



TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 9th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 1) reports doctors are concerned that antidepressant drugs are being overprescribed and patients are not receiving help to transition to more appropriate therapies.
- The [Weekend Australian](#) (page 3) reports brain injury specialists are calling for contact sports to be banned for children under the age of 14 in the wake of Senate inquiry findings on the toll of chronic traumatic encephalopathy caused by sporting head injuries.
- The [Sydney Morning Herald](#) (page 7) reports NSW midwife Karen Buckley has brought a legal claim against Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District for trauma suffered on chronically understaffed delivery wards.
- The [Canberra Times](#) (page 8) reports the Department of Health is investigating breaches of Commonwealth grant guidelines in the previous government's Community Health and Hospitals Program. Minister for Health Mark Butler ordered a review of grants after an audit uncovered instances of maladministration.
- The [Northern Territory News](#) (page 7) reports tenders have been let for a new 32-bed ward for Royal Darwin Hospital.

MINISTER BUTLER

Health, hospitals program under spotlight

Canberra Times, General News, 09/09/2023, Natalie Vikhrov, Page 8

The Department of Health is investigating individuals who were involved in the Morrison government's \$2 billion community health and hospitals program that deliberately breached Commonwealth grant guidelines. Health department officials were grilled over the delivery of the program during a public accounts and audit committee hearing on Friday.

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The regional healthcare gap is deadly

Canberra Times, Editorials, 09/09/2023, Page 40

Although it would be wildly unrealistic to demand the same level of health services in regional cities and rural communities that capital city teaching hospitals can provide, it appears the gap is much wider than it should have been. [...] The Department of Health, as the key stakeholder directly answerable to the federal government, could have apparently done a better job on following up on these agreements and partnerships. [...] While the current Health Minister is rightly doing his best to make political capital out of yet another Morrison era failure he is right to call out the former LNP government for being "all announcement and no delivery".

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

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Community Health and Hospitals program's \$2b of promises largely ignored

Canberra Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Justine Landis-Hanley

When mother-of-two Lynda Bain found a lump in her right breast last year she went straight to her GP, who referred her for an ultrasound and a mammogram. [...] But current federal Health Minister Mark Butler has slammed the Coalition government health and hospitals program, adding just half of the promised \$2 billion has actually been spent on delivering these projects.

[Read More](#)

AIHW Board Chair

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 08/09/2023, Page 4

Nicola Roxon, former Federal Health Minister from 2007-2011, has been named as the new Chair of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Current minister Mark Butler said he was delighted at the appointment, saying "Roxon brings considerable experience to the role as she has led significant reform in the introduction of tobacco plain packaging".

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

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

It's time to prescribe some common sense to pharmacists

Canberra Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Jenna Price

Should we care about pharmacists throwing a tantrum in Parliament House? Seriously, a pack of complete d--kheads. [...] As the Health Minister Mark Butler has said many times during the pharmacists' campaign, pharmacies are a highly profitable business.

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Geelong bulk billing practices, cost of GP visits revealed

Geelong Advertiser, Other, 08/09/2023, Will Keech and Sue Dunlevy

More patients are paying to see their GP as the number of bulk billing practices across Geelong continues to plummet. [...] Recently released Department of Health and Aged care data also found the proportion of GP visits that were bulk billed or provided free to patients nationally had plunged by more

11 points from 89.6 per cent in January 2021 to just 78.8 per cent in June 2023. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler blamed the fall on a decade of cuts and neglect by the former government.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Don't waste these good doctors, petition urges

The Medical Republic, Other, 08/09/2023, Holly Payne

A GP in South Australia is renewing the call for more personalised feedback and support for RACGP exam candidates who attained their primary medical degree overseas. [...] Dr Bhatti's petition, addressed to RACGP president Dr Nicole Higgins and Health Minister Mark Butler, seeks special permission for Dr K to be allowed additional time to resit the KFP.

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MINISTER WELLS

Feedback sought on draft aged care design principles

Aged Health, Other, 08/09/2023

The federal government is seeking feedback from older people, aged care providers, design experts and those involved in aged care construction and refurbishment projects on the draft National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines. [...] Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said stakeholder feedback "will ensure the Principles and Guidelines provide a comprehensive, evidence-based resource to guide accommodation design and put quality and dignity back into aged care."

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Comm Games boss backs joint UK-Qld event

The Courier Mail, Other, 08/09/2023, Matthew Killoran

A joint Commonwealth Games between the Gold Coast and Birmingham would be a satisfactory outcome, the head of Commonwealth Games Australia has revealed. [...] Opposition sports spokeswoman Senator Anne Ruston said she was concerned there had been no meeting with Sports Minister Anika Wells, given the "incredible damage" the cancellation of the Games had on Australia's reputation.

