



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 2nd September 2023

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister McCarthy](#) | [Department](#)
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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the family of NRL great Steve Mortimer has called for the code to do more to protect players from head knocks, after revealing the former player's diagnosis with dementia at 67. The plea follows four high-profile former captains that have been diagnosed with early-onset of the degenerative condition.
- **[The Saturday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Cricket Australia will open tenders for its 2024-30 international cricket schedule without the traditional Christmas and New Year Tests at the SCG and MCG locked in.
- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 3\)](#)** reports that the Islamic College of Brisbane has spent \$80,000 on AI-powered smart sensors to detect vaping in school toilets. Minister for Health Mark Butler has said he is "working furiously" with the states on uniform vape bans.
- **[The Weekend Australian \(page 4\)](#)** reports that Minister for Health Mark Butler is confident a new deal between the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the federal government will deliver certainty for the sector, after the PGA agreed to suspend its campaign against 60-day dispensing changes.

- [The Hobart Mercury \(page 8\)](#) reports that Tasmanian nurses unions have threatened industrial action if stalled negotiations for a new enterprise agreement with the state government don't deliver a fair pay deal.

MINISTER BUTLER

AI monitors to stamp out school vaping

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/09/2023, Natasha Bitá, Page 3

Artificial intelligence is being deployed to do in students for vaping or bullying in school toilets, as children end up in hospital with nicotine and heavy metal poisoning. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said he was "working furiously" with state and federal governments to ensure that bans are uniform, to avoid any "legal loopholes".

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

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Chemists dump dispensing campaign

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/09/2023, Jess Malcolm, Page 4

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has agreed to suspend its campaign against 60-day dispensing after the Albanese government agreed to bring forward negotiations for new funding arrangements. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler on Friday said he was confident the new deal would deliver strong certainty for the sector but held firm on his commitment to deliver cheaper medicines.

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Variant soup

The Saturday Paper, General News, 02/09/2023, Bianca Nogrady, Page 4

"COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern." Statement on the 15th meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on the Covid-19 pandemic. [...] That concern was highlighted in a report on Covid vaccine purchasing and procurement, commissioned by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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

Pharmacists stop dispensing backlash

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 02/09/2023, Page 6

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has shelved its campaign against 60-day medicine dispensing, which was due to start yesterday, and agreed to talks to iron out an agreement that will not jeopardise the viability of local chemists. [...] People with a heart condition, Crohn's disease, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and many other conditions would get cost of living relief, Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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Stricken by a severe case of inquiry-itis

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/09/2023, Deborah Snow, Page 30

In the weeks before taking office, Chris Minns often downplayed the challenge posed by the near total absence of ministerial experience on his front bench. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler's office told the Herald this week: "The prime minister has indicated the government will undertake [that inquiry] at an appropriate time in the future."

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

Pharmacists dump '60-day' campaign

The Saturday Age, General News, 02/09/2023, Poppy Johnston, Page 25

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has shelved its campaign against 60-day medicine dispensing, which

was due to start yesterday, and agreed to talks to iron out an agreement that will not jeopardise the viability of local chemists. [...] People with a heart condition, Crohn's disease, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and many other conditions would get important cost of living relief, Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement to mark the change.

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

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

How to get your half-price medicines with 60-day scripts

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/09/2023, Sue Dunlevy, Page 72

It's a major change to the way you pick up medicine but there is a great deal of confusion about it. [...] But Health Minister Mark Butler has said since he announced the new policy application for new pharmacy allowances have doubled.

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

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Pharmacies give up fight

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2023, Ellen Ransley, Page 4

The powerful pharmacy lobby group has agreed to suspend its crusade against the federal government's 60-day medicine reforms on the day they came into effect. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said almost four million Australians using 100 medicines to treat ongoing health conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure and osteoporosis would effectively get "two scripts for the price of one".

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#).

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Guild, Govt lay down arms for 8CPA

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 1

The Albanese Government and the Pharmacy Guild will begin negotiations to secure an eighth Community Pharmacy Agreement with immediate effect. [...] The start of discussions comes after Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made a surprise announcement in August (PD 08 Aug) that negotiations would be brought forward.

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Therapeutic Goods Administration seizes 40,000 vaping products in Brisbane raid

The Australian, Other, 01/09/2023, Aisling Brennan

More than 40,000 vaping products with an estimated street value in excess of \$1.2 million have been seized as part of an ongoing investigation into stopping the sale of illegal tobacco. [...] Health and Aged Care minister Mark Butler says the government is determined to stamp out illegal vaping practices.

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

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Elderly Australians urged to get COVID-19 booster

Canberra Times, Other, 02/09/2023, Tess Ikonomou

Elderly people are being urged to get a booster COVID-19 vaccination if six months has passed since their last jab. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said it was never too late to come forward and get an extra vaccine dose, urging people to do so if they have missed a booster.

Widely syndicated across regional publications

Immunisation body says over-75s need another Covid booster

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/09/2023, Anthony Anderson

Australia's immunisation advisory body says those most at risk should receive yet another Covid-19 vaccination booster. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also urged anyone behind on their boosters to get the jab.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#) and widely syndicated across regional publications

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Cheaper medicines scheme comes into effect as Pharmacy Guild backs down from 60-day dispensing fight

West Australian, Other, 01/09/2023, Kimberley Caines

Millions of Australians can now access two months' supply of common medicines for half the price, with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia backing down on its campaign against 60-day dispensing. [...] "It will mean fewer visits to the GP and pharmacist as well as more money in your hip pocket," Health Minister Mark Butler said.

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'COVID-19 is still with us': Extra vaccine dose recommended for Australians 75 and older

9News, Other, 01/09/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

Australia's health department has updated its COVID-19 vaccine advice, recommending anyone aged 75 or over to get another jab if they haven't had one in the last six months. [...] "The latest advice from our vaccination experts is that, if you're aged 75 or older and it's been at least six months since your last COVID-19 vaccine dose, it's time to top up your protections with an additional dose," Health Minister Mark Butler said on Friday.

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D-day has arrived! The short and curlies of GPs' new 60-day dispensing powers

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/09/2023, Paul Smith

GPs can now exercise their new superpowers to reduce pharmacy dispensing fee income much to the guild's dismay. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler, who was very busy doing the media rounds on Friday morning to spruik the accomplishment, says it will save a patient on one of the medications up to \$180 a year.

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Docs take aim at 60-day disallowance motion

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2023, Megan Haggan

Mark Butler still calling pharmacist objection to double dispensing a "scare campaign," even as 8CPA talks begin Federal health minister Mark Butler has declared 1 September, 2023 a "great day for patients" but the 60-day dispensing policy could still be overturned by a disallowance motion when Parliament resumes next week, according to the Australian

[Read More](#)

New prescription policy means cheaper medicines

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/09/2023

Millions of Australians living with ongoing health conditions can get cheaper medicines under the first stage of the federal government's 60-day dispensing policy. [...] People with a heart condition, Crohn's disease, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and many other conditions will get important cost of living relief, federal Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement to mark the change.

