



Australian Government
Department of Health
and Aged Care

TODAY'S NEWS

Friday, 15th September 2023

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian \(page 1\)](#)** reports religious leaders have expressed concern ahead of the NSW Faith Affairs Council about the state's impending voluntary assisted dying laws that would require church-run aged care homes to allow the practice.
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports Victoria's government has been accused of hindering a federal inquiry into the decision to cancel its role as host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a Senate inquiry's interim report has called on the national cabinet to find an Australian solution to the 2026 Commonwealth Games debacle, including liaising with Gold Coast City Council. The report also called for a review of plans to host 2032 Olympic athletics at the Gabba.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Queensland government and peak medical bodies representing the state's doctors have reached a compromise over the application of payroll tax laws so that patients won't have to pay extra fees to see a GP.
- **[The Hobart Mercury \(page 1\)](#)** reports that Tasmanian state government reforms will expand the role of pharmacies by allowing pharmacists to prescribe some medicines. "What we're about is delivering reforms that put Tasmanians at the centre of their healthcare, patients at the

centre, to deliver better healthcare outcomes for every Tasmanian wherever they live,” Health Minister Guy Barnett said.

- **The Australian (page 2)** reports the Australian Medical Association has called for more incentives to attract doctors to work in regional Australia, and expanded training pathways for regional practitioners following new data showing Medicare rates in rural areas are 40 per cent lower than in cities.
- **The Sydney Morning Herald (page 2)** reports four wards in Sydney's Concord Hospital are sitting dormant due to staffing shortages while the local health authority employs multiple strategies to try and attract healthcare workers.

MINISTER BUTLER

How Voice will make a difference

Border Watch, General News, 15/09/2023, Mark Butler, Page 8

A good doctor listens carefully to their patients to make sure their diagnosis is thorough and makes a positive difference to their healthcare. A Voice to Parliament is simply that: a chance to listen to the voices of Indigenous Australians about better ways to make a positive difference to their lives.

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

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Ill feeling boils over into pharmacists' protest

SE Voice, General News, 14/09/2023, Page 1

A Mount Gambier pharmacist was one of thou sands at Parliament House in Canberra last week protesting the Federal Government's new 60 day dispensary policy. [...] Mrs Maloney said pharmacists were "very disappointed" with Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler for not honouring the 7CPA and not listening to pharmacists.

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Petition demands support for older pet owners in home

Australian Dog Lover, Other, 14/09/2023

In 2023, national animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia completed a Survey on the Status of Pets in Aged Care facilities and at home, and found worrying results. [...] Companion Animal Network Australia is calling on Hon Mark Butler MP Minister for Health and Aged Care and Hon Anika Wells MP Minister for Aged Care to help our ageing population maintain a high quality of life and that includes finding ways to help older adults retain their pets.

[Read More](#)

Are pharmacists really just shopkeepers with a strong line in pills?

Australian Health Information Technology, Other, 14/09/2023, Tom McIlroy

Pharmacists have staged an angry walk-out of federal parliament, protesting the Albanese government's moves to allow more than 4 million consumers to buy two months' worth of medicine for the price of a single prescription. [...] New funding deal Health Minister Mark Butler told question time the government had agreed to bring forward negotiations on a new funding agreement for community pharmacies.

[Read More](#)

Government introduces legislation aimed at fight tobacco and nicotine addiction

BioPharmaDispatch, Other, 14/09/2023

Health Minister Mark Butler said the Government aims to reduce the national smoking rate to less than 10 per cent by 2025 and 5 per cent or less by 2030.

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

[Read More](#)

Pharmacy Forecast preview at Parliament

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/09/2023

Yesterday, hospital pharmacy was out in force at Parliament House as Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) members presented a special preview of the Pharmacy Forecast Australia 2023 report. [...] In attendance were several government representatives including Dr Mike Freeland MP, representing Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, and Senator Anne Ruston.

[Read More](#)

Victorian government hired KPMG to consult on tobacco changes despite firm's links to industry

The Guardian, Other, 15/09/2023, Henry Belot

The Victorian government paid a consultancy firm that has spent decades working for big tobacco to lead the state's consultation on changes to tobacco and vaping laws, before the process was abandoned. [...] The consultation process to inform "a more effective regulatory approach" was abandoned in May when the federal health minister, Mark Butler, announced several reforms.

[Read More](#)

Chronic stress linked to big rise in vaping by teens

The New Daily, Other, 14/09/2023, John Elder

What can be done to stop Australian teenagers from vaping? [...] On Tuesday, Health Minister Mark Butler announced that vaping products would carry graphic warnings on the packaging presumably along the lines of the cancerous mouths and toes that have prettified cigarette packets for some years.

[Read More](#)

Ill feeling boils over into pharmacists' protest

The SE Voice, Other, 14/09/2023, Eb Garamond

A Mount Gambier pharmacist was one of thousands at Parliament House in Canberra last week protesting the Federal Government's new 60 day dispensary policy. [...] Mrs Maloney said pharmacists were "very disappointed" with Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler for not honouring the 7CPA and not listening to pharmacists.

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Channel 7, Seven News, 14/09/2023, Mark Ferguson

Heartbroken parents who've lost children to a rare form of cancer, DIPG, are now lobbying the Federal Government for help, despite accounting for a quarter of all deaths from childhood brain cancers. A quarter of all deaths from childhood brain tumours are from DIPG, but very little is known about the disease, and advocates say over the past ten years successive governments have spent less than \$1 million on research. Health Minister Mark Butler says they need to scale up clinical trials and give new hope to families who are dealing with this devastating condition.

[Play Now](#)

Sky News Live, AM Agenda, 14/09/2023, Laura Jayes

Interview with Mark Butler, Federal Health Minister on Federal Government's crackdown against vaping. Butler says the Government is not on track to meet the National Tobacco Strategy target. He states they're seeing stories pretty regularly of state governments doing blitzes on vaping stores. He adds they need a comprehensive approach at both levels of government with states policing vaping stores and Commonwealth cracking down on the border. He states they aim to put import controls in place before the end of the year.

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Black Star Radio, Breakfast, 14/09/2023, Michael J Bailey

Compere says Health Minister Mark Butler promised that millions will be living with ongoing health conditions, will be able to get two months worth of medication for the price of one. He says Butler's

office has confirmed that rather than being two for the price of one, the 60-day scrip policy instead applies a price ceiling of \$30 for two months' supply of medicine for general patients.

[Play Now](#)

2SM, Breakfast, 14/09/2023, Richard King

King says the Federal Government's ambitious plan to stamp out vaping and drive down tobacco addiction is going to be revealed in what it was revealed in Parliament yesterday. Health Minister Mark Butler said tobacco control legislation was the critical next step in the fight against tobacco and nicotine addiction and getting the national smoking rate down to 5% by 2030.

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MINISTER WELLS

Warning of more aged-care closures

The Australian, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 6

More aged-care homes are closing than opening despite Anthony Albanese's pre-election pledge to fix the sector, with regional councils warning Labor's 24/7 nursing requirements will trigger more shutdowns. [...] A spokeswoman for Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said no aged-care homes had closed "as a direct result of the requirement to have a registered nurse on-site 24/7".

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Hope for GC Games

Courier Mail, General News, 15/09/2023, Matthew Killoran, Page 1

National cabinet should find an Australian solution to the 2026 Commonwealth Games debacle, including liaising with Gold Coast City Council, according to a Senate inquiry's interim report, which also says plans to host 2032 Olympics athletics at the Gabba should be reviewed. [...] Comment was sought from Sports Minister Anika Wells.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#) and syndicated across regional publications

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Aged care 'suffering' under decade of mismanagement by Coalition

Aged Care Housing News, Other, 14/09/2023

Canberra: Aged Care Minister Anika Wells says the aged care sector was "suffering" under a Existing Subscribers Login Below:

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Petition demands support for older pet owners in home

Australian Dog Lover, Other, 14/09/2023

In 2023, national animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia completed a Survey on the Status of Pets in Aged Care facilities and at home, and found worrying results. [...] Companion Animal Network Australia is calling on Hon Mark Butler MP Minister for Health and Aged Care and Hon Anika Wells MP Minister for Aged Care to help our ageing population maintain a high quality of life and that includes finding ways to help older adults retain their pets.