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

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

No relevant coverage

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

Time to put research into older women's health on the agenda: NARI

Aged Health, Other, 08/09/2023

National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) is calling for research into older women's health to be on the agenda this Women's Health Week. [...] The summit will hear from Professor Susan Davis AO, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Health Kat Theophanous MP, and Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care the Hon Ged Kearney MP.

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Women invited to comment on health

PS News, Other, 08/09/2023

Australian women have been invited to join in the nation's first ever call to share their experiences in the country's health system to better inform policy development and improve health outcomes for women and girls. [...] Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney said she had heard from women across the country and every one of them had a story "but nobody has ever asked them to tell it".

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Minister flies into spotlight propelled by airline setback

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/09/2023, Angus Thompson, Page 19

Catherine King has largely flown under the radar in Albanese's cabinet. But the transport minister's decision in July to reject Qatar Airways' bid to double its flights to Australia has come under intense scrutiny in recent months not least in the past week and vaulted her onto newspaper front pages. A former social worker and senior manager at KPMG who held highranking positions within the Department of Health and Aged Care before her election in 2001 to the seat of Ballarat, King is regarded within the party as a methodical minister across her brief rather than a factional warrior.

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

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Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#).

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Unpacking the Draft Aged Care Design Principles: Questions and Concerns

Inside Ageing, Other, 08/09/2023, Richard Fleming

The Department of Health and Aged Care is making a serious effort to respond to recommendation 45 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety – Improving the design of aged care accommodation. The release of the final report on the development of the draft National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines is an important step in this process.

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Still looking for a new PBAC boss

Pharma In Focus, Other, 08/09/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care has extended its recruitment search to fill upcoming vacancies across Australia's Health Technology Assessment Committees. In early August, the department revealed it had started an expression of interest (EOI) process for positions on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).

[Read More](#)

Aged care B2G developer portal readies for software vendors

Pulse+IT, Other, 08/09/2023, Kate McDonald

The Department of Health and Aged Care is shortly to go live with its new business to government (B2G) developer portal, which is aimed at streamlining connections for aged care software vendors with DoHAC systems. The portal will provide a vehicle of software developers to test their connections with the department using public APIs.

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Movers & shakers

The Mandarin, Other, 08/09/2023

[...] Catherine Haffner moved from the Department of Health and Aged Care to become assistant secretary at the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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CORONAVIRUS

More research needed into impact of COVID-19 on neurological conditions

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 08/09/2023, Sam Hunt

Australia needs to commit to more research examining the neurological symptoms that can result from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), according to a Narrative Review published in the Medical Journal of Australia today. Doctors and researchers still have much more to learn about the neurological symptoms that can result from COVID-19, according to Dr Robb Wesselingh, a research fellow at the Department of Neuroscience at Monash University.

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More flex can create a 'ghetto' for women

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/09/2023, Tansy Harcourt, Page 37

The newly announced head of the Productivity Commission has warned that hybrid work is becoming a "women's ghetto" with the much-celebrated flexibility it offers potentially being a disadvantage for women.

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Southern Cross Care sorry to workers for underpayment

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/09/2023, Rob Inglis, Page 17

Aged care provider Southern Cross Care Tasmania has apologised to its staff for underpaying them almost \$6.9m, saying it has moved to rectify the issue and has back-paid all affected employees still working for the organisation. SCC is the largest residential aged care provider in the state, operating nine facilities across Tasmania.

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Handle with care

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/09/2023, Matt Maloney, Page 1

The state's peak health union believes Southern Cross Care should have been slapped with a larger penalty for years of underpayments to its workers following a recent decision by the Fair Work Ombudsman. The aged care provider has reached an agreement with the ombudsman to back pay almost \$6.9 million to more than 1700 staff who worked at its Launceston, Low Head, Somerset and Hobart between 2015 and 2022.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Southern Cross Care underpaid employees for seven years to the tune of \$6.9m

ABC Online, Other, 08/09/2023, Adam Holmes

Tasmania's largest aged care provider underpaid staff \$6.9 million over a seven-year period, including one staff member who was owed \$220,000. Southern Cross Care (SCC) Tasmania self-reported to the Fair Work Ombudsman in 2021, and has now signed an enforceable undertaking to ensure all staff receive back pay.

[Read More](#)

Deadline to claim almost \$7m in aged care back pay

Canberra Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Rachael Ward

Time is running out for a group of nurses and other aged care workers to claim almost \$7 million in back pay. Some 1708 people working for Southern Cross Care Tasmania in Hobart, Launceston, Somerset and Low Head were underpaid from 2015 to 2022.

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Aged care operator forced to pay staff back almost \$7 million

9News, Other, 08/09/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

Tasmania's largest aged care operator is paying almost \$7 million to underpaid staff after reporting its own breaches to the Fair Work Ombudsman. Southern Cross Care (Tasmania) conducted a review after discovering payroll and HR errors in its own internal systems, and reported the findings of that review to the Ombudsman in August 2021.