Communities unite to shine a light on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, Other, 01/09/2023

Fare CEO Caterina Giorgi said, "September is International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month, a time to have conversations about this largely invisible disability, and empower communities to support alcohol-free pregnancies. [...] Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler said "The Australian Government is proud to support the Every Moment Matters and Strong Born national prevention campaigns the first of their kind in Australia and the world.

[Read More](#)

Medicare Urgent Care Clinic to take pressure off Cessnock Hospital: Repacholi

Newcastle Herald, Other, 01/09/2023

All Ways Healthcare, supported by ForHealth, has been selected as the provider for Cessnock Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Medicare UCC) following an expression of interest process, the federal government has announced. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the facility would "make a big difference" to patients and offer "convenient, high-quality care".

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Pharmacy Guild drops opposition to 60 day prescriptions

SBS, Other, 01/09/2023, Naveen Razik

The Pharmacy Guild has abandoned its campaign against the rollout of 60 day prescriptions. The changes to almost 100 medications come into effect from September 1st - allowing patients to access twice as many doses. [...] The Health Minister says he's open to addressing those concerns.

[Read More](#)

Cheaper medicines for Australians with chronic health conditions hailed as 'significant win'

SBS, Other, 01/09/2023

Australians are expected to save \$180 per medicine each year under the changes, which come into effect from today. [...] People with a heart condition, Crohn's disease, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and many other conditions will get important cost of living relief, Health Minister Mark Butler said in a statement to mark the change.

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Multi-agency operation leads to huge seizure of illicit tobacco products including 60,000 vapes and eight million cigarettes

Sky News Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Heloise Vyas

Hundreds of thousands of vapes and millions of cigarettes have been seized in properties across Brisbane during a multi-agency crackdown this week. [...] "Vaping was sold to governments and communities around the world as a therapeutic product to help long-term smokers quit," Health Minister Mark Butler said while unveiling the measures.

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy Guild abandons campaign against 60-day dispensing as Labor's cheaper medicines scheme begins

Sky News Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Miriah Davis

The Pharmacy Guild has abandoned its campaign against 60-day prescription dispensing after the Albanese government agreed to negotiations to minimise the policy's impact on the viability of community pharmacies. [...] Speaking at a press conference in Adelaide on Friday, Health Minister Mark Butler assured the community pharmacy sector has "a really strong vibrant future" in Australia.

[Read More](#)

New 60-day prescription policy to provide 'much-needed financial relief'

to millions of Australians

Starts at 60, Other, 01/09/2023, Matthew Hart

As of today countless Australians grappling with ongoing health conditions will have the opportunity to obtain a two-month supply of much-needed medication for the price of a single month as part of the Federal Government's 60-day dispensing policy. [...] Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler claimed that "every single Australian will benefit from the freeing up of millions of much-needed GP visits, so our doctors have more time to diagnose and treat conditions, instead of simply issuing routine, repeat scripts."

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State's huge crackdown on public smoking

Yahoo! Lifestyle Australia, Other, 01/09/2023

Smokers will now have to go somewhere else to have a cigarette as Queensland expands its smoke free zones across the state. [...] Federal Health and Aged Care minister Mark Butler announced in May there would be strong action to combat the supply of unlawful vaping products.

[Read More](#)

Millions to save on medicines from today

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 01/09/2023

The powerful pharmacy lobby group has agreed to suspend its crusade against the federal government's 60-day medicine reforms on the day they come into effect. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said almost four million Australians using 100 medicines to treat ongoing health conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure and osteoporosis would effectively get "two scripts for the price of one".

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 01/09/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler discusses the Federal Government's 60-day prescription policy coming into effect today. He says nearly four million patients from today will be able to ask their doctor for a 60 day script for their common medicines. Butler comments on pharmacies claiming the new policy will lead to medicine shortages. He says he has called out such scare campaigns, and notes the idea of medicine shortages has been debunked by authorities that are set up by law to oversee the security of medicine supplies.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, Today, 01/09/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler says nearly four million Australians from today will be able to ask their doctor for a 60 day script for around 100 common medicines that are treating ongoing health conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, heart disease and many more. He notes it will effectively halve the cost of medicines, and mean fewer visits to the doctor and the pharmacy. Butler says the changes are not easy, but the Government is committed to a strong and vibrant future for community pharmacy.

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2SM, Hi Tide, 02/09/2023, Keiren Reekie and Alan Blake

The Pharmacy Guild has paused its campaign to scrap 60 day dispensing changes. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler says those taking one of the medicines will save up to \$180 per year, while concession card holders will save \$43 per medicine.

[Play Now](#)

5AA, Mornings, 01/09/2023, Matthew Pantelis

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister. Butler discusses the Federal Government's 60-day prescription policy coming into effect today. He says it means huge savings for nearly four million

patients who are on around 100 common medicines for ongoing conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and osteoporosis.

[Play Now](#)

Radio National, Breakfast, 01/09/2023, Patricia Karvelas and Hamish Macdonald

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care. Butler discusses the Federal Government's 60-day prescription policy coming into effect today and the pushback from the Pharmacy Guild. He notes the policy means nearly four million patients will now be able to ask their doctor for a 60-day script, and it is supported by every doctor and patient group. He adds it will also free up GP consultations.

Continuing interview on: [Radio National \(Canberra\)](#).

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MINISTER WELLS

Return to talent pool in search of a new chief after president jumps ship

Weekend Australian, Sport, 02/09/2023, Julian Linden, Page 43

Already in hot water with global authorities because of its everchanging leadership, Swimming Australia is again on the lookout for a new president its fifth in three years after the sudden resignation of Michelle Gallen. [...] "Dr Gallen is an outstanding choice as the CEO of the tribunal," federal Sports Minister Anika Wells said.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Nurses returning to aged care role

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/09/2023, Eileen Wood, Page 5

The federal government says registered nurses are now on site in aged care homes 98 per cent of the time and 23.5 hours on average. [...] "We introduced the 24/7 nursing requirement because older Australians deserve around-the-clock clinical care," said Aged Care Minister Anika Wells.

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Taste back on menu

The Senior - VIC, General News, 01/09/2023, Eileen Wood, Page 5

People living in residential aged care can now complain about the quality of their food via a dedicated telephone hotline. [...] "What older Australians consume and their dining experience has a significant impact on their overall wells being," said Aged Care Minsister Anika Wells.

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Free training to improve food and nutrition in aged care

Aged Health, Other, 01/09/2023

Maggie Beer Foundation to deliver a free training program for aged care cooks and chefs. [...] Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said, "Food, nutrition and the dining experience have a significant impact on a person's quality of life and that's why we have partnered with The Maggie Beer Foundation to deliver this training.

