



# TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 31st August 2023

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## LINKS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Hobart Mercury** (page 1) reports that a report into child sexual abuse in Tasmanian institutions, including hospitals, contains 191 recommendations. *Also reported by:* [Hobart Mercury](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Online\)](#).
- **Age** (page 2) reports that a research analysis of 360 research papers on the measurement of labour pain has found the current method of measuring the pain is inadequate.
- **The Australian** (Page 3) reports that Gymnastics Australia has released new guidelines allowing athletes to pick their own uniforms that match their gender identity. *Also reported by:* [Daily Telegraph](#), [Northern Territory News](#)
- **Herald Sun** (page 4) reports that Victorian Coroner John Olle has demanded the state's hospitals change their procedures to prevent sick newborns from being discharged too early, in the wake of a baby's death at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.
- **The Australian** (Page 5) reports that Indigenous leader Tanya Hosch has stated that a Voice to Parliament would ensure Indigenous Australians would get the healthcare they need. *Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

- [Courier Mail](#) (page 9) reports that data from Queensland Health found approximately one in four 12-17 year olds in Queensland has tried e-cigarettes.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Annual awards to expose 'dirty tricks' of tobacco industry call out Meta Sarah Makse PerthNow - Western Suburbs August 30, 2023 8:00PM

Perth Now, Other, 31/08/2023, Sarah Makse

A Subiaco-based national organisation fighting to reduce smoking and vaping and the Australian Medical Association have presented Meta with an Exploding Vape' award. AMA and the Australian Council on Smoking & Health held its annual Dirty Ashtray Awards ceremony on Tuesday, which was attended by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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### Bitter pill to swallow

Cranbourne Star News, General News, 31/08/2023, Matthew Sims, Page 3

Terry White Chemmart Cranbourne owner Andy Om said they may have to look at cutting down on the services they provide when the Federal Government's 60-day dispensing policy comes into effect on Friday 1 September. On Wednesday 26 April, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced the intention to allow millions of Australians to buy two months' worth of medicine for the price of a single prescription.

Also reported by: [Berwick Star News \(Online\)](#).

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### Dispensing concerns as proposal set to go ahead

Clarence Valley Independent, Other, 30/08/2023, Emma Pritchard

But as September 1 approaches, and the Federal Government's proposed changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), which will allow Australians to purchase up to two months' worth of medications for the price of a single prescription go ahead, Clarence Valley Pharmacist Michael Troy from Southside Pharmacy revealed he is reducing trading hours at his secondary business Masen's Pharmacy in South Grafton from next week as a means of remaining viable. [...] Despite claims by Mr Butler that the proposed changes will halve medicine costs for six million Australians, Mr Troy disagrees, stating there will be a number of negative impacts on regional pharmacies like the ones he is already feeling pressured into introducing.

[Read More](#)

### The weakest link

Inside Story, Other, 30/08/2023, Lesley Russell

Private health insurance is a drain on the federal budget with no clear benefits. So why is Labor keeping its reform process quiet? [...] Health minister Mark Butler (left) with his Coalition predecessor Greg Hunt.

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### Lift-off: governments sign digital health deal

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/08/2023

Reform of Australia's healthcare system is on the way. See what's in the fine print. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was the first to sign, on 31 May, and WA's Minister for Health Amber-Jade Sanderson was the last, on 26 July.

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### Substitution is not the answer: RACGP

The Medical Republic, Other, 30/08/2023

The RACGP has raised concern over "task and role substitution" amid suggestions that the

government's scope of practice review is set to consider everybody's scope except GPs'. [...] "Whether it is nurses, pharmacists or allied health professionals, in a global health workforce shortage we need everyone working as close as possible to the top of their scope," Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler said, making no mention of GPs.

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## **Seven Toowoomba, Seven Local News, 30/08/2023, Rob Brough and Joanne Desmond**

The cost for two months' supply of medication will halve for some patients on Friday when a new federal policy comes into effect. But our local pharmacists say they've been forced to raise the price of other scripts and services to make up for the shortfall. The 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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## **2MCE, 17:00 National Radio News, 30/08/2023**

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has today announced a major strategy to tackle eating disorders. The new ten-year national roadmap aimed at achieving better patient outcomes has been developed by researchers. The national director of the strategy, Dr Beth Shelton, said it was formulated by listening to people with lived experiences alongside clinicians and community providers. More than 1 million Australians suffer from an eating disorder in any given year, and experts say GPS needs better tools to diagnose illnesses, as well as improved referral pathways.

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## **Triple J, Hack, 30/08/2023, Dave Marchese**

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler says Commonwealth-funded eating disorder strategy is a terrific piece of work. He adds they charted a pathway forward in the next ten years in dealing with eating disorders. He notes the 10-year strategy sets out clear steps towards helping those are suffering from the conditions.

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## **Triple M Townsville, 07:00 News, 30/08/2023**

Townsville locals are struggling to find affordable health care, says MP for Herbert Phillip Thompson. Mr Thompson says the Federal Government has failed to deliver a bulk billing medical centre for Townsville that was promised to be completed in May. A spokesperson for Minister for Health, Mark Butler, says the department is working closely with the northern Queensland Primary Health Network, consulting with local health services and a provider will be announced soon.

