



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Thursday, 3rd August 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that a summit, convened by peak provider advocacy group Aged and Community Care Providers Association, has submitted a proposal to Aged Care Minister Anika Wells for a national levy for taxpayers to lift the quality of aged-care in the country. In an issues paper, the group found that "chronic underfunding" of aged care had resulted in both an unsustainable sector and inadequate quality of care.
- **[The Australian](#)** (page 2) reports that the NSW government will expand its urgent response services that deliver care in homes and aged-care centres. The \$124m program will expand to 25 services and will be available to no cost to people aged 65 and older, ensuring they won't need to visit an emergency room.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 3) reports that Minister for Sport Anika Wells has called for the World Anti-Doping Agency to prioritise a review of EPO testing after it was found that Peter Bols first drug test was not a failed test at all. Ms Wells states that athletes need clarity and that "It's in the interests of all athletes in Australia and around the world that any ambiguity in the analysis of synthetic EPO is thoroughly reviewed." *Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)*

- **The Age** (page 4) reports that a new Australian study has found one in three younger Victorians who died suddenly from cardiac arrest had used illegal drugs before their deaths, which experts say underscores the hidden impact some illicit drugs can have on the heart. Dr Elizabeth Paratz, the study's lead investigator and a cardiologist at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, said: "we've seen a substantial number of young people using methamphetamines with severe heart failure, to the point that they would require transplant or [they died suddenly]."
- **The Australian** (page 7) reports that former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth has stated that Health Minister Mark Butler's decision not to make private health insurers pay for essential medical devices used in surgeries will keep premiums down at the expense of the broader health system. "It doesn't solve the problem for the health system; sure, it helps the viability of insurance companies but it undermines the broader health system," stated Mr Coatsworth.
- **The Daily Telegraph** (page 7) reports that during the COVID-19 pandemic the Health Department operated a social media team that sought to influence social media companies to remove posts and tweets regarding lawful public protests against Covid lockdowns and vaccine mandates. Freedom of Information requests have revealed the team, based within a "National Incident Room" also requested Twitter to remove posts by then sitting Liberal MP Craig Kelly, who has said the revelations demonstrate the dangers of Labor's proposed "Misinformation Bill".
- **The Australian Financial Review** (page 9) reports the Andrews government's decision to cancel the Commonwealth Games will face investigation by a state parliament inquiry and the auditor-general's office. The nine person parliamentary inquiry committee will hold its first meetings this month, with an interim report expected around April 2024. *Also reported by: Canberra Times, Herald Sun, Herald Sun*
- **The Hobart Mercury** (page 10) reports Tasmania's ramping crisis has reached "very extreme levels" with more than 40 per cent of ambulances ramped on arrival, state Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff has claimed. Minister Jo Palmer said the state was working with the federal government on GP shortages which were compounding pressures on emergency wards. *Also reported by: Launceston Examiner*

MINISTER BUTLER

Health reforms 'to erode system'

The Australian, General News, 03/08/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 7

Health Minister Mark Butler's decision to carve out private health insurers from funding medical devices will keep premiums down at the expense of the broader health system, says a health expert. Former deputy chief medical officer Nick Coatsworth said private health insurance premiums would remain low under reforms to the prosthesis list but patients or hospitals would inevitably have to recover the costs for medical devices.

Also reported by: The Australian (Online).

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Triple threat forces Montville Pharn)l# out of town

Sunshine Valley Gazette, General News, 02/08/2023, Cameron Outridge, Page 9

Montville's only medical centre closed at the beginning of the year and now the chemist has moved to Mapleton, with locals fearing a domino effect offurther closures. [...] Andrew Wallace said he and the community made appeals to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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'General practice is caught in a perfect storm'

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Paul Smith, Page 56

In this exclusive interview with Australian Doctor, Mark Butler answers questions on payroll tax, pharmacist prescribing and more.

Highlights from the biggest weekend on the PSA calendar

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/08/2023, Chloe Hava

With pharmacist prescribing, aged care and scope of practice the top topics of the conference, a record 1,065 pharmacists converged on the Hyatt Regency in Sydney for PSA's annual conference. [...] To shape how pharmacists navigate this new frontier, Dr Sim launched the dramatic rebuild of the Professional Practice Standards (PPS) in front of pharmacists, organisation leaders, and government officials, including the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler.

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Health groups urge Opposition and Greens to ignore scare campaign over 60-day prescribing reforms

Croakey, Other, 02/08/2023, Jennifer Doggett

Health Minister Mark Butler has urged Opposition Leader Peter Dutton to reconsider the Coalition's opposition to the introduction of 60-day scripts, as a coalition of consumer, doctor and health groups joined together to support the reform. Speaking at a Canberra medical centre today, the Minister said that 30-day scripts make no sense for people who are on "the same medicine, year in year out, decade in decade out, sometimes for the rest of their lives."

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DoHAC's u-turn on medical device funding a blow to hospitals, patients: CHA

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 02/08/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care confirmation that the private health sector has just 11 months until a funding cliff will have dire consequences for thousands of patients in hospitals around Australia, warns Catholic Health Australia (CHA). [...] In December 2022 Health Minister Mark Butler announced that health insurers would continue to be required to reimburse hospitals for the items via a new funding mechanism.

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Senators pushed to hold firm on 60-day dispensing

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 02/08/2023

The policy is due to begin within weeks, but stalling tactics in the Australian Senate remain a possibility. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler confirmed the move to 60-day dispensing in April this year, with extended prescriptions for PBS medications aimed at patients with stable health conditions receiving ongoing treatment.

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'I'm not an anti-vaxxer': how the TGA tried to persuade an LNP senator about vaccine safety

The Mandarin, Other, 02/08/2023, Cam Wilson

Australia's medical regulator scrambled to answer a Coalition senator's frequent attacks on the science supporting COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy, new documents reveal. [...] When Rennick sent a letter in late January directly to health minister Mark Butler calling for him to "cease the rollout of the ineffective Bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccines", an email was sent out by the TGA's vaccine policy and transition branch assistant asking for answers later that day.

