



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 8th August 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports that the number of "sentinel" events in the Victorian healthcare system reached 240 in 2021-22 as clinician ignore parents concerns over the worsening health of their children. Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas announced a new "escalation system" on Monday that will give parents an alternative pathway to raise urgent concerns if they feel they are being ignored.
- **[The Daily Telegraph](#)** (page 1) reports that NSW Nurses and Midwives Association members have voted to accept the NSW governments 4 per cent pay rise offer, but will continue to campaign over the next 11 months for a pay rise that is "at least more than inflation." NSWNMA assistant general secretary Michael Whaites stated that many members accepted the 4 per cent pay deal "because times are tough and they can't wait any longer." *Also reported by: [Illawarra Mercury](#), [ABC Online](#)*
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports that Deloitte has confirmed that the company has eight executives embedded within Queensland Health, with the department confirming it had engaged consultancies 15 times a year on average since 2020-21. The department also confirmed that Queensland's "vaccine command centre" was led by a Deloitte executive seconded into Health.

- **The Australian** (page 2) reports that three new patient groups have joined the Pharmacy Guild in pushing to delay 60-day drug dispensing which will begins on September 1. Health Minister Mark Butler has labelled the Pharmacy Guild's concerns as a "scare campaign" which the government rejects. *Also reported by: [Age](#), [Herald Sun](#), [ABC Online](#), [The Guardian](#)*
- **The Age** (page 2) reports that findings from former South Australian Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Bruce Lander have suggested that Australia needs to form an independent watchdog that would have the power to investigate allegations of research misconduct, similar to the US's Office of Research Integrity. The recommendation comes as part of an inquiry into alleged research misconduct and bullying by leading cancer researcher Professor Mark Smyth, with Mr Lander finding that allowing institutions to conduct their own internal investigations creates a huge conflict of interest.
- **The Herald Sun** (page 3) reports that a study led by Peter Enticott of the Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development at Deakin University's School of Psychology is researching if transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment could improve the social communication, mental health and quality of life of young people with autism. "...this large-scale study will provide the evidence we need to be confident that [TMS] can alleviate difficulties that are sometimes associated with autism," Professor Enticott said.
- **The Courier Mail** (page 8) reports that Greens MP Max Chandler Mather is calling for the \$7bn Olympics infrastructure deal to be renegotiated to prioritise existing stadiums. Labor MP Graham Perret responded to Mr Mather's, stating that the Gabba was in need of an upgrade and that "Having to see someone in a wheelchair use the service lift isn't acceptable in 2023."
- **Hobart Mercury** (page 11) reports that Tasmanian Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff is calling for a parliamentary inquiry into the ramping crisis at Tasmanian hospitals. "Over the last couple of years, ramping of ambulances in Tasmania has gotten rapidly and dramatically worse," stated Ms Woodruff. *Also reported by: [Launceston Examiner](#)*

MINISTER BUTLER

New call to delay chemist changes

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 08/08/2023, Joe Kelly & Rhiannon Down, Page 2

Three new patient groups are urging the government to pause the implementation of its 60-day drug dispensing shake-up, which begins on September 1, amid warnings that pharmacies across the country are reducing opening hours, cutting staff and hiking fees. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said on Monday that the plan to allow 60-day prescriptions for common medicines would benefit six million patients.

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

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Butler attacks script 'scare'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2023, Jack Quail, Page 10

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has condemned the community pharmacy peak body over its latest attack on impending changes to drug-dispensing rules, in a move he labelled a "cynical scare campaign" designed to "scare vulnerable aged-care residents". It follows a cost analysis released by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) on Monday that claimed aged-care residents would be hit with an \$806 annual bill for weekly prescriptions as a result of Labor's controversial 60-day dispensing rules.

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

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After-hours medical service faces closure

Peninsula News, General News, 07/08/2023, Page 1

The Woy Woy After Hours Medical Service, which has been providing GP services weeknights and

weekends to the local community for over 50 years, is facing imminent closure. [...] Last week Federal Member for Robertson Dr Gordon Reid told Peninsula News he had "made urgent representations to Federal Health Minister Mr Mark Butler, and underscored the importance of this vital service for our community".

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Dispensing dispute

Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, General News, 08/08/2023, Stefan Bradley, Page 1

The 60-day dispensing policy announced by the federal government continues to divide opinion. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said the new transition payment will provide significant additional support for more than 1000 pharmacies in regional, rural and remote Australia.

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

Pharmacies unhappy about 60-day dispensing

Tumut & Adelong Times, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 12

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says the decision by the Albanese Government to bring forward the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) is an admission of the damage its 60-day dispensing policy and its associated funding cuts are already inflicting on patient services, aged care residents and pharmacies. While welcoming the move the Guild says the logical next step is to postpone the introduction of 60-day dispensing to align with a new CPA, saving patients from the impacts of 60-day dispensing. Health Minister Mark Butler conceded the damage of his policy, bringing forward negotiations by one year: "I've taken the view and I've heard the soundings from the Pharmacy Guild that we need to deliver that business certainty to pharmacies sooner than that," he said.

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Pharmacies in 'scare campaign'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 9

Warnings the cost of medicines will rise for aged-care residents if planned dispensing changes go ahead are being rejected as a "cynical scare campaign". Under changes from September 1, up to six million people will be able to buy two months' worth of subsidised medicines with a single prescription, rather than a one-month supply. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said he was shocked by the guild attempting to scare aged-care residents into thinking they would need to pay extra.