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Mission to educate kids on dementia awareness

Daily Liberal, General News, 09/09/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 2

Teaching children that just because Nan or Pop might become forgetful – and even forget your name – doesn't mean your relationship should change, is high on the priority list for a new dementia group. Megan Harrison, a member of the Dubbo and Regional Dementia Alliance, said it was important primary and high school children understood they could still have a good relationship with their loved ones with dementia.

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OK, millennials, we need to talk about the care crisis

Crikey, Other, 08/09/2023, Kristine Ziwica

Who cares? All Australians should, because unless we act soon, there's no way the growing demands for aged care will be able to be met.

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Channel 7, Sunrise, 08/09/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Panel discussion with columnist Susie O'Brien and Triple M announcer Luke Bona regarding the Aged Care Industry Association's proposal for wealthy Australians to fund their own aged care.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Ways to fight miscarriage

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 24

An expert has outlined ways to reduce the risk of miscarriage and called for new research to further cut the rate – from checking bugs in vaginas to the risk of older men's sperm. Age, weight, diet, smoking, drinking, pesticides and even sleep can all play a role in miscarrying.

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The end of addiction? Scientists are re-engineering our brains

Australian Financial Review, Other, 08/09/2023, David Cox

New gene therapies could hold the key to freeing addicts from their abusive cycles – but will altering their receptors change their personalities as well?

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Sugar tax push

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 08/09/2023

The AMA has told a parliamentary inquiry the \$3.1 billion cost to Australia's health system from diabetes could be mitigated through the introduction of a sugar tax, a much stronger focus on prevention and addressing inequities in the health system. More than 1.3 million Australians live with diabetes (one in 20) and two in three adults, and one in four children are overweight or obese, which can lead to type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Stay vigilant: cancer survivor urges all

Border Mail, General News, 09/09/2023, Sophie Else, Page 2

A Howlong mother who battled breast cancer in 2018 says women need to look after themselves when it comes to getting checks. When Howlong mum Regan Lions was diagnosed at 34, she had never expected to receive the news she had cancer.

Self-collection option is a game-changer

Launceston Examiner, General News, 09/09/2023, Libby Bingham, Page 11

Rather than a doctor do it, the National Cervical Screening Program enables women to self-collect their samples using a simple swab making the process less invasive. The self-collection option is a game-changer that could reduce Tasmania's cervical cancer rates which recent data shows are the highest in the country.

Also reported by: [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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Stanhope a cardiac-safe community

Shepparton News, General News, 08/09/2023, Rohan Aldous, Page 17

Minutes matter in a cardiac arrest and Stanhope is now equipped to save more lives, having become one of 11 new Heart Safe Communities in Victoria. The Heart Safe Community program was launched in 2019 and aims to improve survival rates for people suffering cardiac arrest by teaching locals how to perform CPR and use an automated external defibrillator. It is a joint initiative between Ambulance Victoria and the Heart Foundation.

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Channel 9, National Nine News, 08/09/2023, Georgie Gardner

Australia's top doctors are calling for the federal government to fund more stomach reduction surgery to help cut rates of diabetes and obesity. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians says patients are waiting years for the procedure, with some forced to spend their superannuation to go through the private system.

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PRIMARY CARE

One-quarter of GPs could close: AMA

Canberra Times, General News, 09/09/2023, Lucy Bladen, Page 12

One-quarter of Canberra's general medical practices say they would consider closing if they are required to pay payroll tax to the ACT government, the Australian Medical Association has said. Nearly half of all practice owners would also consider selling and 80 per cent are likely to increase their fees if they don't receive an exemption from the tax.

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

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Fight for life, justice

Herald Sun, General News, 09/09/2023, Adella Beaini, Page 31

Romayne Green and Cecilia Wilsdon each believed something was not quite right, despite the medical advice telling them otherwise. Now not only are both women in the fight of their lives, but they are among dozens of people across the country taking action over alleged medical misdiagnoses.

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

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Extra beds planned for Darwin hospital

Northern Territory News, General News, 09/09/2023, Zayda Dollie, Page 7

A tender to build a new 32-bed ward at the Royal Darwin Hospital has just been put on the market by the NT government. The new ward will comprise of a services area located on the ground floor and 32 beds on the first floor.

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

Health hub to relocate for works

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 09/09/2023, Jonathon Magrath, Page 3

Bendigo Community Health Services will be relocated from Eaglehawk while a multimillion-dollar refurbishment takes place from next month. On October 26, medical practice services will move from 3 Seymoure Street, Eaglehawk, to 75 Mitchell Street while allied health services will move to various facilities, including other BCHS sites.