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Manjimup Bridgetown Times

Manjimup-Bridgetown Times, Other, 14/09/2023, Kimberley Caines

Just two aged care homes in WA have taken advantage of a special deal to allow them to bring in overseas workers at a fast pace despite staff shortages and Federal Government requirements to have a nurse on site 24 hours a day. [...] "Our first set of data for our 24/7 nursing mandate revealed on

average, there is a nurse onsite 98 per cent of the time, or 23.5 hours a day," Aged Care Minister Anika Wells said.

[Read More](#)

AusCycling Program to Restore Love of Cycling for Aussie Kids

micromobilityreport.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Scott Green

A new bike education program to give pre-teenage children greater riding skills and confidence was launched last month by AusCycling. [...] The Federal Minister for Sport, Anika Wells, said the program addressed the problem that fewer children are enjoying the "joys of riding a pushy" and the "immense mental and physical health benefits" of being active and outdoors on a bike.

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Latest Aged Care Taskforce communique reveals little detail

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Caroline Egan

The Aged Care Taskforce has issued its third communique, summarising the meeting held on 22 August in Brisbane. [...] The SOURCE reached out to the Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells' office to find out who attended the August meeting but did not receive a response in time for publication.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

The big issue with iconic annual event R U OK? Day and the reality for those who aren't OK

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Shannon Molloy

More Australians reluctant to reach out for mental health help A new survey from Beyond Blue has found one in three people suffering from depression or anxiety are refusing to seek assistance. [...] Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, said the government is committed to reform.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), and syndicated across regional publications

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ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

New endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic opens In Western Sydney

The Hawkesbury Phoenix, Other, 14/09/2023

Endometriosis is one of those conditions for which specialised care is necessary, so news that a new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic has opened at Rouse Hill Town Medical and Dental Care has been welcomed. [...] Ms Templeman said women across western Sydney would benefit from the additional clinic, announced by Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney.

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ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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DEPARTMENT

Kids with picky palates

Naracoorte Community News, General News, 13/09/2023, Page 7

Children who are 'fussy eaters' are a common concern for families and can often be a source of anxiety and worry for parents and carers. [...] Delivery of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program to parents and carers of children in Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care under the Parenting Education and Support Program.

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Wicking launches free e-learning modules

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2023

A new series of education modules developed for aged care workers is available online now. Funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care and designed by the University of Tasmania's Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, the Equip Aged Care Learning Packages are aimed at anyone involved in the aged care sector including nurses, personal care workers, allied health professionals, volunteers, and families.

[Read More](#)

Aged care residents must not pick up pharmacists' 60-day dispensing bill, warns health department

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/09/2023, Rachel Carter

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia had claimed aged care residents could be billed \$800 a year to have their medicines delivered. The federal Department of Health and Aged Care has written to aged care homes warning they cannot charge residents for managing their medications if pharmacists increase their fees because of 60-day dispensing.

[Read More](#)

Sophie Guidolin's fans are alarmed to learn the very slender fitness influencer works out '4-5 times a day'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/09/2023, Jimmy Briggs

Sophie Guidolin sparked concerns for her health on Thursday after making the alarming admission she works out '4 - 5 times a day'. [...] 'The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care recommends on their website that adults under 65 years old exercise for a 'weekly total of 2.5 to 5 hours of moderate activity or 1.25 to 2.5 hours of vigorous activity'.

[Read More](#)

Australia ends cruise Covid-19 restrictions

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2023, Andrea Black

Planning on taking a cruise from Australia this summer? [...] Australia's chief medical officer Paul Kelly said measures had been removed at the federal level after a decision by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

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

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A community-led approach to suicide prevention

Partyline Magazine, Other, 14/09/2023

The first of its kind, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Culture Care Connect (CCC) program is an innovative, community-led approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention. [...] NACCHO has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care until June 2025 to rollout the program.

[Read More](#)

New Zealand's grim warning on aged care beds is the future reality for Australia

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Lauren Broomham

If you want to understand the future that could await Australia within the next three to five years, then you need to watch this video that we screened at our recent Masterclass in Sydney. [...] As we report in this issue, analysis of the Department of Health and Aged Care's latest service list has revealed that aged care bed development fell 50% in 2022, with just under 1,800 new beds across the country.

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Channel 9, Nine Afternoon News, 14/09/2023, Andrew Lofthouse

The Federal Health Department has recruited the star power of two NRL greats, Petero Cioniceva and Geoff Toovey, to help tackle the challenge of getting people to complete their bowel cancer screening tests.

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CORONAVIRUS

Fast-tracked COVID wards stand empty

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/09/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 2

Almost half of the wards in a new medical building fast-tracked to treat COVID-19 patients are lying empty as a hospital in Sydney's inner west struggles to find enough staff to run them. Four wards in the \$341 million Rusty Priest building at Concord Hospital were opened in September 2021 to cater for an influx of patients with COVID-19, five months ahead of the building's official opening in February 2022.

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

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New Covid vax takes pill form

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 5

COVID shots may soon be replaced by a pill after scientists claim to have developed an oral vaccine that prevents infection of the virus without the side effects of current treatments. The pill, developed in Japan, contains a small inactive part of SARS-CoV-2 and produces antibodies.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

District Nurses in merger

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 19

Two leading Tasmanian aged and disability care organisations have announced a merger, believing that working together will allow them to better service the community. The District Nurses and South Eastern Community Care, which are both not-for-profit organisations, intend to merge their operations soon, with preliminary work still to be done before the move is formalised.

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Working in aged care changed Isabel's life

Border Mail, General News, 15/09/2023, Jodie Bruton, Page 16

When Isabel Baker started working one-on-one with people living with dementia at Wagga, NSW had not long stopped admitting them to psychiatric wards. The Richmond Report (March 1983) finally

changed mental health and disability provision in NSW.

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Hospital 'home' in wait for residential aged care

Daily Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Zoe Devenport, Page 4

The push for more aged care and retirement housing is intensifying amid revelations that 50 elderly people remain in hospital awaiting a home tailored to their needs. Mackay Health and Hospital Service chief executive Susan Gannon said the length of stay for some patients ranged from 13 days to nearly 18 months.

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Library upgrades ensure a dementia-friendly space

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 15/09/2023, Emma Downey, Page 1

Tamworth City Library children's services officer Amy Rake has seen first hand the impact dementia can have on a person and the people living with and caring for that person. Noting a significant cohort of elderly people either living with dementia or caring for somebody with dementia among Tamworth Library users, Mrs Rake decided to act.

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Over 30 aged care homes in NSW fail 'acceptable' standards

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/09/2023, Arshmah Jamal

New data from the Department of Health has revealed more than 30 aged care homes in New South Wales were falling below 'acceptable' standards. 830 aged care homes were rated as part of the latest star ratings released last month based on a home's compliance performance and history.

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The aged care system has failed Aboriginal people. Here's what Elders say needs to change

Aged Care Insite, Other, 14/09/2023

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recognised the aged care system has failed to provide culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as they age. It recommended major reforms, including active partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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Music app aims to calm people with dementia

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2023, Christopher Kelly

An Australian-devised therapeutic music tool for people living with dementia is to receive \$2 million in grant funding from technology giant Google. Developed by researchers at the University of Melbourne, the tool called MATCH (Music Attuned Technology Care via eHealth) aims to placate agitation that may occur among people with dementia when emotional or physical needs are unmet.

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Staff learn best-practice dementia care in micro chunks

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2023, Christopher Kelly

An online dementia education program is launching next week to help aged care workers cope with the challenging aspects of delivering care to people living with dementia. The implementation of the Dementia Microlearning Program coincides with Dementia Action Week, which commences Monday 18 September.

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Aged care reform a key ethical challenge

Australian Ageing Agenda, Other, 14/09/2023

Major reform of the aged care sector is ranked among the top five ethical challenges for 2024,

according to a new report. Released by the Governance Institute of Australia and based on a survey of 1,000 people, the Ethics Index 2023 lists the overhaul of the aged care industry number four in the top 10 ethical challenges facing the country next year.

