announced this week that 131 Men's Sheds share almost \$670,000 to continue supporting the health and wellbeing of their community under the previous round.

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## As Australia braces for summer, health sector urged to take strong stand against governments' support for fossil fuels

Croakey, Other, 24/08/2023, Melissa Sweet

Devastating fires, catastrophic floods, extreme heatwaves, and prolonged droughts. Climate change is not a distant threat it's happening now, impacting lives and ecosystems. [...] At a minimum, we need to urge our Health Minister Mark Butler to attend and for Australia to join WHO's Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) and engage across the working groups to collectively drive change globally.

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## ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 23/08/2023, Greg Jennett and Matthew Doran

Interview with Julie McKay, Caldwell GP nurse about Qld Government stepping in to save Caldwell GP. McKay says Queensland Health Townsville Hospital Health Service is assisting in taking over their practise. Jenett says Federal MP Bob Katter is crediting Julie and Federal Minister Mark Butler for forcing the Queensland Government's hand. McKay notes that Mark Butler seems to have put the pressure on Queensland Health Minister.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Little Aths compo win

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 6

Children who suffered sexual abuse while in the care of Little Athletics or Gymnastics Australia will be able to make compensation claim under an expansion of the national redress scheme. [...] Sport Minister Anika Wells said abuse "haunts and stays with athletes for life" so the expansion of the redress scheme was "welcome".

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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## Rugby Australia reaches agreement with Super Rugby teams for central model that will allow coach and player transfers

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/08/2023, Jamie Pandaram

Rugby Australia is headed towards a centralised national model that could allow them to appoint coaches and star players to Super Rugby franchises. While the finer details are yet to be finalised, all five Super franchises have agreed to support a central model for the very first time. It moves Australia closer to the successful systems in place in Ireland and New Zealand the No. 1 and No. 2 ranked teams in the world.

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## Peter Bol crashes at world athletics championships after 'disaster' resurfaces in press conference

nine.com.au, Other, 23/08/2023, Zachary Gates

Peter Bol had an awful run in his first appearance in Australian colours since it was revealed he returned a false positive drug test, crashing out in the heats of the men's 800 metres at the world athletics championships in Budapest on Wednesday morning (AEST). [...] "What we have to do is

ensure that WADA does its work in reviewing the whole process as they said they would, and I think the (sport) minister in Australia (Anika Wells) has asked them to do that. We are waiting on that review, we will partake in it if we're asked."

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## **For fairness and sustainability in aged care reform, some Ministerial leadership is required**

Croakey, Other, 23/08/2023, Alison Barrett

Australians will live longer and healthier in the coming decades, according to Treasurer Jim Chalmers at a press conference this week in the lead up to Thursday's release of the Intergenerational Report. [...] During a National Press Club speech in June, Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells observed that "the Baby Boomers are coming" and that "we are going to need a fair and equitable system to meet the needs of Baby Boomers who, with their numbers and determination to solve problems, have shaken every single system they've come across".

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## **ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 23/08/2023, Leon Compton**

Interview with Andrew Wilkie, Independent Member for Clark, about Southern Cross Care Tasmania CEO Robyn Boyd's resignation. Wilkie says it's clearly beyond time for senior management to change, and this gives good opportunity for Southern Cross Care Tasmania to reset its systems. He states the acting chair gave him comfort that they acknowledged there are really deep, systemic and cultural problems in the organisation. He knows the issue is on the radar of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, both of whom he has spoken to.

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE**

### **\$103m plan to help domestic abuse victims**

Daily Telegraph, General News, 24/08/2023, Angira Bharadwaj, Page 7

The approach to supporting domestic violence victims will be overhauled to break the vicious cycle of abuse under a new \$103m federal plan. DV victims will be given long term mental health care plans, allowing more people to leave their abusers permanently, while more cash will also go to training staff to better identify those at risk of abuse. [...] Victim survivors will often require long-term support to recover from the financial, social, psychological, emotional, and physical impacts of family and domestic violence," Mental Health Minister Emma McBride said.

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY**

### **Call for more endometriosis health services**

Mount Barker Courier, General News, 23/08/2023, Joseph Moore, Page 14

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## **NITV, NITV News, 23/08/2023, Natalie Ahmat**

First Nations health leaders have today welcomed plans to have more young doctors train and work in regional, rural and remote locations. It's hoped that young doctors who train in the bush can be retained there. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney says the plan takes young doctors into rural and regional areas and gives them really significant and worthwhile experience in rural and regional practises. The John Flynn Pre-vocational Doctor programme is a \$75 million federal injection over three years.

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## **Channel 9 Darwin, National Nine News, 23/08/2023, Paul Murphy**

There are major concerns about the state of the NT's health system tonight, with Royal Darwin and Palmerston Regional hospitals back under a code yellow. Some elective surgeries have been deferred again and the Australian Medical Association NT says it's an issue not going away anytime soon. Chief Minister Natasha Fyles is insisting her government is working with the Commonwealth to provide extra beds and new facilities in mental health and aged care. But the Opposition claims the NT's social issues are impacting health funding. Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney says number of GPs will rise to 66 and 180 young doctors coming to the Northern Territory.

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## **Curtin FM, 16:00 News, 23/08/2023**

The number of doctors in rural and remote locations will be doubled in Australia as part of a new Federal Government initiated agreement with the states. The Assistant Minister for Health, Ged Kearney, says the John Flynn Pre-vocational doctor programme is about addressing doctor shortages and helping bridge a city to country divide.

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## **ABC Radio Darwin , 13:00 News, 23/08/2023**

A new regional doctors programme is aiming to double the number of junior doctors undertaking rotations in regional and remote areas. The John Flynn Pre-vocational doctor programme started in January this year with funding of \$75 million over three years. Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney says the programme also aims to keep doctors in rural and remote areas.