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ABC, The Drum, 02/08/2023, Ellen Fanning

The Federal Government has launched an investigation into the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund amid claims half \$1 billion was given to hand-picked projects without a competitive tender process under the previous government. The Health Minister, Mark Butler, says he has questions about possible undue influence from bureaucrats and ministers.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 02/08/2023, Alicia Loxley

Labor's plan involves doubling the length of 92 common scripts from 30 to 60 days without changing the price. Health Minister Mark Butler says it is beyond explanation why Opposition Leader Peter Dutton would block the halving of the cost of medicines for 6 million Australians who are grappling with ongoing health conditions.

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Channel 9, Nine News: First at Five, 02/08/2023, Monika Kos

Nine million Australians will be able to buy two months' worth of medicine for the price of a single prescription. As the Federal Government works to ease the cost-of-living squeeze. The Minister for Health Mark Butler, was out at Ochre Health Centre today in Canberra, speaking to frontline workers. Butler wonders why the Opposition Leader Peter Dutton would block the halving of the cost of medicines. The Coalition is considering its position, while the Greens are asking for more detail.

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Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 02/08/2023, Lucy Polkinghorne

Health Minister Mark Butler has backtracked on a policy to force private health insurers to front the cost of certain medical supplies. In June, the Department of Health removed a mandate for insurers to fund essential devices used in surgeries.

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ABC North Queensland, Breakfast, 02/08/2023, Michael Clarke

Interview with Mark Nolan, Mayor, Cassowary Coast Council about the closure of Cardwell GP Centre. Nolan says they're working closely with the North Queensland Primary Health Network and local member, Bob Katter. He notes they're taking a position to Mark Butler, the Health Minister, this afternoon in Canberra, seeking immediate intervention to assist with this new funding model that they're proposing.

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MINISTER WELLS

Push for super to be saved for aged care

The Australian, General News, 03/08/2023, Stephen Lunn, Page 1

All taxpayers must stump up more, potentially through a new levy, and wealthier older Australians will need to dip into their private savings to lift the quality of aged care, a new proposal put to the Albanese government warns. The new issues paper also floats "ring-fencing" some of an individual's compulsory superannuation to fund their future aged care. With more Baby Boomers hitting their 80s and beyond, how to pay for better quality aged care is becoming an increasingly urgent policy problem, leading to providers, consumers, unions and other experts meeting in June to develop a range of funding options that went to Aged Care Minister Anika Wells on Thursday.

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

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What's in a name

The Australian, Business News, 03/08/2023, Christine Lacy, Page 16

The Matildas' epic 4-0 victory over Olympic champion Canada to secure a place in the Women's World Cup round of 16 knockout stage has ignited green and gold fever across the land. Sports Minister Anika Wells is proudly wearing her Matildas scarf in the parliament this week, broadcaster Seven controlled by billionaire Kerry Stokes is drawing record eyeballs and we bet Commonwealth Bank boss Matt Comyn can't wait for their next match against Denmark at Stadium Australia.

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WADA urged to prioritise review

Age, Wrap, 03/08/2023, Michael Gleeson, Page 3

Australia's Minister for Sport has called on the World Anti-Doping Agency to prioritise its review of EPO testing to remove ambiguity for athletes, after Olympian Peter Bol was cleared following the admission from doping bodies that his first alleged failed drug test was not a failed test at all. Anika Wells, who as federal sport minister is also a WADA committee member, said yesterday that athletes needed clarity.

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

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Bol hung out to dry by sports administrators

Sydney Morning Herald, Editorials, 03/08/2023, Page 20

The cruel and questionable farce surrounding the initial provisional suspension of our middle-distance runner Peter Bol and his subsequent seven months in purgatory for a crime he did not commit surely shatters confidence in Australian officialdom's anti-doping processes. [...] The federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, is on the agency's executive committee but Bol's scandalous treatment has exposed a situation requiring more than a scientific fix.

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

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WA primary health care nurses found to be undervalued

Aged Care Insite, Other, 02/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

Western Australia's primary health care (PHC) nurses were found to be the most underutilised in Australia. The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) released a survey and found that more than a third of all PHC nurses working in WA were not always utilised. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells acknowledged the staffing requirements would not be met on time and no aged care homes would be forcibly closed.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Sky News Regional, Breakfast, 02/08/2023, Lucy Polkinghorne

Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health. The Federal Government is investing over \$148 million to help regional and remote pharmacies transition towards 60-day prescriptions. McBride says it'll make medicines more affordable for 6 million Australians.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Masterclass launched for Missing Persons Week

Star Weekly, Other, 02/08/2023

Leading Australian charity, The Missed Foundation has produced a world-first training tool to help professionals, including those in Hume and Whittlesea, better support families of long-term missing people who are living with ambiguous loss. [...] Health and Aged Care Assistant Minister Ged Kearney shared her support for the initiative.

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Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health visits Wilcannia

Australian Rural & Regional News, Other, 02/08/2023

Last Friday Senator Malarndirri McCarthy made a not well publicised visit to Wilcannia. Word soon went round town and a number of locals were able to tell her of their health and other concerns.

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DEPARTMENT

Secret web of censors on Covid

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/08/2023, Clarissa Bye, Page 7

New Freedom of Information documents reveal the federal government was secretly pressuring Facebook to censor information about lawful public protests against Covid lockdowns and vaccine mandates. The FOI documents show a social media team within a "National Incident Room" in the Health Department also pressured Twitter to try to shut down posts by then sitting Liberal MP Craig Kelly.