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“We must diversify”: TLC Healthcare CEO Lou Pascuzzi on his aged care journey – and what must change

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Lauren Broomham

If you have ever wanted to know more about the CEO of the Melbourne-based provider, which has pioneered a unique intergenerational care model, here's your opportunity. Lou Pascuzzi appeared on healthcare equipment provider HLS Healthcare's 'Better Ways for Living' podcast last week and it is a great insight into his early career and how he led TLC's expansion into medical centres, aged care training, early learning and health clubs as it sought new revenue opportunities over the last decade.

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Southern Cross Care Tasmania signs 'Enforceable Undertaking' to repay staff nearly \$7M and fix systems

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Aged care provider Southern Cross Care Tasmania (SCCT), the largest aged care provider in the state, has signed an Enforceable Undertaking (EU) with the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) to repay 1,708 current and former employees a total of \$6.9 million in unpaid wages, superannuation, and interest.

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Masks are off (mostly) as COVID-19 situation improves in residential aged care

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Caroline Egan

As COVID-19 statistics continue to improve, most states have removed the requirement to wear masks and providers are taking a risk-based approach to their infection control measures. NSW Health has removed its advice that masks be worn in residential aged care, unless there is a moderate or high level of respiratory viruses circulating in the community.

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Six aged care plans deemed State Significant Developments

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Opal HealthCare, which owns and operates 94 residential aged care communities in metropolitan and regional areas in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia, is using the new development application pathway in NSW. Opal HealthCare is bypassing the local Council by declaring the following three proposals as State Significant Developments (SSDs):

[Read More](#)

Whiddon launches Dementia Microlearning Program to coincide with Dementia Action Week

The Weekly Source, Other, 14/09/2023, Caroline Egan

Across the Not For Profit's 23 residential aged care homes in NSW and Southeast Queensland, 50% of residents have received a dementia diagnosis. Now it is implementing the 12-week Dementia Care Microlearning Program, which will see 2,000 members of Whiddon's care teams learn how to spot Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia.

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Wagga dementia expert Isabel Baker hopes to educate next generation against abuse in book handover

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 14/09/2023, Andrew Mangelsdorf

A renowned Wagga-based dementia expert has shared insights into combating abuse of dementia sufferers as she passed her wisdom onto the next generation this week. [...] Wagga TAFE aged care

teacher Debbie Healey noted there was a decline in dementia students during the 2018 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

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The aged care system has failed Aboriginal people. Here's what Elders say needs to change

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 14/09/2023

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety recognised the aged care system has failed to provide culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as they age. It recommended major reforms, including active partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Australian government has also committed more funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care services, with a focus on boosting the role of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/09/2023, Rosanna Mangiarelli and Will Goodings

Researchers have found sitting for ten hours a day heightens the risk of dementia. Those who were sedentary for ten hours had a 10% higher chance of being diagnosed. Add on two hours that risk spikes to 65% when we're being physically active.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 14/09/2023, Andrew Lofthouse and Melissa Downes

Older Australians are being warned. Sitting for more than ten hours a day, whether it be working at a computer, watching television or even driving could put them at greater risk of dementia. American researchers studied the activities of 50,000 people over the age of 60 and found that those who sat for 15 hours a day were three times more likely to develop the disease than those who sat for under ten hours.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 14/09/2023, Lucy Breaden

[...] Well, under this new pilot program which has been revealed today, a doctor will diagnose patients and delegate their prescribing power to the pharmacist, who can then prescribe medications to those patients. This is a national first happening in Tasmania.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Shocking diet report

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/09/2023, Anthony Anderson, Page 21

We're not eating enough vegetables and still drinking too much, according to fresh research from Australia's science agency. The CSIRO's Healthy Diet Score report is the culmination of eight years of canvassing Aussie dietary habits, assessing nine areas of diet quality and compliance with Australian Dietary Guidelines.

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

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'I've lost seven children, but people say I should be happy with the one I have'

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2023, Josephine Agostino

On the weekend she began maternity leave with her second child, Kirby enjoyed a brunch with her friends and began final preparations for the nursery. "That's when I felt reduced movements but I didn't know what that meant back then," the Newcastle mum tells Kidspot of the 2018 pregnancy.

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

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How does caffeine work and is there a best time to drink it?

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Anna Salleh

What chemical can act as a pesticide, help premature babies to breathe properly, enhance sport performance and also give you a buzz? You guessed it: one of our favourite everyday psychoactive drugs, caffeine.

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Australian influencer Georgie Stevenson under fire for saying she believes that 'getting sick is a choice'

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/09/2023, J. Peterson

Australian influencer and entrepreneur Georgie Stevenson is facing backlash after sharing a shocking theory on her health and wellness podcast, Rise & Conquer. In the episode, which has now been deleted, Georgie and her producer Atiyya Batty discussed whether or not 'getting sick is a choice'.

[Read More](#)

Phew, winter illness season is over - but look out for the dangers of spring

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/09/2023, Kate McIlwain

If you're breathing a sign of relief that the dreaded winter illness season is finally over, don't breathe too deeply - as authorities warn of a new set of risks emerging this spring. The number of flu and COVID cases have tapered off in recent weeks, after peaking in mid-July, but according to NSW Health that doesn't mean illnesses floating around as the weather warms.

[Read More](#)

Single parents face higher health insurance premium increases than other families, analysis shows

The Guardian, Other, 14/09/2023, Natasha May

Health insurers are disadvantaging single parents already struggling with rising costs of living by charging them higher premiums to add children as dependents than other families. A Choice analysis published on Thursday revealed single parents often face increases of up to 70% when switching to a family policy to add children as dependants, when most two-parent families don't face any increase in premium.

[Read More](#)

New research reveals majority of WA tenants are enduring temperatures below WHO recommended minimum

West Australian, Other, 14/09/2023

If record high rents and all-time low vacancy rates have not left WA tenants out in the cold, then a new study that found more than 70 per cent of rental homes had an average indoor temperature below the WHO recommended minimum will. According to research published on Thursday by tenant advocacy organisation Better Renting, 83 per cent of WA participants recorded a median temperature below 18C 68 per cent of the time over winter.

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Cancer centre on its way

Courier Mail, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 58

A \$32m cancer care facility in Caboolture, north of Brisbane, has received development approval, with construction to begin this month and patient treatment expected to start mid-2024. The new Cancer Care Moreton Bay development, to be delivered by long-standing local developer QM Properties, will provide a state-of-the-art cancer care facility with comprehensive services for the Moreton Bay community, including radiation oncology consulting and treatment, haematology and medical oncology consulting and treatment.

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Screening access now easier

Border Watch, General News, 15/09/2023, Charlotte Varcoe, Page 7

Mammograms will be more easily accessible after the State Government launched an online booking system through BreastScreen SA. Online bookings can now be made at all 11 BreastScreen SA clinics across the state with women now being able to book their appointments at any time during the day.

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Cancer pain variable

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 13

A first-of-its-kind study looking at the levels of pain experienced by cancer survivors provides evidence on when pain is most likely to be experienced. Experts at the Australian National University studied 16,000 cancer survivors with 13 different types of cancer and more than 100,000 people without cancer to compare the experiences.

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

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Before saying 'I do', 43-year-old made life-changing decision

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Anna McGuinness, Page 13

If it wasn't for his family history, Jason Strange's prostate cancer may not have been caught so early. The most common cancer in Australia affected his dad, grandfather and father-in-law.

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Lily's left with no appetite

Sunshine Coast Daily, General News, 15/09/2023, Letea Cavander, Page 9

A lesser-known and crippling eating disorder has caused a Sunshine Coast teenager to drop out 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.

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Free wellbeing day is a 'way of giving back'

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 15/09/2023, Jessica Greenan, Page 11

Art therapy and restorative yoga is being used to give 16 women who've lived with cancer across the region a day of relaxation. The free event - run by Counterpart in partnership with South West Healthcare, Barwon South Western Regional Integrated Cancer Services and the Warrnambool Icon Centre - was held at the Lighthouse Theatre on September 13.

