



TODAY'S NEWS

Wednesday, 30th August 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Daily Telegraph](#) (page 4) reports over 20,000 Indigenous Australians are not able to access NDIS services despite likely being eligible, new analysis by the First People's Disability Network has found. The organisation found a lack of tech skills and misunderstandings around how the NDIS works were driving down engagement.
- The [Herald Sun](#) (page 9) reports half of adult Australian women miss work, study or exercise due to pelvic pain, a report in the 2023 National Women's Health Survey has found. The report found the \$9.7 billion cost of pelvic pain to Australia's economy was likely grossly underestimated and called for a public awareness campaign to improve understanding of pelvic pain and available care options. *Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Hobart Mercury](#)*
- [The Australian](#) (page 24) reports almost half of Australia's professional athletes are living below the poverty line, a new report by the Australian Sports Foundation has revealed. Sports Minister Anika Wells said "We understand the pressures facing athletes and in the past six weeks alone we have committed more than \$220 million to sport funding." *Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph](#), [Herald Sun](#), [Canberra Times](#), [Canberra Times](#)*

- **[Australian Doctor](#)** (page 1) reports a GP and voluntary assisted dying advocate has been found guilty of professional misconduct and fined \$12,000 for a paperwork error. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal accepted Dr Nick Carr had shown "clear remorse and insight" over the error but said "general deterrence" for future errors in instances of VAD made a fine necessary.
- **[The Australian](#)** (online) reports the government has launched an initiative to improve training for cooks and chefs at aged care homes in partnership with Maggie Beer. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells joined Ms Beer to launch the Maggie Beer Foundation Aged Care Cook and Chef Support Program at an aged care home in Adelaide's south on Tuesday. *Also reported by: [West Australian](#)*
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports more than two-thirds of aged care home inspections carried out by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission are being conducted by external consultancy firms an independent review has found. Former senior public servant David Tune said more reviews should be brought in house and undertaken by a permanent ACQSC workforce.

MINISTER BUTLER

Northampton a case study for impact of new pharmacy rules

Midwest Times & Northern Guardian, General News, 30/08/2023, Anna Cox, Page 12

Northampton has been used as a prime example of the potentially devastating impact awaiting community chemists under new 60day pharmacy dispensing laws coming into force this week. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the estimated \$1.2 billion in savings from the measure would be reinvested in community pharmacies.

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Help to make GP's surgery a safe place

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

GPs in the Hunter will be given more support to recognise and help people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence. A federal pilot program in the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network, which has high rates of these types of violence, will be expanded next year with a \$3 million grant. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "knowing where to go to get support can be difficult for people in vulnerable situations".

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

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Urgent need for care

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 30/08/2023, Natasha Emeck, Page 5

A young mum who held her sick baby outside a GP office for two hours is among those in Townsville still desperately waiting for the federal government to deliver on its promise to open a bulk-billing urgent care clinic in the city. During the federal election, Health Minister Mark Butler said that 50 new bulk-billing Urgent Care Clinics (UCC) would be open in the 2023-24 financial year.

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

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Is the PSR merely a puppet?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Paul Smith, Page 16

Legislation before Parliament could see its 'master' lose control. [...] The claim partly centred on the fact that, although its director is appointed by the federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, the AMA has the power to say no to the minister's choice.

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Ken Wyatt expresses disappointment with Libby Mettam's backflip on the Voice

Former Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt has expressed "disappointment" in Libby Mettam for backflipping on her support for the Voice and said he would "love" to see her return to supporting the Yes campaign. Mr Wyatt - who is the first Aboriginal person to hold the portfolio, and who quit his membership of the Liberal party because of its opposition to the Voice in April, put on a bipartisan show of support for the Yes vote in Midland on Tuesday. The former Morrison Government Minister was joined by Labor Health Minister Mark Butler and Labor's Tania Lawrence, who defeated him in the seat of Hasluck last year but described him at the event as her "friend".

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

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'Two future Australias': Indigenous voice referendum date to be announced as campaign kicks off

The Guardian, Other, 30/08/2023, Josh Butler

The Indigenous voice referendum date will be announced at a large community rally in Adelaide's outer suburbs on Wednesday, kickstarting a campaign to change Australia's constitution for the first time in nearly half a century. [...] Senior members like the health minister, Mark Butler, the education minister, Jason Clare, and the minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, will be prominent faces during the campaign, highlighting how the voice would benefit their portfolios.

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'Lifelong' impacts on children affected by cochlear implant failures: review

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/08/2023, Carmel Sparke

SA Minister for Health Chris Picton warns the problems with the cochlear implant program could be in other states as well. The "distressing" experiences of dozens of children whose cochlear implants had been wrongly programmed could be occurring in audiology services around the country, a state health minister has warned. [...] "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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Big tobacco & social media receive Dirty Ashtray & Exploding Vape awards

Australian Medical Association, Other, 29/08/2023

British American Tobacco (BAT) and Meta have been dishonourably distinguished with a Dirty Ashtray award and the inaugural Exploding Vape award at a ceremony in Perth this morning. [...] Over one hundred representatives from the public health coalition fighting to reduce smoking and vaping in Australia attended the breakfast and were joined by Health and Aged Care minister, Mark Butler, and his state counterpart Amber Jade Sanderson.

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Plenty of room to improve national health and aged care leadership

Croakey, Other, 29/08/2023, Melissa Sweet

The Department of Health and Aged Care should conduct a "thorough and significant review" of its COVID-19 response within the next year, according to an examination of the department's operations. [...] Let's hope he gets the support he needs from Minister Mark Butler and other portfolio ministers.

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AHHA responds to "Unleashing the potential of our health workforce" review

Third Sector, Other, 29/08/2023, Menchie Khairuddin

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) welcomed the announcement by the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, of the Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review. The Review is one of the recommendations of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce and will focus on how to assist health practitioners in working to the full scope of their skills and training.

Channel 7, Seven News, 29/08/2023, Peter Mitchell

Melbourne father Geoff Nyssen is heading to the US for potentially lifesaving treatment after a backflip from the Federal Government. The million-dollar lifeline from Canberra giving hope to all patients of the blood cancer myeloma. His appeal to Chief Health Officer Paul Kelly succeeded and Canberra will pay for Geoff's revolutionary Car-t cell treatment in this Seattle hospital, costing more than \$1 million. Health Minister Mark Butler says they are hoping that Nyssen will have the best possible course of treatment in America.

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Seven Cairns, Seven Local News, 29/08/2023, Rob Brough and Joanne Desmond

The 60-day dispensing plan will first apply to 92 medicines from Friday, saving Medicare card holders around \$180 a year. But the owner of Tombs Guardian Pharmacy claims he's being forced to cover the gap. Federal Health Minister insists every single dollar that the government saves will be reinvested into community pharmacy. Mark Butler also claims Queensland has had the most applications in the country to open new pharmacies compared to the same time last year.

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Seven Townsville, Seven Local News, 29/08/2023, Rob Brough and Joanne Desmond

Herbert MP Phillip Thompson has called for the Federal Government to announce when a new urgent care clinic promised for the region will be built. The Federal Government is promising an urgent care bulk billing centre in Townsville. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has maintained the 58 promised facilities across the country will be up and running this financial year. In a statement today, the Minister said the programme will help over 5 million children and their families and more than 7 million pensioners and concession card holders to see a bulk billed GP.