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Home care sorted

Casterton News, General News, 02/08/2023, oscar perri, Page 1

Fears that Commonwealth home care services in the Glenelg Shire would be run by large national provider have been abated, with council instead passing the baton to three local hospitals. [...] The responsibility to find a new provider for council's 762 home and community-based aged and disability care clients it had at the time of the decision, fell on the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Raising the standards

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 20

Pharmacy practice is evolving rapidly, with recent years bringing a near-constant parade of changes. With the steady expansion to scope of practice, the industry is anything but static. Practice is more complex than ever. [...] As part of the Australian Government's recognition that PSA is the custodian of standards and guidelines, the project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Childhood vaccinations

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 28

Australian pharmacists have long played a role in the advocacy of childhood vaccination, and in recent years jurisdictional regulations have been amended enabling pharmacists to administer some vaccines to children. [...] The current schedule is readily accessible on the Department of Health and Aged Care website at www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-getvaccinated/national-immunisationprogram-schedule

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GP practices will pay \$100 million a year in payroll tax when amnesty ends, Queensland Treasurer warns

Australian Doctor, Other, 02/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins

Only 93 practices have signed up for the state's payroll tax amnesty so far. The Queensland Government has admitted it will generate \$100 million a year in tax revenue from GP practices once its payroll tax amnesty ends in 2025. [...] Treasury bureaucrats told the Economic and Governance

Committee that the \$100 million figure was based on data from the federal Department of Health and Aged Care, audits by the Queensland Revenue Office and RACGP workforce surveys.

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An analysis of consultancy use by the Department of Health and Aged Care

Croakey, Other, 03/08/2023, Jennifer Doggett

The Department of Health and Aged Care has massively increased spending on consultants over the past 15 years, according to a new analysis that identifies a "substantial increase in policy development consultancies". "This suggests that the Department is increasingly turning to external sources for what should be core functions," writes former senior public servant Charles Maskell-Knight, who conducted a detailed analysis of data from AusTender for contracts between 2008-09 and 2022-23.

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Amid growing scrutiny of consultancies, what are the implications for health and health policy?

Croakey, Other, 03/08/2023, Melissa Sweet

Serious breaches of conflicts of interest by consulting giant PwC are just one result of Australian governments' increasing reliance on external consultancies, according to concerns raised by a raft of experts and stakeholder groups. [...] In a related article, Charles Maskell-Knight presents an analysis of trends in consultant use by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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CORONAVIRUS

Trading jabs in Tredrea lawsuit

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2023, Sean Fewster, Page 11

The Covid-19 expert backing Channel 9 in ex-footballer Warren Tredrea's wrongful dismissal lawsuit is a paid board member of an AstraZeneca advisory group, a court has heard. On Wednesday, lawyers for the network opened their defence case by tendering reports by University of Queensland microbiologist Associate Professor Paul Griffin.

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13 COVID-19 deaths amid 53 new outbreaks in residential aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 02/08/2023, Caroline Egan

As of 27 July, there were 732 active COVID-19 cases in 131 active outbreaks in residential aged care facilities across Australia, which is a slight fall on the previous week.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

At-home care lifts hospital pressure

The Australian, General News, 03/08/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

Thousands of elderly people will avoid the need to go to emergency departments as the NSW government moves to expand urgent response services delivering care in homes and aged-care centres. The teams of GPs, nurses and allied health staff will deliver specialist and multidisciplinary medical and nursing services, as well as provide access to social workers, physiotherapists, pharmacists, dietitians and occupational therapists, as part of a \$124m program that will eventually expand to 25 urgent care services.

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

More to be done for aged care

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/08/2023, Craig Gear, Page 25

As concern grows across Australia over cost-of-living expenses, light is also being shed on the things that have always been important but aren't always in the public eye, particularly aged care and how we look after our older Australians. [...] Mr Tune's Review was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and, in total, he put forward 32 recommendations to strengthen our Aged Care Regulator.

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Unsung heroes deserve every honour bestowed

Daily Telegraph, General News, 03/08/2023, Mike Baird, Page 25

I have realised that life is passing by at a rate that feels like a speeding suburban train when it used to feel unending or even suspended. [...] The terrible revelations of the Royal Commission showed the impact of what happens when care goes wrong.

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Having your say right to the end

Northern Territory News, General News, 03/08/2023, Annabel Bowles, Page 7

The leading voice for senior Territorians has welcomed new laws that streamline healthcare decisions for people incapable of having their say, but believes more can be done. The NT government recently passed legislation that gives authority to a "hierarchy" of family and friends to make the best choices for someone with impaired decision-making abilities, across emergency responses, palliative care and mental health treatment.

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

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Fears elderly leaving the Hill to get aged care

Barrier Truth, General News, 02/08/2023, Jason Irvine, Page 6

There are growing fears more of our most elderly residents will leave town if the federal government doesn't consider reclassifying Broken Hill's remoteness. [...] Required staffing levels are set to change meaning more staff per patient - as a result of recommendations following the Royal Commission into the state of Australia's aged care system.

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Deprescribing in older people

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Dr Melanie Wroth, Page 43

The term polypharmacy is widely used, and we intuitively know what it means, though definitions vary. The number of medications a person is taking to term it polypharmacy is subject to opinion and appears arbitrary, with polypharmacy referring to the total number of medicines being taken. The inclusion of topical, complementary and supplementary agents is also a point of difference.

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Aged care residents face rental battle after being told to vacate Shoal Bay homes

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2023, Romy Stephens

A pair of elderly men are battling soaring rents in their search for somewhere to live, after being told to vacate their homes in less than three months. Gary Buckingham and Donald Williams, who live at the Harbourside Haven Gardens Residential Aged Care Home at Shoal Bay, are among five men who have been told to vacate the facility by October 13.

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Reforms overlook allied health

Community Care Review, Other, 02/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

The aged care reforms are overly focused on the delivery of nursing care with not enough consideration given to allied health care, said an industry expert. "I think the royal commission did focus too much on nursing care as though it is the be-all and end-all," Bryan Lipmann chief executive officer and founder of Wintringham told Community Care Review .

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Collaboration aims to provide pioneering models of home care

Community Care Review, Other, 02/08/2023

Australian provider Silverchain has partnered with Israel-based telemedicine company Sheba Beyond to deliver digitally enabled in-home care. The collaboration between the two organisations which has been formally recognised with a memorandum of understanding will provide pioneering new models of home care to tens of thousands of older Australians through digital technologies.