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

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Mark Butler condemns pharmacy guild's 'cynical' aged care crisis prediction

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2023, Antony Scholefield

Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler has denounced a "cynical scare campaign" from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia that says aged care residents will face \$800 annual fees as a knock-on effect of 60-day scripts.

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8CPA talks to start 'now'; Butler

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2023, David Rowley

Negotiations for the next 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement will be brought forward by 12 months, Health Minister Mark Butler has announced. Following a visit to a Canberra doctor's surgery, Butler said the move was aimed at delivering "business confidence to the community pharmacy

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Minister confirms plan to bring forward the negotiation of the 8CPA

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 07/08/2023

It is hard to miss the irony in Mark Butler announcing his plan to bring forward negotiations for the next Community Pharmacy Agreement at a GP clinic. Presumably, no community pharmacy was prepared to host the announcement.

Advertisements for illegal nicotine products around Geelong despite vape crackdown

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2023, Will Keech

Stores across Geelong have been advertising black market nicotine vapes to members of the general public, despite millions of dollars of federal funding to combat the practice. Vendors around Geelong are flouting the law with the way they advertise illegal nicotine products, in the face of a federal government crackdown. [...] The sale and possession of any recreational vape without a prescription has been illegal since October 2021, with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler pledging \$737 million to fund measures to crackdown on the practice in April, while illegally imported cigarettes cost Australians \$4.2 billion in 2022 alone.

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

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy lobby 'scare campaign' slammed as 'rubbish'

Deniliquin Pastoral Times, Other, 07/08/2023

The cost of medicines will rise for aged care residents if planned dispensing changes go ahead have been blasted as "rubbish" by the health minister. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the guild was attempting to frighten aged care residents into thinking they would need to pay extra through a "cynical scare campaign".

Also reported by: [Benalla Ensign \(Online\)](#), [Nyngan Observer \(Online\)](#), [Port Stephens Examiner \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#), [Cootamundra Herald \(Online\)](#), [Redland City Bulletin \(Online\)](#).

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Minister's news has sting in the tail

Pharma In Focus, Other, 07/08/2023

In an ominous sign, Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler has coupled an announcement that negotiations for the next Community Pharmacy Agreement will commence 12 months early with a scathing attack on the industry. Speaking at a GP's surgery in Canberra, the Minister said he'd taken onboard "soundings" from the Pharmacy Guild that pharmacies need business certainty and so has decided to commence negotiations now to secure a new five year agreement.

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PD breaking news – Butler confirms 8CPA talks will start early

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2023

Negotiations to commence as soon as possible and conclude by 30 June 2024. Health Minister Mark Butler has just announced the early commencement of talks for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA).

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Negotiations for 8CPA to commence ASAP

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler announced that negotiations for the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) will be commence as soon as a possible. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will continue to be signatories to any new agreement.

[Read More](#)

Is the number of GP consultations going down?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 07/08/2023

The use of MBS item 23 has fallen significantly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but telehealth is likely to have had an impact. The number of face-to-face item 23 consultations has fallen since the pandemic. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler was also quoted, citing

increased bulk billing incentives and improved MBS indexation as measures that will offer relief to general practice.

[Read More](#)

On Cheaper Medicines and Backing Local Pharmacies

The Buloke Times, Other, 08/08/2023, Mark Butler

From Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care. There's no question, the cost-of-living pressures are making it tough...

[Read More](#)

WA kicks off pharmacist prescribing

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2023

Meanwhile, Mark Butler has called out the Pharmacy Guild's latest cynical scare campaign' over 60-day dispensing. Despite entreaties from both the RACGP and AMA, WA has gone ahead with a trial allowing community pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics for women presenting with what they believe is uncomplicated cystitis.

[Read More](#)

What's the story with urgent care clinics?

The Medical Republic, Other, 07/08/2023

They're rare as hen's teeth and may be called something else entirely. Good luck trying to find your nearest. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said they would be "a level of care somewhere between what you get at a standard general practice and a fully-equipped hospital", that they would be "fully free and bulk-billed" and "open every day between 8am and 10pm".

[Read More](#)

Pharmacies to push for billions more to compensate for missing script fees

WA Today, Other, 07/08/2023, Natassia Chrysanthos

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia will push for an additional \$3.3 billion in its funding negotiations with the federal government when talks are expedited over the powerful lobby group's uproar about Labor's 60-day prescription policy. The public dispute between federal Health Minister Mark Butler and the influential lobby soured on Monday, with Butler blasting the guild for running a "self-serving and cynical" campaign and the guild accusing the minister of breaking pre-election commitments.

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Fury over \$806 medicine claim

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 07/08/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler has condemned the community pharmacy peak body over its latest attack on impending changes to drug dispensing rules, in a move he labelled a "cynical scare campaign" designed to "scare vulnerable aged care residents". It follows new cost analysis released by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia on Monday which claimed aged-care residents will be hit with an \$806 annual bill for weekly prescriptions as a result of Labor's controversial 60-day dispensing rules.

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Channel 10, 10 News First, 07/08/2023, Sandra Sully

Aged care residents could be forced to find an extra \$800 to get their medication. That's the latest argument from pharmacies fighting against health reforms, allowing 60-day prescriptions. It's been slammed as a scare campaign by the Health Minister, who says the powerful lobby group has sunk to a new low.