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Life-changing training program

Central Western Daily, General News, 09/09/2023, Tanya Marschke, Page 39

Cancer patients from across the Central West are benefitting from an exercise program being rolled out in Orange that can help relieve the side-effects of treatment. For the first time, exercise physiologists Hannah McDermott and Dylan West are attending Western Care Lodge, run by Cancer Care Western NSW to help guests who are about to begin treatment or who are living with secondary cancer.

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Wentworth clinic open to new patients

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/09/2023, Wade Stephens, Page 18

The number of GPs in Wentworth has been restored to pre-COVID levels, as its medical clinic opens its books to new patients and expands services. The town was left without a full-time doctor for half a year after its Tristar clinic closed in 2019, and the Wentworth Family Doctor clinic shut in 2020.

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'It's so awful': Queensland Health investigates death of baby girl

9News, Other, 08/09/2023, Abbey Geran

Queensland Health is investigating the death of a baby girl just hours after she was discharged from Beaudesert Hospital. Logan mother Toni Winchcole presented to the hospital's emergency department with her 20-month-old daughter Lola about 8pm on August 5 but claimed the toddler was sent home within three hours.

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Four-year-old boy's death at Dubbo Base Hospital under investigation by NSW Police and NSW Health

ABC Online, Other, 08/09/2023, Catherine James

Police are investigating and NSW Health is conducting a clinical review after the death of a four-year-old boy at a hospital in the state's west. Officers from the Orana Mid-Western Police District were called to Dubbo Base Hospital at 6:00am on September 5 after the boy's death.

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Doctors alarmed over references to obstetric violence as 'Me Too of childbirth' inquiry begins

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/09/2023, Paul Smith

Doctors are criticising the adoption of the term 'obstetric violence' in a parliamentary inquiry into the prevalence of birth trauma. Dubbed the 'Me Too of childbirth', more than 4000 submissions have been made to the NSW Select Committee on Birth Trauma, with women describing their experiences of alleged clinical incompetence and the lack of consent surrounding interventions.

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Ballarat Base Hospital ED upgrade to help reduce waiting times

Ballarat Courier, Other, 08/09/2023, Michelle Smith

Up to 20,000 patients a year are expected to be treated in Ballarat Base Hospital's new emergency ambulatory care as part of a move to reduce waiting times in the emergency department. The new 10-

bed centre, which has been operating adjacent to the ED since July , treats patients with less severe injuries and illness who will not need hospital admission.

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Inquest into death of 12-year-old Indigenous girl in state care urges greater communication between agencies

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Dechlan Brennan

The father of a young Indigenous girl who passed away in hospital in 2019 whilst in out-of-home care said he hopes the changes recommended by the coroner will prevent "other children from experiencing" what his daughter did. Sasha (not her real name), who was on the autism spectrum, was 12 when she died at Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne on 2 August 2019.

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Doctors withdraw from pharmacy trial over women's drug safety fears

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 08/09/2023, Broede Carmody

Victorian women could be given antibiotics that are unsafe for the first trimester of pregnancy and treated for urinary tract infections when they in fact have a sexually transmitted disease under the state's future pharmacy prescription model, the peak body for doctors has warned. In her first public comments on why the Australian Medical Association has quit a key Andrews government advisory body, Dr Jill Tomlinson said she held grave concerns that an expanded prescription pilot, due to start next month, would not be part of a registered clinical trial.

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Positive performance data for NSW public hospitals highlights taskforce impact on health system

The Mandarin, Other, 08/09/2023, Melissa Coade

The NSW Surgical Care Taskforce is being lauded by the state government for delivering major improvements in waiting times for surgical patients. According to the latest Bureau of Health Information (BHI) data, public hospitals in NSW improved surgical patients' wait times by 4,925 fewer patients in the quarter between March and June 2023.

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ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 08/09/2023, Mel Bush

A letter that was sent to patients at the Royal Hobart Hospital is causing waves. Yesterday it came to light that a letter from Acting Chief Executive Hospitals South, Dr Stephen Ayre, asks patients to consider their options for discharging as the emergency department is, and I quote, very busy. [...] Joining us now is Secretary of the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Emily Shepherd.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Pill strife: 'rethink rush to prescribe'

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Doctors are calling for a national review into overprescription of antidepressant drugs amid concerns hundreds of thousands of Australians may be on the medications unnecessarily, with withdrawal symptoms sometimes so severe that people remain stuck on the pills for years. There is growing concern that many people who are prescribed antidepressants remain on them for much longer than clinically recommended, with some of these patients having been inappropriately prescribed in the first place with mild depression and not recommended alternative therapies.

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

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Flip the script

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 19

It's a paradox of modern medicine that many of today's most prevalent health conditions are capable of being fixed by measures other than pharmaceuticals, yet the rate of prescription of drugs is climbing exponentially. Scripts are doled out with alarming regularity for conditions that are likely to get better simply with the passage of time and circumstance.