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United Nations special rapporteur warns NT Middle Arm project will raise cancer, heart disease risks

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Roxanne Fitzgerald

A United Nations expert on toxics and human rights says the proposed Middle Arm project on Darwin Harbour will increase the risk of heart disease, asthma and cancer. Marcos Orellana was invited by the Australian government to visit the country from August 28 to September 8.

[Read More](#)

Early detection for oesophageal cancer

Medical Forum, Other, 14/09/2023

An early diagnostic test for oesophageal cancer developed in WA has correctly identified 89% of patients with the disease during the latest round of clinical trials. Proteomics International Laboratories' (Proteomics International) blood test uses biomarkers protein fingerprints' to diagnose oesophageal adenocarcinoma and the pre-malignant condition, Barrett's oesophagus, with the aim of detecting the disease sooner and potentially improving health outcomes.

[Read More](#)

Life Now courses to provide end of year boost for South West cancer patients

West Australian, Other, 15/09/2023, Rachel Green

South West residents living with cancer will now be able to access free, in-person or online courses, with the commencement of Cancer Council WA's Life Now Term 4 timetable. Cancer Council WA Life Now Program Coordinator, Emma Saikovski, said the purpose of the programs was to introduce exercise and meditation in a safe and supportive environment to empower people to manage their own physical and mental well-being.

[Read More](#)

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospital build backlog a headache for premier

Australian Financial Review, General News, 15/09/2023, Mark Ludlow, Page 13

The Queensland government will struggle to build three new hospitals and upgrade 11 of them on time and on budget over the next four years, according to a new analysis of the infrastructure pipeline.

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

Faith leaders given a say

The Australian, General News, 15/09/2023, Alexi Demetriadi, Page 1

Religious leaders will use a "milestone" faith council to push NSW Premier Chris Minns for stronger protections for religious freedom and amendments to voluntary assisted dying laws. The 16-member NSW Faith Affairs Council will directly advise Multiculturalism Minister Steve Kamper on faith-based matters, programs and policy.

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

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

Dan doesn't 'give a rats' about Alfred

Herald Sun, General News, 15/09/2023, Carly Douglas, Shannon Deery and Mitch Clarke, Page 10

Attempts by Daniel Andrews to brush off concerns about a rat plague at one of the state's most prominent hospitals has been slammed by the opposition, who said the Premier "doesn't care". Mr Andrews, who received treatment at The Alfred after a horror back injury in 2021, on Thursday responded to reports about rats running across patients beds and being seen in the hospital's operating theatres by saying it was a matter for cleaners and the facility's administrators.

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

Alfred amenity a state shame

Herald Sun, Editorials, 15/09/2023, Page 30

In a first-world state under a Labor government that is supposed to champion health care, the amenity standards at a range of Victorian hospitals have slumped badly. As revealed in Thursday's Herald Sun, rodent infestation at The Alfred hospital, our premier trauma and emergency facility, is prompting repeated concern and appears to be symptomatic of a wider resourcing problem.

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

Doctor tax deal win

Courier Mail, General News, 15/09/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Queenslanders won't be slugged extra fees to see a GP, after the state government and doctors reached a compromise on a heated payroll tax stoush. [...] RACGP Queensland chairman Dr Bruce Willett said GPs across Queensland would be "celebrating" and the community should too as the move meant certainty for practices which now "won't need to increase out-of-pocket fees to cover a new tax, because there is none".

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

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

Conflict of chemistry

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Blair Richards, Page 1

Tasmanian pharmacists will be allowed to prescribe some medicines under state government reforms to expand the role of pharmacies in primary health. While doctors have supported some of the reforms, the Australian Medical Association says evidence from interstate shows allowing pharmacists to diagnose urinary tract infections (UTIs) can cause serious medical conditions to be overlooked.

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

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

There go my heroes

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Tess McCracken, Page 1

A veteran underwater hockey player who suffered a heart attack, causing him to sink to the bottom of the pool, has been reunited with the lifeguards who helped save his life. Marc Richards, 67, met Fraser Kelly, 22, and James Clues, 18, on Thursday to thank them for their quick thinking during the medical emergency at Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre last month.

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Labor's priorities plan promises action to fix health, housing and education failings

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Rebecca White, Page 34

When the Liberals first came to power a decade ago, they promised they were working for the future and had a plan for Tasmania. Ten years on, and it seems their only plan was to run the state's essential services into the ground with every key public service in Tasmania now failing.

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

Script access changes in remote areas

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/09/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 12

Pharmacists will soon be able to prescribe medication to people in remote areas where access to a GP is limited as part of a new pilot program. The program was a recommendation for the independent Pharmacist Scope of Practice Review the state government commissioned.

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

Concerns on budget

Central Western Daily, General News, 15/09/2023, Mark Logan, Page 4

For a few months there it looked as though the redevelopment of the Blayney Multipurpose Service was well underway. That initial burst of activity, the creation of a temporary parking area in front of the HealthOne building, has ended and now the remainder of the project awaits.

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

\$22m for hospital

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 1

The NSW government has confirmed there is \$22 million in next week's state budget for a Wollongong Hospital upgrade which will provide new medical equipment and fund planning for expansion under the

Metro Wollongong Health Precinct Strategy. Millions more will be spent to make temporary nursing positions permanent.

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

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

Leaders explore ways to boost medical care in the rural areas

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 8

Pilbara GP Sonia Henry has seen young people die of strokes, teenagers with heart disease, and children who have lost their hearing after untreated ear infections. "We need to do so much better in giving remote Australians back what they give to us," Dr Henry told the Regional Australia Institute's national summit in Canberra on Thursday.

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

UTIs, aged care in pharmacy reforms

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/09/2023, Molly Appleton, Page 4

Tasmanian pharmacists will soon have another tool in their toolbox to better treat urinary tract infection. Women will soon be able to go to their pharmacist and be prescribed antibiotics for uncomplicated UTIs.

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

Medical centres to merge

Western Advocate, General News, 15/09/2023, Amy Rees, Page 1

A shortage of doctors and nurses has been cited as one of the main reasons for the merger of two local medical centres. Just over three years after its multi-million dollar expansion opened, Westpoint Shopping Centre at Windradyne is set to lose one of its major tenants when the medical practice that operates on the centre's first floor closes its doors.

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

Healthy respect for ruling on GP payroll tax changes

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/09/2023, Fraser Barton

Doctors and general practice owners have welcomed a decision by the Queensland government to not subject GPs to extra payroll taxes. [...] The RACGP said only three per cent of practices would be able to absorb the costs of extra payroll tax on independent GPs, and 78 per cent would have to increase fees.

Also reported by: [Canberra Times \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

Show us the money, as rural health on life support

Canberra Times, Other, 14/09/2023, Stephanie Gardiner

Pilbara GP Sonia Henry has seen young people die of strokes, teenagers with heart disease, and children who have lost their hearing after untreated ear infections. "We need to do so much better in giving remote Australians back what they give to us," Dr Henry told the Regional Australia Institute's national summit in Canberra on Thursday. [...] The Australian Medical Association is set to release plans for building the rural workforce, recognising a city-centric healthcare model doesn't work in the country.

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

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Endometriosis sufferer Anna Dooley shares 'humiliating experience' accessing medication, calls for more chronic pain support

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Megan MacDonald

When Anna Dooley visited her local chemist to collect pain medication to help her manage endometriosis, the last thing she expected was to leave in tears. Anna Dooley says she was "humiliated" in a local chemist when trying to pick up her pain medication for endometriosis

Eczema Support Australia calls for specific regional GP training as part of national strategy

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Faith Tabalujan

Seeing your child suffer is tough for any parent, but for Tarnya Bruinier from Kialla in north-east Victoria it was a daily reality. Eczema Support Australia is in Canberra lobbying for a national strategy ESA reports that the chronic skin condition affects approximately three million Australians

[Read More](#)

GPs willing to pack bags over payroll tax

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/09/2023, Mark Hutchings

Doctors will leave states where they are subject to payroll tax, RACGP president warns More than one-in-three GPs say they would consider moving interstate to a jurisdiction that offers "more favourable payroll tax requirements", a poll reveals. A poll conducted by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP's) NewsGP publication found that 35%

[Read More](#)

What it's like to be pregnant amid Wollongong's shocking birth trauma stories

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 14/09/2023, Kate McIlwain

With shocking stories of widespread birth trauma in the spotlight, it might seem like a terrible time to be a pregnant woman in the Illawarra. But local advocate Sharon Settecasse, of Better Births Illawarra, believes this could end up being the best time to be getting maternity care in Illawarra hospitals.