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5AA, Mornings, 02/08/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Jacinta Toohey(*), Visitor Programme Officer, The Council of the Ageing SA. Toohey discusses a programme linking volunteer visitors with older people and they're looking for more volunteers to take part in it.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 02/08/2023, Leon Compton

Advocacy Tasmania CEO Leanne Groombridge says Australia's aged care watchdog must investigate aged care provider Southern Cross Care. On Monday, independent Tasmanian MP Andrew Wilkie called for the Commission for Aged Care, Quality and Safety Commissioner to launch an investigation into the aged care provider. In his speech in Federal Parliament, Wilkie said the provider was dangerously understaffed.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 02/08/2023, Leon Compton

Interview with Leanne Groombridge, CEO, Advocacy Tasmania. Compton says many of the claims made by MP Andrew Wilkie in Parliament under privilege yesterday were actually brought to him by Advocacy Tasmania. Groombridge agrees adding that they've been trying for years to deal with the issues at Southern Cross care. She notes their clients claim there are no improvements at Southern Cross care and it's a dehumanising experience.

Continuing interview on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

'Snack' your way to good health

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 03/08/2023, Sarah Berry, Page 17

Small, frequent bouts of exercise are good for building strength, writes Sarah Berry. Unlike food snacking, the more exercise snacks we have the better.

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

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Breweries mindful of healthier choices

Courier Mail, General News, 03/08/2023, James Wigney, Page 29

Tomorrow's International Beer Day comes at a slightly sobering time for the Australian brewing

industry. While the amber fluid remains close to the nation's heart, increased competition, changing drinking habits, increased taxes and a cost of living crisis all combine to make for tough times.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#).

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Genes linked to risk of obesity identified

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 3

International researchers have identified new genes that are linked to obesity risk, a discovery they say could one day help explain what influences obesity and how to treat it. The researchers used data from the UK to examine the genes of more than 400,000 people and identified several that were associated with BMI.

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How breastfeeding helps not just babies but also overweight mums

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/08/2023, Mandy Squires

It's no secret "breast is best" for babies but Australian research now shows it can also help overweight mums slim down. Here's how long you should keep at it.

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

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Just one alcoholic drink a day can increase blood pressure

The New Daily, Other, 02/08/2023, Parker McKenzie

Even a single alcoholic drink a day can increase blood pressure, according to an analysis of multiple research studies released this week. Using seven international studies, researchers have confirmed for the first time a continuous increase in blood pressure for both low- and high-alcohol intake participants.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 02/08/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

Australian researchers have uncovered breastfeeding has significant health benefits for mothers. Women are more likely to have lower blood pressure and a healthier weight if they nurse their babies for at least six months. Flinders University has found that breastfeeding can be especially beneficial for those who've experienced pregnancy complications like pre-eclampsia or gestational diabetes.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Cancer's burden

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 15

Calls to Victoria's cancer helpline have increased again, as more people are struggling with the mental and financial toll of the disease. Almost 3900 people called Cancer Council Victoria's free helpline from April to June this year, a jump of 12 per cent compared to 2023's first quarter.

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

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Pill could cure cancer

Northern Territory News, International News, 03/08/2023, Page 19

Scientists have developed a game-changing breakthrough drug that kills all solid cancer tumours while leaving other cells unharmed. The pill targets a protein called PCNA, previously thought to be "undruggable", which is present in most cancers and helps tumours to grow and multiply in the body.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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Dialysis on wheels

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 9

A bus offering dialysis is opening up travel opportunities for people suffering kidney failure. Warrnambool's Claire Gibbons was an avid traveller, but now "wouldn't dream" of going overseas.

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

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Rapid screening tool helps to 'kill' cancer in children

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 03/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 6

Treating high-risk cancer in children will be helped by a powerful new rapid tool for screening drugs that researchers say will bring faster, improved and less invasive therapies. Announced in a landmark study led by the Children's Cancer Institute (CCI), it involved 125 Australian children with high-risk cancer, including difficult to treat brain cancers.

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

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CVD guidelines revamp

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 1

GPs now have access to revamped CVD prevention guidelines and a risk calculator, with the outdated Framingham-based risk equation officially consigned to the scrap heap. The new Australian CVD Risk Calculator developed by the National Heart Foundation of Australia and endorsed by the RACGP is a recalibrated version of the contemporary PREDICT-1 algorithm based on a New Zealand primary cohort study.

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New diabetic CKD drug option

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 8

GPs can now prescribe finerenone under the PBS to prevent worsening kidney function in adults with chronic kidney disease caused by type 2 diabetes. More than 26,000 patients with diabetic chronic kidney disease (CKD) who are still at risk of declining renal function despite first-line therapy are expected to benefit from the new listing, which went live on 1 July.

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Cannabis medicine for cancer pain

Australian Pharmacist, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 58

According to 2020 data published by the World Health Organization (WHO), breast cancer was the leading cause of cancer death in women followed by lung, colorectal and cervical cancers; while lung, liver, colorectal, stomach and prostate cancer were the most common in men. There were almost 10 million deaths worldwide related to cancer in 2020.

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Cancer is the pits at any age. But rates are rising in young people like me, and we don't fully know why

The Guardian, Other, 03/08/2023, Josephine Tovey

The pain radiated from a spot just to the right of my belly button, so precisely I could have drawn an X on my skin. It was a Monday evening in early July 2021, and I was lying on the couch next to my boyfriend, Mick, watching Four Corners.

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

Trials a lifeline for blood cancer patients

Medical Forum, Other, 02/08/2023

Blood cancer was in the spotlight this month with a new report highlighting national inconsistencies in treatment access. Professor Chan Cheah at Blood Cancer Research WA is addressing that here.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 02/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Dr David Sinclair, ageing and longevity expert, Harvard University, about breakthrough that may have cracked the code to living longer. Researchers found a chemical cocktail rejuvenated old cells in mice, and it hoped it could lead to a medicine to prevent and treat things like cancer, cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's. Sinclair says it's the first time that it's possible to safely rewind the age of human cells but not through gene therapy.

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PRIMARY CARE

'Tragic' state of ramping

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/08/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 10

New Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff has slammed the state government for letting Tasmania's ramping crisis get to "very extreme levels", claiming 40 per cent of all ambulances were ramped on arrival. Her words came in the wake of criticism from Coroner Robert Webster, who handed down his findings on Tuesday into the death of a 71-year-old woman ramped for eight hours at Launceston General Hospital.