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Channel 9, Nine News Late, 07/08/2023, Amber Sherlock

The Federal Government's prescription fight escalated today with the Health Minister Mark Butler

accusing pharmacists of a scare campaign aimed at the elderly. From next month, the cost of many common medicines will halve, but the Pharmacy Guild says any savings will be negated by extra costs in aged care.

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Sky News Live, News Night, 07/08/2023, Unspecified

The Federal Parliament's pharmaceuticals fight has escalated, with the Health Minister accusing pharmacists of a scare campaign aimed at the elderly. From next month, the cost of many common medicines will halve. But the Pharmacy Guild says any savings will be negated by extra costs in aged care. The health minister on a visit says that's good, hoping a doctor a day might keep the pharmacists away with 60-day scripts to start soon.

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2GB, Drive, 07/08/2023, Chris O'Keefe

Interview with Anthony Tassone, Vice President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia. Health Minister Butler, he was asked about the claims by the Pharmacy Guild, and he wasn't impressed labelling it as scare campaign. Tassone says pharmacies across Australia are scared about what the Federal Government's 60-day dispensing policy. He states the policy will cut \$4.5 billion out of the sector.

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2GB, Drive, 07/08/2023, Chris O'Keefe

The Federal Government and the Pharmacy Guild are locked in a pretty heated war. Health Minister Mark Butler wants to extend the dispensing timeframe at pharmacies from 30 days to 60 days.

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4BC, 13:00 News, 07/08/2023

From September, patients will be able to receive 60 days of medication using one script. The Pharmacy Guild states the policy will take billions out of the sector, limiting the provision of some free services. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he is willing to start negotiations with the guild for a new five-year agreement.

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5AA, 18:00 News, 07/08/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says under the Federal Government's new dispensing reforms, aged care residents will be slugged \$800 a year to have their medicines packed and delivered. From September, patients will be able to receive 60 days of medication using one script. The Guild's Vice President Anthony Tassone states the policy will wreck billions out of the sector. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler says he will not succumb to the scaremongering.

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MINISTER WELLS

‘Ring-fencing’ super for aged care not a solution: SMSFA

SMSF Adviser Magazine, Other, 07/08/2023, Keeli Cambourne

The SMSFA says it does not support, in principle, the idea of "ring-fencing" superannuation. Commenting on the release late last week of the issues paper from the Aged and Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) which recommended super savings be set aside for aged care and withdrawn as a lump sum to pay for residential accommodation, SMSFA CEO Peter Burgess said "we don't support measures which reduce the control and flexibility people have to save for retirement or how retirees choose to spend their retirement savings". [...] "My colleagues Anika Wells and Jim Chalmers are looking at a range of options but I don't think we can carve superannuation out of that."

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Sportsbet's Barni a no-show at the ball

WA Today, Other, 07/08/2023, Patrick Hatch

The Darwin Turf Club's annual gala ball is arguably the biggest night on the territory's social calendar. Held a couple of nights before the Darwin Cup, this year's black-tie event attracted about a thousand guests who forked out \$380 each for an outdoor buffet on the club's lawns and performances by 2012 X-Factor winner Samantha Jade and 2003 Australian Idol runner-up Shannon Noll. [...] There are two "Go Matildas" flags hanging up outside the office of Sports Minister Anika Wells, who has been wearing an Aussie scarf in the chamber to question time.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 07/08/2023, SAMMY J

Interview with Dr Addie Wootten, CEO, Smiling Minda about calls for Federal Children Minister. Wootten discusses the need for minister for children. She notes while Assistant Minister for Health Emma McBride and Education Minister Jason Clare are doing great job, there's no cross collaboration and advocacy across different portfolios.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

Program getting First Nations kids school ready expands

The Educator Australia, Other, 07/08/2023

The Connected Beginnings program will be expanded to six more sites, supporting an extra 4,500 First Nations children A successful program that helps to prepare First kids for school will now be expanded to six more sites, supporting an extra 4,500 children. [...] "The expansion of Connected Beginnings to new sites means more place-based and community-led efforts to support First Nations children to thrive in their early years," Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health Malarndirri McCarthy said.

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DEPARTMENT

Robodebt may not be the only case of officials 'sidestepping' legal advice

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 07/08/2023

Health department deputy secretary Penny Shakespeare has been appointed to support the investigation of 16 referrals to the Australian Public Service Commission out of the findings of the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme. ...

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Robodebt workers watched

Executive Career, Other, 07/08/2023

An overhaul of public servants implicated in Robodebt findings has commenced. Reports say that the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) has received 16 cases forwarded to its centralised Code of Conduct investigative unit.

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Dr Corey Lane says regional clinicians need change to combat mental health crisis

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2023, Zoe Devenport

As Queensland regions struggle with a rampant mental health crisis made worse by a lack of services, a Whitsundays psychologist has called on the government to stop a mass exodus of staff. A psychologist is calling code red on the mental health crisis in North Queensland as he readies for a mass exodus of provisional and in-training psychologists from the region. [...] Recommendation 3 of the evaluation said "broad measures to recruit and retain providers" would be necessary to combat scarcity in rural and remote areas A Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said the evaluations findings "greatly concern the Government".

Also reported by: [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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DoHAC to publish 24/7 RN coverage through GPMS

Pulse+IT, Other, 07/08/2023, Kate McDonald

The Department of Health and Aged Care will publish data on the new 24/7 registered nurse requirement on its website later this month, with facilities that fail to report by the due date showing up as non-compliant with reporting obligations.