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## **ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY**

### **Govt invests \$18m to address FASD in central Australia**

Canberra Times, Other, 24/08/2023, Rudi Maxwell

The federal government is investing \$18.4 million to help children in central Australia with neurodevelopmental issues. Donna Ah-Chee, chief executive of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, a health organisation based in Alice Springs, said the funding would help identify children with ADHD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and autism. [...] Northern Territory Labor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said expanding the assessment service will mean hundreds of children will be able to receive a diagnosis and early intervention.

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

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### **ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 23/08/2023, Greg Jennett and Matthew Doran**

Interview with Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians. McCarthy discusses pre-vocational doctor rotation scheme by the Federal Government. She says what they announced with Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney will see an increase and double the number of doctors training in remote and regional areas across Australia, particularly in the Northern Territory. She states the \$75.75 million plan will also tackle the shortages of nurses and midwives and also the Aboriginal health worker,

Also reported by: [ABC News \(Sydney\)](#).

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## 2MCE, 19:00 National Radio News, 23/08/2023

The Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, says an investment in rural doctors will have a marked impact on the Aboriginal health sector. Today the Federal Government announced they would double the number of doctors in rural and remote locations across Australia.

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## DEPARTMENT

### 'Critical challenges' ahead for department

Community Care Review, Other, 23/08/2023, 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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## ABC Radio Adelaide, 05:30 News, 23/08/2023

The Australian Medical Association wants an independent body to oversee private health insurers as cost-of-living pressures forced many people to reconsider having cover. In a submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care, the AMA has called for significant reform to the system and warned it's been on set and forget for too long. AMA President Professor Steve Robson says policy needs to change to reflect the needs of current customer demographics.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Perth \(Perth\)](#).

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Covid stress still lingers

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2023, Page 6

While Covid-19 lockdowns are no longer mandated the stress and anxiety of the pandemic still lingers, especially among young people, say health experts at the University of South Australia. Researchers found children's mental health and wellbeing have gradually worsened over the past six years.

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

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## NSW to scrap 'arcane' cruise vaccine, mask mandates

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2023, Duncan Murray

Vaccine and mask mandates could soon be scrapped on cruise ships in NSW in an attempt to help revive the billion-dollar injection into the tourism economy. The NSW government is pushing a key federal advisory body to approve dropping requirements that passengers be vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks in public spaces on board.

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

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## ‘Elevated risk’ of death even two years after a Covid infection, new study shows

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Adella Beaini

The risk of death is "significantly elevated" for years for people hospitalised with Covid, experts have warned. Covid hospital patients face severely worse health complications like lung problems, diabetes, and general fatigue, a new study published in Nature Magazine found. Even people with mild or moderate cases are not spared from the consequences when compared with those who never had Covid, showing an elevated risk of more than 20 medical conditions.

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## Australian Covid deaths lowest since December 2021 despite falling booster numbers

The Guardian, Other, 24/08/2023, Melissa Davey

Australia's COVID-19 deaths are at the lowest levels observed since December 2021, with fewer hospitalisations and intensive care admissions despite fewer people receiving a booster vaccine this year. "The improvements in 2023 are likely to be the combined result of high levels of vaccination coverage, hybrid immunity, and ready access to oral antiviral treatments for those who need them," a Department of Health spokesperson said.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### Spritely gran sets a record

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2023, Dylan Hogarth, Page 12

A South Australian greatgrandmother who lays claim to the title of Australia's oldest living person is set to turn 111 this week. Catherina van der Linden who lives in Southern Cross Care's West Beach Residential Care will celebrate her 111th birthday on Saturday. Mrs van der Linden was born in 1912 in the Netherlands before migrating to Australia in 1955 and credits her longevity to an active lifestyle.

*Similar coverage reported by:* [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Kalgoorlie\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### ECase Taking care of care

Australian Ageing Agenda, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 1

On hearing the term Artificial Intelligence, one would be excused for immediately thinking of ChatGPT the natural language processing tool that has generated a lot of publicity recently. However, AI, in general terms, is much broader than this providing the ability for machines and computer programs to learn from experience, adjust to new inputs and perform human-like tasks. These range from predictive analytics to voice and facial recognition and robotics.

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### Palliative care model suboptimal for people with dementia

Community Care Review, Other, 23/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

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

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### Aged care economy to balloon in an Australia of 40 million

In Daily, Other, 23/08/2023, Jim Plouffe

The about-to-be-released Intergenerational Report again highlights the economic and budgetary issues presented by an ageing population, says Michelle Grattan Australia's care economy could increase

from its present about 8 percent of GDP to about 15 per cent in 40 years, according to the government's Intergenerational Report, to be released by Treasurer Jim Chalmers on Thursday.

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## What are the public health implications of an ageing population?

The Senior, Other, 23/08/2023

At the heart of Australia's identity rests an ageing population - the architects of the nation's rich history and pride. It is home to one of the oldest continuous living cultures in the world, with the country's First Nations peoples standing as the caretakers of the land for at least 50,000 years.

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## Aged care regulator denies serious incident cases are closed without investigation

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/08/2023, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Janet Anderson, has denied serious incidents cases are being closed without investigation, a claim made in The Saturday Paper over the weekend. [...] The Aged Care Royal Commission called for the regulator to be abolished, saying it was "overly concerned with processes, not focused enough on outcomes, and does not provide enough safeguards to protect older people and provide reassurance to their families", and be replaced with an independent aged care safety and quality authority.

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## Aged care vaccination numbers down despite one-third of residents not fully vaccinated

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/08/2023, Caroline Egan

The number of vaccinations administered to aged care residents was about half the usual number last week, despite 34% of residents not fully vaccinated. The number of resident cases rose by six, but staff cases and the number of facilities affected declined.

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## Expressions of Interest open for Blue Haven's Bonaira aged care home on the NSW South Coast

The Weekly Source, Other, 23/08/2023, Caroline Egan

Kiama Council has announced the first part of the tender process for the sale of Blue Haven Bonaira went live on 18 August 2023. The open selective tender process involves several steps, the first being inviting interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to tender for the purchase of Blue Haven Bonaira.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

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

Age, General News, 24/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos, Page 12

Everyone has purchases that make them squirm. For me, it's birth control. I wince every three months or so when the time comes to tap my card at the chemist and spend another \$85 on the pill. At this rate, I'm up for about \$11,000 in out-of-pocket costs over my lifetime on contraception alone. That's before doctor's appointments, prescriptions and pregnancy itself are factored in.