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## **ABC Newcastle, 15:00 News, 30/08/2023**

The Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says a Commonwealth funded eating disorder strategy launched today sets out clear steps towards helping those suffering from the condition. The strategy calls for more general practitioner training to diagnose and refer patients alongside a focus on addressing body image issues and weight stigma. Butler has told ABC Radio Melbourne eating disorders have not been dealt with well in the past.

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## **ABC News, Drive, 30/08/2023, Compere**

Health Minister Mark Butler says the 10-year strategy on eating disorders will guide both him and his state and territory counterparts. He says his predecessor, Greg Hunt, already introduced some good measures to boost treatment, but the pandemic caused case numbers to spike tragically. He says the challenge now is finding the health staff to meet demand.

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## ABC Radio Brisbane, 10:00 News, 30/08/2023

A 10-year national strategy on eating disorders has been released, labelling the current state of care in Australia as a national crisis. Over a million Australians experience an eating disorder in any given year. Grace Scholl suffered disordered eating and struggled to get help. The Commonwealth-funded Eating Disorder Strategy calls for more GP training to diagnose and refer patients, as well as a focus on body image issues and weight stigma within school, sport, and health settings. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says the Government welcomes the strategy. He states the entire Australian community must rethink its attitude towards body image.

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## ABC Radio Canberra, Drive, 30/08/2023, Anna Vidot

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has acknowledged a failure in managing the vast majority of eating disorders patients. Researchers have today revealed a ten-year national eating disorder strategy that maps out how governments, health professionals and society can work towards prevention and better treatment.

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## ABC Radio Melbourne, Mornings , 30/08/2023, Virginia Trioli

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister on eating disorders strategy. Butler says the framework sets out all of those challenges in very clear detail. He admits the issue has not been dealt with well in the past and that more young Australians are suffering than ever before. He states the collaboration will be funded to work in primary health network regions with primary care providers to help families navigate what is a very complex system. He notes one of the challenges they're facing is lack of workers.

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

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Opinion: Aged Care Taskforce: Great Expectations

Canning Examiner, General News, 31/08/2023, Page 23

Two years after the completion of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, there are great expectations the quality of aged care will be improved. While much has been done, including better pay, better nursing care, new quality standards and star ratings, one of the key difficulties in this long-term reform process is funding. [...] To address this issue, Minister for Aged care, Anika Wells announced an Aged Care Taskforce in mid-June.

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### Brisbane Olympics facing wipe-out with cash-strapped Aussie athletes considering quitting

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/08/2023, Julian Linden

The funding crisis that is crippling Australian high-performance sport is worse than feared. [...] Prime Minister Anthony Albanese just committed to a \$200 million increase to women's sport off the back of the Matildas' success, after federal Sports Minister Anika Wells had announced an additional \$20 million rescue package to help every Aussie athlete who is good enough to get themselves to Paris next year "We understand the pressures facing athletes and in the past six weeks alone we have committed more than \$220 million to sport funding," Wells said.

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

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### Maggie Beer's big aged care mission

Celebrity chef and author Maggie Beer is fronting a television program that aims to improve the dining experience for residents of an aged care home. [...] Meanwhile, Ms Beer joined Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells in South Australia yesterday to launch a free set of online training modules for cooks and chefs in the aged care sector.

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## Aged Care Act discussions continue

Community Care Review, Other, 30/08/2023

Peak bodies and advocacy groups have met to provide feedback to the aged care minister on the proposed framework of the new Aged Care Act. The redrafted rights-based Act which was a recommendation of the royal commission will come into effect from 1 July 2024. Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells, who attended the meeting remotely, said on social media: "The new Aged Care Act will respect and uphold the rights of older people in our aged care system.

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## Maggie and Albo announce new food and nutrition aged care initiative

HelloCare, Other, 30/08/2023, Bianca Iovino

Australian chef Maggie Beer and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese paired up for a visit at a South Australian aged care facility to launch their new collaborative food and nutrition aged care initiative. The pair were joined by Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth at Eldercare's Seaford facility on Tuesday to spend time in the kitchen, have afternoon tea with residents and announce The Maggie Beer Foundation Aged Care Cook and Chef Support Program.

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## Anthony Albanese teams up with Maggie Beer for aged care program

Sky News Australia, Other, 30/08/2023, 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.

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## Aged care has to be community responsibility

Tasmanian Examiner, Other, 30/08/2023, Dan Minchin

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: [Inverell Times \(Online\)](#), [Maitland Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Namoi Valley Independent \(Online\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## WIN Bendigo, WIN News, 30/08/2023, Jared Constable

A new report from the Australian Sports Foundation revealing many athletes is running on empty. A survey of more than 2000 athletes showing 43% of those over 18 say their financial situation has worsened while trying to balance training, work and fundraising. Federal Sports Minister Anika Wells told WIN News the Albanese Government understands the pressures facing athletes committing more than \$220 million in the last six weeks to sport funding.

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## Our health crisis

Ipswich News Today, General News, 31/08/2023, Ron Peszko, Page 1

Roundtable discussions highlight... A roundtable discussion in Fernvale last Thursday has highlighted serious local health issues - including the lack of an allied workforce strategy for regional Queensland, vehicles idle at Lowood with no drivers, and 80 year olds driving themselves from the Brisbane Valley to find health services 80km away in Brisbane. [...] Blair MP Shayne Neumann and Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride met more than 20 participants from the local community, Somerset Regional Council, the Darling Downs and West Moreton Primary Health Network, West Moreton Health, and the University of Southern Queensland.