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

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Pill-popping may be ineffective

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

The fact that psychiatrists are calling for a national review into the overprescription of antidepressant drugs shows all is far from well with Australians' mental health and wellbeing. One in seven of the population is taking selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, which are prescribed to treat depression.

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

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Dismantle the gender stereotypes, not kids' sex

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/09/2023, Virginia Tapscott, Page 18

When I was about seven, I asked my mum if I could be a boy. "Why?" she asked with calm curiosity. I'm sure she was perplexed by this question and at least mildly concerned, but she didn't let on.

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

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Teen's in-home care blast

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/09/2023, Amber Wilson, Page 29

Tasmania's mental health hospital-at-home service has been slammed following the suicide of a Hobart teenager who a coroner says urgently needed intensive, inpatient care to prevent his "regrettably foreseeable" death. The 19-year-old died in April 2019 following a series of "deficits in his care and treatment" amid a string of suicide attempts, Coroner Robert Webster said in his findings published Thursday.

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Supporting mental health is a team effort

Hobart Mercury, General News, 09/09/2023, Michael Kelly and Mitch McPherson, Page 39

Tomorrow, September 10, marks World Suicide Prevention Day, an annual day to raise awareness of suicide prevention and reduce stigma around suicide. This day is recognised around the world and observed in more than 60 countries.

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Team effort on mental health centre

Ballarat Courier, General News, 09/09/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 5

Young Ballarat residents who have experienced their own mental health challenges are helping design a new youth mental health treatment centre. The Ballarat Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre (YPARC), to be built in Durham Street, Newington, will be a Grampians Health-operated 10-bed facility to provide 'step-up' and 'stepdown' treatment for people aged 16 to 25 who need support for mental illness but are not in need of admission to an acute inpatient unit.

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New campaign for all country women

Daily Advertiser, General News, 09/09/2023, Abhranil Hazra, Page 3

Wagga's Country Women's Association members have thrown their support behind a mental health awareness campaign for women in the regions. Launched as part of the organisation's Awareness

Week, the group has called for more access to services for rural and country women being diagnosed with ADHD and other neurodiversities.

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

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Silence is thunderous

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 09/09/2023, Natalie Croxon, Page 1

When it comes to suicide prevention, Ann Frankham knows the importance of speaking up. It is many decades since she tried to take her own life but in its aftermath, she remembers no-one said anything.

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Charlestown eating disorder centre 'ready by mid-2024'

Newcastle Herald, General News, 09/09/2023, Lucinda Garbutt-Young, Page 23

Construction on the first publicly funded residential eating disorder centre in NSW is set to be finished mid-next year, the minister has confirmed. The Charlestown centre, announced last year, will house 12 people at a time for tailored care.

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

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'Suicide can affect any of us'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/09/2023, Jonathan Hawes, Page 1

Sunday, September 10, is World Suicide Prevention Day. In line with this theme, the Tamworth branch of crisis support charity Lifeline is giving locals a chance to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support those who have lost loved ones to suicide with the World Suicide Prevention Day Walk.

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'Parents are the missing piece' to youth wellbeing

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 09/09/2023, Page 6

A consultant hired by Hunter New England Health to work with the clinicians in their Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) across the New England region says parents are 'the missing piece of the puzzle' when it comes to the wellbeing of young people. Dr Jenny Brown, an experienced mental health social worker and family therapist whose work and research interest has focused on child and adolescent mental health, wants to empower parents to take the lead in their child's wellbeing.

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Lifeline funds cut anger

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 09/09/2023, Page 8

Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell has condemned the State Government's response to her request to continue emergency funding for Lifeline Loddon Mallee made in Parliament last August. Ms Lovell made the \$119,000 funding request in State Parliament on August 15, seeking an extension of emergency funding which had been received in the wake of the pandemic in addition to their standard annual funding.

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

Helping veterans' stigma

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/09/2023, Daniel Shirkie, Page 16

The country's largest garrison city is being urged not to allow World Suicide Prevention Day to pass unmarked as Australia's returned servicemen and women continue to grapple with a widespread mental health crisis. Mates4Mates Townsville clinical lead of psychological services and registered psychologist Jono Moscrop said a key contributor to confronting statistics around veteran suicide incidence, particularly in garrison cities like Townsville, was the disconnect between life in the armed forces and civilian life.

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

'Suicide is too much in the shadows': Expert

SBS, Other, 08/09/2023, Omoh Bello

In the lead up to World Suicide Prevention Day, mental health professionals are saying high-pressure occupations contribute to increased suicidal tendencies. But there are indications that there is inadequate provision for mental health care in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Lack of support services leaving adults with ADHD to pay the price, financially and emotionally

ABC Online, Other, 08/09/2023, Rebecca Opie

Aged in his late 20s and struggling with depression and anxiety, Aaron Annese had reached breaking point when he finally found the courage to seek professional help. But it was taking that step, the now 32-year-old said, that led to a diagnosis which has changed his life for the better.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC National News, 08/09/2023, Gemma Veness

An ADHD diagnosis as an adult can help to explain decades of struggling and, with successful treatment, can give people the opportunity to achieve what they never thought possible. But the process of getting a diagnosis is both long and expensive. Report by Rebecca Opie.