[Read More](#)

World Pharmacists Day

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/09/2023

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has today launched its World Pharmacists Day campaign - marking the international date of 25 Sep - which will be further highlighted at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress, in Brisbane later this month.

[Read More](#)

Recognising pharmacists' role in strengthening health systems

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 14/09/2023

Recognising pharmacists' role in strengthening health systems The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has today launched its World Pharmacists Day campaign, marking the international date on 25 September at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress hosted in Brisbane later this month.

[Read More](#)

This GP has spent years working in remote Australia. She says more help is needed

SBS, Other, 14/09/2023

A Pilbara gp has said more help is needed to deliver health services in regional Australia. The National Rural Health Alliance says a shortfall in rural health means people aren't receiving "the health care they deserve".

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/09/2023, Max Fatcher and Sharyn Ghidella

Queensland has scrapped the so-called patient tax, saving bulk billing practises. The new tax rules will take effect from next week. It's expected to save patients up to \$15 for every appointment. The Australian Medical Association of Queensland has also welcomed the move, but says the devil will be in the detail.

2CC, Canberra Live, 14/09/2023, Leon Delaney

Interview with Professor Walter Abhayaratna, President, ACT AMA on why bulk billing is lower in the ACT. Abhayaratna says GPs working with more complex face to face consultations do not get compensated by Medicare for that period of time. He notes the ACT Government has an opportunity to at least understand the components of the dynamics of what's happening in the Territory with regards to bulk billing rates.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Coroners Court admits failing to protect staff before suicide

Age, General News, 15/09/2023, Erin Pearson, Page 3

The Coroners Court, the state body which investigates the unexpected deaths of Victorians, has pleaded guilty to failing to protect staff from bullying, overwork and vicarious trauma after an in-house lawyer took her own life. The death of senior counsel Jessica Wilby came at a time when the court was on notice about the risk of suicide, after a 2015 staff survey revealed it was a toxic workplace.

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

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

Coroner calls for police reform after 'preventable tragedy' in custody

Age, General News, 15/09/2023, Emily Woods, Page 14

When Darren Culleton's mental health began to deteriorate, his family trusted he would be safe in police custody. "I got a call from Darren from the police station, we thought we were going to see him in a couple of days," his mother Mary said.

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

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Clinic closes the gap for those needing mental health support

Ballarat Courier, General News, 15/09/2023, Michelle Smith, Page 3

A new low-cost psychology clinic is providing mental health support to the Ballarat community while training the next generation of psychologists. Federation University's new FedCare Psychology Services is a purpose-built psychology clinic with 10 consulting suites and four telehealth suites, with the ability to provide thousands of consultation hours a year, at the Mt Helen campus.

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

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Cupcakes, songs for R U OK? Day

Bendigo Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2023, David Chapman, Page 4

Cupcakes, singing and brightly coloured T-shirts were the order of the day at St John of God Hospital in Bendigo on September 14 to ensure everyone was OK. The R U OK? Day theme of 'I'm here to hear' was front and centre for staff gathering in the hospital's atrium for a special presentation on the subject.

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Start talking about suicide

Cairns Post, General News, 15/09/2023, Sandhya Ram, Page 6

A huge "overwhelming" sense that leads to suicidal thoughts is not as uncommon as people think, says a Cairns advocate for suicide prevention who believes normalising conversations about the issue is

key. Gill Townsend, who is leading Beacon Strategies' life promotion and suicide prevention FNQ initiative, said suicide prevention was everyone's business.

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

Claudia jumps at chance to take on crucial role

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2023, Dan Batten, Page 39

Claudia Gunjaca is reading the play on and off the field. After beginning her AFLW career as a forward, the emerging Cat was swung into defence last season where Gunjaca proved to be a revelation as she became a senior regular as a defender.

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

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Remembering a 'brilliant mind'

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 15/09/2023, Jonathan Hawes, Page 8

Continuing suicide prevention around R U OK Day means continuing the conversation SUICIDE and its impacts are felt for a lifetime, as mental health advocate Trish Orchard will tell you.

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

Regional South Australia has lowest number of psychiatrists per person in the country, report finds

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Tom Fedorowytsch and Sally Sara

A damning report has found that mental health resources in regional South Australia are so inadequate, there are fewer psychiatrists in the state per person than in Mongolia, Ukraine or Russia. The report reveals there are just 19.3 full time positions in SA's rural psychiatry workforce

[Read More](#)

Check in with yourself on R U OK Day: National Nurse and Midwife Health Service

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 14/09/2023, Natalie Dragon

"It's ok not to be ok," says Deputy Director of Australia's new national health and wellbeing service for nurses, midwives and students, which will launch in early 2024. Nurses, midwives and students across the country are being encouraged to check in with themselves and look out for their colleagues on today's R U OK?

[Read More](#)

Marcia Morgan saw a man standing outside her door, so went to say hello. It saved his life

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Shannon Molloy

When she spotted a familiar-looking man standing outside her door, Marcia Morgan went to see what he wanted. She saved his life.

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

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No time for mental health care under Medicare, say GPs

SBS, Other, 14/09/2023, Ciara Hain

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners says it needs more funding to help deal with patients experiencing mental health issues. It comes ahead of a major world conference in October, which will discuss solutions on how general practitioners can best provide mental healthcare.

[Read More](#)

Local pollies highlight R U OK? Day

Shepparton News Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Gabriel Garcia

State Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad and state Member for Ovens Valley Tim McCurdy have highlighted the importance of R U OK? Day.

[Read More](#)

Darren Culleton's death in custody a 'preventable tragedy', Victorian coroner finds

The Guardian, Other, 14/09/2023

A heartbroken mother has cried as a coroner found her son's death in a police van was a "preventable tragedy" and recommended sweeping changes to police policy. When Darren Culleton's mental health began deteriorating, his family trusted he would be safe in police custody.

[Read More](#)

Royal commission wants permanent oversight of ADF and veteran suicide

The Mandarin, Other, 14/09/2023, Melissa Coade

Ahead of handing its final report in a few months' time, commissioners are publicly advocating for the government to create a powerful body to prioritise the implementation of its recommendations in the interests of former and current serving Australia's Defence Force (ADF) members.

[Read More](#)

ABC News, ABC Nightly News, 14/09/2023, Manny Tsigas

Young Australians living with eating disorders have told representatives of Meta, the company that owns Facebook and Instagram, about the negative effects social media is having on body image. Meta representatives formed part of a roundtable in Canberra, sitting with young people who are recovering from eating disorders. The discussion coincided with Fresh Melbourne University research into TikTok, which found the platform is 80% more likely to show exercise content to users with an eating disorder and almost 400% more likely to show them dieting videos.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/09/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Mental Health crisis is in the spotlight today as we're encouraged to ask those around us are you okay? It's sparked calls for more early intervention funding in an effort to save lives. Each year, 65,000 Australians make a suicide attempt, while eight people every day take their own life. The WA Government has allocated \$1.35 b for mental health services but advocates say only 2.4% are being put towards prevention.

[Play Now](#)

Channel 9, National Nine News, 14/09/2023, Peter Hitchener

Report on R U OK Day. The National Mental Health Organisation provides free educational resources year-round to help anyone of any age reach out to those experiencing tough times. Student well-being experts say supporting the mental health of children is critical for their success in and outside the classroom.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

Channel 10, 10 News First, 14/09/2023, Sandra Sully

The State Government has committed to keeping more than 1000 nurses hired during the Covid surge, but the Opposition is already predicting cuts to health in next Tuesday's budget. It comes as new polling suggests the honeymoon period is over for the Minns Government.