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ABC South East NSW, Breakfast, 29/08/2023, Scott Bevan

Perinatal mental illness is affecting more and more parents these days, and there are calls for the government to reintroduce more subsidised psychology sessions to relieve some pressure to. 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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MINISTER WELLS

Funding crisis hammers athletes

The Australian, Sport, 30/08/2023, Julian Linden, Page 24

The funding crisis that is crippling Australian high-performance sport is worse than feared and threatens the so-called golden runway in the lead-up to the Brisbane Olympics in 2032. [...] Prime Minister Anthony Albanese just committed to a \$200m increase to women's sport off the back of the Matildas' success after Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells had announced an additional \$20m rescue package to help every Australian athlete who can qualify for the Paris Olympics next year.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#)

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Bureaucratic solutions neglect important fact about aged care

Canberra Times, General News, 30/08/2023, Dan Minchin, Page 16

It's hard not to cry when you watch the ABC's Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds. Many progressive aged care providers are experimenting with the same sort of approach: our organisation is supporting the young and the less young to spend time together, with an intergenerational nature play program which is seeing wonderful initial outcomes. [...] It's impossible to make a circle out of a square, and the Aged Care Minister, Anika Wells understands this challenge.

Also reported by: [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#).

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GC to go it alone on Comm Games

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 30/08/2023, Andrew Potts, Page 3

The Gold Coast will go it alone in pursuing the 2026 Commonwealth Games after Perth pulled the pin on its offer to cohost the event. [...] Mayor Tate was buoyed by Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells opening the door to the bid in a letter this week saying she would be "willing to consider such a proposal" if support was "forthcoming from the Queensland government".

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Anthony Albanese teams up with Maggie Beer for aged care program

The Australian, Other, 29/08/2023, Eli Green

Anthony Albanese has shared some glowing words for culinary legend Maggie Beer as the pair launched a new aged care initiative. The Prime Minister joined Ms Beer and Aged Care Minister Anika Wells at an aged care home in Adelaide's south on Tuesday to unveil a cooking program for older Australians.

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

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Unpaid carers are 'unsung heroes' of care economy

Canberra Times, Other, 29/08/2023, Kat Wong

Caring for a loved one with dementia is one of the most stressful situations anyone can experience, just behind fighting in a war. With the number of Australians living with dementia set to double in the next 25 years and no cure in sight, dementia organisations are looking for ways to better support unpaid carers.

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

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Australian sport could look to philanthropy as athletes report financial stress

The Guardian, Other, 30/08/2023, Jack Snape

Sport philanthropy should match that of arts, non-profit says Australia risks losing elite athletes before the 2032 Brisbane Olympics unless philanthropic funding can help fill a funding shortfall, according to one of the country's leading sporting non-profits. [...] Last month the federal sport minister, Anika Wells, announced a \$20m fund to help athletes travel to qualification events for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

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Consultant firm stand by Victoria's Commonwealth Games costings despite big blowout

7news.com.au, Other, 29/08/2023, Callum Godde

Partners from the global consultancy giant repeatedly refused to answer questions at an inquiry into the doomed games - including how much they were paid. A consulting firm paid to run the numbers on Victoria hosting the doomed Commonwealth Games won't review its work, despite estimated costs blowing out by billions of dollars. [...] Tate tabled a letter from federal Sports Minister Anika Wells stating the Albanese government would only consider a Gold Coast proposal if the Queensland government changed its mind.

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Gold Coast Mayor suggests Vic's Comm Games cancellation fee for Sunshine State's attempt

Sky News Australia, Other, 29/08/2023

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has told a Senate inquiry Victoria's \$380 million compensation bill for the Commonwealth Games' cancellation should go towards holding the event in the Sunshine State. Sports Minister Anika Wells says the Commonwealth would support a bid from the Gold Coast for the 2026 Games if it had the backing of the Queensland government.

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The consulting company is sticking to the costs for the Commonwealth Games in Victoria despite a big bankruptcy

24ssports News, Other, 29/08/2023, James Brien

A consultancy paid to compile the numbers on Victoria's doomed Commonwealth Games venue will not verify its work, despite an estimated cost in the billions of dollars. Ernst & Young officials were brought before a Senate inquiry on Monday, originally set up to look into Australia's preparations to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [...] Tate submitted a letter from Sports Minister Anika Wells saying the Albanian government would only consider a Gold Coast proposal if the Queensland government changed its mind.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Regional health concerns brought to Minister McBride

The Lockyer and Somerset Independent, General News, 30/08/2023, Grace Crichton, Page 3

Health workers in Somerset had the opportunity to bring their concerns, issues, and potential solutions to the government's attention at a round table discussion on Thursday August 24. Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride visited Fernvale to hear firsthand the issues facing the regional health workforce.

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Help to make GP's surgery a safe place

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 7

GPs in the Hunter will be given more support to recognise and help people experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence. A federal pilot program in the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network, which has high rates of these types of violence, will be expanded next year with a \$3 million grant. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said "knowing where to go to get support can be difficult for people in vulnerable situations".

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

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Coalition accuses Labor of 'stonewalling' key Centrelink, Medicare data

NEWS.com.au, Other, 29/08/2023, Ellen Ransley

The Coalition has accused the government of "blocking" access to crucial data they say could better ensure more targeted cost-of-living assistance. [...] Questions in writing obtained by the Opposition from the previous parliament reveal data was provided to Labor MP Emma McBride in June 2020, after she asked then-government services minister Stuart Robert for detailed data for her electorate of Dobell.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

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DEPARTMENT

Lowball revised APS pay offer from APSC set to ignite more strikes

The Mandarin, Other, 29/08/2023, Julian Bajkowski

Commonwealth public servants and their unions have been hit with a lowball second offer by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC), with the government raising its initial offer of a 10.5% increase to just 11.2% well below the 20% demanded by unions. [...] The due process for those potential prosecutions and administrative sanctions, including sackings, demotions and pay cuts, are now underway with former APSC chief Stephen Sedgwick and Penny Shakespeare, an industrial lawyer and deputy secretary at the Department of Health meting out the discipline.

[Read More](#)

How rushed decisions can be public enemy number one in public administration

The Mandarin, Other, 29/08/2023, Melissa Coade

Here's what mandarins have to do to improve outcomes for the community if they are serious about public service, starting first with slowing down and tempering any temptation to cheer for their political masters. [...] "[There are examples] where senior executives agreed to non-compliance because compliance would cause delay," Crawford said of a recent ANAO audit of the \$2 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP).

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CORONAVIRUS

Is naltrexone a key to unlock CFS?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 7

What does long COVID have in common with chronic fatigue syndrome? First, there is the constellation of overlapping symptoms, including post-exertional malaise, brain fog, fatigue, gastrointestinal issues, palpitations and dizziness.

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SARS-CoV-2 found on 45% of phones: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/08/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

A systematic review suggests almost one in two mobile phones in hospitals harbour SARS-CoV-2, with authors calling for better infection control. Authors of the study say infection control protocols in healthcare settings should include cleaning mobile phones.

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First for people living with dementia

Hobart Mercury, General News, 30/08/2023, Genevieve Holding, Page 3

In a first for Tasmania, a new specialised dementia clinic aimed at tackling the most severe cases will open at Glenorchy, freeing up eight longstay beds in the state's public hospitals. Glenview Community Services will open a new cottage-like unit of nine rooms in October this year under the Specialised Dementia Care Program (SDCP) pilot through the Australian Department of Health.

