



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 16th September 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Saturday Age \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has expressed concern over a sharp increase in cannabis prescriptions and warned that such rapid growth is affecting its ability to limit harm in some patients. According to the TGA, "Access of medicinal cannabis products is pushing the boundaries of the intention of these schemes," while a spokeswoman for Health Minister Mark Butler said, "The decision to prescribe medicinal cannabis is a clinical decision taken by a patient's doctor."
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a class action case alleging endemic historic racial mistreatment of former AFL and VFL players will have former North Melbourne and Footscray player Phil Krakouer as the lead plaintiff.
- **[The Courier Mail \(page 1\)](#)** reports that as India struggles with an outbreak of the deadly Nipah virus, Queensland is assisting by sending vials of a homegrown experimental Hendra virus treatment.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#)** reports that the Queensland government says the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games will be hosted at the Gabba after a \$2.7 billion makeover, rejecting calls from a Senate committee to review the plans. "It may also be unwise and inappropriate for

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Watchdog raises alarm on medicinal cannabis boom

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/09/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 1

Australia's drug watchdog has flagged concerns about a boom in cannabis prescriptions and warned that such rapid growth is affecting its ability to limit harm in some patients. [...] The agency warned Health Minister Mark Butler of this late last year in a document outlining possible regulatory changes, obtained by The Age under freedom of information.

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

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### Less visits and less costs

Local Ipswich News, General News, 14/09/2023, Page 13

Chemists might be crying poor, but those who rely on regular medicines are cheering. [...] Minister for Health Mark Butler said cheaper medicines were not just good for the hip pocket, they were also good for the health of Australians.

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### Wheels up for Little Wings' fourth Beechcraft Baron

Australian Aviation Magazine, Other, 15/09/2023, Jake Nelson

[...] "So, after a lot of work, and a lot of talks and a lot of stalking, to put it bluntly, we were able to secure a grant for \$1.8 million through the Commonwealth, and specifically the health minister, Mark Butler, to purchase our fourth aircraft, to allow us to continue supporting families, and in fact, another 800 families will be supported by this little plane." [...] Emma McBride, Minister for Regional Health, told Australian Aviation that aeromedical services like Little Wings are a vital part of the health network in regional areas.

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### Petition demands support for elderly pet owners in home

Australian Cat Lover, Other, 15/09/2023

When it comes to older adults living at home, the survey reveals 61% of older adults live alone , and 74% of older adults with pets say their animals provide companionship and reduce loneliness. [...] 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.

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

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Laugh, eat well, walk and help

Weekend Australian, Review, 16/09/2023, Jenna Clarke, Page 8

Growing old is a gift. There is no denying that. [...] It's something about which researchers and the new(ish) federal Aged Care Minister Anika Wells continue to remind us.

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

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## Heat prompts safety alert

Gympie Today, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 24

With predictions of a long, hot summer, new research from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia in partnership with Surf Life Saving Australia has prompted urgent calls to keep water safety top of mind when planning a day in, on or near the water. The National Drowning Report 2023, which was released by Sport Minister Anika Wells found there were 281 drowning deaths over the past 12 months, which is 17 per cent lower than last year (339), and returns the annual drowning toll closer to pre-pandemic levels.

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## Petition demands support for elderly pet owners in home

Australian Cat Lover, Other, 15/09/2023

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

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## Sky News Live, Afternoon Agenda, 15/09/2023, Danica De Giorgio

A Senate inquiry has urged any state and territory hosts of major events seeking Federal funding to notify the Federal Government of contingency plans and any cancellations. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews dismissed the interim report into the Commonwealth Games as a political stunt. The report, taking aim at Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells and bureaucrats, asked if the department had provided a briefing to the Minister on the implications of the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### Wheels up for Little Wings' fourth Beechcraft Baron

Australian Aviation Magazine, Other, 15/09/2023, Jake Nelson

[...] "So, after a lot of work, and a lot of talks and a lot of stalking, to put it bluntly, we were able to secure a grant for \$1.8 million through the Commonwealth, and specifically the health minister, Mark Butler, to purchase our fourth aircraft, to allow us to continue supporting families, and in fact, another 800 families will be supported by this little plane." [...] Emma McBride, Minister for Regional Health, told Australian Aviation that aeromedical services like Little Wings are a vital part of the health network in regional areas.

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### ABC News, Afternoon Briefing, 15/09/2023, Greg Jennett and Matthew Doran

Pre-recorded Interview with Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health. McBride discusses the issue of accessing healthcare in regional areas. McBride says she was at Bankstown Airport for the official launch of the fourth plane for the Little Wings fleet. She adds the new plane means an extra 800 missions a year, flying critically ill children and their families to care at major Sydney hospitals, and getting them safely home again.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

## Tickets on sale

Pharmacy Daily, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 4

Tickets are now on sale for the National Rural and Remote Health Awards, to be held at Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra on 13 Nov. The Awards honour the dedication of individuals and organisations who strive to keep rural and remote communities healthy. The National Rural Health Commissioner, Adjunct Professor Ruth Stewart, and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney have both confirmed their attendance at the awards.