[Read More](#)

What does aged care look like for younger generations retiring deep in debt?

Crikey, Other, 01/09/2023, Anton Nilsson

“Another intergenerational report is out, and with it, the perennial scare campaign about the sustainability of public services. According to Labor’s Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, aged care is now on the front line. Speaking at the National Press Club on June 7, Wells ominously warned: ‘We must act now. The baby boomers are coming.’

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

Supporting domestic and sexual violence survivors

Coast Community News, Other, 01/09/2023, Hnecc Phn

The Central Coast will receive funds for pilot programs supporting victims of domestic and sexual assault. [...] Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Rural and Regional Health and Federal Member for Dobell, Emma McBride, said with one in three women having experienced physical violence by the age of 15, and one in five has having experienced sexual violence, domestic and sexual violence was a major health and welfare concern for the government.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Menopause and Beyond: bringing older women's health and well-being up to scratch

HelloCare, Other, 01/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

More than half of the world's population will go through menopause but there are still roadblocks stopping older women from having quality health and well-being outcomes pre and post menopause. [...] Along with Director of Monash University's Women's Health Program Professor Susan Davis, attendees will hear from Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Health Kat Theophanous, Health and Aged Care Federal Assistant Minister, Ged Kearney, and more.

[Read More](#)

Q+A: Sept 4

TV Tonight, Other, 01/09/2023, David Knox

On the agenda, the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, Inflation, and Industrial Relations. Q+A is live from Melbourne on Monday. [...] Panellists: Assistant Minister for Health & Aged Care Ged Kearney....

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Variant soup

The Saturday Paper, General News, 02/09/2023, Bianca Nogrady, Page 4

"COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern." Statement on the 15th meeting of the International Health

Regulations Emergency Committee on the Covid-19 pandemic. [...] That concern was highlighted in a report on Covid vaccine purchasing and procurement, commissioned by federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

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Voice committee radical? Hardly

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 02/09/2023, Peter Hartcher, Page 36

The No campaign says it's extraordinarily risky to create an advisory body to the federal parliament and government. [...] The Hip and Knee Expert Clinical Advisory Group reports to the Health Department.

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

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Over-75s need another booster

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 12

The federal government's immunisation advisory body says the most vulnerable Australians should get yet another Covid-19 vaccination booster. [...] For more information, visit the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

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

Teen smoking increases

Surf Coast Times, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 46

The rate of smoking among Australian teenagers has increased for the first time in 25 years, according to new research by Cancer Council Victoria. [...] Cancer Council Victoria's Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer prepared the study for the Department of Health and Aged Care.

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

Payments program rules page goes live

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 2

The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) has advised all pharmacists that the Regional Pharmacy Transition Allowance (RPTA) Program Rules and an updated webpage are now live, [HERE](#), to provide pharmacies with more details about the new program that commenced today. This includes FAQs, factsheets and the RPTA payment matrix.

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Research funding a dream come true

The Senior - TAS, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 25

A Tasmanian-led national training program designed to improve respite care for people living with dementia has received \$8 million in federal funding. The University of Tasmania's Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre was awarded the funding from the federal Department of Health and Aged Care to develop the DREAM project.

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'COVID-19 is still with us': Extra vaccine dose recommended for Australians 75 and older

9News, Other, 01/09/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

Australia's health department has updated its COVID-19 vaccine advice, recommending anyone aged 75 or over to get another jab if they haven't had one in the last six months. [...] "The latest advice from our vaccination experts is that, if you're aged 75 or older and it's been at least six months since your last COVID-19 vaccine dose, it's time to top up your protections with an additional dose," Health Minister Mark Butler said on Friday.

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The latest COVID-19 news and case numbers from around the states

and territories

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2023

The states and territories are now reporting their COVID-19 statistics weekly, instead of through the daily updates that were provided from the early days of the pandemic. [...] Source: Federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Immunisation body says over-75s need another Covid booster

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/09/2023, Anthony Anderson

Australia's immunisation advisory body says those most at risk should receive yet another Covid-19 vaccination booster. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler also urged anyone behind on their boosters to get the jab.

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Group Homes Australia to host 33 dementia retreats

Aged Health, Other, 01/09/2023

Now, dementia care provider Group Homes Australia's Rementia Together Retreat program is hoping to transform post-diagnostic care by developing their retreat framework based on repositioning "dementia" (to be "without the mind" in Latin) to "rementia" (to "return to the mind" in Latin). [...] The group is planning to host 33 dementia retreats, fully funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, across Sydney and rural NSW over the next three years.

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D-day has arrived! The short and curlies of GPs' new 60-day dispensing powers

Australian Doctor, Other, 01/09/2023, Paul Smith

GPs can now exercise their new superpowers to reduce pharmacy dispensing fee income much to the guild's dismay. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler, who was very busy doing the media rounds on Friday morning to spruik the accomplishment, says it will save a patient on one of the medications up to \$180 a year.

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60-day dispensing begins, benefiting patients and the health sector

Australian Medical Association, Other, 01/09/2023

The Australian Medical Association has welcomed the start of 60-day dispensing, which is a big win for consumers, and warned any attempt to reverse the initiative will cause chaos and confusion. [...] Read more about 60-day dispensing of PBS medicines on the Department of Health and Aged Care website

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Payments program rules page goes live

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/09/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care and the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) has advised all pharmacists that the Regional Pharmacy Transition Allowance (RPTA) Program Rules and an updated webpage are now live, to provide pharmacies with more details about the new program that commenced today. [...] Pharmacies should ensure they have read and understood the RPTA Program Rules and have confirmed their eligibility prior to registering and applying for the program, the Department of Health stated.

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Future of food: what's on the menu in 2050

Pharmacy ITK, Other, 01/09/2023

From insects to cultured meat, nothing is off the table when it comes to feeding the world's population which is estimated to be 10 billion people in 30 years' time. [...] The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care Office of the Gene Technology Regulator has approved only four genetically modified (GM) crops for cultivation: cotton, canola, Indian mustard and safflower.

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Here's what new 60-day prescriptions mean for you and your hip pocket

SBS, Other, 01/09/2023

From 1 September, significant changes to how some common medicines are prescribed and dispensed in Australia came into effect. [...] Information is also available from the Commonwealth Health Department and the Consumers Health Forum Andrew Bartlett is an associate lecturer of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney.

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Why do some people develop cognitive impairment after COVID-19?

SBS, Other, 01/09/2023, Jessica Bahr and Catriona Stirrat

A new study published by Nature Medicine has inspected multiple biomarkers, or substances in our blood, which help diagnose people with long COVID. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, problems with memory and concentration - also referred to as 'brain fog' - are some of the most common symptoms of long COVID, along with shortness of breath and fatigue.