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ABC South Western Victoria, Breakfast, 07/08/2023, Jeremy Lee

Interview with Eleanor Britton, RDA Peel Health Hub. Britton says the Federal Health Department is instrumental in some of the support that they had.

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CORONAVIRUS

Moves show COVID response is abating

Border Mail, General News, 08/08/2023, Anthony Bunn, Page 5

Reflecting the easing of COVID on the Border, Albury Wodonga Health has taken two major steps at its hospitals. The organisation has dropped a blanket requirement for visitors to wear masks and it is removing the tent erected alongside the emergency department at Wodonga hospital to meet COVID distancing requirements.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Bain's \$838m Estia private equity victory

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 08/08/2023, Simon Evans, Page 14

Bain Capital has won its five-month pursuit of Estia Health, after its \$838 million offer was endorsed by the aged care home operator's board.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Cairns\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Australian Financial Review \(Australia\)](#).

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Age did not weary Barbie, but that's her loss

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 08/08/2023, Briony Dow, Page 20

Like most of Australia (and the world), last weekend I went to the movies. After enjoying the entertaining and surprising 90 minutes that is Greta Gerwig's Barbie, there was one particular scene that stuck with me.

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

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'It's not all bad' - a balanced view

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 3

While more than 40 per cent of retirement village residents in NSW reported abuse, the Retirement Village Residents Association's Roger Pallant said it was important to recognise that almost 60 per cent did not. "In retirement villages there are both good and bad," he said.

Also reported by: [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#), [The Senior - VIC \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Service what the doctor ordered

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 40

A \$1.1 million funding package provided by Sydney North Health Network will enable local residential aged care facilities to implement secure video healthcare consultations and remote vital signs monitoring. Sixty of the 103 aged care facilities in the area have signed up to the Virtual Care Service. [...] The Virtual Care Service is part of the federal government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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Elder abuse funding slashed

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/08/2023, Therese Murray, Page 12

Victorian elder abuse prevention services have copped a battering funding-wise at a time when they are needed most. [...] On the final day of the Public Accounts and Estimates hearing on the day workers should have been celebrated, Disability, Ageing and Carers Minister Lizzie Blandthorn revealed the government would not continue funding the program, implemented in response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence in late 2017.

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Channel 9, Today, 07/08/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Roz Kelly, and Brooke Boney

Interview with Anthony Tassone, Vice President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia. Tassone warns the Federal Government's 60-day dispensing will represent a \$4.5 billion cut to community pharmacy funding over four years. He adds pharmacies will have no choice but to actually pass on charges to patients in residential aged care facilities.

[Play Now](#)

2CC, Breakfast, 07/08/2023, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Steve Whan, Member for Monaro. Whan says they're working for a closed aged care facility in Bombala to be reopened as an assisted living facility. He states they'll funding an expansion of the multi-purpose service to have federally funded aged care beds in it. He adds Cooma is now facing a challenge where the council operates two facilities in Cooma and Berridale and they're trying to look at how they can cater for the future. He notes the facilities are facing challenges with well-

intentioned reforms out of the Royal Commission on the number of minutes per day that an aged care resident needs to have of nursing care and direct contact.

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2GB, Drive, 07/08/2023, Chris O'Keefe

O'Keefe says elderly people in nursing homes will have to spend \$800 bucks to get their medicine delivered from the chemist, according to the Pharmacy Guild.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Health benefits of seafood tip the scales

Age, Epicure, 08/08/2023, Susie Burrell, Page 6

If you think a can of tuna every now and then is going to cut it, unfortunately you're wrong. But there are budget-friendly alternatives.

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Is red meat bad for you? And does it make a difference if it's a processed burger or a lean steak?

ABC Online, Other, 07/08/2023, Katherine Livingstone & Ilya Mashkov

A juicy burger is a staple in many Australians' diets. Yet research shows regularly eating red meat can increase your risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers But is eating a beef burger worse for your health than eating a lean grass-fed steak?

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Dentists warn on vaping danger in oral health charter

Bathurst Western Advocate, Other, 07/08/2023, Sam McKeith

Australia's dentists have put the spotlight on the harmful impact of vaping as part of national guidelines on managing oral health. An 11-point charter has been released by the Australian Dental Association it says reflects latest science and research.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

'How my wife saved my life'

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 4

Eddie Jager says his quickthinking wife saved his life just one day after taking a first-aid course. Mr Jager was at home in Blackmans Bay when he suddenly began displaying the symptoms of a stroke.

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No blues link to cancer risk

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 7

Experts had suspected that depression and anxiety may increase cancer risk, but the data had been inconclusive. To clarify the issue, researchers pooled data from more than 300,000 people and found no links between depression or anxiety and most cancers.

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Pioneering hospital ward targets cystic fibrosis care

Western Advocate, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 6

Thousands of Australians living with cystic fibrosis will be able to access a purpose-built ward dedicated to treating and finding a cure for the life-threatening disorder. The 16-bed facility in Sydney's west is an Australian first in providing highly specialised care for the complex genetic condition.

Also reported by: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Newcastle\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Ballarat Courier \(Ballarat\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Online\)](#).

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 07/08/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Relief is on the way for the millions of children prone to painful and persistent ear infections. Researchers at Adelaide University are on the cusp of a breakthrough with work starting on a vaccine that could provide a long-term solution. Its development based on the pneumococcal vaccine already included in the immunisation schedule for children.