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### Ill myth at fever pitch

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 1

Most parents give the wrong care to their sick child with more than 80 per cent wrongly believing they should lower a high temperature. New Royal Children's Hospital research found 40 per cent of the 2000-plus parents surveyed thought fever could cause death if left untreated, while 60 per cent said a "very high fever" was "always" a sign of serious illness.

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## Health funds in huge profits

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 11

Health fund profits have more than doubled to \$2.2bn just as three of the biggest funds prepare to raise their Gold cover premiums by up to 8 per cent. The latest official data on health insurers' performance shows their gross margin their premium income minus their claims payout surged from 16.9 per cent last financial year to 17.6 per cent this year.

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

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## Experts pushing women to add more dairy to their diet

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 24/08/2023, Holly McGuinness, Page 12

South-west Australians, particularly women over 50, are not consuming the recommended dairy intake for optimal health, experts say. With Healthy Bones Action Week underway from August 21-27, data from Dairy Australia revealed only 9 per cent of women over the age of 50 know what their recommended daily dairy intake is.

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## Australian parents denied access to newborns in Greek surrogacy nightmare

The Australian, Other, 23/08/2023, Sharri Markson

Several Australian parents cannot bring their babies home after the world-renowned fertility clinic in Crete they used to have their children by surrogates was raided by Greek police over claims of human trafficking and fraud. The Australian understands around eight newborns including a number of Australian babies are being detained by the Greek government in a high-security section of a Crete hospital.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Pair honoured for years of work on 'switching off' cancer cells

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 8

A couple whose pioneering research has spearheaded a new way to stop the spread of cancer cells have been awarded the 2023 Eureka Prize for Scientific Research. Associate Professor Tim Thomas and Professor Anne Voss met in a German laboratory in the early 1990s, where they discovered a family of proteins that help genes create the correct type and number of cells, but can cause cancer if they become overactive.

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

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### New weapon to fight cancer

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 17

Melbourne researchers have uncovered a "new weapon" that tricks cancerous cells into telling the immune system they are infected, triggering their destruction. Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre's preclinical trials of the drug have found blocking a single enzyme in cancer cells prompts a reaction that leads to their demise.

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

## Noah finds a way to help have his say

Ballarat Courier, General News, 24/08/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 3

Noah House has plenty to say and has been becoming used to having a stronger tool to articulate all this. The 20-year-old has been working with his speech pathologist Annabelle Gild on a communication app to better express his needs, such as what he would like to eat or do, and how he was feeling.

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

## Outrage on word missed

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/08/2023, Page 15

Calls from the federal opposition and health advocates to improve access to pelvic pain services and support have been overshadowed by outrage over the use of gender-inclusive language by the ABC to broadcast the urgent plea. The national broadcaster sparked the outrage with the omission of one word in its report on a review by the Australian Coalition of Endometriosis (ACE) that mapped the impact of the debilitating condition across Australia and revealed major inequities in access to care.

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

## Results from 11 of 12 patients in PharmAust trial point to stabilised MND progression

The Australian, Other, 23/08/2023

PharmAust's Phase 1 clinical trial of its lead drug candidate monepantel (MPL) in people with motor neurone disease/amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (MND/ALS) is offering hope it could slow progress of the lethal disease. Clinical-stage biotech PharmAust ( ASX:PAA ) says results from the interim analysis show that neurofilament light chain (Nfl) protein concentrations in the plasma of participants in its Phase 1 clinical trial don't increase following MPL treatment.

[Read More](#)

## Drug a 'light at end of tunnel' for triple negative breast cancer

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Robyn Riley

Young Australian women newly diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer may soon have access to a potentially lifesaving drug that fights cancer and stops it returning. 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.

[Read More](#)

## Geelong researcher leads nanoneedle blood cancer breakthrough

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 23/08/2023, Tamara McDonald

A Geelong researcher has helped achieve a "world-first" breakthrough, using nanoneedles 100,000 times less than the width of a human hair. A Geelong researcher has helped achieve a "world-first" breakthrough, using nanoneedles 100,000 times less than the width of a human hair, that could improve treatment options for some blood cancers.

[Read More](#)

## Mother describes stress, anxiety of daughter's incorrectly mapped cochlear implant

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Joshua Boscaini

Mother of three Aspasia Paspaliaris says she was not surprised when doctors revealed her daughter's cochlear implant wasn't working properly. Ms Paspaliaris said she had repeatedly raised concerns with staff at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) that her daughter Amelia, 9, was not hearing well.

[Read More](#)

## Redefine research

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2023

A new type of digital care pathway for patients with tinnitus is being tested through a research collaboration between Flinders University, South Australia, and healthcare company The Clinician. The pathway will enable individuals to digitally report their experiences with specific hearing interventions.

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

[Read More](#)

## Diabetes study successfully uses hookworm to combat disease

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/08/2023

Patients involved in the trial are choosing to live with worms in their gut, with research finding the larvae can improve insulin resistance. All but one study participant decided to keep their hookworms at the conclusion of the two-year trial.

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, ABC Evening News, 23/08/2023, Gemma Veness

A study in the UK reveals MRI scan for 10 minutes can be used to screen men for prostate cancer. Larger trials will be needed to confirm the value of MRI scans before a national screening programme for prostate cancer could be set up, which may take up to a decade.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 23/08/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

AFL legend Leigh Matthews joins actor Lynne Mcgranger in encouraging Australians aged between 50 and 75 to take bowel cancer screening test. The test is free and mailed every two years to Australians aged between 50 and 74. Just 40% of eligible Australians complete the free bowel screening test and 90% of bowel cancers can be successfully treated if detected early.