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Innovative 'staying at home' program launched

Naracoorte Community News, General News, 24/08/2023, Page 4

Resthaven has launched a new government-funded program which aims to support older South Australians living with dementia to stay at home for as long as possible. The 'Staying at Home in Regional South Australia' program forms part of the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, and aims to provide vital education and support to carers whilst their loved one is cared for in the same location by experienced staff.

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Aged care in focus again

North Central Review (Kilmore), General News, 29/08/2023, Page 16

Registered nurses are now onsite in aged care homes 98 per cent of the time on average, with 86 per cent of facilities having a nurse on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The need for 24-hour registered nursing was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to improve aged care services and prevent unnecessary trips to hospitals.

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

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Aged care boom bringing growth to South Australian town

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Sally Sara

Port Broughton is attracting aged care residents from across the state.

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Two-thirds of Australia's aged care safety inspections outsourced to consultants

The Guardian, Other, 30/08/2023, Henry Belot

More than two-thirds of safety and quality inspections at aged care homes have been outsourced to consultancy firms, despite warnings this presented a "significant risk" and that some contractors underestimated the standards of work required. The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSA) audits residential facilities to ensure they are meeting mandated standards. Since 2021, four firms have been paid more than \$40m for this work, which includes conducting interviews and searches.

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Unhealthy choices increase risk of entering aged care

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

People aged between 60 and 64 with an unhealthy lifestyle are at double the risk of residential aged care admission, according to new Australian research. Conducted by the University of Sydney and involving almost 130,000 Australians the study found those aged 60-plus who adopted poor eating, sleeping, activity and smoking habits were significantly more likely to require residential aged care than their peers with healthier lifestyles.

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Integrating systems with nurse call aids compliance

Nurse call systems are a mainstay in aged care they give residents the security of being able to call for help at any time, and help staff provide the best care without having to constantly visit rooms to check up on their charges. Since the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety mandated levels of care for every patient, nurse call systems have also been used for tracking staff attendance.

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Rementia Together Retreat, redefining dementia support and empowerment

Healthcare Channel, Other, 29/08/2023, Ritchelle Drilon

Group Homes Australia launches its first Rementia Together Retreat (21 st to 25 th of August); making them the first provider to deliver a Government-funded program in a retreat format out of the 10 Australian care providers awarded the Department of Health and Aged Care's Grant in June 2023.

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Maggie Beer forges new path to improve nutrition in aged care

HelloCare, Other, 29/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Australian food icon Maggie Beer is back in front of a camera as part of her new show dedicated to remould and raise awareness about nutrition and food delivery in aged care. Maggie Beer's Big Mission is currently being filmed in Perth as part of a new ABC series following Maggie's social experiment to overhaul an aged care home by transforming meals, the dining experience and the dining room surroundings to improve the health of residents.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Mozart eases babies' pain

Herald Sun, General News, 30/08/2023, Page 16

Playing a Mozart lullaby may help reduce pain in newborn babies getting a routine heel prick blood test, according to international researchers. Fifty-four of the 100 infants in the study listened to Mozart 20 minutes before and during the heel prick, and for five minutes afterwards, while the remaining infants did not listen to any music.

Similar coverage reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [West Australian \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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Botox vape risk warning

West Australian, General News, 30/08/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 3

Botox patients have been warned to lay off the vapes to avoid botched beauty treatments. Dr Vivek Eranki, founder of one of Australia's biggest cosmetic surgery chains, issued the caution after noting a big increase in the number of clients who use e-cigarettes - up to 50 per cent of patients in some clinics.

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Testosterone peril for dads

West Australian, General News, 30/08/2023, Victoria Allen, Page 12

Men have long blamed their children for reducing their bank balance but not yet their testosterone levels. However research from the University of WA has found married men have lower testosterone on average than those who remain single and it is possible the stress of having a family may be responsible.

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Assessing fitness to drive

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Dr Clare Wood and Dr Andrew Lingwood, Page 38

N June 2021, the authors published a How to Treat article in Australian Doctor titled 'Assessing fitness to drive'. Since then, the National Transport Commission has introduced an updated set of medical standards, which came into effect in June 2022. This article highlights the changes in the updated standards and how they may affect the assessment of fitness to drive in a general practice setting.

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Irregular heartbeat? Why it matters and what to do about it

The Australian, Other, 29/08/2023, Peta Bee

If you need yet another reason to be more active in midlife, cardiologists are warning that a lack of fitness raises the risk of atrial fibrillation (AF), an irregular heartbeat that, left untreated, can lead to blood clots and a five times greater risk of having a stroke.

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Former Speaker to head alcohol advertising watchdog

The Australian, Other, 29/08/2023, James Dowling

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Tony Smith, will take over as chair of the national alcohol watchdog following the departure of Harry Jenkins, who was also a former House speaker. The moves comes as the Alcohol Beverage Advertising Code scheme faces calls for a complete overhaul, with criticism from public health groups that the body is beholden to the industry it is intended to regulate, with little power to enforce compliance.

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Canberra's action on wood heating will deliver a healthier future for all

Canberra Times, Other, 29/08/2023

Burning firewood for heating poses a significant health risk to millions of Australians. Picture by David Ellery All Canberrans can look to a better future now that the government has taken the sensible option of phasing out both wood and gas heaters.

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Why electric cars could save your life

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/08/2023, Dom Tripolone and Richard Blackburn

One of the main benefits of electric cars has nothing to do with climate change, but they can have a huge health benefit to you and your children. Find out how. A switch from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles could prevent thousands of premature deaths from smog every year, according to a leading health expert.

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Geelong's alarming pregnant smoker stats revealed

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 29/08/2023, Tamara Mcdonald

Smoking rates among women in some parts of the region are alarmingly high, amid warnings about how the habit can harm babies. An alarming number of Geelong women are continuing to smoke while pregnant, sparking fears for the health of their babies. [...] Nationally, 8.3 per cent of women smoked in the first half of pregnancy, and 72.4 per cent continued, data for babies born in 2021 from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed.

[Read More](#)

Living roundworm pulled from brain of patient, suspected to have come from python poo

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Nick Kilvert

For a 64-year-old woman from New South Wales, what started as abdominal pain and diarrhoea, fever and night sweats, turned into a world-first, 16-month medical ordeal. Nearly a year-and-a-half after her symptoms first appeared, brain surgeons at Canberra Hospital pulled an 8-centimetre parasitic roundworm "alive and wriggling" from her brain.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Don't let women suffer in silence

Herald Sun, General News, 30/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 9

Australian women are in pain, with a national survey showing around half of the country's adult female population miss work, study or exercise because of it. Pelvic Pain in Australian Women, being released today, says the debilitating condition is having a major impact on women's mental health, emotional wellbeing and relationships.

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

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Tumour stopper a winner

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 14

A new once-a-day cancer pill trialled with Victorian patients is being hailed a "game-changer" by researchers worldwide. The drug, called divarasinib, works by inhibiting the function of a protein called KRAS, one of the most commonly mutated proteins in cancers, that controls how cancer cells divide and survive.

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A step in the right direction for kids

West Australian, General News, 30/08/2023, Rebecca Le May, Page 10

A Perth physiotherapist who remortgaged her house to start an intensive therapy practice that helps children with neurological conditions and injuries is achieving such dramatic progress that NDIS Minister Bill Shorten wants her approach replicated nationwide.

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Jamie survives heart stopping 11 times

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 30/08/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 1

Carrie Morgan said goodnight to her son Jamie, then 22, joking to not stay up too late playing video games on June 2. A few hours later she heard strange noises coming from his room in Strathfieldsaye and found him having what looked like a seizure in bed. She told her 20-year-old daughter, Tabitha, to call the ambulance and immediately started CPR, with a triple zero operator telling her he was in cardiac arrest.