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

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

No relevant coverage

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## DEPARTMENT

### Is this Lyme disease?

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Dr Hayley Heaton, Page 23

Lyme disease, or Lyme borreliosis, is a tick-borne disease (see figure 1) caused by the spirochaetes in the *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato complex. [...] The term 'debilitating symptom complexes attributed to ticks' (DSCATT) was designed by the Department of Health and Aged Care as a construct to represent the patient groups with chronic debilitating illnesses that many associate with a tick bite.

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Pharmacy Daily, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 4

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

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## How harmful is bushfire smoke and what can you do to protect your health?

9News, Other, 15/09/2023, Daniel Jeffrey

Whether from backburning or bushfires, hazy smoke lingering over homes across the country is a regular part of summer in Australia. [...] The Australian Health Department notes there is a "casual association" between bushfire smoke and lung cancer, but says there's no hard evidence linking the two although the Lung Foundation Australia says smoke can cause cancer.

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## Workforce investment key to 'unleashing' mental health nurses' potential

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, Other, 15/09/2023, Robert Fedele

Skilled and knowledgeable health professionals, mental health nurses possess a range of invaluable attributes including the ability to show great empathy, provide tailored patient-centred care, and respond and adapt to often complex situations. [...] Speaking yesterday to about 600 delegates at the Australian College of Mental Health Nursing's (ACMHN) 10th International Mental Health Nursing

Conference , held in Melbourne, Dr Ruth Vine, Australian Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Mental Health) Interim CEO of the National Mental Health Commission, outlined major challenges the mental health nursing speciality faces as it strives to grow and realise its full potential.

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## Sophie Guidolin backpedals on claims she works out 4-5 times a day after fans expressed concern for the fitness influencer's health

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/09/2023, Kinta Walsh-Cotton

Sophie Guidolin backpedaled on her wild claim that she works out four to five times a day after alarmed followers expressed their concern for her health. [...] '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'.

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## Seven-day delay's time is probably up

Pulse+IT, Other, 15/09/2023, Kate McDonald

The big news of the week was the announcement by the Department of Health and Aged Care of a new consultation on two measures to improve health information sharing in Australia, one covering the removal of the seven-day delay on posting test reports to the My Health Record and the other on mandating uploading results.

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## Your support in preventing dementia

Retail Pharmacy Assistants, Other, 15/09/2023

In June 2020, around 4.2 million people in Australia (or 16 per cent of the population) were aged 65 and over. About 80 per cent of these people had one or more chronic conditions, and 51 per cent had two or more.

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## Healthy boost for Hazara vaccine rates

Star Community, Other, 15/09/2023, Sahar Foladi

The South East's Hazara community is being targeted in an innovative promotion to lift Covid-19 vaccine booster rates. Data shows that linguistically and culturally diverse individuals make up 58 per cent of Australia's population that's unvaccinated with a booster dose, according to the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

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# CORONAVIRUS

## COVID-19 risk level lowered, but stay alert

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/09/2023, Stephanie Dalton, Page 2

Tasmania has downgraded the COVID-19 and respiratory infection risk level following a continued decrease in cases across the community. The Department of Health on Friday confirmed the change from moderate to low as the number of COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases continues to fall.

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

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## Extra shot for over-75s

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 7

Adults aged 75 or older should receive another COVID-19 booster if more than six months have passed since their last dose, says new ATAGI advice. It also said those in the 65-74 age group and

patients aged 18-64 with severe immunocompromise "should consider" an additional dose.

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## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### How old is too old when it comes to the workplace?

Canberra Times, General News, 16/09/2023, Page 21

The Germans have a word for it. Don't they always? They call it Fremdschamen that feeling of discomfort or awkwardness you experience when someone else publicly embarrasses themselves. Perhaps you have felt Fremdschamen when watching viral social media videos of men staging elaborate marriage proposals at concerts or sports events, only to have their girlfriends say no.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### Pies to poke bowls: Healthy tuck shops fail the obesity test

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/09/2023, Christopher Harris, Page 22

In 1994, the NSW Healthy Canteen Association unveiled the tuck shop of the future. The concept predicted canteens would become mini McDonald's restaurants, albeit with healthier food.

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### It's time to stop Sydneysiders sharing one gigantic ciggie

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/09/2023, Stephen Lightfoot, Page 33

We all know smoking kills and, on that basis, we've spent years successfully reducing smoking rates. But on Thursday morning all Sydneysiders were sharing one gigantic ciggie - for on that morning Sydney's air quality was languishing just behind that of Lahore and Dubai, registering us as the third-most polluted city in the world.

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### Victorians top list for deadly 'super drug'

Canberra Times, General News, 16/09/2023, Page 9

Victorian police have no plans to start carrying life-saving opioid overdose treatment despite a new report showing Melbourne has become the nation's fentanyl capital. Melbourne has the highest level of heroin, ketamine and fentanyl consumption of any Australian capital city, the latest wastewater data from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission shows.