[Play Now](#)

HEALTH WORKFORCE

Doctors' urgent call for rural health fix

The Australian, General News, 15/09/2023, Natasha Robinson, Page 2

Doctors are calling for an independent workforce planning agency, expanded training pathways for doctors in regional and remote areas and greater incentives for practitioners to work in the bush amid a growing crisis in rural health. Chronic medical workforce shortages have forced the closure of hundreds of medical services in rural and regional Australia in the past two years, as Medicare statistics reveal people outside metropolitan areas are using Medicare up to 40 per cent less than those in major cities.

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

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Paramedics are at 'breaking point'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 15/09/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 1

Labor claims staff shortages have pushed paramedics to "breaking point" as many shifts continue to go unstaffed across North-West ambulance stations. Labor health spokesperson Anita Dow said ambulance stations at Latrobe, Ulverstone, Burnie, Wynyard and the West Coast had all been short-staffed.

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

Midwife recognised for dedication

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/09/2023, Orlander Ruming, Page 3

It's the things that can't be taught by a textbook that make a good midwife, says Rachel Bassett. Specifically, kindness and compassion. Ms Bassett, a midwife and the founder of The Centre Midwifery, has been named as a finalists in the 2023 Australian College of Midwives Midwife of the Year.

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NSW to make 1000 nurses, midwives permanent

Daily Liberal, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 3

More than 1000 nurses and midwives will have their positions in the NSW public health system made permanent, under a funding measure to be included in the state budget. The Minns Labor government has earmarked an extra \$572 million in the 2023/24 budget, to be handed down next week, to retain the 1112 health workers. Under the former coalition government, the frontline workers were at risk of being let go when funding for their positions expired on July 1, 2024.

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

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Park realities on health front line

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Kate McIlwain, Page 22

Less than three weeks after he was sworn in as the state's new health minister - a role he campaigned for by promising to make life better for the state's health workers - Ryan Park received a call to say a paramedic had been killed at work. "I knew from very early on that I was going to have to show a really strong leadership because the community was shocked, and there were probably paramedics who clocked on that day, who were thinking 'Jesus, is this what we're dealing with now, like is this the next baseline?"

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Calvary nurses demand safe staffing at stop work meeting

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/09/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 6

A private hospital's proposed workload has raised the ire of Tasmanian nurses and midwives, as workers walk off the job in droves. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF)

Tasmanian Branch members at Calvary St Vincent's Hospital took a decisive stand on Thursday, September 14, saying they will continue industrial action until concerns about safe staffing levels are addressed.

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Jobs are ranked on trust

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 15/09/2023, Tileah Dobson, Page 21

Real estate agents officially have the least trusted occupation in Australia according to a major new report - as emergency workers like fireys and ambos are named the most trusted and ethical professions. The Governance Institute of Australia released its latest Ethics Index report, with Aussies taking part saying they are valuing ethics more than ever.

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Stephen Bennett apologises for calls to cut health worker entitlements

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 14/09/2023, James Taylor

LNP Burnett MP Stephen Bennett apologised on Thursday for social media comments he made criticising health workers at Bundaberg Hospital. Health Minister Shannon Fentiman told parliament on Wednesday Mr Bennet had engaged in an argument with a "local grandmother" on his Facebook page on Monday night after making a post that was critical of the hospital.

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

[Read More](#)

NSW 2023 budget: 1112 NSW nurses and midwives to be made permanent in \$572m funding commitment

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Jessica Wang

The jobs of 1112 nurses across NSW will be saved in a \$572m pre-budget commitment to boost hospital staffing shortfalls. The funds have been allocated in the upcoming budget and will be spent in the three years beginning from 2024-25.

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

[Read More](#)

Program seeks out aspiring doctors to help solve rural GP shortage in years to come

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Conor Burke

Like many hsc students, Jack Masson had some big decisions to make. A UNSW program is identifying high school students interested in medicine and mentoring them until they reach university. Research shows students from rural backgrounds who study in the country are more likely to work outside metropolitan centres.

[Read More](#)

Union hails Epic pay win

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/09/2023, Paul Sapardanis

Pharmacy staff covered by Epic Pharmacy Services' new pay deal are set to see wages rise by an average of 13.8% over the next three years.

[Read More](#)

'Surgeon' now a protected title

Medical Forum, Other, 14/09/2023

Only specialist surgeons will be able to call themselves surgeon' under new legislation to restrict the use of the title by registered medical practitioners. The change means that a medical practitioner will only be able to use the title surgeon' if they are registered in one of the recognised specialties of surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology or ophthalmology.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Sunrise, 14/09/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

More than 1000 nurses and midwives in New South Wales will be given new permanent jobs under budget changes announced by the State Government today.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No time for mental health care under Medicare, say GPs

SBS, Other, 14/09/2023, Ciara Hain

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners says it needs more funding to help deal with patients experiencing mental health issues. It comes ahead of a major world conference in October, which will discuss solutions on how general practitioners can best provide mental healthcare.

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

Retiree sues over allegedly botched spinal surgery

West Australian, General News, 15/09/2023, Claire Sadler, Page 46

A retiree has launched a lawsuit against a Perth neurosurgeon after an allegedly botched spinal surgery left him requiring a wheelchair. Russell Major is suing St John of God Murdoch neurosurgeon Soni Narula over alleged medical negligence after Mr Major was left with an epidural haematoma bleeding between the inside of the skull and the outer covering of the brain and severe spinal cord compression.

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

Robert Tremble left a Queensland hospital with three unexplained spinal fractures, now a coroner is probing his death

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Jemima Burt

When Robyn Tremble admitted her 48-year-old son with Down syndrome to a Queensland hospital for a routine epileptic episode in December 2020, she believed he was in the safest hands. Robert Tremble was allegedly assaulted by an assistant nurse while he was a patient at the Caboolture Hospital

[Read More](#)

Nurse sanctioned for secretly diluting COVID-19 vaccines with saline

Australian Doctor, Other, 14/09/2023, Heather Saxena

A nurse diluted COVID-19 vaccines with saline after tricking a pharmacist into leaving the room during a vaccination appointment, a tribunal has found.

[Read More](#)

Regional doctor in Sydney court on child abuse charges

Canberra Times, Other, 14/09/2023, Jack Gramenz

A suspended doctor has faced court charged with producing child abuse and recording intimate images without consent. Nicholas Chu is suspended while he faces 13 counts of intentionally recording intimate images without consent. [...] Chu previously completed degrees at UNSW but the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency notes he is currently suspended.

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

[Read More](#)

Qld aged care nurse banned from patient contact by watchdog

The Courier Mail, Other, 14/09/2023, Vanda Carson

A Queensland nurse who is working in aged care has been banned from having "any patient contact" the healthcare watchdog has announced. Australia's aged care sector needs more carers with "more time to care" and Labor is committed to delivering on this issue, according to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. [...] Mr Kaya graduated with a nursing degree from the Australian Catholic University in 2017, according to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and he was first registered to work as a nurse in Australia in May 2017.

[Read More](#)

Willetton Pathology Clinic: Perth phlebotomist facing sex assault charges after administering intimate swab

West Australian, Other, 14/09/2023, Lauren Price

A Perth phlebotomist is facing sex assault charges after allegedly administering an intimate swab on a woman who only needed blood tests. On August 31, the 27-year-old phlebotomy technician undertook a series of blood tests on a woman who attended the Willetton pathology clinic, where he worked from 2021 to 2023.

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

To-marrow? Do it today

Courier Mail, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 23

At any one time about 1000 Australians are urgently waiting to receive the perfect living donor match as part of their lifesaving treatment. Ahead of World Marrow Donor Day on Saturday, the Leukaemia Foundation and Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry are joining forces to urge Aussies to perform one simple action sign up to become a bone marrow donor today.

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

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SPORT

Turf battle over Sydney stadium use

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/09/2023, Michael Koziol, Page 3

The NSW government faces competing demands from the major sporting tenants of Allianz Stadium regarding its plan to allow more concerts at the venue, with calls to restrict music events to summer months and use the revenue to compensate clubs. But Venues NSW deputy chairman Rod McGeoch baulked at the requests, saying there was room for everything at the recently rebuilt stadium and the government had made its intentions clear.