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Can chores lower cancer risk?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Carmel Sparke, Page 8

Running for the bus, taking the stairs and vigorous domestic chores may help ward off cancer, with research showing a few minutes of incidental vigorous exercise a day can be oncoprotective. The University of Sydney researchers say 3.5 minutes of intense cleaning and carrying groceries was linked to an 18% lower incidence of cancer, compared to those people who did not get their heart racing.

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New PCOS guidelines released

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 12

Rachel Fieldhouse elevated serum antimullerian hormone can now be used as an alternative to pelvic ultrasound to aid diagnosis of PCOS, according to updated guidelines. Although testing for anti-

mullerian hormone (AMH) is not MBS subsidised, lead author and endocrinologist Professor Helena Teede says the cost of an ultrasound is "comparatively" higher.

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Irritable bowel syndrome

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 29

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a chronic functional gastrointestinal condition characterised by abdominal discomfort associated with altered bowel habits.¹ IBS can be sub-categorised by the predominant stool profile, diarrhoea predominant (IBS-D) or constipation predominant (IBS-C) (see figures 1 and 2).

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Redland Bay schoolboy Kace Ormsby ready for gruelling stem cell transplant after finding match in Spain

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/08/2023, Judith Kerr

A Queensland family have gone to the four corners of the world to get lifesaving treatment for their young son, dying from a rare disease. A bayside family has gone to the four corners of the world to obtain lifesaving treatment for their young son, dying from a rare disease.

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Early detection of cancer through screening saves lives, but by how much?

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Anna Salleh

Many of us conscientiously turn up for routine health screening tests looking for the early signs of certain cancers. But a new study has found that screening for common cancers only has a small overall effect on extending lives.

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Essie Mitchell urges people to ask for breast cancer 'triple test' after stage 4 diagnosis

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Emma Wynne

Essie Mitchell first noticed what felt like a lump in her breast 11 years ago when she was 22, and saw her GP. "At the time they did a scan, it was an ultrasound, and nothing looked concerning," Ms Mitchell told Jo Trilling on ABC Radio Perth "There was no real follow-up and advice at 22.

[Read More](#)

Neil Mitchell's campaign win for 'holy grail' cancer treatment!

3AW, Other, 29/08/2023, Neil Mitchell

Neil Mitchell launched a campaign in May to get all Australians access to a treatment which could soon cure a staggering 80 per cent of cancers. The federal government has approved Geoff Nyssen going to Seattle to receive CAR-T cell therapy, a treatment Professor Miles Prince called the "holy grail" of cancer treatments

[Read More](#)

Cancer screening may not extend life: Study

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/08/2023, Michelle Wisbey

Screening for cancer may not help to prolong life, according to new research that followed the health outcomes of more than two million patients for nearly a decade. The University of Oslo study, published in JAMA Internal Medicine, found current evidence does not substantiate the conventional wisdom that cancer screening extends lifetime.

[Read More](#)

Breakthrough in fight against ovarian cancer

The Senior, Other, 29/08/2023, Therese Murray

Researchers have discovered the body's own immune system can be used to stop the progression of ovarian cancer. In a research breakthrough published in the prestigious journal Nature, Melbourne scientists have revealed the results.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

A new way of treating cholesterol developed in Melbourne could help reduce the risk of heart attack and strokes in almost 1 in 5 Australians. Reporter Stephanie Ferrier joins us now from the Victorian Heart Hospital. Cardiologists here at the Victorian Heart Institute say that this is a game changer, and it is a simple tablet that can easily reduce what is being called the evil cousin of LDL cholesterol.

[Play Now](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with Michelle Goldman, chief executive, Asthma Australia. The Federal Government is this morning being called upon to factor in the health impacts of climate change in its various policy decisions. Goldman says climate change is not good news for people with asthma and other respiratory conditions at all. He adds asthma is both caused by and exacerbated by climate change impacts like bushfire smoke, like increased pollen and thunderstorms, heatwaves and mould from floods.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 29/08/2023, Candice Wyatt

A pill taken once a day is being hailed a potential game changer in the battle to control the spread of cancer. The drug has proven successful against two of Australia's deadliest forms of the disease, with hopes it will soon be used to treat other aggressive conditions.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 29/08/2023, Kate Collins

The vast majority of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer won't live beyond five years. But tonight, a potential drug breakthrough which could buy patients more time.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 29/08/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

A new cancer medication has been hailed a game changer in controlling the disease after promising trials in Victoria. The once-a-day pill works by curbing the function of a protein known for being one of the most commonly mutated. Researchers are hopeful the drug will become more widely available within the next two years.

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PRIMARY CARE

Predator prisoner begs to end life

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 30/08/2023, Todd Lewis, Page 15

A terminally ill pedophile will be given the opportunity to die on his own terms with more than 17 years still left to run on his prison sentence. Repeat sex offender Malcolm William Day, 81, will become the first prisoner in the nation to be granted a voluntary assisted dying permit, according to 9News.

Similar coverage reported by: [9News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#)

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St John of God Ballarat hits building milestone as job cuts start

Ballarat Courier, General News, 30/08/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 3

St John of God Ballarat has marked the official completion of the structure of its new hospital wing at the same time as national job cuts across all of its services begin. Several Ballarat positions are believed to be among those to go amid a national reduction of about 200 positions, which will impact about 160 people.

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

Geelong hearing told of NDIS 'brick wall'

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 30/08/2023, Alexander Blain, Page 2

A registered nurse, the mother of three is now using her experience to help others navigate the "brick wall" of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). She testified in Geelong on Monday at a parliamentary hearing by a subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on the NDIS.

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

Diocese of Lismore proposes new private hospital opposite Lismore Base Hospital

Lismore Northern Star, Other, 29/08/2023, Cath Piltz

The Diocese of Lismore has announced plans for a new private hospital opposite Lismore Base Hospital. Here's what's proposed and what will happen to the existing Dalley St facility.

[Read More](#)

Does private health insurance cut public hospital waiting lists? We found it barely makes a dent

Nursing Review, Other, 29/08/2023, Yuting Zhang

The more people take up private health insurance, the less pressure on the public hospital system, including shorter waiting lists for surgery. That's one of the key messages we've been hearing from government and the private health insurance industry in recent years

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

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Deanie's life-changing diagnosis

Burnie Advocate, General News, 30/08/2023, Rodney Woods, Page 2

East Devonport's Deanie de Boer said her ADHD diagnosis changed her life. The 46-year-old was told during school she "wasn't smart enough" to go to university and Mrs de Boer said she had a sense of failure when she couldn't learn like the other students.

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'Major initiatives': new clinic specialises in eating disorders

Daily Liberal, General News, 30/08/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 7

A dietician who has opened a multidisciplinary eating disorders clinic in regional NSW is seeing more people diagnosed with eating disorders in Dubbo. Helen Barnett, a dietitian and credentialed eating disorder clinician, has recently established a new trauma-informed medical practice, Dubbo Health Hub, with Dr Heather Maleham and Dr Pethidia Mango.

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

Mum is helping women to reach out

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/08/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 2

After giving birth to her first child, Trevallyn mother, Tracey Spohn, found herself sitting in her child's

room in the middle of the night, "bawling her eyes out". "I had this beautiful new baby in my arms, and I knew I should be the happiest woman on the planet, but I wasn't," Mrs Spohn said. "I just kept asking myself, 'What the hell is going wrong?' "This is what I'd always wanted."