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Leigh-Anne caught COVID-19 in 2022. Her life has never been the same

SBS, Other, 01/09/2023, Jessica Bahr

Cognitive impairment, or 'brain fog', is one of the main symptoms of long COVID. We still don't know why some people experience the debilitating condition. [...] According to the Department of Health and Aged Care, problems with memory and concentration - also referred to as 'brain fog' - are some of the most common symptoms of long COVID, along with shortness of breath and fatigue.

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New website to support for home carers of terminally ill people

Science Media Exchange (Scimex), Other, 01/09/2023

Most people living with a terminal illness and approaching death need the assistance of a non-professional carer such as a family member, friend, or neighbour to provide physical, emotional and practical caring supports. [...] CarerHelp is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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Rural maternity services urged to be National Cabinet issue

Stock & Land, Other, 01/09/2023

When a rural town's maternity unit shuts down, it has a domino effect and other healthcare services quickly follow. [...] National Rural Health Commissioner Ruth Stewart said the government had give Indigenous women the option to give birth on country.

Also reported by: [Queensland Country Life \(Online\)](#), [Farm Weekly \(Online\)](#), [The Land Australia \(Online\)](#)

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Revised capability review framework coming in weeks

The Mandarin, Other, 01/09/2023, Anna MacDonald

A revised capability review framework will be published in the coming weeks, according to an APSC spokesperson. [...] Thus far in the pilot program, capability reviews for the APSC and the Department of Health and Aged Care have been published.

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Movers & Shakers: Health workforce and Defence trade reviews leads

[...] At the Department of Health and Aged Care, three people were appointed first assistant secretary: from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and was promoted to national practice manager at the Australian Government Solicitor.

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No one thinks capitation is a good idea: DoHAC

The Medical Republic, Other, 01/09/2023

The once-sceptical RACGP president has come to see MyMedicare as the way forward, and DoHAC is emphatic: it's not capitation-lite. [...] First off, the Department of Health and Aged Care would like to stress that MyMedicare is not capitation, capitation lite or a stalking horse for capitation.

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Small rural towns and remote communities fall short of 24/7 RN requirements in first data released by DoH

The Weekly Source, Other, 01/09/2023, Lauren Broomham

The majority of aged care homes have achieved the Federal Government's 1 July 2023 requirement for 24/7 Registered Nurses but the data highlights the challenges in recurring RNs for operators in rural and remote areas. [...] The list published by the Department of Health and Aged Care shows that the majority of aged care homes in Metropolitan (MM1) areas, Large Regional Centres (MM2), Large Rural Towns (MM3) and Medium Rural Towns (MM4) met the target in July 2023.

[Read More](#)

Gender bias concerns about Medicare

Your Life Choices, Other, 01/09/2023, Andrew Gigacz

There are those who believe that gender bias is no longer a problem. They see inequality between men and women as an issue that's been resolved. [...] Acknowledging gender bias inequalities such as these is always a good first step. To that end, the federal health department has done so.

[Read More](#)

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CORONAVIRUS

Sixth COVID vaccine dose recommended

Sydney Morning Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 02/09/2023, Page 6

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation has recommended another COVID-19 vaccine for high-risk groups. The new advice announced yesterday recommended all adults older than 75 should receive an additional COVID-19 vaccine if six months had passed since their last dose.

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

Queensland Health to remove COVID-19 vaccine mandate for frontline health staff

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2023, Janelle Miles

Thousands of Queensland nurses and health staff will be able to return to work as Queensland Health is expected to scrap its COVID-19 vaccination mandate. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman told ABC Radio Brisbane that Queensland's chief health officer had made the decision that the mandate was no longer necessary.

Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Aged care provider up for state accolade

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 25

Mildura's Regis Aged Care says it is "proud" after being nominated for a major category at the 2023 Victorian Community Achievement Awards. The Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award highlights the continued success and achievements of regional businesses and acknowledges that regional businesses are making important economic contributions and providing opportunities for regional growth, productivity, leadership, training and employment.

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

Seniors deserve thanks, support

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/09/2023, Tom Tate, Page 83

As a community, it's important we value all residents. After all, a connected community is a healthy community.

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

Antiochian home opens in Sydney

The Senior - NSW, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 11

Ageing members of the Antiochian Orthodox community now have a new nursing home in south-west Sydney. [...] It is the first aged care centre in the state designed and completed in accordance with recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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

Initiative aims to improve aged care across Asia Pacific

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 01/09/2023, Natasha Egan

A group of 15 aged care specialists from the Asia Pacific region has met with Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Janet Anderson in Sydney during the final leg of a two-week fact-finding mission to Australia to gain insights into the nation's aged care ecosystem. The group whose members come from India, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines has been participating in guest lectures, think tank sessions and industry visits to aged care homes and government health departments in Adelaide and surrounds, Canberra and now Sydney as part of the inaugural Asia Pacific Aged Care Hub.

[Read More](#)

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POPULATION HEALTH

Update your asthma plan

Herald Sun, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 6

Australians living with asthma are being urged to make sure their action plan is up to date this national Asthma Week. An asthma action plan is provided to an individual by their GP, outlining how to manage day to day, including which medication to take and how to respond to flare-ups and emergencies.

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

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

Vape addicts disrupt class

Courier Mail, General News, 02/09/2023, Matty Holdsworth, Page 25

Queensland students who are unable to vape at school are becoming "agitated and aggressive" and are asking to leave class to smoke, prompting toilets to be locked, a major inquiry has shown. A parliamentary inquiry into vaping has revealed the overall impacts e-cigarettes are having on Queensland schools and the measures being taken to address the scourge.

Call for public housing shake-up to put neediest at front of the queue

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/09/2023, Annabel Hennessy, Page 7

The State Government has been urged to change public housing triaging following the deaths of two baby boys with homeless parents. It comes as data from King Edward Memorial Hospital WA's biggest maternity hospital shows that more than 100 babies admitted to its neonatal intensive care unit are identified by social workers as being "at risk" each year due to unstable housing.

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

Regions hit hard as drug deaths on rise

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 02/09/2023, Allan Murphy, Page 7

Drug-induced deaths in the regions have increased "substantially" in the past decade with Mildura recording one of the highest rates per population in regional Victoria. Penington Institute's annual overdose report shows rates of fatal overdoses in regional areas remain higher than those capital cities.

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

Time to act on vaping is now

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/09/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 3

A landmark health report into vaping in Queensland has urged the government to adopt new rehabilitation methods and subvert addictive, nicotine-based vape devices before a health crisis emerges. A parliamentary inquiry overseen by the Health and Environment Committee, chaired by Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper, made 14 key recommendations aimed at preventing the sale of illegal vapes, providing rehabilitation therapy to those using them and devising guidelines for schools to better address students' vape usage.

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

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

Vape debate

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 30

Here's hoping govt doesn't wait too long for smoke to settle after inquiry to act on recommendations taskforce to tackle the illegal selling of vapes through pop-up stores surrounding Queensland schools is on the table, part of a landmark health report aimed to tackle the problem "before it's too late".