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

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

MRI to transform care

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/08/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 7

A new state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system is promising to revolutionise patient treatment such as enhanced cancer detection at Townsville University Hospital (TUH). Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) director of medical imaging Gary Kershaw said the \$2.4m 7.5tonne 3 Tesla Siemens MRI unit was "faster, more advanced, incorporates AI, and introduces more imaging applications for patients".

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

VAD an incitement to suicide?

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Antony Scholefield, Page 3

Attorney-General says vad consults via telehealth unlawful. Federal laws on inciting suicide are intended to encompass phone consults on voluntary euthanasia, placing GPs at legal risk of \$200,000 fines, the Attorney-General has said.

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

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

Town foils GP practice takeover

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 12

A medical crisis in Yackandandah, Victoria, has been averted at least for now after a controversial takeover of its only GP practice failed to go through. All five GPs in the small rural community had vowed to quit if the sale to national aged care provider Apollo Care proceeded, citing concerns about the company's ability to run a general practice.

I don't want to become the ADHD drugs prescriber

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Page 14

The debate about the role of GPs has been heated. [...] In the pages of Australian Doctor, there has been a heated debate about the role of GPs: the RACGP wants the freedom for all GPs to diagnose the condition and initiate medication to end a postcode lottery.

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

Nationals MP slams 38,000 bat colony near Bendigo hospital

The Australian, Other, 02/08/2023, Duncan Evans

Anger over a massive 38,000 bat colony near a regional Victorian hospital is growing with one Nationals member calling out the Daniel Andrews' government over a "ridiculous" situation. Gaelle Broad, who represents Victoria's Northern Region in the upper house, appeared on 3AW Melbourne to call for the urgent relocation of bats that roost at Rosalind Park, with claims the animals had forced Ambulance Victoria helicopters landing at the nearby Bendigo Health hospital to divert to the city's airport on multiple occasions.

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

[Read More](#)

Rachel Stephen-Smith says damning review of obstetrics and gynaecology confirmed 'existing challenges'

Canberra Times, Other, 02/08/2023, Lucy Bladen

The ACT's Health Minister has conceded not enough has been done to turn around culture in obstetrics and gynaecology at Canberra's women's and children's hospital but has said she does not think its training accreditation is at risk. This is despite a damning draft review finding the department at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children failed to meet five of six standards needed for training accreditation.

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

[Read More](#)

Newborn gene screening could help improve preventive health in Australia

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/08/2023

Health Editor for The Australian Natasha Robinson has discussed a new method of screening for newborn babies called ATLAS. Ms Robinson said the new DNA gene sequencing technology ATLAS would allow doctors to screen for hundreds of genetic conditions at the same time and analyse the results.

[Read More](#)

Victoria invests in lifesaving medical device for babies

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 02/08/2023

Victoria is investing \$700,000 in a lifesaving medical device for babies. A Melbourne-based startup has developed a new technology that allows health practitioners to insert catheters to deliver crucial treatments like blood transfusions more accurately.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 02/08/2023, Stacey Lee and Nikolai Beilharz

The Ambulance Employees Association says an OPSTAT White was issued for most hospitals around Adelaide last night due to ambulance ramping. It says significant pressure on the system meant that ambulances were unable to meet their target response times.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 02/08/2023, LUCY BREADEN

Interview with Rebecca Schramm, daughter of Kathleen Schramm who died after being ramped at the Royal Hobart Hospital for two hours. Breaden says following the death of that woman in her 70s at the LGA last year, coroner Robert Webster said cases like this will continue to occur until issues associated with the resourcing of emergency departments and access to general practitioners are resolved. An audio of Tas Minister Jo Palmer is played saying they're closely working with the Federal Government to try and find ways that we can do better in those areas for Tasmanians. Schramm says nothing has changed nine months after her mother died.

[Play Now](#)

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Men's Sheds get a boost

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/08/2023, David Killick & Sam Stolz, Page 10

Howrah Men's Shed secretary Greg Ryan says volunteers at the shed are no psychologists, but "camaraderie and a bit of a laugh between blokes goes a long way". Mr Ryan, along with Howrah's 136 members, are rejoicing in a \$175,000 injection from the state government to help Men's Sheds statewide continue to play an important role in ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of Tasmanian men.

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

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

Ketamine trial shows 'promise'

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 2

A month-long course of ketamine injections may be an effective treatment for severe depression, say Australian doctors who found "promising" remission rates in their largest-of-its-kind trial. One in five adults in the Ketamine for Adult Depression Study achieved total remission after four weeks of twice-weekly subcutaneous ketamine, reported the UNSW Sydney team.

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Half of Australia's population will experience a mental health disorder by this age

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/08/2023, Penelope Clifton

Researchers have found one in two Australians will deal with one of these mental health disorders in their lifetime. By the time we're 75, half the Australian population will have experienced a mental health disorder, scientists say.

[Read More](#)

Toowoomba Hospital executive director Shirley-Anne Gardiner takes on new job at Momentum Mental Health

The Courier Mail, Other, 02/08/2023, Michael Nolan

After shepherding the Darling Downs through the Covid pandemic, Shirley-Anne Gardiner is stepping down from her role as the Toowoomba Hospital executive director to focus on her passion, providing grassroots mental healthcare. When Shirley-Anne Gardiner stepped out of the cinema after watching Top Gun Maverick, she looked at her phone to see seven missed calls, four text messages and a welfare check, all from her colleagues at the Toowoomba Hospital.

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

[Read More](#)

NSW Minister for Mental Health Rose Jackson says Mitchell Patterson and Emma Haining's stories of their experience at the Mater's

psychiatric emergency centre are 'heartbreaking'

Newcastle Herald, Other, 02/08/2023, Damon Cronshaw

The NSW government is examining ways to boost mental health services in the Hunter to fill gaps in the system. NSW Minister for Mental Health Rose Jackson said the government needs to "ensure we're doing everything we can to provide accessible support for people experiencing a mental health crisis".