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

Mindful Margaret River eyes uneasy future as funding fails despite new strategic plan program

West Australian, Other, 29/08/2023, Warren Hatley

A lauded local community network aiming to bolster the region's mental health needs is facing another major funding hurdle which could undo all of its good work. Mindful Margaret River leaders say the group's unconventional model falls outside the easy parameters for State Government funding and without a significant commitment as soon as next month could lose its project officer, with valued Lotterywest money about to come to an end.

[Read More](#)

Dietician Helen Barnett explains Eating Disorder Plan

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 29/08/2023, Sarah Falson

2023 Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt, calls for Aussies to nominate the heroes in their communities for the 2024 Australian of the Year Awards. A dietician who has opened a multidisciplinary eating disorders clinic in regional NSW is seeing more people diagnosed with eating disorders in Dubbo

[Read More](#)

'I had a textbook pregnancy and birth. Then I became scared I was going to hurt my daughter.'

Mamamia, Other, 29/08/2023, Laura Jackel

Tracey Spohn had a textbook pregnancy with her first daughter Amelia until at 10 weeks, she experienced bleeding and thought she was going to lose her baby. The wait for an ultrasound was tense as the first signs of anxiety crept in. "There were a few days of nervously waiting and crying to see if the baby was okay," Tracey tells Mamamia.

[Read More](#)

PSA to deliver program

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/08/2023

Mental health first aid training will be rolled out to at least 1,000 community pharmacists across South Australia. Following a competitive procurement process by SA Health and the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has been selected to deliver the specialised mental health training program.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, PM, 29/08/2023, Sarah Dingle

People with Attention Deficit Hyper Activity Disorder, or ADHD, can face added challenges in life without proper support - including their finances. They can find it hard to be organised, struggle with time management and get distracted easily. And experts say that can take its toll on jobs, relationships and even finances - so much so experts have come up with the term "the 'ADHD Tax'" - And it's costing the economy billions.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurse makes waves

West Australian, Today, 30/08/2023, Lauren Higham, Page 1

The crowning of Miss Universe Australia is on this week and Miss West Coast and State finalist Brooklyn Metropolis says it would be a dream come true if she won. [...] Currently represented by Chadwick Models, Metropolis graduated from university with a bachelor of science in nursing and works as a registered nurse at Perth Children's Hospital, on the adolescent eating disorder ward.

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

NSW denies nursing shortfall breached labour deals

Canberra Times, Other, 29/08/2023, Miklos Bolza

The NSW government says it did not breach its staff agreements despite claims of long-running nursing shortfalls at a number of public hospitals. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association is seeking civil penalties after 10 hospitals were allegedly left understaffed for years across the Greater Sydney region.

[Read More](#)

Queensland Health to suspend Ingham hospital maternity services during staff shortages

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Chloe Chomicki and Sam Audas-Ryan

Expectant mothers booked to give birth at the Ingham hospital in Queensland's north will instead be diverted 114 kilometres away due to staff shortages. Queensland Health confirmed on Tuesday that the regional hospital would experience temporary periods of bypass over the next few months due to planned staff leave and ongoing recruitment.

[Read More](#)

Forum to find solutions to regional maternity crisis

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Matt Bamford

Maternity units in regional areas often close for days or weeks at a time because of a lack of staff and other resources. So a forum in Canberra is trying to find solutions to fix that.

[Read More](#)

Surge in students for fee-free nursing diploma

Nursing Review, Other, 29/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Mater's nursing diploma applications have soared since the Queensland Government's Fee-Free TAFE initiative. Applications for the Diploma of Nursing at Mater Education have surged by more than 330 per cent since the fee removal, with almost 400 applications to join the October session compared to last year's 91.

[Read More](#)

Midwife shortage must be addressed to save workforce: Q&A

Nursing Review, Other, 29/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Chronic shortages of midwives in hospitals are causing various workforce issues, such as ineffective leadership and burnout leading to a dire future for the midwifery workforce. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported a record number of babies being born in 2021, with an increase of 7 per cent.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First: Midday, 29/08/2023, Narelda Jacobs

Interview with Health Commissioner Professor Ruth Stewart about Australia's rural maternity crisis. Stewart says the closure of rural maternity units were due to financial and workforce shortage. She adds there's already a lot of discussion about what models of care will be followed.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, AM, 29/08/2023, Kim Landers

Maternity units in regional areas often close for days or weeks at a time because of a lack of staff and other resources. There's a group of experts meeting in Canberra today to try and find some solutions to

improve access to rural and remote maternity care. Dr Megan Belot, President, Rural Doctors Association of Australia says these pressures grow as families expand. A report last year by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found the death rate for babies and mothers is higher in rural and remote Australia and the number of women giving birth before they reach hospital is also higher. Over the past 20 years, more than 150 rural maternity units have been closed and many others downgraded, according to the Australian College of Midwives. National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Ruth Stewart says there are already some promising ideas for improvement to increase the number of midwifery group practises across rural and remote Australia.

Also reported by: [ABC Southern Queensland \(Toowoomba\)](#)

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Medical lobby groups are making 'wild accusations': Barr

Canberra Times, General News, 30/08/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 11

Chief Minister Andrew Barr has hit out at doctor lobby groups who have campaigned against a payroll tax which is set to be implemented on general practices, accusing them of making "wild accusations" in a pursuit to minimise tax. General medical practices in Canberra paying more than \$2 million a year on wages will be required to pay payroll tax in a move doctors claim could result in a \$20 increase in appointments.

Similar coverage reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#)

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Legal win for junior doctors

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 1

Junior doctors have claimed victory in a class action over unpaid overtime, with their lawyers calling it a landmark case for the Australian hospital system. The Federal Court of Australia ruled that Peninsula Health had contravened the Fair Work Act in its dealings with Dr Gaby Bolton, who was owed just over \$8000 in unpaid overtime from four rotations between 2019 and 2021 at Frankston Hospital.

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Professor McLaws dies aged 70

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 4

Heather Saxena epidemiologist Professor Mary-Louise McLaws, described as a "superstar" whose work saved thousands of lives, has died after being diagnosed with brain cancer 18 months ago. She was already regarded as a global leader in her field before the COVID-19 pandemic made her a household name through her frequent media appearances to explain the emergence of new variants, diagnostic tests, vaccines and infection control measures.

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Locum a cost too big for GP

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Carmel Sparke, Page 12

When Dr Gundi Muller-Grotjan told patients she would be forced to close one of her two clinics for a couple of days a week because of a desperate doctor shortage, the response was overwhelming. "Apart from all the scones, baked goods, bottles of wine and fresh fish, I actually found dinner on my doorstep the other day," Dr Muller-Grotjan said.

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Deakin University, Barwon Health new PhD pathway to create better health outcomes for Geelong

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 29/08/2023, Michaela Meade

A new study pathway for medicine, nursing and allied health students has been created by Deakin and Barwon Health. Here's how the new positions will improve health outcomes in Geelong. The health

and wellbeing of Geelong residents will be improved thanks to a new pathway created by Deakin University and Barwon Health.

[Read More](#)

Barraba Medical Centre closes as national GP shortage continues

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Max Tillman

The closure of the only medical centre in a small north-west New South Wales town has left residents with deep concerns about access to healthcare and the potential impacts to the local economy. Last Wednesday a community newsletter delivered the news that Barraba Medical Centre would close indefinitely because it was unable to secure the permanent services of a general practitioner.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacists to deliver on current and future challenges.