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

Concerns about rise in party drug

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 01/09/2023, Jessica Howard, Page 6

The south-west is seeing a rise in the use of a clear, odourless party drug that can melt plastic and put users in a coma within minutes. GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate), otherwise known as "juice", is a depressant drug, which means it slows down messages travelling between the brain and body.

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New smoke and vape-free zones come into effect in Queensland

9News, Other, 01/09/2023, Mikala Theocharous

New vape and smoke-free zones come into effect in Queensland today. The extended no-smoking zones now include areas near outdoor markets, food and drinking venues, school car parks and any under 18 recreational events.

[Read More](#)

Beer could be good for you: Scientists find drinking could boost gut health

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Rebecca Whittaker

Scientists have found that drinking pints in moderation could be better than abstaining all together. It's

thought drinking beer boosts the body's immune system because of a collection of healthy bacteria that benefits the gut.

[Read More](#)

Simple SMS prompt improves heart health

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/09/2023, Michelle Wisbey

A Heart Foundation pilot program that sent out 42,000 text messages to eligible patients resulted in a 14-fold increase in check-ups with GPs. Cardiovascular disease is responsible for causing 26% of all deaths in Australia and costs the healthcare system around \$5 billion a year.

[Read More](#)

Treating sleep issues may be an effective way to treat PTSD

SBS, Other, 01/09/2023

While around 75 per cent of the Australian population experiences trauma, only around five to ten per cent will develop post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. [...] As many as 75 per cent of Australian adults have experienced trauma in their lives, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

[Read More](#)

Heart health recall study proves to be a lifesaver

The Senior, Other, 01/09/2023, Eileen Wood

A pilot program that recalls Australians at risk of heart disease via a text message from their GP clinic, is being seen as a potential lifesaver. The Heart Health Check (HHC) Recall pilot study was rolled out in more than 200 GP clinics across the country, where about 42,000 at-risk Australian patients received an invitation from their GP to come in for a HHC via SMS, leading to a 14-fold increase in checks, compared to control medical practices.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

My baby never heard me tell her I love you

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/09/2023, Peter Badel, Page 12

"We think your baby is deaf." With those six words, Josh McGuire had to steel himself for a battle he never expected to confront. The thought that his daughter Scarlett might never hear the words "I love you" ripped out the heart of the former Brisbane Broncos and Queensland State of Origin star, who played 12 NRL seasons blind in one eye after an injury early in his career, and who earned a reputation as a football villain after a record number of suspensions and fines for foul play.

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

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

Aspirin hack for diabetes

Courier Mail, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 35

Low-dose, daily aspirin could reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes in older adults, Australian research suggests. Researchers recruited 16,209 over-65s and gave half a daily aspirin and the other half a placebo. Following up less than five years later, the group taking aspirin had a 15 per cent lower rate of type 2 diabetes than the other group.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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

Golfers' skin cancer rate through roof

The Senior - SA, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 45

The word has gone out to golfers: cover up or fry. The warning comes from a University of SA study that shows golfers have more than four times the rate of skin cancer compared to the general population.

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

Veterans who flew through nuclear mushroom clouds during testing at Maralinga reveal health impacts

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, George Yankovich

British and Australian veterans who flew through nuclear mushroom clouds as part of testing in Maralinga nearly 70 years ago, have revealed the devastating health effects. When 20-year-old British flying officer John Robinson shielded his eyes from a nuclear blast in the South Australian outback, he saw the bones in his hands shine through a "penetrating light".

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

[Read More](#)

Smart drug destroys tumour, saving sight in a world first

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Robyn Riley

A Victorian grandfather is the first person in the world to have his sight saved by a new "smart" drug to treat a rare eye cancer. Mark Shackleton, Director of Oncology at The Alfred, said the patient, who asked only to be identified as "Geoff", lost the vision in his left eye following a stroke three years ago.

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

[Read More](#)

Herne Hill CEO fights for others locked in brain cancer battle

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 02/09/2023, Cam Ward

Sam McGuane doesn't do what he does for the personal attention. He would much rather any focus be on the organisations for which he works and the cause about which he feels so passionate. As a chief executive, terms like deductible gift recipients and sustainable revenue come easily to him.

[Read More](#)

\$1.375 million to fight breast cancer

In Daily, Other, 01/09/2023, Pier Stamatogiannis

Stopping deadly cancers that invade and spread around the body is the holy grail' for cancer researchers. Now, reaching this holy grail is another step closer, thanks to The Hospital Research Foundation Group.

[Read More](#)

Channel 9, Today, 01/09/2023, Karl Stefanovic, Sarah Abo, Alex Cullen and Brooke Boney

New data from the Queensland Cancer Register has revealed cancer cases are in decline. The research shows deaths have reached a 25 year low in the state.

[Play Now](#)

3AW, Mornings, 01/09/2023, Neil Mitchell

Interview with Professor Mark Shackleton, Director of Oncology, Alfred Hospital. Shackleton discusses the case of a man suffering from eye melanoma, noting it is uncommon with only 100 cases a year in Victoria. He says breakthroughs only come from years of medical research. He adds the ability to integrate research into the Alfred in the way we do in looking after cancer patients is hugely important.

[Play Now](#)

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Why you cannot win with private health insurance

Weekend Australian, Business News, 02/09/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 27

A quirk always leaves you out of pocket, amid calls for change In a dimly lit room, a masseur performs an incantation in a baritone voice, slapping fish on the back of a whimpering patient in an attempt to remedy an ailment.

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

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

South Tuggeranong health centre to be built

Canberra Times, General News, 02/09/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 10

Construction on the first of four Canberra community health centres is expected to begin in 2024, with a hope it will open in 2025. The South Tuggeranong health centre will be located in Conder, on the corner of Box Hill Avenue and Heidelberg Street, across from the primary school.

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Bush babies should be in a pram not a grave

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 23

They are Tonys and Charlies. They are Isabelles and Pipers. They are as much part of the family forever as any other child - they just never took that first breath. Mothers everywhere have a fear of this disaster - but in regional areas, it's vastly more pronounced.

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

Fury as sex fiend 'ends life'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2023, Sean Fewster, Page 27

Repeat pedophile Malcolm Winston Day has reportedly died just days after being accepted into SA's voluntary assisted dying program - and one of his victims says there is "no justice" in his passing. The woman, known as "Ann", told The Advertiser she received a call late on Friday from the Department for Correctional Services to inform her Day, 81, had died.

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

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

Critical change to ED practice

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 36

SA Health has changed its method of calculating capacity levels at public hospital EDs by changing the definition of "full house." It comes after an Advertiser investigation found multiple cases of SA Health indicating it had beds for patients when chronically crowded EDs were in fact operating well above their official capacity.