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ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 07/08/2023, Nadia Mitsopoulos

A collaborative research project called Ending Loneliness Together surveyed about 4000 people aged 18 to 92. The study found people who were lonely are less productive at work and twice as likely to have chronic disease.

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PRIMARY CARE

Parents ignored and children die

The Australian, Edition Changes - All-round Metro, 08/08/2023, Rachel Baxendale, Page 1

Victorian clinicians ignoring concerned parents' warnings about the worsening health of their children is contributing to a massive spike in preventable harm and deaths in the state's hospital system. The reported number of "sentinel" events has increased almost sixfold since the Andrews government came to power, reaching 240 in 2021-22 including 38 events involving children up from 168 events the previous year, and just 42 in 2014-15, in a trend the government claims is largely due to increased reporting.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Age \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Warrnambool Standard \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Border Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Ambos stuck at the lights

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2023, Stephanie Bennett, Page 1

A system which gives ambulances priority at traffic lights was down at more than 300 Brisbane intersections for five months before anyone noticed. Transport Minister Mark Bailey has ordered an independent assessment of how and what went wrong, while also taking a swipe at Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner over the issue.

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Deloitte inside QH

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

A major consultancy firm has revealed it has eight executives embedded within Queensland Health, as the department confirmed it calls in external advisers about 15 times a year on average. Under-fire

company Deloitte confirmed it had eight employees seconded to Queensland government, all of whom were within Health.

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Call for ambo inquiry ramps up

Hobart Mercury, General News, 08/08/2023, David Killick, Page 11

The only way to get to the bottom of the ramping crisis at Tasmanian hospitals is through a parliamentary inquiry, Greens leader Rosalie Woodruff says. The Greens will move a motion to establish an inquiry in state parliament this week, Dr Woodruff said.

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

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LNP commits to CHIC

Cairns Post, General News, 08/08/2023, Isaac McCarthy, Page 3

The Queensland Opposition says its commitment to the Cairns Health Innovation Centre has "never wavered", despite an earlier refusal to commit to the key health project. The CHIC project is an "integral" component of the Cairns University Hospital transition, alongside a \$250m Cairns Hospital expansion project and James Cook University's Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre.

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Premier weighs in on concerns

Daily Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 3

During his first visit to Wagga as NSW Premier, Chris Minns weighed in on the state inquiry launched in the wake of dozens of complaints around several traumatic birthing experiences at Wagga Base Hospital. An upper house select committee chaired by Animal Justice party MLC Emma Hurst will investigate birth trauma in the state in the wake of the Wagga complaints.

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Design of palliative care unit calls for community input

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 6

Construction of a new palliative care unit at Tamworth hospital will get under way in 2024 after an initial period of community consultation. The NSW Government has committed \$93 million to redevelop and refurbish five palliative care units across the state including Tamworth, Westmead, Nepean, Wyong and Orange hospitals, and now the community is being invited to contribute to the planning and design phases.

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More paramedics on the road across the state

Shepparton News, General News, 08/08/2023, Djembe Archibald, Page 3

More than 100 new paramedics are on the road across Victoria, as new data shows demand for emergency ambulances is rising sharply again during winter. Ambulance Victoria executive director clinical operations Anthony Carlyon said the fourth quarter of 2022-23 was Ambulance Victoria's third busiest on record, with ambulance responses impacted by a 5.5 per cent increase in demand compared to the previous quarter.

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Local council could pass 'no confidence' vote on Grampians Health

Ballarat Courier, Other, 07/08/2023, Michelle Smith

A western Victorian council will vote on passing a motion of no confidence in Grampians Health after, it claims, a reduction of medical services in the region following the amalgamation of several local health services into Grampians Health in 2021. Northern Grampians Shire Council meets Monday night and on its agenda is a motion from Cr Rob Haswell to pass a motion of no confidence in Grampians Health and request a meeting with Victorian health minister Mary-Anne Thomas and premier Daniel Andrews.

[Read More](#)

ACT govt payroll tax on GPs slammed by AMA's Dr Kerrie Aust, RACGP's Professor Charlotte Hespe

Canberra Times, Other, 07/08/2023, Lanie Tindale

A top doctor has accused the ACT government of "undercutting" efforts to make going to the doctor more affordable for Canberrans. Australian Medical Association ACT president elect Dr Kerrie Aust, and Royal College of General Practitioners ACT/NSW president Professor Charlotte Hespe, want a meeting with the health minister to discuss a so-called "sick tax".

[Read More](#)

Paramedics told no police were available after they were attacked by a patient

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2023, Mitch Clarke

The ambulance union is calling for better communication between agencies after two paramedics were assaulted while responding to a call-out in Melbourne's southeast. Paramedics risk their lives by responding "blind" to emergency situations, sparking calls for Ambulance Victoria to be given more information about potentially dangerous patients.

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

[Read More](#)

More paramedics hit the road across Victoria to respond to winter demand

Shepparton News Online, Other, 07/08/2023

More than 100 new paramedics are hitting the road across Victoria, as new data shows demand for emergency ambulances is rising sharply again during winter. Ambulance Victoria executive director clinical operations Anthony Carlyon said the fourth quarter of 2022/23 was Ambulance Victoria's third busiest on record, with ambulance responses impacted by a 5.5 per cent increase in demand compared to the previous quarter.