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 29/08/2023

Following the release of the Australian Government's Intergenerational Report 2023, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has called for pharmacists to support Australia's healthcare needs. The report details five major factors affecting public policy.

[Read More](#)

RACGP again urges Victoria to scrap payroll tax grab

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 29/08/2023, Michelle Wisbey

There could be an exodus of GPs, the college has warned, as pressure mounts on the Government to follow the lead of other states. The most recent newsGP poll revealed the imposition of payroll tax would lead to 94% of respondents increasing their fees.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 29/08/2023, Peter Mitchell

As industry groups warn a tax grab is driving doctors out of the state. The RACGP has told the Victorian Government its payroll tax will worsen the health crisis by killing off bulk billing. RAGCP's Dr Nicole Higgins says the extra payroll tax on GP's means that patients are going to have to pay more for out of five general practises will have to put up their fees.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

The drugs reshaping Denmark's economy

Age, Business News, 30/08/2023, Eshe Nelson, Page 23

After 100 years of relatively quiet existence as a maker of diabetes drugs, Danish firm Novo Nordisk has suddenly grown so big that the company is drastically reshaping the Danish economy. The reason: Ozempic and Wegovy, two weight loss drugs made by Novo Nordisk that have been proclaimed as revolutionary in the field of obesity.

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

Is mirtazapine the new go-to?

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 6

An upcoming PBAC review of antipsychotic prescribing will consider whether risperidone restrictions in aged care are behind the increasing use of other chemical restraints. In response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, since 2020, doctors have been barred from prescribing risperidone beyond 12 weeks without an authority script.

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PBAC to consider Wegovy

Novo Nordisk has applied for PBS funding for its subcutaneous weight loss drug Wegovy as a severe obesity treatment. The product contains semaglutide the same active ingredient as Ozempic and was approved by the TGA last year for adults with obesity, or overweight in the presence of at least one weight-related comorbidity.

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No reduction in ODT services

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/08/2023

Bureaucrats refute suggestions pharmacies are dropping out of the national opioid dependence treatment (ODT) program Community pharmacies are looking to join the national methadone Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) despite suggestions stores would drop the service, officials from the Department of Health and Aged Care claim.

[Read More](#)

The impact of medication shortages

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/08/2023

Who is hit hardest by medicines shortages...and how do they affect community pharmacists? Jack Janetzki, Wern Chai, Tien Bui, Fei Sim and Vijayaprakash Suppiah investigate The researchers present preliminary findings of their research into the impact of medication shortages on Australian community pharmacists and their communities Medication shortages are not a novel occurrence in community

[Read More](#)

60-day prescribing questions answered

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/08/2023

Update your prescribing software or risk ending up behind the 8-ball on Friday. Come Friday, GPs can write extended prescriptions for 90 medicines for the first time. [...] The first step will be ensuring that the practice prescribing software gets updated by 1 September, similar to when new items are listed on the PBS.

[Read More](#)

Lilly's first in class med

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/08/2023

Eli Lilly Australia announced at the 2023 Australasian Diabetes Congress in Adelaide last week that Mounjaro (tirzepatide) will soon be made available in Australia for adults living with type 2 diabetes. The registration and launch of Mounjaro represents the first new class of diabetes medicines introduced in nearly a decade. [...] Tori Brown, Lilly General Manager of Australia, said, "when the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee met in Jul this year they made the decision to not recommend the listing of Mounjaro (tirzepatide) on the PBS.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

Rise of telehealth expanding career paths

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 30/08/2023, Page 18

The rise of telehealth in Australia is redefining how healthcare is delivered and driving job creation in services and technology. Telehealth is a broad concept that involves providing health care using communications technology (such as telephone and video conferencing); between patients and their healthcare providers and between healthcare providers.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#).

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Demand for IVF in regional Victoria sparks calls for state government assistance, cash for sperm donors

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Tamara Clark

Mildura mother Jo Castle is one of the booming number of Victorians who has turned to in vitro fertilisation (IVF) to start a family. [...] She said IVF treatment, which costs thousands of dollars per round, was often out of reach for prospective parents, even with existing Medicare rebates.

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

[Read More](#)

Medi-Map goes live with My Health Record

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/08/2023, Natasha Egan

Aged care medication management software Medi-Map has connectivity with the My Health Record as of this week, providing users access to residents' health information including pharmacy dispense records. The integration which went live on Tuesday 29 August allows nurses from approved care organisations to access a resident's health record based on an individual's permissions and decision to opt in. [...] Other aged care software vendors encouraged to connect Medi-Map is among around 120 clinical software products capable of connecting to the My Health Record as at 17 August, the Australian Digital Health Agency's register of conformance shows .

[Read More](#)

Nine PHNs to pioneer MyMedicare frequent flyers

The Medical Republic, Other, 29/08/2023

Patients who attend hospital more than 10 times a year will be hooked up and registered with a regular GP. Nine PHNs will be part of the first phase of the frequent hospital users element of the MyMedicare voluntary patient enrolment scheme, aimed at connecting frequent hospital users to a GP to receive multidisciplinary care in the community.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Doc's rape trial

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/08/2023, Jason Walls, Page 1

A Darwin gp who allegedly "suckled" on his patient's breasts to induce lactation before digitally raping her in his surgery has faced the first day of his trial in the Supreme Court. Berrimah Family Practice doctor Mohamed Jamaldeen Hassian Ali, 73, pleaded not guilty to four counts of gross indecency and one of rape.

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Teo's media mates should back away from disgraced pal

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 30/08/2023, Page 16

Blacktown City ratepayers and residents have been ill served by a council deal that saw land earmarked for development as a research centre and five-star medical tourism hospital associated with high-profile neurosurgeon Charlie Teo sold to developers for less than half the initially estimated price.

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Man sues state for alleged sex abuse at LGH

Launceston Examiner, General News, 30/08/2023, Charmaine Manuel, Page 1

A man who allegedly experienced sexual abuse from a male paediatric nurse at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) is taking legal action against the State of Tasmania. The civil lawsuit relates to alleged abuse that he experienced in 1989 as a child patient at LGH being treated in the paediatric ward for abdominal pain and pneumonia. The Health Service has previously been served with statements of claim by other victim-survivors alleging abuse.

GP fined \$12000 for lax paperwork

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 1

A GP campaigner for voluntary assisted dying has been found guilty of professional misconduct and fined \$12,000 over a paperwork error. The error happened in 2020 when Dr Nick Carr arranged for his terminally ill patient to complete a form in front of two witnesses.

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

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GP repays \$170,000 in claims

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 10

A GP has paid back \$170,000 in Medicare claims for treating patients "in imminent danger of death", as well as for various aged care and skin excision items. The Professional Services Review (PSR) said the doctor was in the top 1% of claimants for item 160 "professional attendance ...

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Former St John of God nurse Peng 'Chris' Yang to stand trial for alleged sexual offences

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 29/08/2023, Satria Dyer-Darmawan

A former St John of God nurse who lost his job after allegedly raping a person when the allegations surfaced will stand trial next week. A former nurse who allegedly raped and sexually assaulted a person will stand trial in the County Court next week. [...] Mr Yang, who was stood down from the hospital when the allegations surfaced, is suspended from practising as a nurse according to The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

[Read More](#)

Thomas Levick spent a month at Ramsay Clinic Lakeside at Warners Bay and 'came out worse'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 29/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw

Elmore Vale's Thomas Levick says the private health system needs to "prioritise patient welfare over profit". Mr Levick, a researcher in space and astronomy, spent a month in Ramsay Clinic Lakeside at Warners Bay - a private mental health centre - last November.