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

Premier's social blunder

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/09/2023, Sam Stolz, Page 5

A social media post on Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff's Instagram account has come under fire from one of the country's largest disability advocacy groups, who has slammed it as "ill-informed and inappropriate". In the wake of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese touching down in Hobart on Thursday to open a new urgent care clinic alongside Mr Rockliff and other dignitaries, a celebratory post was put up on the Premier's Instagram account.

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

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Coast rescue crew first to air tragedy

A Gold Coast medical team was first to the scene of the fatal Northern Territory defence training crash, delivering lifesaving treatment for 30 minutes before more help arrived. Captain Eleanor LeBeau, 29, Major Tobin Lewis, 37, and Corporal Spencer Collart, 21, were killed on Sunday when their Osprey crashed during Exercise Predators Run on Melville Island, 80km north of Darwin.

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

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A win unlikely but the fight for hospital 'still on'

Border Mail, General News, 02/09/2023, Ted Howes, Page 4

Wodonga mayor Ron Mildren has conceded the chances of a greenfield hospital site for the Border region are "pretty low" but says his fight is not over. Cr Mildren said questions still remained over the redevelopment of the existing Albury hospital.

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

Bulli Hospital shuttle bus underutilised

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 02/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 13

Bulli residents say parking around the town's hospital and urgent care centre has become "horrendous" over the past month, with hospital staff not using the shuttle service which allows them to park at Bulli showground. Community campaigner Margaret Hutchinson said the relocation of the Illawarra's palliative care and rehabilitation wards has created significant congestion, with cars lining Hospital Road for hours each day.

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Surgeon has faith the Voice will unite

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/09/2023, Damon Cronshaw, Page 25

The Voice will make "a huge difference and put a smile on my face" if it gets up, Newcastle surgeon Kelvin Kong says. Dr Kong, an ear, nose and throat [ENT] surgeon and Worimi man, had the referendum and innovation on his mind on Friday.

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Why dispensing proposal doesn't treat everyone equally

Newcastle Herald, General News, 02/09/2023, Sarah Twohill, Page 46

There has been significant political banter and spin regarding the pros and cons of the federal government's 60-day double dispensing proposal. It is a foregone conclusion that the scheme is acceptable from a medical standpoint, as medical advisors and the media have readily publicised. However, the question remains as to whether it makes sense financially.

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Hospital on the cards

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 02/09/2023, Cath Piltz, Page 14

The Catholic Diocese has announced plans for an expansive new private hospital to be built opposite Lismore Base Hospital. The proposed new hospital at the Uralba St health precinct would allow for wider private health services and a consolidation of existing services.

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

Cairns closure 'domino effect'

Weekend Post, General News, 02/09/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 5

Opposition Leader David Crisafulli has lambasted the state government over the temporary closure of birthing services at the hospital he was born in. The LNP leader said the health crisis confronting Queensland's public-health sector had widened with news select maternity services at Ingham Hospital had been suspended due to staff shortages.

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

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

Pharmacy Guild suspends campaign as 60-day dispensing begins

The Australian, Other, 01/09/2023, Jess Malcolm

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has agreed to suspend its campaign against 60-day dispensing after the Albanese government agreed to minimise the impact of the new policy on community pharmacies through the eight Community Pharmacy Agreement. The pharmacy sector said the Albanese government had committed to enter negotiations over an early pharmacy agreement beginning March 1, and was hopeful it would strike a deal for increased funding for dispensing services.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Pharmacy Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [ABC Online \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

On the public list for surgery? You'll be waiting the longest in these states

The Mercury, Other, 01/09/2023, Mia Erickson

A recent survey of Australian patients has revealed a staggering backlog of post-pandemic elective surgeries, causing astronomical wait times for people in need. The global pandemic gripped our country and its population like never before, placing considerable strain on our public health system.

[Read More](#)

Births are traumatising women in 'men-designed system'

West Australian, Other, 01/09/2023, Luke Costin

A senior obstetrician says more than one in three women experience birth trauma in hospitals, and over-stretched rural health services can't keep up. Maria Luna Ramirez said she was often involved in debriefing women and families after traumatic events, and heard of birth choices being ignored and a lack of sensitivity from medical professionals.

[Read More](#)

NSW 'keen' to expand pharmacists' scope

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2023

NSW is set to implement a state-wide scope of practice trial mirroring the North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot. Expanding community pharmacists' scope of practice will deliver benefits to both patients and pharmacists alike, NSW premier, Chris Minns believes. Speaking at the opening reception of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Connect conference

[Read More](#)

Early start to 8CPA start likely

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2023

The Pharmacy Guild and the Albanese Government have agreed to immediately enter negotiations to secure an 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement. Both parties have committed to secure a new agreement that will commence on 1 March 2024.

[Read More](#)

RACGP's seven-point plan for general practice and the NDIS

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/09/2023, Jolyon Attwooll

The relationship between general practice and the NDIS has not always been easy. Here is what the college believes could make it better. The RACGP has contributed to a review into the problematic operation of the NDIS.

[Read More](#)

A chronic obstructive pulmonary disease risk assessment tool in preventive lung healthcare: An unmet need?

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/09/2023

In Australia, the all-encompassing role of general practice in managing acute and chronic conditions,

while also delivering preventive healthcare to promote and maintain optimal health, is well recognised as challenging but critical to maintaining the health of all Australians. [...] Current guidelines and position papers (eg RACGP, COPD-X, Lung Foundation Australia [LFA]) recommend pre- and post-bronchodilator spirometry to be considered for adults with respiratory symptoms and/or pollutant exposures, such as smoking.

[Read More](#)

Barriers to spirometry in Australian general practice: A systematic review*

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/09/2023, Roscoe Lim, Tracy Smith and Tim Usherwood

The reasons for the underutilisation of spirometry are unclear. We undertook a systematic review assessing barriers to correct spirometry in Australian general practice.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Sacrificial lambs on altar of climate alarmism

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/09/2023, Chris Kenny, Page 18

It beggars belief that we convince schoolchildren they face a bleak, deadly future If there is one area where the public broadcaster needs to focus on facts rather than ideology, it is global warming.

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

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

Dads struggle without village

The Saturday Age, General News, 02/09/2023, Ryan Carters, Page 43

I know it's almost Father's Day because of the beer, golf clubs and barbecues appearing on cards at my supermarket. "You're shrimplly the best."

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

Gabril Carazo built RAD Dads network to better support Macedon Ranges fathers, boost mental health

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2023, Fiona Parker and Emma D Agostino

When Gabriel Carazo became a new dad, he couldn't find any services in his community to connect and support fathers, so he set up his own. His legacy of working to men's boost mental health and combat isolation has earned him the title of 2023 Victorian Father of the Year.