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Landmark RAH "Sip Til Send" project allows patients to drink before surgery

The Mercury, Other, 07/08/2023, Brad Crouch

Patients heading into surgery at the RAH will be allowed to sip water, cordial even black tea or coffee under a landmark shake-up of fasting protocols. Surgery patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital will be allowed to sip drinks until they get wheeled into the operating theatre under a landmark change to fasting protocols.

[Read More](#)

Channel 10, 10 News First, 07/08/2023, Jennifer Keyte

The latest Safer Care Victoria Report reveals a startling spike in the number of patients who died or suffered serious harm as a result of health care failings. There were 240 sentinel events between 2021 and 2022, up 43% on the previous year. There are often or have often been delays in recognising or responding to patient deterioration. It's prompted the Andrews Government to introduce a statewide system for parents to escalate concerns about their children's care. The State Government will also introduce a 24-hour virtual consultation system to provide access to specialist paediatric experts and services.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 07/08/2023, Peter Mitchell

A damning report has shown a 40% rise in medical mistakes, causing preventable deaths and serious injury. A new report found the number of people who died from or were seriously harmed by hospital errors in Victoria has soared. Doctors call them sentinel events. There were 240 last year, 40% more than the year prior.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 07/08/2023, James Valentine

Interview with Dr Steven Liew, President, Australian Dental Association about the 11-point oral health charter for Australia, a national consensus statement from the dentists. Liew says two thirds of Australians aren't aware of the link between mouth health and body health. He notes it's concerning that 1 in 5 Aussies only brush once a day.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Overcoming adversity

Border Watch, General News, 08/08/2023, Sophie Conlon, Page 1

Mental health advocates Ben Pettingill and Mike Rolls will visit Mount Gambier/Berrin this month and host several community events to help normalise conversations around mental health and suicide. Mr Pettingill, who lost 98 per cent of his vision at 16-years-old, said he and Mr Rolls, who lost both his legs to meningococcal at 18-years-old, would share their stories of overcoming adversity.

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Detox centre being explored by Hope Community Services as Midwest goes without despite demand

ABC Online, Other, 07/08/2023, Jeremy Jones & Phoebe Pin

West Australian barista Jarrod Heelan is no stranger to grief. Mr Heelan's mother, aunt, and two grandparents all died during his teenage years.

[Read More](#)

If we want kids to learn to cope, treat mental health like any other school subject

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/08/2023, Addie Wootten

What if there was an opportunity to radically reduce the number of people experiencing mental health and wellbeing challenges? I believe we have that opportunity right now, and it would reward us for generations to come.

[Read More](#)

Sky News Live, Chris Kenny Tonight, 07/08/2023, Chris Kenny

Kenny reads a report referring to the mental health of children worsening in Australia.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 07/08/2023, Lucy Breden

Interview with Professor Anne Andrews, Professor of Psychiatry, University of California. Andrews discusses measuring the activity of neurotransmitters to create a chemical map of the brain. She notes that they envision coupling their microneedles with things like deep brain stimulation that are being implanted into humans for treatment.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Nurses take Minns' pay rise offer

Daily Telegraph, General News, 08/08/2023, James O'Doherty, Page 1

Nurses and midwives have voted to accept the Minns government's wage offer in a short-term

ceasefire in their fight for a "meaningful" pay rise that exceeds the rate of inflation. The vote means public sector nurses and midwives will get a four per cent pay rise this year and an additional 0.5 per cent in superannuation.

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

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ABC, ABC News, 07/08/2023, Jeremy Fernandez

Nurses have accepted the State Government's 4% pay offer, although just over 40% voted against it. The Minns Government offered public sector workers a 4% pay rise in June, plus a half a per cent superannuation increase. The nurses' union says even those who voted for it indicated they weren't happy with it but did so because of cost-of-living pressures.

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

St John of God cutting 160 jobs after review

West Australian, Business News, 08/08/2023, Sean Smith, Page 39

St John of God Health Care is making about 160 staff redundant after a review by its new chief executive. The not-for-profit hospitals group said on Monday the cuts reflected higher operating costs and the slow uptake of elective surgery after the pandemic.

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

Discussions around regional doctor access

Border Watch, General News, 08/08/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 7

Medical professionals from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) travelled to Mount Gambier/Berrin last week to discuss key issues affecting the area. The RACGP South Australian chair Sian Goodson visited the region alongside rural chair Michael Clements and vice president Bruce Willett.

Also reported by: [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#), [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#), [Medical Journal of Australia \(Online\)](#).

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Campaign against Port submarine base builds

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 08/08/2023, Connor Pearce, Page 2

The Woonona-based head of the largest union in NSW has asked why the Australian government is planning on spending billions of dollars on nuclear submarines when the country's health system is crumbling. Shaye Candish, the head of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, joined speakers including former federal Labor parliamentarian and midnight oil frontman Peter Garrett at an anti-nuclear submarine base forum in Wollongong on Sunday.

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

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All smiles for historic graduates

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 08/08/2023, Ben Loughran, Page 5

Eight Victorian Aboriginal healthcare providers have made history after officially becoming the first Indigenous practitioners trained to apply fluoride varnish to children's teeth. At a ceremony held at the Bendigo and Districts Aboriginal Co-operative on August 4, the eight newly-qualified workers received their accreditation.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 07/08/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

There are growing concerns this morning that Australia's shortage will worsen, with a number of medical graduates saying they want to pursue general practise falling to its lowest level since 2012. Of the 1000 people surveyed, just 13% say they'd consider becoming a GP, with the majority of graduates also beginning their careers outside the capital cities. Experts say 10,000 additional GPs will be needed by 2030 to avoid serious workforce shortfalls.