[Read More](#)

Breast surgeon Ho Keun Shin avoids jail after indecently filming female patients

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Evelyn Leckie

A former Adelaide breast endocrine surgeon who indecently filmed 11 women without their consent during medical examinations, subjecting them to "secretive abuse", has avoided jail and instead been handed a good behaviour bond. [...] The website of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) states Shin is currently suspended and not allowed to practice in Australia.

[Read More](#)

GP who treated up to nine acupuncture patients at once repays \$360,000 in Medicare rebates

Australian Doctor, Other, 29/08/2023, Rachel Carter

The doctor was in the top 1% of claimants for three Medicare acupuncture items. A GP has repaid \$360,000 in Medicare claims for acupuncture after a review found he had treated up to nine patients at the same time.

[Read More](#)

ICAC finds SA Health still at risk of corruption

In Daily, Other, 29/08/2023, Jim Plouffe

More than four and half years after then Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Bruce Lander warned SA Health had a culture that enables corruption, the current commissioner says not enough has changed. The Independent Commission Against Corruption tabled its Integrity Trade-off report today as an update on issues identified in Bruce Lander's December 2019 report Troubling Ambiguity: Governance in SA Health

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Games inquiry: Regional groups say their pleas fell on deaf ears

Age, General News, 30/08/2023, Kieran Rooney, Page 4

Regional groups have told a Senate inquiry they were ignored by the Victorian government when they sounded the alarm on decisions about facilities and housing for the Commonwealth Games. The Committee for Ballarat said yesterday its requests to improve housing around its inner city had fallen on deaf ears as the state pushed ahead with plans for an athletes' village in an industrial area instead.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#).

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'Bucket Man' gets to walk free again

Herald Sun, General News, 30/08/2023, Liam Beatty, Page 2

An AAMI Park pitch invader responsible for leaving former Melbourne City goalkeeper Tom Glover with 10 stitches and a "permanent reminder" of the chaos has been released on bail less than an hour after he was sentenced to jail. Alex Agelopoulos, 23, returned before the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Tuesday after pleading guilty to violent disorder and disrupting a game.

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It's game, threat and match

West Australian, General News, 30/08/2023, Mitchell Woodcock, Page 1

Dumped Tennis West chief executive Brett Patten has filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the sport's State governing body over claims he was unfairly dismissed. Mr Patten was sacked on August 25 after an extraordinary board meeting on August 15 led to a vote of no confidence.

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Cook says attacks on Mitchell could force early retirement

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/08/2023, Jasper Bruce, Page 30

South Sydney teammate Damien Cook fears constant criticism could force Latrell Mitchell into premature retirement as the NRL deliberates whether to bar Rod Churchill from presenting the Clive Churchill Medal. Since returning to Souths' ailing title bid from injury late last month, Mitchell has failed to impress, culminating in his acceptance of a one-match ban for elbowing Tyson Frizell in round 25.

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

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Deven Robertson torn jumper: Brisbane Lions open auction to raise funds for breast cancer

The Australian, Other, 29/08/2023, Callum Dick

The Brisbane Lions are banking on Deven Robertson's now infamous ripped jumper to once again break the internet though this time for a much more important cause than his Instagram account. In the midst of a premiership pursuit, the Lions have rallied around one of their own for a cause close to their heart.

Also reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Almost half of elite athletes 'earn below poverty line'

Canberra Times, Other, 30/08/2023, Cassandra Morgan

Almost half of Australia's best athletes are earning below the poverty line threshold with an annual income of less than \$23,000. That's the finding from the Australian Sports Foundation which warns that without bolstered financial support, the country risks an exodus of top-tier talent ahead of major international events.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Research returns \$3 for every \$1

The Australian, Higher Education, 30/08/2023, Tim Dodd, Page 21

Money invested by the Australian Research Council in university research returns more than \$3 for every dollar spent, according to a new study. Economic consultants ACIL Allen found that each dollar the federal government spends on the ARC's competitive grants program leads to a \$3.32 GDP boost compared with using it for general government expenditure.

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

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Strife of a super bug life revealed

Herald Sun, General News, 30/08/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 9

Melbourne scientists have uncovered how superbugs can pass their "powers" on to other bacteria, warning that the public underestimates their threat. Their findings, published in Nature Communications, found superbugs - which even last-resort antibiotics will not treat - can share genes for antibiotic resistance with other bacteria.

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

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Research finds healthy use for winemaking waste

Food & Beverage, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 16

Waste from winemaking could be a valuable source of ingredients for nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals and food colouring, according to new research from chemical engineers at Monash University. PhD student Xueqing (Rachel) Liu and Associate Professor Victoria Haritos, Monash University Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, found that compounds derived from red wine grape varieties have significant levels of bioactive natural compounds called polyphenols and anthocyanins.

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Research priorities revealed

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/08/2023, Ajp Staff

The federal government has released its Primary Health Research Plan, developed to guide Medical Research Future Fund investments. The plan has been developed by an independent expert advisory panel to advise the minister for health and aged care on the strategic priorities for research investment.

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ABC News, News Breakfast, 29/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

University of the Sunshine Coast researchers say they're trying to learn more about perimenopause and why it increases the risk of chronic health diseases.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Voice will make most of local community experience

The Australian, General News, 30/08/2023, Suzanne Andrews, Page 11

Back in the 1980s, Yarrabah in far north Queensland had the highest suicide rate in Australia. Our people were losing loved ones too often, too young. I grew up in our family home opposite the church where weekly funeral processions were a dismal and heartbreaking reality.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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Roadblocks prevent Indigenous access to NDIS

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/08/2023, Madeleine Bower and Lachlan Leeming, Page 4

Accessing disability support services remains a major challenge for Indigenous people, with the problem an acute issue just 35 kilometres from Sydney's CBD. Analysis from the First People's Disability Network suggests up to 60,000 Indigenous Australians could be entitled to support from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), but as of September last year there were only 40,842 getting support from the scheme.

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A place to call home after years of hardship

Daily Telegraph, General News, 30/08/2023, Madeleine Bower, Page 4

He is one of thousands of young Indigenous people in his community to have battled homelessness, mental health issues and substance abuse. Yet Wiradjuri-Kamilaroi man Daniel Cameron does not live in remote Australia but in Blacktown in the very heart of Greater Sydney.

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Closing the gap depends on help for our children

Northern Territory News, General News, 30/08/2023, Sierra Haigh, Page 10

Closing the Gap efforts must start with Australia's kids, a human-rights activist says. Timmy Duggan OAM said the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and Bringing Them Home reports highlighted the 'urgent national crisis' of the Gap more than 25 years ago.

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Agencies failed to liaise over at-risk teen

Newcastle Herald, General News, 30/08/2023, Nick Bielby, Page 3

There were "missed opportunities" by NSW government departments in the lead-up to the suicide of a 15-year-old First Nations boy in the Hunter Region in 2020, an inquest has found. Deputy State Coroner Erin Kennedy handed down her findings on Friday, after an inquest in Sydney in June.