Similar coverage reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Di Pilla to take HMC Capital global in expansion of healthcare assets

Australian Financial Review, Property, 24/08/2023, Larry Schlesinger, Page 27

Dealmaking king David Di Pilla has set his sights on taking his alternative asset management platform HMC Capital global after a transformative year that included acquiring the Healthscope private hospital portfolio, raising \$1.5 billion from investors an...

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

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### Funding shake-up for city's hospitals

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 24/08/2023, Michael McGowan, Page 3

The NSW government will embark on a once-in-a-generation overhaul of the state's health network, including a crackdown on wasteful spending in the \$33 billion system and changes to spending on locum doctors and hospital emergency departments. Health Minister Ryan Park will today announce the terms of reference for a special commission of inquiry into health spending in NSW.

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### Double trouble for Flinders

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Flinders Medical Centre was dealing with a bomb threat as well as a power outage on Tuesday. FMC chief executive Kerrie Freeman revealed there was a separate bomb threat, causing the hospital to initiate a Code Purple alert until SA Police advised there was no threat. She also revealed 10 patients

had been moved from FMC's intensive care unit to Flinders Private Hospital but were expected to be back by Wednesday afternoon. Another 21 patients remained in the public hospital ICU.

*Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).*

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## Growing number of VAD patients

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 7

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. Of these, 32 people have ended their life, aged from their 20s to their 90s 19 people had terminal cancer, and five had degenerative neurological conditions.

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## Shortages forcing maternity bypass

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 4

Crippling maternity staffing shortages have forced hospitals across the state to enact birthing bypass orders for days at a time, internal Queensland Health documents reveal. And this doesn't include hospitals such as Gladstone, Weipa, and Cooktown, which have been on long-term bypass orders requiring mothers to travel hundreds of kilometres to the next closest facility.

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

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

## Mackay Hospital training resumes

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 4

Mackay Base Hospital's accreditation to train specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists has been reinstated nearly two years after a damning clinical probe at the regional Queensland facility. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on Wednesday revealed the hospital could now train specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists again.

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

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

## Surgery on life support

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2023, Annabel Bowles, Page 1

Elective surgeries have been deferred as Darwin and Palmerston hospitals enter their second code yellow in just two weeks. The emergency response was called on Tuesday evening due to "continued peaks" in patient admissions and hospital demand. [...] Australian Medical Association NT president Dr Robert Parker said staff shortages and inadequate bed capacity were the two main pressures on the Territory's health system.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Channel 9 Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [ABC Radio Darwin \(Darwin\)](#).*

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

## Plans for new multimillion-dollar medical clinic in Lucas

Ballarat Courier, General News, 24/08/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 2

Healthcare in Ballarat's booming west will receive a boost with UFS announcing plans for a new multimillion-dollar medical clinic in Lucas. The two-storey clinic at 25 Merz Street, expected to open in early 2025, will house complementary allied health services on the ground floor, with first-floor consulting rooms for GPs and other specialists.

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

## Historic, healthy moment

Cairns Post, General News, 24/08/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 1

Construction of the highly anticipated James Cook University Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre, a key piece of the puzzle in transitioning Cairns Hospital to tertiary status, has begun. A turning of the first sod and smoking ceremony marked the occasion in the presence of key dignitaries on Wednesday.

The \$50m project will stand alongside Cairns Hospital's new 32-bed surgical centre on Charles St in North Cairns, which will form part of the Far North Queensland Health Innovation Precinct and allow for stronger links between teaching, learning and research.

Similar coverage reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## **Wait for dentist nothing to smile about**

Launceston Examiner, General News, 24/08/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 2

The state's Health Department says Tasmanians are waiting longer than ever for dental care. Department representatives and members of rural health organisations will appear before a Senate committee in Launceston on Thursday, inquiring into access to dental services across the country.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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

## **'Emotionally challenging': 40 years of comfort, care**

Newcastle Herald, General News, 24/08/2023, Page 8

The palliative care service at Calvary Mater Newcastle celebrated 40 years of operation on Wednesday. Calvary Mater Newcastle general manager Mark Jeffrey said the hospital was "the largest specialist palliative care provider in the region".

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

## **How a colourful hospital gown can make a big difference**

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 24/08/2023, Rachel Clark, Page 1

Deanna Chapman was working as a radiation therapist at Tamworth's cancer centre when one day, while sitting at her dining room table, she had a light blub moment. "I was part of the Mamamia Lady Start-up course and I was working clinically and seeing patients sitting in populated waiting rooms wearing hospital or disposable robes with no undergarments," she said.

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## **Ambulance efficiency under scrutiny**

Shepparton News Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Adrienne Hartnett

Member for Benambra Bill Tilley says additional resources and localised rostering will reduce ambulance response times in Indigo Shire. The latest ambulance response time data for Indigo Shire has further highlighted the pressing need for additional resources and localised rostering to address the growing demand for emergency medical services.

[Read More](#)

## **Strong support for abortion in Australia in wake of decriminalisation**

SBS, Other, 23/08/2023, Ciara Hain

A new survey has found 68 per cent of people in Australia believe abortion should be legal. The global study by Ipsos Australia suggests support for abortion is highest in Europe, and lowest in Asia.

[Read More](#)

## **'Tragic' burden of traumatic brain injury needs better strategies, say doctors**

Australian Doctor, Other, 23/08/2023, Carmel Sparke

A study shows there's been little change in the rate of deaths and hospitalisations over five years. Doctors are calling for more effective strategies to tackle the "tragic" burden of traumatic brain injury after finding the rate of Australians hospitalised or dying of the injury unchanged over five years.

[Read More](#)

## **Brisbane mum's anger over breastfeeding rule at Prince Charles Hospital when her baby required emergency care**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Antoinette Milienos

An outraged mum is fighting for change after a hospital where her 12-week-old baby was receiving emergency care denied her food because she was not breastfeeding. Queensland mum and lawyer Sarah Stoddart rushed her 12-week-old daughter to hospital about three weeks ago after noticing her baby was unwell. Ms Stoddart explained she knew something was wrong with her baby girl after she 'basically projectile vomited everywhere' and her temperature was 'crazy'.