[Play Now](#)

Sunshine Coast teen's GoFundMe plea for rare eating disorder treatment

Sunshine Coast Daily, Other, 07/09/2023, Letea Cavander

A lesser-known and crippling eating disorder has caused a Sunshine Coast teenager to dropout of school and led to an emergency hospitalisation after her appetite disappeared. Her family is also being forced to fundraise because Medicare does not cover ongoing treatment.

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

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Traumatised midwife fights for better system

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 09/09/2023, Laura Banks, Page 7

It is not unusual for midwife Karen Buckley to wake in the middle of the night, covered in sweat, after a nightmare about a baby dying. It has been four years since she worked on a delivery ward yet the trauma of the job still haunts her.

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

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\$50m health investment

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 09/09/2023, Ashleigh Jansen, Page 20

Bond University unveiled its new \$50m health precinct on Wednesday, which Vice-Chancellor Tim Brailsford said would help train the next generation of allied health professionals. According Bond

officials, the 11,500sq m building hosts state-of-the-art facilities modelled from leading specialised health clinics.

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Secure housing to help keep remote health workers safe

Canberra Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Tim Dornin

Health workers on South Australia's Indigenous lands are set to get purpose-built accommodation as part of upgraded security following the murder of outback nurse Gayle Woodford. The state government has allocated \$5.2 million to improve safety for nurses and other medical officers across the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands under an agreement with the Nganampa Health Council.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

WA Family Court justices Richard O'Brien and Robin Cohen refuse to remove controversial psychologist

West Australian, Other, 08/09/2023, Tim Clarke

Two Family Court judges in WA have refused to remove a controversial psychologist acting as an expert witness in their cases – despite one father saying he was driven to the brink of suicide by her methods. Earlier this year, audio recordings emerged of the long-time psychologist, who cannot be named for legal reasons, which have caused a storm within the tight-knit legal fraternity that deals with Family Court issues.

[Read More](#)

GP struck off for punching long-term patient in the face

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/09/2023, Heather Saxena

A GP who punched a regular patient in the face while accusing him of robbing the practice has been struck off. The assault occurred in the practice waiting room while the patient waited for an appointment in October 2020, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal heard.

[Read More](#)

GP unmask fake respiratory doctor who tells patient 'so many GPs are f---ed'

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/09/2023, Heather Saxena

A GP has helped unmask a medical supplies salesman who was masquerading as a doctor while working as a COVID-19 swab collector, questioning one woman's medical diagnosis and telling her "so many GPs are f---ed". Jeremy Chatterton first met the woman on 27 June last year while working at a COVID-19 testing centre in Sydney.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

No relevant coverage

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SPORT

Ban contact sport for under 14s or 'brain damage will be rife'

Weekend Australian, General News, 09/09/2023, Jamie Pandaram, Page 3

Leading brain injury experts have called for the banning of contact sports for all children under 14, following the release of the Senate inquiry into concussion this week. Australian Sports Brain Bank chief specialist Michael Buckland said the nation risked raising a generation of brain-damaged kids who would not be able to look after their parents if drastic action was not taken.

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

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Push for Federal Government to ban children from tackling in ALL sports: 'We're raising a generation of brain-damaged kids'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 08/09/2023, Josh Alston

Leading brain injury experts are calling for children aged up to 14 to be banned from tackling in sports following the findings of the Senate Inquiry into Concussion this week. Concussions and brain trauma injuries have been under the microscope in recent years with a host of former athletes dying from from complications caused by CTE.

[Read More](#)

Landmark concussion report a 'wake-up call' but GPs still lack useful guidelines

Australian Doctor, Other, 08/09/2023, Rachel Carter

"While playing, we become institutionalised on how we're treated medically. We never have to book an appointment. There are no referrals and no waiting lists for surgery."

[Read More](#)

How Victoria lost control of the Commonwealth Games

The Saturday Age, General News, 09/09/2023, Kieran Rooney and Rachel Eddie, Page 7

The Commonwealth Games was already facing a time crunch for 2026 before Victoria detonated its multi-city regional event. Now, it could be delayed until 2027 and scaled down as multiple inquiries grapple with how the event spun out of control.

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

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No medals for communication

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/09/2023, Ellen Ransley, Page 9

The federal government has not reached out to Australia's peak Commonwealth Games agency to discuss next steps, a senate inquiry has heard. Plans for the 2026 games were up-ended this year when Victorian Premier Dan Andrews made the decision to pull out of hosting the quadrennial event, citing concerns over ballooning costs.