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2CC, Canberra Live, 07/08/2023, Leon Delaney

Interview with Prof Charlotte Hespe, Chair, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners NSW ACT. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Medical Association have joined forces to call on the ACT Government to respond to concerns about its apparent plans to introduce a payroll tax. Hespe says the court decision in New South Wales is complicated. She expresses concern it would reduce their income and might elevate the cost of seeing a GP.

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2MCE, 16:00 National Radio News, 07/08/2023

The National Rural Health Commissioner says junior doctors invariably receive their training in big cities and that's a big reason why more graduates are choosing to stay in metropolitan areas. Adjunct Professor Ruth Stewart says it is time to acknowledge the limitations of the educational model that has focused on large institutions in big cities. Professor Stewart says the number of employed full time equivalent clinicians decreases on a per head of population basis, the more remote the location is.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 07/08/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, President-elect, Australian Medical Association (ACT). Aust warns the payroll tax could put an additional \$15 per consult to cover the cost if it's applied to general practise. She says it is challenging to keep the practise financially viable in Canberra at the moment.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Pharmacists get green light to diagnose and treat UTIs in WA

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2023, Rachel Carter

WA pharmacists with additional training can now prescribe nitrofurantoin or trimethoprim for UTIs, state Minister for Health Amber-Jade Sanderson has announced. Unlike NSW, the WA Government says the pharmacy prescribing program it launched on Friday is not a trial, but will undergo "a series of evaluations" to be decided by a working group.

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

[Read More](#)

Controversy surrounds 8CPA announcement

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 07/08/2023

By bringing forward the eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA), the Albanese Government is admitting its 60-day dispensing policy (60DD) and its associated funding cuts have already had a damaging effect on the pharmacy industry, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said in a statement released on 7 August 2023.

[Read More](#)

2CC, Canberra Live, 07/08/2023, Leon Delaney

The Pharmacy Guild is warning the rollout of the 60-day dispensing policy will have unintended consequences from next month. Chemists will be able to supply up to two months of medication using

one script. Pharmacy Guild Vice President Anthony Tassone says he rejects a government suggestion their opposition to the change is a cynical scare campaign.

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

AHPRA review

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 07/08/2023

Pharmacists are being invited to have their say on a review of the national standard which "sets the bar for criminal history" for registered health practitioners in Australia.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

World champion Diamonds are Australia's perfect gems

The Australian, General News, 08/08/2023, Jessica Halloran, Page 7

The Australian Diamonds' trophy cabinet is again full. The team's 12th world championship title, after crushing England in Cape Town, capped off a four-year cycle of domination that was triggered by a one-goal loss to New Zealand in the previous final.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#)

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Matildas' Midas touch

Canberra Times, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 1

More than 75,000 fans in the stands and millions more watching from home erupted as the Matildas moved a step closer to a World Cup dream with a thumping 2-0 win against Denmark last night.

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

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Game on as Greens target Olympics

Courier Mail, General News, 08/08/2023, Matthew Killoran, Page 9

A demand from the Greens for the \$7bn Olympics infrastructure deal be torn up and rewritten turned into a fiery debate, with personal barbs flying across the federal chamber. Greens MP Max

ChandlerMather called for the funding deal to be renegotiated to specifically prioritise using existing stadiums like Carrara over the Gabba, pointing to previous Olympics and Victoria's Commonwealth Games cost blowouts.

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

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'Strategic plan' for female soccer reveals poor quality of grounds in Victoria

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2023, Peter Rolfe

A push to capitalise on the Matildas' World Cup heroics is facing a major hurdle in Victoria compared to other states, according to a new report. Victorian girls inspired by the Matildas' FIFA Women's World Cup heroics are chasing their own soccer dreams on some of Australia's worst grounds.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Push to police scientists over research misconduct

Age, General News, 08/08/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 2

Australia must establish a watchdog to police its scientists, an inquiry into one of the country's worst research misconduct scandals has found. The proposed body would have the power to investigate allegations of research misconduct such as falsifying data or running unethical experiments and could directly sanction researchers found to have done the wrong thing.

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A brainwave on autism

Herald Sun, General News, 08/08/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 3

Nationwide magnetic stimulation trial begins Australian researchers have begun the largest trial to investigate non-invasive brain stimulation as a treatment for young autistic people.

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

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New hope for millions of children who suffer from ear infections

9News, Other, 07/08/2023, Sarah Swain

There's new hope for millions of Australian children who suffer from painful and persistent ear infections. Researchers at the University of Adelaide are on the cusp of a breakthrough, with work underway on a vaccine that could provide a permanent solution to the chronic problem.

[Read More](#)

New trial will investigate spice as a preventative measure for dementia

Aged Care Insite, Other, 07/08/2023, Arshmah Jamal

New research by the University of Southern Queensland found that spice may be the secret to dementia prevention. Researchers are investigating how capsaicin, a molecule found in chillies, can affect brain health.

[Read More](#)

Infant food allergy signals later asthma risk: Aussie study

Australian Doctor, Other, 07/08/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Food allergy appears to be 'an important factor in the atopic march of childhood', say researchers.

Infants with confirmed food allergy are nearly four times more likely to be diagnosed with asthma by age six than those without allergies, suggest results from an Australian longitudinal study.