[Read More](#)

## Limit time on screens or risk heart trouble, parents warned

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Daniel Keane

Parents should limit the amount of time children spend on social media and video games, researchers have said, after a new study found inactive teenagers are more likely to have signs of heart damage when they are young adults. Academics said this damage could be setting the stage for heart attacks and strokes in later life.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### In the right (head) space to help youth

Border Mail, General News, 24/08/2023, Jodie O'Sullivan, Page 6

Headspace Albury-Wodonga is one of the first centres in the country to welcome a graduate from a new program to help fast-track young people's access to help in regional and rural areas. Recruits from the Early Career Program are making it possible for headspace centres to see more young people sooner while bolstering the regional mental health workforce.

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

### Addressing bullying in schools today

Education Matters, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 41

Bullying among school children is a serious problem, especially for vulnerable children who can be repeatedly targeted. For these children the mental health consequences of bullying can be severe and can persist long after they leave school. For the most part, interventions to reduce bullying have had little success. School children in Australia, as in other countries, who have gone to teachers for help after being bullied - and many do not - generally report that the problem was not resolved.

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### Girls and regional kids increasingly presenting with self-harm

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2023, Millie Costigan

The number of mental healthcare sessions subsidised under Medicare have been halved. What does this mean for Australians? Rates of regional children presenting to hospitals after episodes of self-harm is on the rise, according to the latest research.

[Read More](#)

### 'Youth suicide hotspots': Study reveals link to poor mental health services

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Hayley Goddard

Australian communities with poor access to mental health services are eight times more likely to be youth suicide hotspots, new research has found. Telethon Kids Institute Youth Mental Health team suicide prevention researcher Dr Nicole Hill and her team used national coronial data to map suicides of 1959 Australians aged 10 to 24 who died between 2016 and 2020.

[Read More](#)

### The surprising ways bullying can impact us as adults

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Diane Young



Bullying is a distressing reality for many people. Whether it occurs during formative years at school, within friendship groups, mother's groups or in the workplace, bullying often extends far beyond petty taunts. The implications of bullying reverberate long after the immediate scars have healed, infiltrating the realm of mental health with a lasting and often devastating impact

[Read More](#)

## **Wangaratta campus increases access to mental health support**

Wangaratta Chronicle, Other, 23/08/2023

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. Serviced by qualified provisional psychologists from Victorian universities and supervised by licensed and experienced psychologists, the clinic will operate through a referral system, however, patients will also be able to self-refer.

[Read More](#)

## **Brian Burdekin on a life of service to our most vulnerable**

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Grace Stanger and Andy Park

As Australia's first Human Rights Commissioner, Brian Burdekin has spent a lifetime advocating for the needs of these children, those with disabilities and mental illness. He led two landmark, much-cited reports: Human Rights and Mental Illness in 1983 and a National Inquiry into Youth Homelessness in 1989.

[Read More](#)

## **ADHD, autism assessment waitlists in regional Victoria prompt mother to help other families**

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Madeleine Spencer

Eleven-year-old Gus Reader remembers spending a lot of time getting into trouble at school. "[School] thought I was just that one kid that was always breaking the rules and wouldn't listen at all," he said. "When in reality, I actually needed some help."

[Read More](#)

## **'To my respected psychiatry colleagues'**

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 23/08/2023, Andrew Leech

A near-constant stream of referral rejection has prompted one frustrated GP to address an open letter to Australia's psychiatrists. GPs report that their patient referrals are being increasingly rejected by psychiatrists. To my respected psychiatry colleagues, Firstly, I want to thank you for the hard work and dedication you have provided to some of our most vulnerable patients.

[Read More](#)

## **Channel 7, Seven News, 23/08/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella**

Report on youth crime in Qld. Research shows homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues are often some of the driving factors to crime. The Qld Government today spruiking \$500 million it's already allocated to early intervention programmes.

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## **CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE**

### **They're nursing us all back to health, but who is helping them?**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 24/08/2023, Mervin Reed, Page 18

The government must do more to support the glue that holds our health system together, writes Mervin Reed. There are no names in this opinion piece, for privacy reasons, but recently a young nurse who looked after my wife of 50 years in the Royal Hobart Hospital ICU, whose skill and compassion was

quite amazing, became the catalyst for me to write this article. This young woman, very well educated and with sound clinical training, delivered a level of care that was world-class.

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## Nurse fined after parking on verge to avoid being late for emergency department shift

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023

Staff at Perth's Fiona Stanley Hospital say they are forced to choose between parking illegally or being late for their shift due to a shortage of staff parking. A nurse working at the emergency department at Fiona Stanley Hospital has told ABC Radio Perth that the difficulty of getting parking when she arrives for her shifts is causing stress and leading to parking fines from Melville City Council.

[Read More](#)

## Queensland midwives rally following unsafe workload audit

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 23/08/2023, Anmj Staff

In an unprecedented action, Queensland midwives rallied outside Parliament House yesterday calling for urgent state government midwifery funding. It follows a recent audit of Queensland maternity inpatient wards which found single midwives are being left to care for up to 20 mothers and babies at a time.

[Read More](#)

## Chief midwife, funding boost for Qld maternity services

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2023, fraser barton

Queensland will appoint a chief midwife and expand maternity services following demands for action over staffing shortages. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman announced the \$16 million plan over four years after meeting union representatives this week.

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

[Read More](#)

## Radio National, AM, 23/08/2023, Sabra Lane

Most Australian babies are born in hospital with the help of dedicated birthing specialists. But in rural areas where hospital maternity wards have closed, some women who go into labor early are having their babies via video call, with doctors dialling in on the phone or video to help. Alison Weatherstone from the Australian College of Midwives argues rural maternity services should be prioritised. But in some cases, telehealth is the best option.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### She's an angel in her scrubs

Northern Territory News, General News, 24/08/2023, Jill Poulsen, Page 6

Veteran Prince Charles Hospital nurse Gladys Akhurst's incredible legacy will be honoured when she retires next year, with the hospital deciding her role will only ever be filled by an Indigenous nurse. Born in 1950 at Cloncurry, Ms Akhurst was 17 when she began training as a nurse in 1968 at Mt Isa Base Hospital and is now one the state's longest-serving Indigenous nurses.