[Read More](#)

Lack of fatigue management had role in police death

Shepparton News Online, Other, 01/09/2023

The absence of a fatigue management policy in Tasmania Police played a direct role in a sergeant's death, a coroner has found. Sergeant Robert Cooke was one of four male Tasmania Police officers who took their own lives between 2016 and 2020, along with Senior Sergeant Paul Reynolds, Constable Paul Hunt and Constable Simon Darke.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Being an ACT doctor may not be viable

Canberra Times, General News, 02/09/2023, Dr Clara Tuck and Meng Soo, Page 47

This week, while at work at my general practice, I saw a middle-aged Asian man with chronic schizophrenia whom I bulkbilled for his consultation. I then had a telephone consultation with another young patient with chronic pain whom I also bulk-billed.

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

Anti-vax ambo can't get job back

Daily Telegraph, General News, 02/09/2023, Andrew Koubaridis, Page 21

An anti-vax paramedic who called the police "f*****g pigs" and made false claims about the Covid vaccine on a TikTok livestream has failed in her bid to get her job back. Sally-Ann John, who called herself "Ambo Sal" online, was sacked by NSW Ambulance after she attended an anti-lockdown rally in Sydney's George St on July 24, 2021.

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

Nurses ramp up pressure

Hobart Mercury, General News, 02/09/2023, David Killick, Page 8

The nursing union says its members don't trust the government to deliver an honest pay deal and say industrial action is on the cards if they don't get one. Negotiations for a new enterprise agreement with the state's nursing workforce have stalled as the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation seeks clarity from the government about the details of its current offer.

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Employer's rental crisis solution

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 02/09/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 22

Aged care worker Vina Tuitakali says she does not know what she would do if her employer had not set her up with housing. Mrs Tuitakali works as a companion for Warrigal in the Illawarra and rents an Albion Park property from the not-for-profit organisation that is set aside for staff.

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

Overseas doctors in town to learn about rural life

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 02/09/2023, Rachel Gray, Page 6

A group of recently-arrived general practitioners from across the world have gathered in Tamworth to learn about working in rural, remote and regional areas of Australia. The 11 doctors from Russia, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Syria, the Philippines, South Africa and Hong Kong are working in various rural towns across NSW in an attempt to fill the GP shortage.

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

Lights and sirens for Father's Day

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 02/09/2023, Madeleine McNeil, Page 1

Warrnambool paramedics Jock O'Connor and son Nick will share a unique Father's Day on Sunday. The two will work nightshift together as Jock prepares to call time on his 35-year career with Ambulance Victoria.

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

Bombshell resignation: Women's and Children's Hospital Network boss quits

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Brad Crouch

The head of the Women's and Children's Hospital Network, Lindsey Gough, has quit her role and will

finish up in a week, saying she will take a break before considering "what is next". Ms Gough has been chief executive of the WCHN since 2018 and today told staff she will be leaving on Friday, September 8.

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

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

1000 join cosmetic surgery class-action

Herald Sun, General News, 02/09/2023, Julie Cross, Page 27

As the number of plaintiffs in one of Australia's biggest cosmetic surgery class actions looks set to hit 1000, the lawyer behind it says it's just the "tip of the iceberg". Publicity around the case against celebrity cosmetic surgeon Dr Daniel Lanzer and seven other defendants, one of whom, Dr Daniel Darbyshire, died last month has encouraged other alleged victims of other clinics across the country to come forward.

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

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

Facing painful legal battle I'm so upset at \$27k results

Herald Sun, General News, 02/09/2023, Julie Cross, Page 27

Mum of four Daniella Scamante was inspired to get a tummy tuck and liposuction after watching celebrity cosmetic surgeon Dr Daniel Lanzer on his social media channels. The 51-year-old Melbourne aged-care worker, who had multiple C-sections, had lost significant weight and wanted to get rid of the loose skin around her tummy, tighten the stomach muscles, as well as removing fat from her back and thighs.

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

Midwives: NSW Health failing women

Daily Advertiser, General News, 02/09/2023, Dan Holmes, Page 2

The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) has criticised NSW Health in a scathing submission to the state Birth Trauma Inquiry. The submission accuses both levels of government of not taking swift action to implement their own policies, which could have prevented many women from experiencing birth trauma.

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

Baby's death in hospital found to be 'potentially preventable'

Adelaide Now, Other, 01/09/2023, Eli Green

The death of a six-week-old baby in a major hospital was "potentially preventable", but a coroner could

not say with certainty whether his death was preventable. The "brave but very sick" Logan Scott Fergusson was born with serious heart defects at Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital (AWCH) on April 29 2016.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

'This disease is a thief': NRL's reckoning

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/09/2023, Jessica Halloran, Page 1

The family of rugby league legend Steve Mortimer has issued an impassioned plea for the NRL to keep stepping up safety measures that protect players from head knocks, as his wife declared she was certain his devastating dementia battle was a result of repeated on-field hits. In a raw, powerful joint interview, Mortimer's wife Karen and their adult children Andrew, Matt and Erin have opened up for the first time on the trauma of a decline that has left the adored Canterbury legend in full-time care in a nursing home at age 67.

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Protect players from head injuries

Weekend Australian, Editorials, 02/09/2023, Page 14

The condition of Bulldogs legend and former Australian rugby league halfback Steve Mortimer, 67, who is suffering from dementia and living in a nursing home where he needs full-time care, is yet another tragic reminder to league and other sporting codes that they need to get serious about doing more to prevent brain injuries. So do the diagnoses with early-onset dementia conditions of three other leading league captains of the 1980s - Wally Lewis, 63, Mario Fenech, 61, and Ray Price, 70.

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

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Family's battle in league's mind wars

Weekend Australian, General News, 02/09/2023, Jessica Halloran, Page 7

It's a Saturday afternoon and the greatest Bulldog of all time, Steve Mortimer, is back at Belmore. The legendary Canterbury Bankstown skipper known as "Turvey" has history in nearly every centimetre of this place.

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

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Shadow over Cowboys great

Weekend Australian, Sport, 02/09/2023, Fatima Kdouh, Page 41

Brittney Tamou has seen just about all of the games her husband James has played over the past decade, and the veteran North Queensland forward wants her to watch him just as closely in retirement. After 308 NRL games over 15 seasons including a premiership in 2015 Tamou will retire at the end of the season.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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MCG must fight for Boxing Day Test

The MCG and SCG will have to fight to keep their prized cricket Tests traditionally scheduled during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Cricket Australia is preparing to go to official tender for its sevenyear suite of international cricket, with the iconic Boxing Day Test in Melbourne and New Year's Test in Sydney not locked in.

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

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No cover for brain injury

Courier Mail, General News, 02/09/2023, Samantha Scott, Page 35

An Aussie Rules player who suffered a life-changing brain injury playing for his local club discovered two years later his near-fatal accident would not be covered by insurance. Zachary Stanton was concussed, bleeding and had spinal fluid leaking from his ear after colliding with an opposition player in 2021.

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

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G-force of Test unification

Courier Mail, Sport, 02/09/2023, Ben Horne and Robert Craddock, Page 90

Greats from India and Pakistan have backed the push for the MCG to host a blockbuster Test between their nations - but suggest different routes to get there. The rivalry which Greg Chappell says is "the Ashes by a multiple of 10" is on again on Saturday when neighbours India and Pakistan have a rare meeting in the Asian Cup.