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

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'We need to be strong together': Mark Coles Smith on Australia's 'deeply offensive' Indigenous suicide crisis

The Guardian, Other, 30/08/2023, Steve Dow

At 23, the Western Australian-born actor Mark Coles Smith lost his best friend, a fellow young Indigenous man, to suicide. He spent the next 10 years "not letting go of that loss", holding the grief within. "He was a deeply inspiring human being," recalls the Nyikina man and Mystery Road: Origin star, now 36. "A person of joy and good humour and good nature, extreme physical strength and capability, athletic, kind, loving.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Concern amid sharp rise in syphilis rates

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/08/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 4

Riverina residents are being urged to keep up to date with their annual STI testing as syphilis cases soar across the Murrumbidgee Local Health District. MLHD clinical nurse consultant Lauren Coelli said health practitioners across the Riverina were particularly concerned around a huge jump in syphilis numbers seen in recent months.

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'Let all GPs treat hepatitis B'

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins , Page 10

Mandatory training requirements for GPs who prescribe hepatitis B antivirals are unnecessary and a barrier to treatment, says the RACGP. GPs cannot initiate hepatitis B medications, which are \$100 highly specialised drugs, unless they complete up to 11 hours of further training to become accredited community prescribers.

Similar coverage reported by: [Australian Doctor \(National\)](#).

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'How retro': Chickenpox cases reported at two Illawarra schools

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 29/08/2023, Kate McIlwain

Two Illawarra high schools have had chickenpox cases crop up among their students in August, prompting questions among parents about whether the itchy, spotty virus they remember from their childhood is having a resurgence. However, the region's Public Health Unit Director Curtis Gregory said the chickenpox was still "quite normal" but that people may have noticed less of it in recent years.

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Tracy Ridout dies after catching rare infection from dog bite

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 30/08/2023, Kylie Stevens

A mum who contracted a rare bacterial infection after being bitten by a dog has sadly died. Tracy Ridout, 53, was dogsitting a friend's German shepherd earlier this month and was trying to throw a toy when the pooch gave her a playful nip on the finger.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Baby rashes

Australian Doctor, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 19

Most of the time, these dermatological changes represent benign, transitory conditions, but they may also forewarn serious medical problems or genetic diseases. [...] Topical calcineurin inhibitors are preferred for treatment of eczema of the eyelids, neck and skin folds.¹³ Crisaborole 2% ointment twice

daily is a new eczema treatment recently introduced into Australia and is TGA approved for use in patients from two years of age with mild to moderate atopic dermatitis.

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When will Covid end?: Medical experts answer Aussies' important questions

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/08/2023, Hayley Goddard

Aussies are still being struck down by Covid. Medical experts reveal when the virus will end and answer other major questions about the deadly virus. [...] The following vaccines have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use in Australia: Pfizer (Cominaty) Original, Omicron BA.1 and Omicron B.4/5; Moderna (Spikevax) Omicron BA.4-5; Novavax (Nuvaxovid), a Health Department spokesperson said.

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RFBI rolls out telehealth service

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 29/08/2023, Natasha Egan

Aged care and retirement living provider RFBI has begun introducing telehealth services at its residential aged care villages to address challenges residents have accessing general practitioners, specialists and other health professionals. [...] A key part of RFBI's telehealth program is the TGA-approved Visionflex technology, which is one of the leading telehealth solutions in Australia, said Ms Woodlands.

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Banned substances found in sports supplements

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 29/08/2023

EmpireLabz Australia Pty Ltd, has been issued seven infringement notices totaling \$115,00 for the alleged unlawful advertising and supply of sports supplements that are not on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

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Pfizer refuses to reveal how many of its Australian employees quit the company rather than take its specially-imported Covid vaccine

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 29/08/2023, David Southwell

Pfizer has refused to tell a Senate hearing how many of its employees left the company rather than take a specially-imported batch of Covid vaccine for the company's Australian staff. [...] Pfizer said although Australian medical watchdog the TGA did not test the vaccines that were used on its staff the specially earmarked batch was authorised because it was certified to European standards which are equivalent to Australian ones.

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3AW, Mornings, 29/08/2023, Neil Mitchell

Interview with Michael Cowley, Obesity Expert, Monash University. Cowley discusses weight loss drug Ozempic. He states it's approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for sale in Australia, but it hasn't been launched here because of supply chain issues.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Six people lose their lives to overdose every day 'Overdose crisis': Region's drug deaths revealed in report

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 30/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 3

The New England North West recorded 70 unintentional overdose deaths in four years, the annual

Pennington Institute report said while raising alarm about the nation's "overdose crisis". The report, released on Monday, recorded these deaths from 2017 to 2021 in Tamworth-Gunnedah (25), Moree-Narrabri (15), Inverell-Tenterfield (15), and Armidale (15).

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

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City to become 'fantasy land'

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 30/08/2023, Page 12

A major push from the ACT government to decriminalise illicit drugs in small quantities has sparked anger from police, who believe the shake-up will only attract more crime to the territory - that they claim will become a "fantasy land" for drug users. Law enforcement officers in the nation's capital say the new laws will increase drug intake and gang activity, running counter to many drug experts who say decriminalisation will lead to a decrease in the number of people using dangerous substances.

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Drug overdoses within the community a 'very difficult issue' to tackle

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 29/08/2023

Pennington Institute CEO John Ryan says drug overdoses within the community is a "very difficult issue" to tackle. "Most Australians are not aware of the scale of drug-related challenges in the community," he told Sky News Australia.

[Read More](#)

WA medicinal cannabis regulations to be reviewed amid call for 'immediate action'

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Sam Bold and Georgia Loney

The West Australian government looks set to make it easier for more doctors to prescribe medicinal cannabis but has stopped short of supporting calls for changes to drug-driving laws. In March a parliamentary report into medicinal cannabis issues in WA made 16 recommendations, including changing laws to provide a defence for medicinal cannabis use, provided the driver was not impaired.

[Read More](#)

Opioid dependence treatment program closes books to meet existing Victorian demand for help

ABC Online, Other, 29/08/2023, Erin Somerville

Drug and alcohol program manager Maryanne Donnellan feels frustrated each time she is forced to turn away a regional Victorian desperate to manage their opioid dependency. Wodonga-based Gateway Health operates a large opioid dependence treatment program, but demand is far exceeding resources.

[Read More](#)

PSA tackles drug-induced deaths

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 29/08/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has made a plea to governments, health workers and support organisations to tackle the persistent challenge of deaths caused by intentional and unintentional drug overdose. It comes after the release of Pennington Institute's Annual Overdose Report, which found that there were 544 drug-induced unintentional deaths in Australia in 2021.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 29/08/2023, Stephen Cenatiempo

ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith admitted that Labor backbencher Michael Peterson's so-called private member's bill to decriminalise hard drugs was indeed a Trojan horse designed to keep the Government's hand clean and once again sparked interest in the ACT's lax approach to drugs.

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FOOD STANDARDS

'Often overlooked': Parents urged to steer clear of giving kids under 5 marshmallows, popcorn over choking fears

The Australian, Other, 29/08/2023, Angus McIntyre

Two of the most popular snack foods for toddlers could pose major health risks to young children, with experts warning parents to steer clear of the treats Kidsafe SA chief executive Holly Fitzgerald issued the dire warning for traditional-sized marshmallows and popcorn, noting they were "often-overlooked" as a choking hazard for children under 5.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Riverina landowners share in PFAS cash

Daily Advertiser, General News, 30/08/2023, William Ton, Page 3

Thousands of landowners affected by toxic firefighting foam at air force bases across Australia, including Wagga's RAAF base, will share more than \$130 million in compensation from the federal government. About 30,000 landowners living in seven sites claimed they were affected by toxic PFAS chemicals found in the foam.

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

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