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## Close examination entices medical students to 'go rural'

Central Western Daily, General News, 24/08/2023, Emily Gobourg, Page 3

Up-and-coming doctors, who hadn't thought of a country-based career before their road trip on Sunday, are now seriously considering going rural after getting their degrees. A busload of 20 medical students

from Sydney did a four-day tour of the Central West ending in Orange, which included stops in Mudgee, Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Brewarrina, Nyngan and Parkes.

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

## Victorian paramedics caught up in intranet data breach

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2023, Tara Cosoleto

Ambulance Victoria will audit its intranet security after unauthorised workers were able to access private staff information. The organisation was notified late on Monday afternoon that access restrictions were mistakenly lifted in a section of the intranet site and a small number of files were opened.

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

[Read More](#)

## Fears of Tasmanian health worker exodus as interstate bidding war targets fed up nurses

The Mercury, Other, 23/08/2023, David Killick

Tasmania runs the risk of a health staff exodus as government pay talks with nurses drag on and interstate health services compete to poach fed-up health workers with big wads of cash. Tasmania runs the risk of a health staff exodus as government pay talks with nurses drag on and interstate health services compete to poach fed-up health workers with big wads of cash.

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## Long-serving Wodonga paramedic calls time on career

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Sandra Moon

Ambulance Victoria's Wodonga branch team leader Mike Fuery says some callouts will always stay with him. The paramedic has revealed he's retiring after 40 years of service, finishing up at the local branch in September.

[Read More](#)

## Queensland Health documents reveal alarming staff shortages in rural hospitals and maternity facilities, forcing birthing bypass

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Janelle Miles

Internal Queensland Health documents reveal the extent of maternity staff shortages in the state's rural hospitals, forcing some on birthing bypass for days at a time. While Gladstone Hospital's 11-month maternity bypass which ended in June has been widely publicised, shorter birthing disruptions in other facilities have also been ongoing, the documents show.

[Read More](#)

## Reinterpreting tax

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2023

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) is urging the NSW Government to support an Opposition amendment to save GP practices at risk of closure due to a new application of payroll tax. The Opposition said it will move an amendment in Parliament this week to provide an immediate amnesty from payroll tax on payments to GPs and other health practitioners, to ensure that essential medical clinics, especially in regional NSW, are not forced to close.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 23/08/2023, Candice Wyatt

Ambulance Victoria is urgently reviewing its internal security system following a second data breach of sensitive employee information. The union says it alerted the organisation to the problem yesterday amid concerns employee medical information and job applications had been compromised. The incident follows the unauthorised access to staff, pre-employment drug and alcohol testing records in May.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

### Fighting to stay on

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2023

The 15c electronic prescription fee paid to pharmacies through the 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement ceased last month. FredIT eRx Script Exchange is now the national Prescription Exchange Service (PD 11 May) after winning the Health contract, pushing out its main competitor, MediSecure, who will no longer be providing these services to PBS Approved Suppliers after 31 Oct this year.

[Read More](#)

### Keytruda listing for TNBC on the cards

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2023

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) has welcomed a decision to recommend a crucial drug to treat early-stage triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) for the Federal Government subsidy. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) announced on Fri that Keytruda (pembrolizumab) will be recommended for subsidy on the PBS for early-stage TNBC.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### System 'barely a minimum product'

Canberra Times, General News, 24/08/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 3

A pharmacy inventory system in the ACT digital health record was "barely a minimum product" and affected timely access to medications. A dedicated project board for the inventory expressed "extreme frustration" with an element of the pharmacy inventory management system, documents have revealed.

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### Painful wait for fat cell surgery

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 24/08/2023, Michaela Meade, Page 3

Roisin Carnie has painful lymphatic drainage massage every week to help ease the discomfort caused by her medical condition. The Geelong resident also wears compression leggings for 16 hours a day, and says at 26 years of age, her quality of life is not where it should be. Ms Carnie lives with lipoedema, a chronic condition that affects one in 10 women and leads to a build-up of diseased fat cells in the body.

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

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### Keeping up with advanced MRI: Kim Kardashian promotes whole-body scans. Could they be worth the hype?

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 23/08/2023, Heath Pardoe

The post attracted criticism from members of the medical community , who expressed concern about the lack of evidence for widespread use of this technology in people who are disease free. Despite these concerns, the information provided by whole-body MRI scanning for mapping anatomy and function has great potential for helping us understand how changes in the brain and body are associated with health outcomes over the human lifespan. [...] In Australia, whole-body MRI was recently added to the Medicare Benefits Schedule for people with a high genetic risk of cancer.

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Peter Mac issues timely reminder

Age, General News, 24/08/2023, Liam Mannix and Kishor Napier-Raman, Page 2

The revelation that venerable institution the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre discovered an experiment in a study by former top researcher Mark Smyth was probably never performed set plenty of tongues wagging across the research sector. This was particularly so after it turned out Smyth had already been investigated and cleared over earlier research misconduct allegations.

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

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

### 'The hospital sent our mum home while she was having a stroke... then she was gone'

Adelaide Now, Other, 23/08/2023, Mary Madigan

A Victorian woman has tragically passed away aged just 48 amid claims her severe symptoms were ignored by a hospital. Carolyn Stanton was a mother and grandmother known for her infectious laugh. The beloved mum tragically died in August after being turned away from the Latrobe Regional Hospital twice with nothing but panadol to help with the pain she felt.

[Read More](#)

### Former Lismore Base Hospital nurse Fiona Ann McCosker found guilty of misconduct, registration cancelled

Lismore Northern Star, Other, 23/08/2023, Catherine Piltz

A North Coast nurse went to work intoxicated, misappropriated medication and failed to disclose criminal findings against her, a tribunal has found. A North Coast nurse went to work intoxicated, misappropriated medication and failed to disclose criminal findings against her, a tribunal has found.