[Read More](#)

ABC News, News Breakfast, 02/08/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Parents in northeast Victoria say they're worried for their children's lives amid a critical shortage of services to treat eating disorders. It's forcing young people to seek treatment in capital cities away from their families. The problems prompted calls for the Federal Government to ensure services are adequately funded.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

\$60m hub revealed

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 6

Designs have been released for a major new medical teaching hub in Melbourne's north. The Andrews government has published the pictures as it works towards building the Broadmeadows Health and Community Centre of Excellence at the Kangan Institute.

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

Pay deal sparks overhaul call

West Australian, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 9

The State Government is being urged by police and nurses to abandon its contentious blanket public sector wages policy after handing youth custodial officers a massive 12 per cent pay rise. The huge increase stands in sharp contrast to the 3 per cent wage rise and \$3000 cash bonus offered to every other public sector worker.

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

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

Council will pay \$60k for GPs to set up in Inverell

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 03/08/2023, Lydia Roberts, Page 4

Doctors are being enticed to Inverell with a \$60,000, one-off payment. Inverell Shire Council Mayor Paul Harmon says the sweetener would help relocating GPs with accommodation and travel costs.

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

Getting a jump on careers in health

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/08/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 7

A new school-based traineeship program is helping to strengthen Townsville University Hospital's First Nations workforce. The Deadly Start program gives year 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students the chance to get an early start on a career in healthcare.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#),

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

The 'hidden curriculum' affecting GP numbers

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 1

The RACGP and ACRRM have failed to fill training positions, and a generation of GPs is nearing retirement so it is no surprise that alarm bells are ringing for the GP workforce. The dean of a major medical school says one of the big issues is that general practice is still losing ground to hospital specialties at the university level.

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Support 'essential' for GP staff on front line of patient abuse

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Page 9

Post-incident support for GP receptionists can significantly reduce the emotional toll of the growing workplace violence they are facing from patients, a review suggests. Australian researchers assessed 20 studies, dating back 40 years, exploring the abuse directed at frontline staff, which revealed that patient aggression had become so frequent it was now accepted as a normal workplace hazard.

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

Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/08/2023, Natalie Forrest

The long running pay dispute between nurses and the state government has become even more bitter after youth custodial officers were given a massive pay rise. It's as Banksia Hill grapples with staff shortages. The nurses union wants a 5% rise instead of the three on offer. It believes the pay bump would cost state coffers an extra \$40 million and is necessary to staff nurse to patient ratios. The nurses union is due to front the Industrial Relations Commission again later this month.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 02/08/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Other unions are circling after a reclassification resulted in a 12% pay rise for youth custodial officers to execute a new model of care and stem a staffing crisis at Banksia Hill. Nurses are demanding 5% increase.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 02/08/2023, Michael Thomson

Nurses and police officers are crying foul today over a big pay bump for youth custodial officers. But WA Premier Roger Cook denies similar sized salary hikes will be applied across the public sector. Police begrudgingly accepted a 3% pay rise just weeks ago and nurses fight for a 5% rise. Australian Nurses Federation's Janet Rean is calling on the WA Government to show the same flexibility and consideration to their members.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Abortion drug rules changed

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 4

The rule that GPs must retake a threehour training course every three years to prescribe abortion drugs is being scrapped, along with mandatory registration for prescribers and dispensers. Around 10% of GPs have been certified as medical abortion prescribers. [...] MS-2 Step has been prescribed around 30,000 times each year under the PBS since 2019.

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

Rich-listers Cathie Reid and Stuart Giles partner with Chemist Warehouse in hospital pharmacy push

The Mercury, Other, 02/08/2023, Glen Norris & Giuseppe Tauriello

Brisbane rich-listers Cathie Reid and Stuart Giles are spearheading a new hospital pharmacy venture via a new partnership with Chemist Warehouse. Brisbane rich-listers Cathie Reid and Stuart Giles are taking on the pharmacy empire they founded more than 30 years ago in a new venture with "category killer" Chemist Warehouse.

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

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 02/08/2023, Georgie Gardner

The Federal Government says it's cheaper medicine policy is a piece of cost-of-living puzzle and incentive for doctors to bulk bill. The Royal Australian College of GPs is tonight working to make the process of bringing doctors from overseas faster and potentially cheaper.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

With Teeth: Why Medicare must include dental care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 02/08/2023, Jarrod Clarke

The Australian healthcare system, under Medicare, provides comprehensive medical coverage for most basic health services. However, one crucial aspect that remains noticeably absent is the inclusion of dental care within the national healthcare framework.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Healthcare 'crim' crackdown

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 14

Healthcare workers with a criminal past could face tougher restrictions, with the regulator set to review the current rules. The Herald Sun can reveal the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has begun a review of its criminal history standard and will announce a public consultation on Thursday.

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

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Nurse barred for two years

Hobart Mercury, General News, 03/08/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 12

A Royal Hobart Hospital nurse has been disqualified for two years after committing a host of criminal offences, including resisting police, and withholding information from the national registration board. [...] When she attempted to reregister in 2012, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) conducted a criminal history check, which revealed a number of offences between 2001 and 2006 including convictions for using an unregistered motor vehicle on three occasions.

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How futile was Dr Teo's surgery on Patient A?

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Paul Smith, Page 5

The story of Dr Charlie Teo's professional failures that emerged from his recent disciplinary hearing can

be captured in a few words. The two patients diagnosed with brain cancer were desperate to live, Dr Teo became their last hope but the surgical procedures he offered were futile given the risk of severe permanent disability and death.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

Govt to crack down on alcohol delivery

Canberra Times, General News, 03/08/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 12

The ACT government will crack down on same-day delivery of alcohol and is considering introducing laws to limit the amount of alcohol that can be delivered in a 24-hour period. Laws to limit the delivery hours of alcohol are also being considered by the territory government.