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## Somerset roundtable discusses rural health workforce issues

Kilcoy Sentinel, General News, 31/08/2023, Page 16

Federal Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride and Member for Blair Shayne Neumann hosted a roundtable on regional health in Fernvale last Thursday, with a focus on rural allied health workforce challenges. The roundtable was attended by around 20 participants from Somerset Regional Council and a range of professional bodies, service providers and local community groups, including Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH), the Brisbane Valley Inter-Agency Group and Kilcoy Inter-Agency Group.

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## Forum shines a light on urgent need for mental health support

Hobsons Bay City Council, Other, 30/08/2023

Listen Forum shines a light on urgent need for mental health support Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong councils were delighted to welcome ministers, local MPs and young people from the community to a forum about the urgent need for more mental health services for young people in the inner west. On Tuesday night (August 29), the two councils hosted Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride, and Gellibrand MP Tim Watts to The Substation in Newport.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 30/08/2023, Stephanie Borys

Interview with Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians. McCarthy says the Voice to Parliament is cost-effective. She states it will be pivotal in closing the gap in terms of the health outcomes and working with Mark Butler as Assistant Indigenous Health Minister

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## DEPARTMENT

### New plan for \$50 million in MRFF funding

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 30/08/2023, Page 2

The Federal Department of Health and Aged Care has released a new Primary Health Research Plan

that will shape \$50 million in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). Designed by an independent expert advisory panel chaired by Professor Jane Gunn, the plan acknowledged that there were increasing difficulties in accessing primary healthcare for many Australians.

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## Review finalised

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 30/08/2023, Page 2

The final version of the Review of the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy (EFC) Funding Arrangements has been received by The Department of Health and Aged Care. Included in the final report is an examination of the impact and continued sustainability of the current EFC Program and associated practices across the cancer medicines supply chain.

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## New funding plan for diabetes and CVD

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 30/08/2023, Page 4

The Department of Health and Aged Care has released a new plan for \$77.5 million in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund to improve care and outcomes for people with diabetes and cardiovascular disease (CVD). In the plan are calls for building increased knowledge of the causes of diabetes and CVD, as well as new ways to predict who is at risk of diabetes and CVD and their complications.

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## Revolutionising Dementia Care: Group Homes Australia Launches Groundbreaking 'Rementia Together' Retreat

Aged Care Online, Other, 30/08/2023

Group Homes Australia, leading dementia care provider, has launched its first Rementia Together Retreat (21st to 25th of August); making Group Homes Australia 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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## Double dispensing won't increase demand

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/08/2023

The government is working with wholesalers to ensure medicines supply ahead of 60-day dispensing rollout. Increases in maximum dispensing quantities are not expected to fuel medicines shortages, a Department of Health official claims. Speaking on a webinar about the implementation of 60-day dispensing on Friday (1 September) Penny Shakespeare, the deputy secretary of the Department's

[Read More](#)

## Are you prepared for 60-day dispensing?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 30/08/2023, Chloe Hava

As 60-day inches closer, pharmacists can expect to start receiving new scripts with 60-days' supply of medicines from this Friday (1 September 2023). So what will pharmacists need to know? [...] We have not been able to effect that technical change in the Services Australia software vendor packages from 1 September, but we are working to effect it as quickly as possible,' said Adriana Platona, First Assistant Secretary, Technology Assessment and Access Division of the Department of Health and Aged Care in a webinar yesterday (29 August).

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## Local doctors selected for CCQ Clinical Council

Bundaberg Now, Other, 30/08/2023, Meta Time

Two Bundaberg doctors have been selected as part of the Country to Coast Queensland (CCQ) Clinical Council to advise on achieving health outcomes throughout the region. [...] CCQ is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that delivers the Primary Health Network (PHN) programs on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

## A deep dive into yet more questions about the Medical Research Future Fund

Croakey, Other, 31/08/2023, Melissa Sweet

To optimise government investment in health and medical research, wide-ranging concerns and questions about the Medical Research Future Fund must be addressed, according to Dr Lesley Russell, in the #LongRead below. [...] The Department of Health and Aged Care declares on its website: "You can have a say in how the Australian Government spends MRFF money" and states that the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB) talks to: The general public.

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## Australia's doctors – driving action on climate change

Humanitix, Other, 30/08/2023

Australia's leading doctors call on all Australian governments and the healthcare sector to prioritise climate mitigation and adaptation policies to protect the health of present and future generations. [...] The webinar represents a deep dive into sustainability where we will hear from our Chief Medical Officer, Prof Paul Kelly who will highlight the work of the National Sustainability Unit and the need for a Health in All Policies approach.

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## RACGP to host MyMedicare webinars

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 30/08/2023

GPs' questions will be answered at the events, which will include representatives from the college and the Department of Health and Aged Care. Registrations for MyMedicare open in October, with general practices already able to sign up.

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## ABC Newcastle, Mornings , 30/08/2023, Paul Turton

Interview with Professor Ruth Stewart, National Rural Health Commissioner on crisis in regional and rural communities. Stewart says the biggest challenge is to change our concept of what birthing service should be. She notes they need to co-design and co-develop the birthing service with the community.

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## CORONAVIRUS

### This latest COVID may be the best at being virulent

Australian Financial Review, General News, 31/08/2023, Fenit Nirappil, Page 36

Variant ba.2.86 stands out in the omicron family tree because of how much it has morphed, writes Fenit Nirappil.