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The Melbourne Cricket Club has threatened members with expulsion after misbehaviour increase at the footy

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Athos Sirianos

One of Australia's most prestigious sporting clubs has threatened to expel members on the eve of its busiest period in a massive clampdown on anti-social behaviour. The Melbourne Cricket Club, which has more than 150,000 members and 205,000 people on its waiting list, has issued a stern warning to its members after "far too many" issues in the stands during the AFL season which has resulted in "lengthy suspensions" and expulsions.

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

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WA Institute of Sport board turmoil leaves gymnasts abused over almost 30 years re-traumatised

West Australian, Other, 01/09/2023

The State Government plans to overhaul the WA Institute of Sport board after an exodus threw an already-stalled restorative process for abused gymnasts into limbo, re-traumatising the women. A damning Sport Integrity Australia investigation into the culture of WAIS' artistic gymnastics program between 1987 and 2016 concluded in April last year that it was "reasonably likely" some of the girls "suffered abuse and/or harm" such as verbal and physical abuse, fat-shaming and unnecessary skinfold testing.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Roundworm clue key to healthy ageing?

The Senior - QLD, General News, 01/09/2023, Page 39

Live Life to the Fullest and Grow Old Like a Roundworm - it may not catch on as a t-shirt slogan, but experts say the tiny creatures have plenty to teach us about ageing well. Researchers from University of Queensland say taking a closer look at the little critters has revealed important clues about healthy cell repair.

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Asleep on the job: new study to look at how sleep environment affects FIFO workers' slumber

West Australian, Other, 01/09/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

A cutting-edge new study will look at how to improve FIFO workers' sleep after previous research showed 60 per cent were at risk of developing a sleep disorder. The project being led by Edith Cowan University sleep science PhD candidate Philipp Beranek aims to investigate the relationship between the sleep environment and the sleep of FIFO workers.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

Kimberley suicide scourge 'statistically endemic'

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/09/2023, Page 38

Actor Mark Coles Smith has told how it took him the better part of a year to agree to be involved in a new documentary about how to stem the tragic toll of suicide in the Kimberley. But Coles Smith, who became the first Indigenous person nominated for a Gold Logie this year, said he decided to present Keeping Hope, which will air on NITV on September 10, to turn an overdue spotlight on the deeply personal issue.

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Health Nayri artworks promote cultural visibility with Tasmanian health services

National Indigenous Times, Other, 01/09/2023

A set of specially commissioned Aboriginal artworks has been unveiled by the Tasmania Department of Health at a southern dental care centre. The artworks are the product of a partnership between Public Health Services and the Department of Health's outreach health services initiative TAZREACH.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Flu season on the wane

Courier Mail, General News, 02/09/2023, Page 3

Queensland's horror flu season has reached its end according to the state's top doctor, with the government's emergency free jab drive taken up by more than 140,000 people by the time it closed. Acting chief health officer Dr Catherine McDougall said flu infections had been "steadily dropping" despite large crowd events in the state including the Ekka and the FIFA Women's World Cup.

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Minns thanks pharmacists for jab help

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 01/09/2023

NSW Premier Chris Minns has thanked pharmacists for their help administering the flu vaccine. Speaking at the opening of the Pharmacy Connect Conference last night, Minns said the "vaccination

program has been a huge success as well over 1,100 pharmacies have registered with the New South Wales State Vaccine Centre".

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Big stash of cigarettes, vapes seized

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 02/09/2023, Page 39

Millions of cigarettes, tens of thousands of illegal vapes and more than \$800,000 cash have been seized during a multi-agency operation in south-east Queensland. [...] Officers from the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, Queensland police, the Australian Taxation Office, Queensland Health, Therapeutic Goods Administration and Australian Border Force searched 15 properties in Logan, Redlands and Ipswich.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

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

More than 40,000 vapes seized after raids across Brisbane

9News, Other, 01/09/2023, Richard Wood

Authorities seized more than 40,000 vaping products with an estimated street value of \$1.2 million during raids across Brisbane. The vapes were uncovered at homes and storage units across the city during a multi-agency operation on Tuesday, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said today.

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Tens of thousands of vapes seized by Therapeutic Goods Administration from storage units and residences in Brisbane

ABC Online, Other, 01/09/2023, Michelle Tapper

Around 60,000 illegal vapes with an estimated street value of more than \$1.8 million and over \$835,000 in cash have been seized in Brisbane this week. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said it will test the illegal vapes for dangerous ingredients.

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\$1.2m of vapes seized

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 01/09/2023, Megan Haggan

The TGA has executed multiple warrants on storage units and residences in Brisbane and seized over 40,000 vaping products. The products have an estimated street value of over \$1.2 million, the Therapeutic Goods Administration says. The raid comes as a new study published in the Medical Journal of Australia showed that 26% of people aged

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New anti-obesity medications: Considerations and future directions in people with concurrent eating disorders

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 01/09/2023, Gemma Sharp, Phillipa Hay and Deborah Mitchison

Everybody looks so great. When I look around this room, I can't help but wonder "Is Ozempic right for me?" [...] In Australia, semaglutide 1.0 mg weekly is approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

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Drug reform panic avoids hard truth

Canberra Times, General News, 02/09/2023, Adrian McKenna, Page 45

Come October 28, the ACT will be shifting to an Australian first: the decriminalisation of low-level possession of a range of illicit drugs. This presents a unique opportunity to try a fresh approach to responding to drug use in the community.

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Bell push for medicinal cannabis continues

Border Watch, Other, 01/09/2023, Charlotte Varcoe

Medical cannabis may be one step closer after a motion put forward by Member for Mount Gambier Troy Bell passed in the Lower House. On Wednesday, Mr Bell presented a motion to his colleagues asking for recognition of the growing importance of medicinal cannabis and cannabidiol as an alternative treatment option for South Australians.

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FOOD STANDARDS

Gino's restaurant at Hamilton fined under Food Act over cockroach find

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 01/09/2023, Patrick Billings

A cockroach in a pizza led to a popular Italian restaurant in an up-market part of Brisbane being inspected by council officers, a court has heard. Brisbane Magistrates Court heard a customer grabbed a pizza from Gino's Restaurant in April 2022 only to find it contained a cockroach, prompting a complaint to the Brisbane City Council.

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

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I Cook Foods accuses Professor Brett Sutton of acting 'recklessly' in compensation bid

NEWS.com.au, Other, 01/09/2023, Liam Beatty

A catering company that was ordered to close and destroy more than 10 tonnes of food has accused Victoria's top doctor of acting "recklessly", a court has been told. I Cook Foods is suing Victoria's Department of Health and asking for \$50m in compensation, claiming the business was destroyed by a forced closure in 2019.

Similar coverage reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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