[Read More](#)

### Religious ethics overrule doctors in Catholic public hospitals

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023

Some women who want contraception or are having a difficult pregnancy, say they are being denied essential treatment, because the publicly funded hospital they go to operates under Catholic ethical standards. This can mean women are told to go to other hospitals or health facilities to receive the care they want.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Winning strategy: Bringing AI to the task of medical imaging

Australian Financial Review, Other, 23/08/2023, Patrick Brennan

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, a finding consistent with results in other countries.

[Read More](#)

### Government seeks feedback on RNA discussion paper

The Mandarin, Other, 23/08/2023, Melissa Coade

A stakeholder survey and discussion paper about the local RiboNucleic Acid (RNA) technology industry has been released in the wake of a government deal with Moderna to establish vaccine-manufacturing

capability in Melbourne The 10-year deal between Moderna and Australia's federal and Victorian governments was signed in 2021.

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## SPORT

### Andrews eyed off Games in the 2030s

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2023, Damon Johnston, Page 2

The Andrews government originally joined a taskforce working towards bidding for the 2030 or 2034 Commonwealth Games not the doomed 2026 event that has turned into a political scandal and left Victorians with a compensation bill of at least \$380m. Emails and other communications from members of the joint council-government committee reveal that as far back as 2017, senior bureaucrats and ministers were involved in preparing a bid for a regional games in the 2030s.

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

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### Bol back on the track as doping police admit case was a 'disaster'

Sydney Morning Herald, Sport, 24/08/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 35

On the night Peter Bol returned to the track at the world championships and failed to progress beyond his 800-metre heat, world doping police admitted the drug debacle that derailed his career, and his preparation for this event, was "a disaster". Bol came fifth in his heat in one minute, 46.75 seconds yesterday (AEST).

Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Race for Games venues

Courier Mail, General News, 24/08/2023, Hayden Johnson, Page 15

Swimming Australia is calling for a legacy facility and the Gold Coast is lobbying to poach flagship events from the capital amid fierce debate over Brisbane's Olympic Games sporting venues. A venue masterplan was submitted to the International Olympic Committee in 2021 before it awarded the 2032 Games to Brisbane, however sporting groups and stakeholders are continuing to lobby for changes, with athletics, swimming and diving venues the most contentious.

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

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### Gabba rebuild is 'not needed'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 24/08/2023, Courtney Gould, Page 15

A multi-billion dollar rebuild of the Gabba was not a requirement for Brisbane to hold the 2032 Olympics, the head of Australia's Olympic Committee has said. Matt Carrol said the state government's decision to splash \$2.7bn to knock down and rebuild the stadium for the Olympic Games was for the benefit of AFL and cricket. "The IOC . does not require you to build new venues unless you really need it," he told a parliamentary committee.

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### 'Things need to change': Rugby Australia could take over struggling Super clubs

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 23/08/2023, Iain Payten

Rugby Australia could take ownership of struggling Super Rugby franchises and the contracting of all players and head coaches as part of a "strategic reset" that has the support of the state unions to pursue a centralised system like those in Ireland and New Zealand.

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## WAFLW: Push from WA Football Commission for players to be paid met with hesitancy from majority of clubs

West Australian, Other, 23/08/2023, Mitchell Woodcock, Jackson Barrett and Glen Quarterma

A push for WAFLW players to be paid for the first time has been met with widespread hesitancy from clubs over concerns it could affect their bottom line. The move was pitched to clubs by the WA Football Commission at a chief executive's meeting held earlier this month, a spokesperson telling The West Australian it came as they looked to elevate the competition and recognise the commitment of its athletes.

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## University of Sunshine Coast launches flying taxi project with 2030 aim

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 23/08/2023, Iwan Jones

Experts have launched a new project with the aim for AI-piloted flying taxis to be in the sky before 2032, with \$50 fares for travel between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. [...] Project members have set an ambitious deadline of delivering passenger-ready aircraft before the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

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## Australia sends first ever women's blind cricket team to Britain for world games

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Elizabeth Wright

When Courtney Webeck whacks the cricket ball around the family farm on the NSW Mid North coast, Ted the border collie loves to chase after it. "Ted takes it back to the bowler every time. You don't want to get run out by the dog," Webeck said, laughing. Webeck loves cricket, despite having only played since November last year.

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

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## Stadium issue stands in the way of Australia's bid for Men's World Cup

The Guardian, Other, 23/08/2023, Jack Snape

Melbourne football fans risk missing out on Men's World Cup matches as part of an Australian bid unless Victoria can solve its rectangular stadium conundrum. The warning comes as Football Australia (FA) seeks to leverage the success of the Women's World Cup into an imminent bid for the 2026 Women's Asian Cup and another try for the Men's World Cup in 2034. The FA chief executive, James Johnson, said there were three options for Melbourne to be part of a 2034 bid. "There would have to be investment into a stadium like the MCG to rectangulise' or footballise' it," he said.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Brightest Aussie scientific minds shine at top awards

Canberra Times, Other, 23/08/2023, Samantha Lock

Australia's future in scientific innovation looks bright. Recycling carbon dioxide emissions into plastic and putting cancer cells to sleep are just a few of the groundbreaking achievements to come from Australia's brightest scientific minds. [...] For more than a decade, Associate Professor Tim Thomas and Professor Anne Voss from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research have studied a family of drug-resistant enzymes that contribute to cancer growth.

*Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#).*

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### Aussie joins international dementia research team

Dr Anita Goh has joined the Alzheimer's Association's ISTAART Advisory Council, the National Ageing Research Institute has announced. A global collaboration of scientists, clinicians and dementia professionals, the International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment shares knowledge in the pursuit of advancing the research and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

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## New research lab tackling body image issues

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 23/08/2023

Flinders University is now home to a new health and wellbeing research initiative to help young Australians and their parents tackle body image issues. The Embrace Impact Lab will support a national campaign led by 2023 Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Facebook fails to act against racist posts

Age, General News, 24/08/2023, Jack Latimore, Page 6

Indigenous leaders warn the No case is emboldening trolls and bigots, writes Jack Latimore. Social media giant Meta has refused to take action against people who post racist and abusive material online, which Aboriginal leaders say is rife as the No campaign against the Voice to parliament has mobilised.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [National Indigenous Times \(Online\)](#).*

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### Productivity commissioner says governments failed 'to make a dent' on Closing the Gap targets

The Australian, Other, 23/08/2023, Eleanor Campbell

Australia's productivity commissioner has criticised the government for its "failure" to make progress on its Closing the Gap targets. Michael Brennan doled out parting shots in his final speech as chairman to the National Press Club on Tuesday. He emphasised recent data, released in July, that showed only four 4 of the 17 targets to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians were on track.

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

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### UQ free dental health clinic in Dalby improves Indigenous oral health outcomes

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023, Laura Cocks

Gavin Saltner is serious about his smile. The Wulli Wulli man is among more than 800 rural patients who attend a student-run dental clinic in south-west Queensland each year. "It's made a lot of difference to me," Mr Saltner said. "Knowing that I could come along to these clinics and get a check-up they can fit you in wherever they can."

*Similar coverage reported by: [Bite Magazine \(Online\)](#).*

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### Remember Balgo | NDIS

ABC Online, Other, 23/08/2023

The remote Aboriginal community of Balgo Wirrimanu - sits on the southern edge of the Tanami Desert in Western Australia's East Kimberley. All those statistics you hear about the gap between Aboriginal



and non-Aboriginal people? [...] More than half of Balgo's NDIS clients are young men living with brain damage from years of petrol sniffing as boys, their families struggling to care for them.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Daycare TB fears

West Australian, General News, 24/08/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 1

A North Perth daycare facility has been at the centre of a tuberculosis scare with parents warned to test their children after a child had the infectious disease. Earlier this week parents were sent a letter advising them that their children were exposed to TB, which is acquired by breathing the bacteria into the lungs. The centre immediately told parents about the exposure and offered support to families.

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### Researchers warn deadly Strep A bacteria surging amid push to find a cure

The Australian, Other, 23/08/2023, Nathan Schmidt

Researchers have warned an "intense" surge in flesh-eating Strep A infections in Australia is putting children and the elderly at risk. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute found the number of kids sent to hospital with the infection rose from 23 in 2020 to 107 in 2022.

*Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [3AW \(Online\)](#), [Australian Doctor \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [5AA \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 10 \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Radio Canberra \(Canberra\)](#).*

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### Why is it important to have your children immunised ?

SBS, Other, 23/08/2023, Ninos Emmanuel

Dr Daniel Sada is a well-known GP in the Assyrian community and Secretary of the Assyrian-Australian Medical Association. He spoke to SBS about the importance for new migrants and first-time parents to immunise their children against common viruses and diseases according to the Australian Immunisation Program.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Patient death sparks turmeric and curcumin concerns

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 23/08/2023, Chloe Hava

After 18 reports of liver injury to June this year, including one death, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a fresh warning for patients and healthcare professionals about the potentially harmful effects of *Curcuma longa* (turmeric) and/or curcumin.

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### Drug shortage continues

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 23/08/2023

The pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) has notified the TGA that the shortage of its thrombolytic product, tenecteplase, is set to continue. The shortage was due to manufacturing capacity

constraints following increases in global demand and was expected to last until the end of 2023 (PD 25 Aug 2022).

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### ACT's boast: how we quietly and quickly went soft on drugs

The Australian, General News, 24/08/2023, Sarah Ison, Page 1

The ACT's Health Minister has boasted about how Canberra's Labor-Greens government were able to "quietly" but quickly decriminalise illicit drugs, including cocaine, MDMA and ice, laying out her strategy to a group of left-wing activists from across the country. Canberra is the first city in Australia to decriminalise illicit drugs in small quantities last year, with the Labor-Greens coalition moving swiftly to implement the laws as part of a wide-ranging progressive agenda that also includes voluntary assisted dying being potentially offered to teenagers.

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### Inside the suburban home where the mafia grow drugs

Age, General News, 24/08/2023, Marta Pascual Juanola and Chris Vedelago, Page 1

An unassuming family home in Melbourne's north-west is at the heart of a wave of drug crime and violence that has been sweeping Australia. The facade is perfect, a wellkept house with a neatly trimmed yard. Even the bins have been carefully put out on the footpath. The giveaway is the stench. The unmistakable smell of cannabis leaks out from inside.

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### Lab rats plague

Herald Sun, General News, 24/08/2023, Mark Buttler, Jon Kaila and Olivia Jenkins, Page 1

The capacity of Victorian meth labs is surging as organised crime gangs disguise the structure of drug manufacturing chemicals to sneak huge shipments into Australia. Victoria Police has found an increasing trend towards the use of what are known as masked precursors by high-end syndicates which are smuggling tonnes of the contraband.

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### ODT: the challenge of change

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 23/08/2023, AJP Staff

Many pharmacies have concerns about the viability of opioid dependence therapies as a result of the recent changes at short notice, Jarrod McMaugh tells the AJP Podcast Victorian branch manager for the Pharmaceutical Society, and its subject expert on harm reduction and opioid dependence therapy, Jarrod McMaugh speaks to AJP Podcast host Carlene McMaugh about

[Read More](#)

### Australians are often called the world's biggest cocaine users. But it's not that clean cut

SBS, Other, 23/08/2023, Michelle Elias

Far, far away from cocaine manufacturers, Australia has become an attractive destination for traffickers - and authorities think they're now trying to funnel in more cocaine than ever before. Australia's appetite for cocaine is notorious.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

## Tainted drop

Canberra Times, General News, 24/08/2023, Steve Evans, Page 1

Wineries in the Canberra region say they are facing a triple whammy of threats. They fear polluted air could taint crops just as vineyards are recovering from a barrage of bad events like hail, drought and bushfire smoke. The three threats they say they fear are: A proposed waste-disposal plant/power station near Lake George Some farmers and gardeners are careless about herbicide spray which drifts over vines.

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