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

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### South West residents urged to share stories and perspectives on aged care system in Bunbury consultation forum

West Australian, Other, 30/08/2023, Sean Van Der Wielen

South West residents are being asked to share their stories and perspectives with the aged care



system in an effort to shape the Federal Government's new Aged Care Act. [...] The forums are taking place as the result of Federal Government releasing a consultation paper on the new Aged Care Act, which was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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## **Australian retirees flocking to Queensland in record numbers, new data reveals**

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023, Sarah Richards & Molly Slattery

Australians are retiring later in life, and Queensland is the top destination for those seeking a new adventure in their golden years, according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The sunshine state has seen a boom in the general population and the population of retirees over the last few years.

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

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## **Desperately needed aged care workers being kicked out of Australia due to their age**

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023, Lexy Hamilton-Smith

Permanent residency for aged care workers recruited from overseas is being fast-tracked by the government in a bid to address a jobs crisis in the sector, but at the same time, "high-quality" temporary workers deemed too old are being kicked out of the country. Industry leader Busi Faulkner from Home Care Nurses Australia says the absurdity is plain to see in the following tale of two aged care workers, both filling vital roles.

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## **\$18m expansion on drawing board for Darwin aged care**

Australian Seniors News, Other, 30/08/2023

Southern Cross Care has unveiled its plans for an \$18 million expansion of its aged care services in Darwin. The aged care provider will expand its footprint at Pearl Supported Care in Fannie Bay with a new purpose-built dementia-friendly unit and age friendly Health & Wellness Centre that it says will help to transform the delivery of aged care and healthy ageing services in the Northern Territory.

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## **Government spending on community care projected to rise 'significantly'**

Community Care Review, Other, 30/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

Australia's ageing population will place further pressures on the aged care system and, in turn, government finances, warns the latest intergenerational report. Formally released last week by the Treasury, the report the sixth of its kind provides a "big picture view" of the nation's fiscal position over the next 40 years.

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## **Ageing population requires new model of care, say nurses**

Community Care Review, Other, 30/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

In the wake of the findings of the intergenerational report, a coalition of peak nursing organisations is calling for Australia to adopt innovative models of care to support a healthier ageing population. Released last week, the Intergenerational Report 2023 predicts in 40 years' time Australians will remain healthier to an older age.

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## **ABC News, ABC National News, 30/08/2023, Gemma Veness**

Even as the Government fast tracks permanent residency for aged care workers recruited overseas. It's sending home temporary workers deemed to be too old to stay. This is despite a crisis in the sector

struggling to get enough carers to fill vital roles. Immigration Lawyer Tin Zhu says Australia's immigration department should consider lifting the age limit for key industry sectors like aged care.

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## **Radio National, Life Matters, 30/08/2023, Hilary Harper and Michael Mackenzie**

Aged care advocates say skilled and experienced migrants working in the industry are being kicked out because of age restrictions on their working visas.

The Federal Government plans to fast track residency for overseas carers, but Home Care Nurses Australia says the visa process is challenging. Spokesperson Busi Faulkner says her agency needs at least 100 more carers to meet demand.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### **Deadly new drug trend a 'grey' area**

Cairns Post, General News, 31/08/2023, Luke Williams, Page 1

Opioid concerns a cocktail of pharmaceutical-based opiates drug dealers and users call "greys", appears to have become the most popular sedative sold on Cairns city streets as new research shows an increase in opiate-caused drug overdose deaths in the region. New research released from the Pennington Institute showed 67 people in Cairns died from unintentional drug overdoses in 2017-2021.

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### **Benzos, stimulants increasingly implicated in drug deaths**

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

Pharmacists have added their voices to calls for more government and organisational intervention in reducing drug overdose "Unintentional overdose death has far outpaced our population growth over the past two decades," writes Pennington Institute CEO John Ryan in his introduction to the organisation's latest snapshot of overdose in Australia.

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### **Those in regional towns more likely to overdose: annual report details horrors of drug crisis**

West Australian, Other, 30/08/2023, Holly Prentice

Drug overdoses in the South West is the highest in 16 years with an explosion in the use of synthetic opioids, according to latest research from a leading public health and research group. The latest data from the Pennington Institute details that men living in rural and regional areas, Indigenous people and those in low socioeconomic areas are more likely to die from unintentional overdose.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### **Early Canberra pollen causes asthma misery**

Canberra Times, General News, 31/08/2023, Steve Evans, Page 3

There's been a jump in the amount of pollen in the air in Canberra two weeks earlier than usual. It's caused an outbreak of asthma and hayfever attacks for people who were unprepared for the early hit.

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**'We are all drinking chemical soup'**

A community group including prominent Tasmanian scientists has used a visit by a United Nations official to highlight claims that the state's drinking water is unsafe. A conference at Parliament House, featuring United National Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, Dr Marco Orellana, was told that there was a link between heavy metals, pesticides, and neurotoxic contaminants and the surge in the illnesses such as Parkinson's Disease and Motor Neurone Disease.

Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#).

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## Researchers using AI to detect 'new or enlarging' MS lesions or plaques

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/08/2023

University of Sydney Neurologist Dr Heidi Beadnall says researchers are now using AI to detect "new or enlarging" multiple sclerosis lesions or plaques. "When we're monitoring disease and also monitoring treatment, we use whether or not there is the existence of new or enlarging MS lesions or plaques, and also whether there's new contrast-enhancing lesions appearing and that's kind of where we're limited," she told Sky News Australia.