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Kids learn vape dangers in VR house party

Courier Mail, General News, 03/08/2023, Matty Holdsworth, Page 5

Virtual reality house parties will be used to teach Queensland high school students about the dangers of vaping as part of ramped-up state government measures to tackle the scourge. Education Minister Grace Grace will on Thursday announce \$5m in funding for schools to access an online program aimed to educate students on the harm peer pressure and smoking electronic cigarettes, or vapes, can cause.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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2CC, Canberra Live, 02/08/2023, Leon Delaney

ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury has released a discussion paper on the proposed laws to regulate alcohol delivery. The Attorney-General says the changes would focus on reducing harm and would form laws based on limiting risks associated with consuming alcohol at an early age. Rattenbury says the Government would be able to base its laws on those in New South Wales, which brought in stricter rules for alcohol delivery back in 2021.

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SPORT

Labor to face inquiries over scrapped Games

Australian Financial Review, General News, 03/08/2023, Gus McCubbing, Page 9

The Andrews government will face more heat over its shock decision to cancel the Commonwealth Games after the Victorian Liberals won unanimous support from the crossbench for a parliamentary inquiry into the debacle.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Canberra\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#).

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Gabba's on a pedestal

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 03/08/2023, James Hall, Page 11

\$2.7bn rebuild to raise surface and put carpark below A rebuilt Gabba will have a raised playing field to allow cars to park under the stadium and its pedestrian concourse will extend over Main St to the Cross River Rail site.

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

Matildas show how it's done

Herald Sun, General News, 03/08/2023, Anthony Lawrence, Page 27

What an awesome moment for women's sport. With 1.5 million tickets sold and an estimated global audience of more than one billion people, the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup is set to become the largest women's sporting event in history.

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

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

Tracey Neville set to be confirmed as new Super Netball team's head coach

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/08/2023, Linda Pearce

Former England Roses head coach and current Adelaide Thunderbirds assistant Tracey Neville is expected to be confirmed as the inaugural leader of Super Netball's newest franchise at a news conference scheduled for 4pm. Neville, 46, whose first season working in Australia helped propel the Thunderbirds to their first national title in a decade, is believed to have accepted a multi-year deal to take the head coaching role with the new team to be based in Melbourne's south-east.

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

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Shock bolter fills void as Aussies fight fire with fire, unleash speed freak: Predicted Ashes XI

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 02/08/2023, Jono Baruch

The 2023 Ashes are done with attention already firmly on the next instalment on Australian shores. Who will take their place for the first Test?

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

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Netball World Cup marred by ticketing issues, theft and poor organisation in South Africa

ABC Online, Other, 02/08/2023, Brittany Carter

Has South Africa's first hosting of the Netball World Cup been a hit? Well, it depends on who you ask.

[Read More](#)

Crunch time in Netball World Cup as England meet 'relentless' Australia

The Guardian, Other, 02/08/2023, Chloe Merrell

Crunch time beckons at the Netball World Cup with top four teams Australia, England, Jamaica and New Zealand poised to play each other in their final group games to decide how they will match up in the semi-finals on Saturday. Though not must-win games with places already promised to the teams based on their previous pool results, a win will give the victor an easier route to the final as well as some much-coveted confidence.

[Read More](#)

Expert weighs in on CTE in professional sport

4BC, Other, 02/08/2023

While concussion protocols are on the rise in contact sports, there are questions about the effectiveness of traditional physical protocols. Professor Michael Buckland, Founder and Director of Australian Brain Bank, told Peter Gleeson on 4BC Drive, "What we know so far, is that CTE is not just about concussion, it is actually about head impacts of a significant force regardless of whether they cause a concussion or not"

[Read More](#)

Clarkson speaks ahead of return from Hawthorn racism saga-spurred break

National Indigenous Times, Other, 02/08/2023

Alastair Clarkson has issued a letter to North Melbourne fans ahead of his return as senior coach nine weeks on from taking a leave of absence attributed to the toll taken by the Hawthorn racism probe. Clarkson returns to the coaches box when North face Melbourne on Sunday.

[Read More](#)

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Drugs link to cardiac arrest deaths

Age, General News, 03/08/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 4

One in three younger Victorians who died suddenly from cardiac arrest had used illegal drugs before their deaths, according to the findings of a new Australian study, which experts say highlights the underrecognised effect some illicit drugs can have on the heart. There has been increasing evidence of a link between using street drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, also known as ice and premature heart complications and death.

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

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AI halves workload

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 5

Artificial intelligence (ai) could almost halve the workload of radiologists, according to new research. A Swedish study of more than 80,000 women aged 40-80 estimated that AI saved about 4 months of work.

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Hooked on health hopes

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 03/08/2023, Bethany Westwood, Page 11

What if tiny worms could help cure a host of health problems in humans, including type 2 diabetes? A world-first human trial at James Cook University (JCU) using live hookworms to combat diseases such as type 2 diabetes has proved successful sparking interest in a larger-scale international trial.

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Hearing aids 'help cognition'

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 8

Over-70s at high risk of cognitive impairment and dementia stand to benefit the most from hearing aid intervention, researchers report in a landmark trial. They found that use of hearing aids for over three years was associated with a 48% reduction in the rate of cognitive decline in high-risk adults but not among otherwise-healthy patients with a low dementia risk.

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

Alzheimer's risk for transgender community

Community Care Review, Other, 02/08/2023, Christopher Kelly

Transgender and non-binary older adults may be at greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, research suggests. The Australian research conducted by UNSW Sydney and the first global study to investigate disparities in dementia risk according to sex and gender identity compared the prevalence of modifiable risk factors in transgender or gender-diverse participants compared to cisgender adults.

[Read More](#)

Taunton, Monty Dimond

A pill that imitates the effects of gastric bypass surgery could be a game changer for patients who are obese or have type two diabetes. Developed in the US, University of Adelaide researchers are now spearheading the pills development. Their trial involves 51 patients with type two diabetes has so far delivered positive results.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Indigenous health to be targeted

Cairns Post, General News, 02/08/2023, Isaac McCarthy, Page 1

A "landmark" health study that will aim to reduce the alarming child mortality rates in Indigenous communities will soon start in Cairns. Indigenous children in remote areas such as Cape York are twice as likely to die before the age of four as non-Indigenous children, according to data collected by the federal government.