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Taking a stand to honour Cathy at her 'special place'

Daily Telegraph, General News, 15/09/2023, James O'Doherty, Page 5

The stadium where Cathy Freeman created Australian history now has a stand named after the Olympic legend, in a historic first for NSW. Twenty-three years to the day after Freeman lit the Olympic torch to mark the start of the Sydney 2000 games, Accor Stadium's eastern grandstand has been renamed as the Cathy Freeman Stand.

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

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

Andrews slammed

Herald Sun, General News, 15/09/2023, Clare Armstrong, Page 1

A scathing report into the Commonwealth Games fiasco has accused the Andrews government of gagging witnesses after it sent out letters which stopped them from giving evidence. Daniel Andrews' shock cancellation of the 2026 Games was yesterday blasted by a federal Senate committee which warned the "monumental stuff up" had damaged Australia's international reputation.

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

Flags go up as we hope drownings come down

Courier Mail, General News, 15/09/2023, Greg Stolz, Page 1

Surf lifesavers will raise their red and yellow flags on Queensland beaches this weekend for the first patrol of the season, amid alarming new figures showing how hundreds of young children are getting into danger in the ocean. Thousands of volunteer lifesavers will don their patrol caps and togs when the 2023-24 surf season launches on Saturday to coincide with the start of the spring school holidays.

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

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

Water safety targets boating

Hobart Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Tia Ewen, Page 15

With summer approaching, authorities are urging Tasmanians to be vigilant about water safety after four drowning deaths in the state over the past financial year. Royal Life Saving Australia has particularly targeted boating safety after releasing its National Drowning Report this week, which showed Tasmania's four drownings was a reduction of 56 per cent on the 10-year average.

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Funds must go high and low

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 15/09/2023, Glynis Nunn, Page 75

Sport is in the spotlight. We had wonderful coverage of the Women's FIFA World Cup, then came the World Track and Field Championships, now we are following the finals in AFL and NRL.

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

The ageing demographic for drowning

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 15/09/2023, Sarah Falson, Page 7

Inland waterways are high risk for drowning deaths in Australia, and alcohol and isolation are contributing to the statistics. This is according to the National Drowning Report 2023, which shows there were 281 drowning deaths in Australian waterways over the past year and inland waterways accounted for 27 per cent of them.

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

Victoria actively hindered Commonwealth Games inquiry: Senate committee

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/09/2023

A Senate committee has accused the Victorian government of actively hindering its inquiry into the state's ill-fated 2026 Commonwealth Games bid. Premier Daniel Andrews declined an invitation to give evidence to the inquiry, as was his right, but the committee heard he also wrote to witnesses to warn them against disclosing information that the Victorian government viewed as confidential.

[Read More](#)

Secret bonuses if Wallabies win World Cup revealed

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 14/09/2023

Rugby Australia has agreed to award lucrative bonuses to the Wallabies if they perform well at the Rugby World Cup, with players set to pocket an extra \$175,000 each if Australia can lift the trophy. Before the Wallabies departed for France last month, RA and the Rugby Union Players' Association came to an agreement on what bonuses players should receive on top of regular match payments.

[Read More](#)

CA set to enforce neck protectors for batters

Canberra Times, Other, 14/09/2023

Every Australian player in international and domestic cricket will be required to wear neck protectors while batting or face sanctions under new rules set to be imposed from October 1. Changes to Cricket Australia's playing conditions for the 2023-24 season, outlined on its website on Thursday, will make it mandatory for batters in all sanctioned competitions to wear the neck protectors that are fitted to the rear of batting helmets when facing fast or medium-pace bowling.

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Telstra Footy Grants launched by the AFL and Telstra

Adelaide Now, Other, 14/09/2023, Brayden May

Local footy clubs across Australia could receive a major boost thanks to a new grants program set to come into play from 2024. On Thursday, the AFL and Telstra unveiled \$8m in funding set to be made available across the next four years (\$2m per year).

[Read More](#)

Sports Minister says 'timely completion' the reason WA Institute of Sports review only looks back five years

West Australian, Other, 14/09/2023

A long-awaited review of the culture and governance at the scandal-hit WA Institute of Sport will be limited to the recent past to ensure it doesn't drag on, Sports Minister David Templeman says. After announcing in June last year that the review would be undertaken and commencing a tender process in February, Mr Templeman revealed in State Parliament on Wednesday that an independent auditor had been appointed.

[Read More](#)

Future Matildas FIFA Women's World Cup matches added to anti-siphoning list to protect them from TV paywalls

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Audrey Courty

The Matildas' future FIFA Women's World Cup matches have been added to the anti-siphoning list, making it "more likely" Australians will be able to watch them play for free, the federal government says. Australia's matches in both the men's and women's FIFA World Cup tournaments have been added to the anti-siphoning list

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Federal government should step in to 'salvage' 2026 Commonwealth Games, Senate report finds

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Sian Johnson

The federal government should step in to "salvage" the prospect of the Commonwealth Games being hosted in Australia in 2026 as originally planned, an interim report from a Senate inquiry has found. The Senate committee handed down four recommendations relating to the Victorian government's decision earlier this year to scrap its plan to host the Games.

[Read More](#)

Melbourne lawn bowls player alleges club told her cancer diagnosis made her 'unreliable'

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Danny Tran

A cancer survivor is suing her former bowls club for breaching her human rights after she was allegedly sidelined ahead of a local final because the illness made her "unreliable". Darlene Badenoch, 51, claims she was deliberately overlooked by team selectors after the comments were allegedly made by members of the Moonee Ponds Bowling Club.

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Frawley family speaks out on concussion amid Angus Brayshaw uncertainty

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Daanyal Saeed

The widow of St Kilda legend Danny Frawley, Anita Frawley, has opened up on the trauma her family has shared with the Brayshaws since her future son-in-law, Angus, was knocked out after a hit from Collingwood's Brayden Maynard in the first qualifying final last week.

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

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Cricket Australia set to enforce neck protectors for all batters from next month

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/09/2023

Every Australian player in international and domestic cricket will be required to wear neck protectors while batting or face sanctions under new rules set to be imposed from Oct. 1. Changes to Cricket Australia's playing conditions for the 2023-24 season, outlined on its website Thursday, will make it mandatory for batters in all sanctioned competitions to wear the neck protectors that are fitted to the rear of batting helmets when facing fast or medium pace bowling.

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

EQT in hunt for Ramsay offload

The Australian, Business News, 15/09/2023, Bridget Carter, Page 14

A new suitor has emerged for Ramsay Health Care's Asia hospital business and it's one familiar in the local dealmaking scene EQT Group. DataRoom understands from sources that the Swedish private equity firm is a strong contender to buy the Sime Darby Health Care hospital business.

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ACL awaits ACCC call on Healius

The Australian, Business News, 15/09/2023, Valerina Changarathil, Page 15

Persistent Healius suitor Australian Clinical Labs has rescheduled its investor meeting to November as it awaits the competition regulator's verdict on the deal between the pathology groups, which has been repeatedly rejected by the target. The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission is expected to deliver its final decision on the one-sided proposed merger on October 12.

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A meeting of minds

The Australian, Special Report, 15/09/2023, Jared Lynch, Page 26

It is rare to find yourself in the company of billionaires let alone beat one of them at their own game but it is now an everyday reality for Melbourne biomedical engineer Professor Nick Opie. Opie is at the forefront of developing computer chips for people's brains, connecting the mind directly with a computer, and sparking a race that has Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk jostling for pole position.

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Sarah to host high tea for endometriosis

Daily Advertiser, General News, 15/09/2023, Taylor Dodge, Page 3

A wagga teenager is hoping to educate others about the systematic issues and hardships women battling endometriosis are currently facing in the Riverina. Wagga Girl Guides' senior member Sarah Smith is hosting a high tea fundraiser to raise funds for Endometriosis Australia while also bringing awareness to the condition she says is often overlooked.

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Key study to aid preterm babies

Launceston Examiner, General News, 15/09/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 8

A Tasmanian-led study has found that a method of promoting lung expansion and oxygen levels in premature babies decreases the risk of respiratory illness later in life. The international clinical trial, led by University of Tasmania Menzies Institute for Medical Research Professor Peter Dargaville, was conducted in 33 neonatal intensive care units in 11 countries and is the largest study of this type ever conducted.