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

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## National report gives voice to women suffering from pelvic pain

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 30/08/2023, Robyn Riley

A new national survey shows around half of the country's adult female population miss work, study or exercise because of debilitating pelvic pain. Australian women are in pain, with a new national survey showing around half of the country's adult female population miss work, study or exercise because of it.

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

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## Text message program for heart attack prevention proves successful

9News, Other, 30/08/2023, Lucy Slade

A text message program aimed at saving people from having heart attacks through preventative treatment is proving to be successful. [...] Heart Foundation spokesperson Natalie Raffoul said the results blew them away.

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## More than half of all heart disease worldwide linked to poor lifestyle

The New Daily, Other, 30/08/2023, John Elder

More than half of all heart attacks and strokes are avoidable, a new global study has found. The Global Cardiovascular Risk Consortium an international team, including scientists from six Australian research bodies found that more than half of cardiovascular diseases worldwide are linked to five factors.

[Read More](#)

## History made as Wagga's Imaging Associates begins new Magseed breast cancer procedure

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 30/08/2023, Andrew Mangelsdorf

A Wagga mum battling breast cancer has praised a local imaging centre as it began a groundbreaking new treatment in town this week. On Wednesday, Imaging Associates introduced a Wagga first, injecting patients with Magseed markers, the latest in breast surgery technology designed to guide surgeons to the cancerous growth.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 30/08/2023, Peter Overton

A new targeted screening programme is alerting thousands of people with no record of cardiovascular

disease to get a check-up. Text messages were sent out to 42,000 Australians over the age of 45 with no record of cardiovascular disease. They were prompted to get a Medicare-funded Heart Health check with 200 GP clinics involved in the pilot study. The Heart Foundation is currently rolling out phase two of the study targeting hotspot areas across Australia, where death rates from cardiovascular disease are higher than the general population.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#).

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 30/08/2023, Michael Thompson

A drug breakthrough is giving pancreatic cancer patients new hope tonight. The Garvan Institute finding a potential treatment, working hand in hand with chemotherapy, stopping tumours spreading. The drug, combined with chemotherapy, was found to improve the survival rate in mice by 35%. The next step is clinical trials on humans next year, the same drug also undergoing patient studies for bone marrow cancer.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### RAH staff to don colours for Jersey Day

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 21

Royal Adelaide Hospital staff will be looking a little sportsmad on Friday, wearing their favourite team colours in a bid to stir conversations about organ donation. The Adelaide 36ers are supporting the wide variety of hospital workers - from clinicians to caterers - to wear team colours on Jersey Day, now held each year in honour of 13-year-old rugby player Nathan Gremmo who was killed in a road accident in 2015.

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### Coroner demands changes

Herald Sun, Edition Changes, 31/08/2023, Laura Placella, Page 4

A coroner has demanded Victorian hospitals change their procedures to prevent sick newborns from being discharged too early, after a methadone-addicted baby died in a women's prison. Baby A was just 12 days old when she lost her life in 2018 at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, where her mum was remanded.

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

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

### Testing could've saved sick bub

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Jordanna Schriever, Page 9

A "brave but very sick" six-week-old baby should have had his care at the Women's and Children's Hospital escalated sooner, after his oxygen dropped to dangerously low levels, a coroner has found. In findings handed down after an inquest into the death of baby Logan Scott Ferguson, Deputy State Coroner Ian White found his 2016 death was "potentially preventable" but was unable to say "with certainty" it was preventable.

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

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

### Rising euthanasia deaths show rising 'confidence' in scheme

Ballarat Courier, General News, 31/08/2023, Callum Godde & Kaitlyn Offer, Page 2

More than 300 Victorians died using state euthanasia laws last financial year, in what Premier Dan Andrews believes is a sign of growing confidence in the scheme. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board annual report, tabled in state parliament yesterday, shows 306 people took their life as part of the scheme in 2022/23, up 11 per cent from 2021/22.

Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [9News \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

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

## Why the need to dodge questions?

Border Mail, General News, 31/08/2023, Michelle Cowan, Page 11

It's been 10 months since the NSW and Victorian Premiers arrived on the border to commit \$225 million each to a new single-site hospital for Albury Wodonga.

The announcement, made just prior to the Victorian government election and a few months out from the NSW election, was called out by the Border clinicians as "politics before planning".

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

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## Ochre to provide service at St Marys

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/08/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 2

Health Minister Guy Barnett addressed the St Marys community on Wednesday to give an update on concerns around health services in the region. It follows the resignation of the town's only remaining GP Dr Cyril Latt, who resigned mid-August after 16 years.

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

## LGH needs co-located hospital now: doctor

Launceston Examiner, General News, 31/08/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 3

Construction of a private hospital adjacent to the Launceston General Hospital needs to begin immediately for the LGH to find reprieve from bed block and a congested emergency department, a leading Tasmanian doctor says. Australian Medical Association board member Michael Lumsden-Steel has said the LGH will continue to operate over its capacity without the co-located hospital, to be operated by Calvary Health Care.

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

## Andrew Barr hits out at doctor lobby groups over Canberra GP payroll tax debate

Canberra Times, Other, 30/08/2023, Lucy Bladen

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.

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

[Read More](#)

## Advocates call for funding boost to attract young audiologists and hearing specialists to regional areas

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023, Claudia Forsberg

Sarah Frawley has been partially deaf and using hearing aids for most of her life. But when she went completely deaf, seemingly overnight, the struggle to find adequate audiology specialists near her home at Kinglake in regional Victoria was made more apparent.