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

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Health system 'unprepared' for climate change: doctors

Newcastle Herald, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 4

Climate change is causing an increase in extreme weather events and Australia is on the frontline, doctors warn. A group representing more than 100,000 doctors on Wednesday issued a joint statement calling for Australia to better prepare for the next climate disaster.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [Border Mail \(Albury-Wodonga\)](#), [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(Online\)](#).

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health Meningococcal cases are surging in Australia.

Mamamia, Other, 02/08/2023, Laura Jackel

Stephanie Ryder can recall the day meningococcal came into her life with absolute clarity. Her three-year-old son Chevy woke up his usual bouncy self at six in the morning, only to become increasingly unwell as the day progressed.

[Read More](#)

RSV: New hope to reduce hospitalisations as WA study finds flu vaccines could be having protective effect

West Australian, Other, 02/08/2023, Claire Sadler

The flu vaccine could be reducing the number of children hospitalised with the potentially deadly respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a new study has shown. RSV for which there is no vaccine yet causes only mild respiratory illness in adults but can lead to bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children under two.

[Read More](#)

Submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care National Health and Climate Strategy

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 02/08/2023

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has provided a submission on the National Health and Climate Strategy. The submission includes feedback on the four proposed objectives of the strategy: measuring emissions, mitigation, adaptation, and health in all policies.

[Read More](#)

4BC, Breakfast , 02/08/2023, Laurel Edwards, Gary Clare and Mark Hine

Medical experts say more needs to be done to ensure Australia's health system is capable of dealing with a potential climate crisis. At least 12 medical colleges backed the Federal Government's national climate and Health Strategy but say there needs to be greater focus on providing health care and boosting resilience in the face of increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Medtech Gyder ponders raise

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 03/08/2023, Page 16

An Australian medtech start-up with plans to launch its surgical products in the United States has come across fund managers' radars.

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

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Improved access was needed: woman

Burnie Advocate, General News, 03/08/2023, Isabel Bird, Page 7

When *Leah, 28, found herself in the GPs office with an unplanned pregnancy, she believed access to a medical abortion would be easy. [...] This difficulty has now been assisted with changes to prescribing laws for the MS-2 Step termination pills made by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in July, which come into effect today.

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

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Outcry over end of analgesic

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 10

Doctors are preparing to lose access to liquid morphine, with the only brand registered in Australia, Ordine, to be withdrawn from sale early next year. Drug sponsor Mundipharma says its local manufacturer is ending production and that it is not commercially viable to find another. [...] The TGA said it was investigating overseas-registered alternatives.

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TGA okays insulin pen swap

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Antony Scholefield, Page 12

The TGA will allow pharmacists to swap out certain pre-filled insulin products in response to a global shortage predicted to last until June 2024. Ryzodeg 70/30 FlexTouch a combined insulin degludec, insulin aspart and injector product is in shortage because of "unprecedented" global demand for different medicines using the same FlexTouch injector, the TGA says.

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Digital health interventions in sleep disorders

Australian Doctor, General News, 04/08/2023, Associate Professor, Page 27

Sleep, alongside diet and exercise, is central to good health. [...] With respect to the regulation of digital sleep health interventions, the TGA has adopted the term 'software as a medical device' (SaMD), which includes digital health interventions, defining SaMD as software "that has an intended purpose consistent with the definitions of a medical device".

'I don't know how I'll cope': Woman's pain desperation as morphine drug to be discontinued

9News, Other, 02/08/2023, Sarah Swain

A woman with a painful back condition said she doesn't know how she'll cope as a drug she says is essential to her life is discontinued in Australia. ? [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) flagged a shortage after company Mundipharma announced the plan to stop supplying the medicine.

[Read More](#)

Are nebulisers about to be smashed into obscurity?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 02/08/2023, Chloe Hava

Pharmacists should brace for yet another medicine shortage, with Ventolin Nebules (salbutamol sulfate) 2.5 mg/2.5 mL set to be in scarce supply from 16 October 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned . However, this shortage might actually be beneficial for patients.

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'Nothing else worked.' The women turning to cannabis to treat endometriosis pain.

Mamamia, Other, 02/08/2023, Elfy Scott

Georgia was diagnosed with endometriosis when she was around 16 years old. But she's lived with the symptoms for a lot longer than that. [...] Any medical doctor can prescribe medicinal cannabis in Australia with approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and their state or territory's health department.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Push to end driving fear for medicinal cannabis users

Ballarat Courier, Other, 02/08/2023

Dale Dunster and other medicinal cannabis users in NSW would no longer need to fear losing their driver's licence if proposed laws were passed. The Legalise Cannabis Party will on Wednesday introduce a bill to state parliament that offers prescribed medicinal cannabis users a defence to roadside drug testing laws.

Also reported by: [2GB \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#).

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NSW Greens MP Cate Faehrmann calls for cocaine to be legalised following spate of gang violence - including Alen Moradian shooting

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 02/08/2023, Ben Talintyre

Greens MP Cate Faehrmann calls to legalise cocaine. Says the move could help disrupt Sydney's drug market.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 02/08/2023, Sandra Sully

The NSW Government is under pressure to change the roadside drug testing system to exempt drivers who have a prescription for medicinal cannabis. A key crossbencher in Parliament says the current rules are unfair and other legal pharmaceuticals can leave drivers far more impaired. The Legalise Cannabis Party is introducing a bill to provide a legal defence for those who have a prescription and are not impaired.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Fresh blow for Diet Coke

Courier Mail, General News, 03/08/2023, Page 17

Swapping full-sugar drinks for diet alternatives may be worse than you think, with scientists warning it increases your risk of type 2 diabetes. Experts say they're even more concerned about artificial sweeteners, found in fizzy drinks such as Diet Coke and sugar-free gum, being used as replacements for sugar.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#).

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Channel 7, Seven News, 02/08/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

New research has added to the evidence that artificial sweeteners like those used in diet soft drinks may be harmful to our health already linked to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Now it's claimed they can contribute to type two diabetes. Major study suggests those consuming up to 18mg a day, just a pinch of any sweetener, had a 69% higher risk of diabetes while aspartame carried a 63% higher risk.

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