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

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Nanotech hopes to combat antibiotic-resistant superbugs

HelloCare, Other, 14/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

Researchers hope their new nano-thin technology will be integrated into wound dressings and implants to heal antibiotic-resistant superbugs like golden staph'. Advanced preclinical trials have suggested the black phosphorus-based nanotechnology material is effective against a broad range of drug-resistant bacterial cells that have previously been resistant to antibiotics.

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Global review reveals ADHD rates in adults

Medical Forum, Other, 14/09/2023

A groundbreaking, Curtin led review of studies involving more than 21 million people worldwide has revealed ADHD impacts more than 3% of the global adult population, putting it on par with several common anxiety disorders such as PTSD and panic attacks. The review examined 57 unique international primary studies from meta-analyses undertaken between 2009 and 2021 and found it was a global concern, potentially impacting approximately 180 million adults if the ratios are representative.

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Genes for antibiotic resistance

Medical Forum, Other, 14/09/2023

Australian researchers have uncovered new genetic insights into Staphylococcus aureus, revealing what makes the bacterium so dangerous when it enters the blood. While common, with up to a 20% mortality and increasing incidence rates, Staphylococcus aureus infections are a key challenge to human health.

[Read More](#)

Superbug-slayer in trial

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/09/2023

Researchers have invented a nano-thin, superbug-slaying material that could one day be integrated into wound dressings and implants to prevent or heal bacterial infections. In advanced clinical trials, the material is effective against a broad range of drug-resistant bacterial cells, including 'golden staph', commonly referred to as superbugs, the researchers found.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

‘We can collectively transform the system’: three Indigenous healthcare

professionals inspiring change

The Guardian, Other, 14/09/2023

In 2021, a unique master's degree was launched. The Master of Indigenous Business Leadership a joint offering from the William Cooper Institute and Monash Business School is an Australian-first program created by Indigenous peoples, for Indigenous peoples.

[Read More](#)

Earbus Foundation wins regional award for its relentless work to combat middle ear disease in children

West Australian, Other, 14/09/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

A charity that works relentlessly to cure middle ear disease in the Pilbara has been named the best large organisation at the Pilbara for Purpose Community Service Awards. The Earbus Foundation of WA runs six mobile bus clinic programs throughout the State, including three in the Pilbara, which bring urgent audiological care to children in remote areas.

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

All we need is air to breathe

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 15/09/2023, Angus Dalton, Page 1

Sydney's air quality was among the worst in the world yesterday morning as smoke lingered from a number of hazard reduction burns intended to reduce dangerous fuel loads in bushland around the city. Air quality monitoring site IQAir ranked Sydney as the thirdmost polluted city in the world due to the remnant smoke.

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Health hazards

Illawarra Mercury, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 1

The Illawarra has jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire season. Many vulnerable people recovering from winter influenzas now face a barrage of spring dangers according to health authorities as smoke, pollen, dirt and other germs increase the risk of asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

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France has banned the sale of iPhone 12s over 'failed radiation tests' — What does this mean for Australians?

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Velvet Winter

France's radiation watchdog has banned sales of Apple's iPhone 12, claiming tests showed the smartphone breached European radiation exposure limits. The Agence Nationale des Frequences (ANFR) said the model's specific absorption rate (SAR) was found to be higher than legally allowed.

[Read More](#)

Spring Legionnaires' disease warning for NSW residents

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Eli Green

The NSW Health Services Union is threatening to increase strike action from Monday unless the state government agrees to a six per cent pay rise. Health Minister Ryan Park is due to meet Health Services Union boss Gerard Residents have been warned to take care when gardening to avoid contracting the potentially fatal Legionnaires' disease.

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

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Bali tourist sparks health alert after being hospitalised with measles

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Nathan Schmidt

A tourist returning from Bali has triggered a health alert in Western Australian after officials discovered the traveller had visited a hotel and shops while infected with measles. The Department of Health issued a statewide alert on Wednesday after the tourist, who has not been named, was admitted to a Perth hospital with the highly infectious disease.

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

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Sweeping control on vapes & tobacco

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 14/09/2023

The Australian Government has introduced to Parliament a "new generation of world-leading tobacco-control legislation". [...] Commenting on a TGA consultation paper put out to the industry this week, therapeutic vaping products manufacturer From the Fields Pharmaceutical CEO Wilhelm David said, "the Gov't's intention around the future role of therapeutic vaping is affirmed and clear".

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New COVID vaccines have been approved in other countries. Should Australia follow?

SBS, Other, 14/09/2023, Amy Hall

Updated versions of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being rolled out in some parts of the world. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said it had started evaluating applications from Pfizer and Moderna for use of the new monovalent vaccines in Australia.

[Read More](#)

Channel 7, Seven News, 14/09/2023, Max Futchter and Sharyn Ghidella

Australians have been paying for cold and flu drugs that don't work for years, according to America's peak health agency. It's found the key ingredient in popular decongestants does nothing, but it will remain on sale here. [...] The Therapeutic Goods Administration says as new scientific information becomes available, ingredients may undergo further evaluation to consider the risk benefit profile.

[Play Now](#)

ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 14/09/2023, Ryk Goddard

Goddard plays an excerpt of Lauren Sullivan, pharmacist and owner, Capital City Capital Chemist on quitting vaping. Sullivan says the Therapeutic Goods Administration has a list of over 500 medication shortages at the moment. She says they encourage patients out there to work with their community pharmacy. She states hormone replacement therapy is slowly starting to filter back in and we're starting to see supplies of that returning.

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

Would Coalition revive Andrews' bill?

Canberra Times, Editorials, 15/09/2023, Page 62

With "friends" like Peter Dutton, Matt Canavan and Michaelia Cash, Canberra Liberals leader Elizabeth

Lee certainly doesn't need any more enemies. That's why she has been so quick to distance the local branch from the federal opposition's latest attempts to meddle in ACT affairs.

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Federal opposition announces it will seek to overturn ACT's new laws decriminalising drugs in small amounts

ABC Online, Other, 14/09/2023, Niki Burnside

Federal politicians are once more attempting to meddle with ACT legislation, this time seeking to overturn new territory laws that decriminalise small amounts of some illicit drugs, including cocaine, ice and heroin. Next month, new laws allowing small amounts of some drugs for personal use will take effect in the ACT

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Coalition accused of trying to send ACT back to 1950s after attempt to block drug decriminalisation

The Guardian, Other, 14/09/2023, Sarah Basford Canales

The Coalition has been accused of attempting to send the ACT government backwards to the 1950s after waging war on its plan to decriminalise drugs in the nation's capital. Responding to the opposition's last-minute attempt to block the law on Thursday, the Greens senator David Shoebridge claimed it was due to the Coalition's fear a successful drug decriminalisation program in the ACT could be replicated in other states and territories.

[Read More](#)

ABC Radio Canberra, Mornings, 14/09/2023, Lish Fejer

Interview with Senator Michaelia Cash.[...] "I look at the evidence that's been given by the AFP, as I said, the police, the pharmacists, the first responders and families that I've spoken to, we are talking about drugs in quantities, as I said, one gram of heroin up to five times the average lethal dose. How do you propose we tackle the problem then as a health problem, as a justice problem?"

[Play Now](#)

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FOOD STANDARDS

Why an on-trend dish may disappear

Age, General News, 15/09/2023, Emma Breheny, Page 9

One of Melbourne's most fashionable restaurant dishes, steak tartare, is in the crosshairs of new food safety rules that make it more difficult and more expensive to serve dishes deemed high-risk by authorities. One Fitzroy North restaurant has already been visited unannounced by their local health inspector and asked to remove a tartare dish from their menu or pay for a bespoke food safety program if they want to keep serving it.

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

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Diet soft drink classed as 'no better' than regular soda

NEWS.com.au, Other, 14/09/2023, Marc Lallanilla

Diet soft drinks once seen as a healthy alternative to sugary regular sodas are under scrutiny as a growing body of research found issues. Now, a study reveals that both regular and diet soft drinks result in higher insulin levels, as measured in saliva.

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

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