[Read More](#)

## 6PR, Afternoons, 30/08/2023, Julie-anne Sprague

Interview with Peter Breadon, Grattan Institute of Health and Aged Care on National Review of Primary Care Workforce Regulations is currently investigating ways to increase Australians access to quality health care. Breadon the review looks at primary care workers across the board, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics. He notes in Australia GPs are much more likely to work on their own. He adds allowing pharmacists to prescribe means the GPs can be freed up to see more complex patients.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Beating anxiety

Herald Sun, General News, 31/08/2023, Page 10

An online course designed to curb negative thinking has had strong results in helping people reduce the time they spend ruminating and worrying, a new study has shown. UNSW Sydney researchers say the online course, which will soon be hosted on the government-funded online clinic This Way Up and is free with a prescription from a clinician, was found to significantly improve the mental health of the people who participated.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Toowoomba\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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### 'Please don't blame psychiatrists for rejecting your referrals – the system is failing us too'

Australian Doctor, Other, 30/08/2023, Carmel Sparke

Psychiatrist Dr Angelo Virgona has responded to a GP's open letter describing his increasing frustration over rejected referrals. A leading psychiatrist says GPs are right to be frustrated over rejected psychiatry letters but should put the blame on politicians not psychiatrists, who are struggling to meet escalating demand in a "broken" system.

[Read More](#)

### The Outback Mind Foundation's mission to heal men's mental health

Cairns Post, Other, 30/08/2023, Dacia Stewart

In a town with more than double the national rate of male suicide, one charity is using a unique way to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health. The Outback Mind Foundation (TOMF) founder Aaron Schultz recently received funding from the Gladstone Regional Council's Regional Arts Development Fund to create a film called 'Healing Men's Minds'.

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

[Read More](#)

### The free eCLiPSE mental health program unveiled in Newcastle

Newcastle Herald, Other, 30/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw

TikTok videos that reflect unrealistic depictions of physical appearance may harm how young women think and feel about their bodies and the impacts may be worse if the content is perceived as unedited and natural. A free mental health program to help people "become their own therapists" has been developed in Newcastle.

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

[Read More](#)

### ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 30/08/2023, Yvonne Yong

Young Australians are sharing heartbreaking stories about living with an eating disorder. One million Australians suffer with an eating disorder in any given year. Researchers today have unveiled a ten-year strategy to help tackle the issue. The National Eating Disorder Strategy highlights health system failures. It wants to challenge weight stigma, where patients who are not stereotypically thin fall through the cracks and recommends governments legislate against weight discrimination.

[Play Now](#)

### ABC Radio Darwin , Breakfast, 30/08/2023, Jo Laverty

A major strategy to tackle eating disorders has been released, with researchers outlining a ten-year

national roadmap to achieve better patient outcomes. More than 1 million Australians suffer an eating disorder in any given year. University of Canberra researcher and clinical psychologist Dr Vivienne Lewis says the strategy highlights significant gaps in timely care.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 30/08/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Interview with Associate Professor Asaduzzaman Khan, University of Queensland. Khan says their research has found sport has many positive impacts on children's mental health. He states they investigated over 4000 kids for a period of eight years, and found that sport participation team, sports and individual sports both are beneficial for both positive and negative mental health.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Pain a labour of love or just plain scary

Age, General News, 31/08/2023, Wendy Tuohy, Page 2

As she laboured to give birth to her first child, Sade, Shimi Nadaraja felt she was coping well with the pain of contractions, even though they were so intense they made her whole body shake. "I had a water birth, which made it a lot more pleasant for me," says Nadaraja, a personal trainer who is a few weeks away from having her second baby.

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### More nurses on the way

Daily Telegraph, General News, 31/08/2023, Page 10

Work will begin on reaching new safe-staffing levels in NSW public hospitals immediately, with the Minns Government signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association pledging to roll out more workers. The government will hire an extra 1200 nurses in a bid to ease pressure on health staff and reduce waiting times.

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### Maternity crisis prompts appeal

Daily Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 2

The Australian College of Midwives and Rural Doctors Association is calling for an overhaul of regional maternity care. The Regional Maternity Services Forum in Canberra has brought together 70 stakeholders and experts to discuss improved access to safe maternity care in rural, regional and remote Australia.

*Also reported by: [Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).*

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### Mums-to-be still smoking

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 3

An alarming number of Geelong women are continuing to smoke while pregnant, sparking fears for their babies' health. In the Geelong area, 8.7 per cent per cent of women reported smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy and 66.7 per cent per cent of those continued smoking in the second half.

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

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## Tax grab 'will shut GP clinics'

Herald Sun, General News, 31/08/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 5

Up to 30 per cent of Victorian doctors' clinics will close if the Andrews government continues a tax grab, a group of peak health groups have warned. As revealed by the Herald Sun this week, the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners wrote to Premier Daniel Andrews urging his government to follow other states by scrapping tax audits.

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

## Female surgeons want workplace flexibility to move to the country, new research shows

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023, Steven Schubert

Only one in five general surgeons in Australia is a woman and that number falls to 16 per cent outside the big cities, new research shows. Surgeon Cris Cuthbertson grew up in Melbourne but now lives and works in Bendigo, a two-hour drive from the city.