Also reported by: [The West Australian \(Saturday edition\) \(Perth\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory](#).

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Games facing delay as host hunt goes on

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 09/09/2023, Jacob Shteyman, Page 14

The Commonwealth Games could be pushed back a year to allow an Australian host to salvage the event after Victoria pulled the plug. Organisers were busy working on a solution for the event, Commonwealth Games Australia told a Senate inquiry probing the Andrews Government's decision to cancel the 2026 Games.

Also reported by: [Sunraysia Daily \(Mildura\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [SBS \(Online\)](#)

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Commonwealth Games could be pushed back to 2027 after Victoria's cancellation, inquiry hears

ABC Online, Other, 08/09/2023, Bridget Rollason

Commonwealth Games Australia says the 2026 edition of the Games could be delayed by up to a year, as it struggles to find a new host following Victoria's controversial cancellation of a regional-hosted event. A federal senate inquiry is investigating the Victorian government's decision to abruptly axe hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2026 and fork out \$380 million in compensation for the cancellation.

[Read More](#)

Commonwealth Games could be delayed a year as officials scramble to find replacement hosts

The Guardian, Other, 08/09/2023, Benita Kolovos

The 2026 Commonwealth Games could be pushed back a year as officials work to find a new state – or several cities – to host the event, an inquiry has heard. Craig Phillips, the chief executive of Commonwealth Games Australia, on Friday said the organisation was working on plans for a “scaled-back” event that might be held in 2027.

[Read More](#)

Joint Games OK with chiefs

Courier Mail, General News, 09/09/2023, Matthew Killoran, Page 9

A joint Commonwealth Games between the Gold Coast and Birmingham would be a “satisfactory” outcome, the head of Commonwealth Games Australia has revealed. It follows the idea of a joint Games, to salvage the 2026 event after it was abruptly cancelled by Victoria earlier this year, being proposed by business identity Katie Page and backed by Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate.

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WAIS in chaos after mass exodus

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 09/09/2023, Rebecca Le May and Glen Quartermain, Page 18

The scandal-hit Perth sports institute training the Olympians of tomorrow is in chaos after the resignation of most of its 10-person board following the departure of new chair Priya Cooper. The exodus of six board members has left the WA Institute of Sport in crisis – hamstrung without a quorum and with a “restorative process” responding to historical bullying in its gymnastic program in limbo.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Kalgoorlie Miner \(Online\)](#)

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A sporting chance for all of WA

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 09/09/2023, Sean Smith, Page 148

WA's peak sporting bodies have spoken of their frustration at the lack of recognition given to their sports for the considerable economic, health and mental wellbeing benefits they provide to the State.

At a roundtable CEO Voice lunch hosted by the Australian Institute of Management and The West Australian, groups representing soccer, football, cricket, rowing, swimming, rugby, surfing, rugby league and hockey said community sport needed to be "repositioned" and promoted as an industry in the same league as the State's other major economic contributors.

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

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Vital part of our lives in great need

The West Australian (Saturday edition), Business News, 09/09/2023, Gary Martin, Page 149

Sport is an important component of a well-functioning, healthy society. Even though its influence on society is difficult to quantify, the physical and mental benefits derived from sport are clear for all to see.

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

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Pitch not so perfect

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/09/2023, Matthew Killoran and Daniel Shirkie , Page 1

Townsville's stadium would be excluded from a potential Australian bid for the 2034 Men's Football World Cup unless it is upgraded, sparking calls for its capacity to be boosted as part of the Brisbane Olympics. Football Australia chief executive James Johnson and NRL executive Jaymes Boland-Rudder joined calls for high-performance training facilities to be built or existing facilities to be upgraded for the Olympic Games, to be used by their sports as part of the 2032 Olympic legacy.

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

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Perfect pitch

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

Football Australia boss James Johnson seriously needs to hop on a plane and check out the Cowboys' high performance centre if he doesn't think they exist in Queensland. Speaking about Australia's potential 2034 Men's Football World Cup bid, Mr Johnson said Townsville's stadium wouldn't be in the mix for World Cup group stage matches, given the requirements of 40,000+ seat stadiums for the big games.

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

Nine alone in Melbourne Cup rights race after Seven withdraws

Australian Financial Review, Other, 08/09/2023, Zoe Samios and Sam Buckingham-Jones

Seven West Media has withdrawn from what was a two-horse race for the Melbourne Cup broadcast rights, leaving Nine Entertainment the likely winner. Tabcorp is the preferred bidder for the race, which is ultimately owned by Victoria Racing Club.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

'I was turned away'

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 09/09/2023, Natasha Emeck, Page 5

An angry Indigenous patient who claims TAIHS turned her away says she is worried that vulnerable

community members will stop bothering to visit the doctor altogether due to ongoing issues. For three months, 63-year-old Ellen Anderson said she endured the pain of her injured back while she waited for Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS) to respond to an application she made for a referral, only to find out she'd been knocked back in June.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1 dead, 12 sick from TB outbreak

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 09/09/2023, Brad Crouch, Page 19

More than 700 people have now been screened as part of the state government's efforts to fight a tuberculosis outbreak in the APY Lands that has claimed one life among 13 confirmed cases. SA Health is working with the local community to deal with the outbreak that was first reported in March.