[Read More](#)

Researcher investigates why wounds don't heal, or form deep scars

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 07/08/2023, Anmj Staff

A University of South Australia researcher is investigating why some chronic wounds don't heal and why others that do, form deep scars. According to Wounds Australia, more than 420,000 people suffer from chronic wounds, a common side effect of diabetes, obesity, and vascular and autoimmune diseases, costing the healthcare system more than \$3 billion annually.

[Read More](#)

World-first trial for drug that may slow progression of MND to begin in Melbourne

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2023, Sarah Booth

A human trial of a drug that could slow - or even reverse - the progression of motor neurone disease is running in Melbourne. The world-first human trial of a drug that researchers hope could slow or even reverse the progression of motor neurone disease is running in Melbourne.

[Read More](#)

Work to prevent infant brain injury

Medical Forum, Other, 07/08/2023

A WA led team developing a new neuroprotective therapy and diagnostic to reduce disability in babies suffering brain injury has been awarded significant funding from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation as well as UWA and local biotech company, Argenica Therapeutics bringing the total value of the program to \$5.

[Read More](#)

World first drug trial for MND treatment

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 07/08/2023

Researchers believe they can slow the progression of Motor Neuron Disease with a drug called SPG302 and it's being trialled for the first time on humans. The drug is a pill taken daily and has shown promise in pre-clinical trials for ALS and Alzheimer's.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 07/08/2023, Peter Mitchell

Capsaicin, a compound found in chillies might hold the key to preventing dementia. An Australian trial will investigate if the substance could stop the onset of one the country's biggest killers. The University of Southern Queensland will conduct the first human trials on capsaicin as part of the battle against dementia.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 07/08/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Roz Kelly, and Brooke Boney

Australia will carry out a world first human trial of a pill SPG302 which could offer hope to sufferers of motor neurone disease. The drug has shown promise in mice trials, with signs of slowing or even reversing progression of the disease. The trial will be held in Melbourne at the start of next year and is open to all eligible Australians with ALS.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 07/08/2023, Peter Overton

Work is underway on a vaccine for children prone to ear infections. Researchers at the University of Adelaide believe they're on the cusp of a breakthrough which could help millions It's based on the pneumococcal vaccine which is already included in the immunisation schedule for kids.

Channel 7, Seven News, 07/08/2023, Max Futcher and Sharyn Ghidella

Australians living with motor neuron disease will be the first in the world to try a groundbreaking new treatment. Clinical trials will soon begin on a drug that could slow or even reverse the condition. The trial will take place at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Free flu jabs

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 7

All Queenslanders can have a free flu vaccination, amid a spike in influenza cases across the state. The vaccinations will be available until August 31 at GPs and pharmacies.

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A pandemic is not just a disease – it's a political, social and economic crisis fuelled by inequality

The Guardian, Other, 07/08/2023, Mia Malan

Getting scientists to develop a medicine is a relatively small part of the solution to a pandemic. The more difficult thing is to get the medicine to the people who need it. If you were a South African health journalist during the late 1990s and early 2000s, you were mostly an Aids reporter.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Alzheimer's drug offers 'ray of hope'

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/08/2023, Page 9

The results of a trial on a new Alzheimer's drug gives hope to people with early symptoms of the disease. Sharing data at the 2023 Alzheimer's Association International Conference in July, Eli Lilly and Company said the trial of donanemab brought hope "to people with Alzheimer's disease who urgently need new treatment options". [...] Donanemab will need to be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration before it can be used in Australia.

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Memphasys inks deal with global IVF provider Vitrolife

West Australian, Other, 07/08/2023, Helen Barling

Sydney-based reproductive technology specialist Memphasys has inked an exclusive five-year distribution deal with Vitrolife Japan KK a subsidiary of the world-renowned Vitrolife Group to sell and distribute its patented Felix system in Japan. Vitrolife is a global provider of medical devices, consumables and genetic testing services dedicated to the human IVF and reproductive health market.

[...] Back at home, Felix is currently involved in a series of clinical studies and regulatory processes as the company seeks Australia's coveted Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) tick of approval.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

No relevant coverage

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FOOD STANDARDS

Push for acceptance of native bees

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 08/08/2023, Page 8

Fans of native Australian bee honey might soon be legally allowed to buy it. Food regulators are considering an application from the Australian Native Bee Association for honey from Australia's native stingless bees to be accepted as a standardised food.

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

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

Formal complaint lodged over new Hard Solo drink appealing to minors

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 07/08/2023

An alcoholic version of popular soft drink Solo has sparked a formal complaint amid concerns it could appeal to underage drinkers. A new alcoholic version of popular soft drink Solo has sparked a formal complaint amid concerns it could appeal to underage drinkers.

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

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AICIS

First independent review of Alcoa's mining in WA one step closer

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 07/08/2023, Peter Milne

Western Australia's environmental watchdog has invited public comment on whether it should undertake the first independent review of Alcoa's mining in WA's jarrah forests since the US firm entered the state 60 years ago. In February, environmental group WA Forest Alliance referred two Alcoa mining plans, normally considered behind closed doors by bureaucrats, to the WA Environment Protection Authority. [...] Credit: Anonymous Alcoa has been in the public eye this year due to the risk its mining poses to the dams that supply water to Perth, its failure to complete any rehabilitation of the 280 square kilometres of jarrah forest it has cleared, and building a pipeline, without permission from regulators, to transport water contaminated with the toxic chemicals known as PFAS over a drinking water dam.

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

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