[Read More](#)

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

The Courier Mail, Other, 30/08/2023, 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.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 10, 10 News First, 30/08/2023, Candice Wyatt

GPs have warned up to 30% of practises in Victoria will close if they're subject to payroll tax. Doctors are outraged by a recent reinterpretation of the rules, which has resulted in some now owing hundreds of thousands of dollars. A reinterpretation of existing tax law has classified GPs as employees even if they privately rent space in an existing clinic. Dr Anita Munoz says 97% of GPs in the state are tenant doctors. The Government insists there have been no changes to payroll tax and it applies now as it always has to GPs.

[Play Now](#)

## Channel 9, National Nine News, 30/08/2023, Peter Hitchener

The Andrews Government is being urged to step in and cancel new payroll tax bills that it's sending to GP clinics. Doctors are warning some will have to close if they're forced to pay what they're calling a stealth tax. The bill is for five years of payroll tax, but Dr Ashan Hussain says it's being charged for contractors, not employees.

[Play Now](#)

## 2CC, Canberra Live, 30/08/2023, Leon Delaney

Interview with Dr Nicole Higgins, National President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Higgins says ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr's remarks reflect that he doesn't actually understand how general practise works. She argues GPs are already paying payroll tax on nurses, admin staff and our doctors in training. She notes if the Chief Minister wants to encourage bulk billing, surely imposing this tax is the wrong way to go about it but tying it to a threshold.

Also reported by: [2CC \(Canberra\)](#)

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## Claims of medication chaos if half-price scripts are overturned

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 6

Doctors claim the Nationals will unleash prescription chaos if, for "political motives", they move to block half-price medicines that will be available to patients from September 1. Pharmacists are being asked to "chip in \$500" to campaign against the federal Government's half-price medicine policy ahead of a rally to fight the change in Canberra next week.

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

## 'Designed to shame women': Australian pharmacies urged to scrap forms for emergency contraception

The Guardian, Other, 31/08/2023, Natasha May & Melissa Davey

Standing in a suburban pharmacy, Sophie\* didn't know why she felt ashamed to be filling out a form in order to access a legal, over-the-counter medication. "Sometimes it's hard to know if you're being judged or not when you go and access emergency contraception," Sophie says.

[Read More](#)

## Stress, money worries and sense of grievance sparked PBS fraud

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 30/08/2023, Megan Haggan

A pharmacist has successfully appealed his sentence for offences relating to a nearly \$290,000 PBS fraud. The Court of Criminal Appeal NSW has heard the case of Felix Yue-Sing Chan, who in November 2022 had been handed a two-year custodial sentence in the Queanbeyan District Court.

[Read More](#)

## Pharmacists should be able to work with GPs to prescribe medicines for long-term conditions

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 30/08/2023

Independent pharmacist prescribing is increasing around the world, and now trials are starting in most Australian states. The review should focus on expanding pharmacists prescribing for stable conditions and long-term medications, under the direction of a GP.

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### 'Fake' nurse had ID card

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Jordanna Schriever, Page 9

A man who allegedly impersonated a mental health nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital is also accused of stealing a duress alarm and possessing a hospital identification card, court documents reveal. Brandon Chesney, 22, of Newton, made his first appearance in the Adelaide Magistrates Court on Wednesday, after he was arrested in June and charged with 26 offences including 13 counts of being unlawfully on premises at the RAH.

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

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Never again

A groundbreaking report into child sexual abuse in Tasmanian institutions contains 191 recommendations which aim to prevent similar events ever happening again. The final public address from the commission of inquiry, which investigated abuse in schools, hospitals and youth detention as well as the wider healthcare and out-of-home care system ended 29 months of harrowing work by commissioners Marcia Neave, Robert Benjamin and Leah Bromfield.

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

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## Nurse to face trial for rape

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Satria Dyer-Darmawan, Page 7

A former nurse who allegedly raped and sexually assaulted a person will stand trial in the County Court next week. Peng "Chris" Yang, 38, was employed at St John of God Geelong Hospital when he allegedly committed the offences in 2019. [...] 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.

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

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Vaping is new 'normal'

Courier Mail, General News, 31/08/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 9

Vaping rates among Queensland high school students is "incredibly high" and has become "normalised behaviour", research shows, as Queensland Health data reveals fears of babies being poisoned have increased. Research commissioned as part of a parliamentary inquiry into vaping reveals about one in four 12-17 year olds in Queensland has tried e-cigarettes, with 10 per cent of this cohort claiming to vape daily.

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

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### Nick lucky to be alive after severe overdose

Ballarat Courier, General News, 31/08/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 4

Nick Moriarty has been adjusting to "life being so different" after almost dying from a drug overdose eight years ago. The 27-year-old hopes to inspire others to become better educated about the risk or overdose.

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

### Partners in boosting health education

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 31/08/2023, Michaela Meade, Page 7

Deakin University and Barwon Health are hailing a new program as a path to improving the health and wellbeing of Geelong residents. Under the clinician scientist pathway (CSP), 10 new PhD candidate positions will be funded, creating fresh opportunities in medicine, nursing and allied health.

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### Education key to preventing overdoses

Shepparton News, General News, 31/08/2023, Murray Silby, Page 4

It's described as an "escalating crisis that begs for urgent and comprehensive policy reform" and the Goulburn Valley has not escaped its deadly outcomes. The Penington Institute, a public health

research organisation in relation to drugs, has released the latest figures for overdose around the country, which it said should concern all Australians.