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

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More TB cases confirmed in outbreak on Indigenous lands

Canberra Times, General News, 09/09/2023, Tim Dornin, Page 25

More than 700 people have been screened and 13 cases confirmed in a tuberculosis outbreak on South Australia's northern Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands. The outbreak was detected in March when 10 cases were diagnosed.

Also reported by: [Central Western Daily \(Orange\)](#), [Daily Liberal \(Dubbo\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Northern Daily Leader \(Tamworth\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Western Advocate \(Bathurst\)](#), [The Guardian \(Online\)](#), [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#)

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Health officials screen hundreds for tuberculosis in SA's APY Lands in response to outbreak

ABC Online, Other, 08/09/2023, Stephanie Richards

South Australian health authorities have screened more than 700 people in response to a tuberculosis outbreak in the state's far north, with the spread of the potentially deadly disease described as "extremely concerning". Thirteen people have tested positive for tuberculosis (TB) in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands since the outbreak started in March an increase of one case from the last SA Health update in June.

[Read More](#)

SA government moves to control tuberculosis outbreak on APY Lands

National Indigenous Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Callan Morse

The South Australian government has bolstered efforts to counter a rising tuberculosis outbreak on the state's Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. More than 700 people have been screened for the potentially life-threatening disease, which was first declared as an outbreak within the Anangu community in March.

[Read More](#)

SA tuberculosis outbreak linked to death in WA

In Daily, Other, 08/09/2023, Belinda Willis

More than 700 people have been screened for the deadly tuberculosis disease in the state's Far North, where Health Minister Chris Picton has confirmed there are currently 11 active cases. An outbreak was declared in March on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY) after 10 cases of the bacteria-spread disease were recorded.

[Read More](#)

State warning on listeriosis infections

Daily Telegraph, General News, 09/09/2023, Eli Green, Page 12

NSW residents have been warned to be on alert as cases of listeriosis rise. Those who are immunocompromised, over the age of 65 or pregnant are at particular risk, health authorities warn. Listeriosis infection, from eating food contaminated with listeria monocytogenes bacteria, can cause severe illness or even death.

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

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Precautions urged after rise in listeriosis infections in NSW

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 08/09/2023, Natalie Croxon

People at increased risk of listeriosis - including those who are older, pregnant, or immunocompromised - are urged to avoid certain foods after an increase in cases across NSW. Listeriosis infection comes from consuming food contaminated with a particular bacteria and can cause severe illness and death in vulnerable people, although most healthy people will not become ill.

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NSW's first locally acquired case of flesh-eating Buruli ulcer reported from Batemans Bay

ABC Online, Other, 08/09/2023, Victor Petrovic

Authorities have today reported the first locally-acquired case in New South Wales of a flesh eating ulcer. The Buruli ulcer is a bacterial skin infection that is often detected in Queensland, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

[Read More](#)

Queensland government documents reveal details on pill testing at festivals

Townsville Bulletin, Other, 08/09/2023, Blair Jackson and Bethany Westwood

The \$500,000 state-funded pill testing program will be done from a mobile festival site and at two fixed locations. The Queensland state government posted tender documents for the service on Wednesday, and aims to have the service up-and-running by December and operating into 2024.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Accreditation boosts future growth plans: grower

Shepparton News, General News, 08/09/2023, Murray Silby, Page 5

Medicinal cannabis grower and processor Cannatrek has ticked off another achievement that points to a growing future in Greater Shepparton, if you'll pardon the pun. Cannatrek announced on Tuesday that it has been granted Good Manufacturing Practice accreditation from the Therapeutic Goods Administration for its Shepparton processing facility.

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

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

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AICIS

UN observer slams Australia over toxic threats, climate

Canberra Times, Other, 08/09/2023, Tracey Ferrier

A United Nations investigator has unleashed on Australia for failing to protect its people and environment from climate change, mining, pesticides and other toxic threats. Australia will have to answer next year to an extraordinary list of failures detailed by Marcos Orellana, the UN's Special Rapporteur on toxic substances and human rights, following a national tour.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Illawarra Mercury \(Wollongong\)](#), [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [Bendigo Advertiser \(Bendigo\)](#), [Launceston Examiner \(Launceston\)](#), [Burnie Advocate \(Burnie\)](#).

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