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## SPORT

### Nothing uniform in gender rule changes

The Australian, General News, 31/08/2023, Elena Couper, Page 3

Gymnastics Australia will allow athletes to pick their own uniforms in line with their gender identity, according to new guidelines just released. The country's governing body for gymnastics has reaffirmed its position on stamping out "discrimination of any sort" across the sport, releasing new Guidelines for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People in Community Gymnastics.

*Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Modern sports precincts need bold thinking

Hobart Mercury, General News, 31/08/2023, Andrew Moore, Page 20

The recent dilemma facing Glenorchy City Council in regards to the cost of maintaining the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool (\$400,000 per year), along with the estimated budget to upgrade and replace the pool (\$30m) and the unthinkable solution, sourcing funding from the three layers of government, has showcased a number of problems facing communities across Tasmania. I've got a suggestion that requires courage from our local and state governments, aspiration from our families, strong leadership from our grassroots sporting clubs and an openness to think differently around how we access and use our sporting infrastructure.

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### Australian Sport Foundation survey finds financial and mental health pressures are leading elite athletes to consider quitting

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023

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.

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

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Cancer team follows the path of fluoro drugs

The Australian, General News, 31/08/2023, James Dowling, Page 7

Fluorescent drugs could be used to locate brain cancers, and help surgeons remove them, an Australian study has found. A team led by researcher Sarah Best, of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, has studied lowgrade glioma (LGG) cancers and found a drug could travel down certain pathways in the brain, showing the full mass and shape of the tumour.

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### Budding ideas help to grow cancer hope

Herald Sun, General News, 31/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 9

An emerging blood cancer treatment that holds the potential of a cure has Victorian researchers elated and baffled. CAR T-cell therapy Chimeric Antigen Receptor is, says Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre researcher Ilia Voskoboinik, an exciting immunotherapy. It uses a patient's own immune system to seek out and destroy cancer cells.

*Also reported by:* [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#).

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## Drug beats 'hidden HIV'

Herald Sun, General News, 31/08/2023, Page 11

An existing blood cancer drug has shown promise in killing "silent" HIV cells and delaying the virus from re-emerging in mice, according to Australian research. Hidden HIV cells, known as latent infection, are responsible for the virus permanently remaining in the body and cannot be treated by current therapy options.

*Also reported by:* [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#).

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### Amputation speaks to 'poisonous legacy of voicelessness'

The Australian, General News, 31/08/2023, Rosie Lewis, Page 5

Indigenous leader Tanya Hosch has made an impassioned plea to Australians to vote for a voice to parliament and executive government, saying if the advisory body already existed things could have been different for her. The Yes campaigner and AFL executive revealed on Wednesday at Anthony Albanese's referendum campaign launch that she had just been discharged from hospital after having her lower right leg amputated.

*Also reported by:* [The Senior \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#).

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### Mobile health team to hit road

Cairns Post, General News, 31/08/2023, Bronwyn Farr, Page 3

Specialist health providers for a child development program will soon visit the Torres Strait, Cape York, and Northern Peninsula Area. The \$3.6m Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service program will have mobile visiting allied health teams working in collaboration with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health assistants.

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

### NBN Central Coast, NBN News, 30/08/2023, Natasha Beyersdorf and Gavin Morris

A first of its kind rehabilitation centre on the central coast was officially opened with a ceremony today. The Glen for Women offers First Nations women a chance to overcome addiction.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### 'How retro': Chickenpox resurgence at Illawarra schools

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 31/08/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 5

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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## **Calls for Meningococcal B vaccine to be added to Victorian government immunisation schedule**

7news.com.au, Other, 30/08/2023, Ailish Delaney

'At no stage were we aware or even thought we were saying goodbye to our daughter.' The mum of a teenage girl who died suddenly from meningococcal disease is pleading with medical authorities to make a vaccine free for all Victorian children.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### **What 'ageing gracefully' looks like now**

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 30/08/2023, Rachel Tashjian

What does it mean to "look your age"? In a recent story published by Allure , Charlize Theron addresses a reality that few people in Hollywood want to face: she is, in fact, getting older. [...] When Botox was approved for cosmetic use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in 2002 it was intended to soften lines on the face.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### **Are workplace laws keeping up with the rise of medicinal cannabis?**

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023

It's been seven years since medicinal cannabis was first legalised in Australia and its use has become increasingly common, with almost three hundred thousand prescriptions made over the past two years. But as more Australians are being prescribed the drug, are workplace regulations and other laws keeping pace?

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### **Experienced foragers highlight food safety after doctors extract live parasite likely ingested on foraged greens from woman's brain**

ABC Online, Other, 30/08/2023, Charlotte Gore

After doctors extracted a parasite from a woman's brain, believed to have come from carpet python faeces ingested through foraged greens, experienced foragers say food safety is essential. [...] Food Standards Australia New Zealand's Food Safety Basics "It's good to actually go out with experienced foragers to actually have hands-on experience that will tell you plants in hand what to look for and how different it would be from a look-alike plant right next to it."

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

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## Food fraud is on the rise. Is that really honey you are eating?

The Senior, Other, 30/08/2023, Therese Murray

When you think of fake products, you'd be forgiven for not having food items like honey at the top of your list. But just as so many aspects of our lives are affected by scams - so is the food we eat including honey which is sometimes adulterated with sugar syrup to lower costs.

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## AICIS

No relevant coverage

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