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### Kouts in row over Lib MP's health

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 16/09/2023, Andrew Hough, Page 19

A veteran Liberal politician has complained to parliamentary authorities over accusations a senior state government minister mocked his health in parliament's lower house chamber. David Basham, the member for Finnis since 2018, accused Transport Minister Tom Koutsantonis of "cheap gutter shots" during a fiery session on Thursday.

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

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### Top WA high school bans energy drinks

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/09/2023, Bethany Hiatt, Page 9

One of WA's biggest public high schools has banned students from bringing energy drinks on campus - lumping them in with illicit drugs and e-cigarettes - prompting a health expert to call on other schools to do the same. Churchlands Senior High School recently updated its prohibited substances policy to include energy drinks.

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## Drug services sector voices concern over fentanyl use

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/09/2023, Tamara McDonald

A strong opioid pain medication fuelling an overdose epidemic in the US is sparking concern locally. It's understood people using fentanyl, which is about 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine, recreationally have presented to Barwon Health.

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

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## Residents in Yalyallup urged to stay indoors after farm shed fire prompts urgent HAZMAT warning

West Australian, Other, 15/09/2023, Caleb Runciman

A shed fire near a regional airport has sparked an urgent HAZMAT warning by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as residents are urged to stay inside their homes. People in Yalyallup, in The City of Busselton, are urged to close their doors and windows as smoke from a farm shed fire on Giles Road is blowing potentially dangerous smoke in a northerly direction.

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## NSW parliamentary inquiry submissions warn of lead, gold, silver, zinc mining impacts

ABC Online, Other, 15/09/2023, Joanna Woodburn

Ian Wright has spent years wading through rivers and creeks in New South Wales, testing water quality to ensure it remains free from toxins. A NSW parliamentary inquiry is examining the potential impacts of lead, gold, silver, and zinc mines

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## Woolies flamed for McConsults

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 7

Woolworths' new venture into healthcare, including free naturopath consultations, has been branded "McMedicine", with the supermarket giant accused of trying to hook people into buying its supplements. Selling it as a solution to GP shortages and the fall in bulk-billing, the company has been attempting to recruit GPs to offer \$45 telehealth consults, along with e-scripts and medical certificates.

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## A new name for obesity?

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Paul Smith, Page 14

The clinical debate on the status of obesity as a disease has been protracted. But in the past decade, medical organisations around the globe - from the WHO to the World Obesity Federation - have issued position statements declaring that the condition is a complex, chronic, relapsing disease process.

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## Health challenges affecting Australia highlighted in global review

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023, Rebecca Jenkins

Life expectancy at birth in Australia has increased by six years since 1990, primarily through reductions in communicable, maternal, neonatal and nutritional diseases, a systematic analysis finds. In a systematic analysis of the Global Burden of Disease study dataset, Australian researchers found life expectancy at birth improved from 77 years in 1990 to 82.9 years in 2019.

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## Barely a pass: CSIRO marks down our national eating habits

The New Daily, Other, 15/09/2023, John Elder

Between 2015 and 2023, thousands of Australians have been filling out a questionnaire online, sharing their eating habits. The 235,268 adult participants seem to have damned themselves with their honesty.

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## Is exercise really good for the brain? Here's what the science says

The New Daily, Other, 15/09/2023, Boris Cheval and Matthieu P. Boisgontier

The health benefits of physical activity are undeniable. Yet, a recent study based on data published over the past 30 years challenges the famous adage "Mens sana in corpore sano" (a healthy mind in a healthy body) and questions the importance of exercise for both brain health and cognition.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### What to do when the boss gets sick

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/09/2023, Peter Ghin and Mladen Adamovic, Page 36

The rise of chronic illness among people of working age is a cause for concern. For people in positions of authority with higher levels of organisational visibility, navigating the illness-disclosure process at work can be particularly complex.

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### Eyes on the prize

Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend Magazine, 16/09/2023, Tim Elliott, Page 1

Most people regard the idea of death as final and irrevocable. But in an important sense, each of us is in a constant cycle of death and rebirth.

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

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### Bad air brewing again

Herald Sun, General News, 16/09/2023, Carly Douglas, Page 31

Emergency services are bracing for this year's thunderstorm asthma season, with experts predicting it could be as deadly as the 2016 event that claimed 10 lives and landed thousands of Victorians in hospital. Ambulance Victoria has sounded the alarm, advising thousands of asthma and hayfever sufferers to get prepared.

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

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### Leukaemia cure test

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 16/09/2023, Page 20

A groundbreaking leukaemia test can help identify patients who are strong candidates for lifelong treatment free remission meaning they're effectively cured. Ilaria Pagani, from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, says the breakthrough in chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) research is the cumulation of six years of investigation.

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

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### AI is revolutionising diabetes treatment, inquiry told

Canberra Times, Other, 15/09/2023, Rudi Maxwell



Artificial intelligence has begun revolutionising the way people with diabetes receive life-saving medicines. [...] Diabetes Australia says only around 24 per cent of people living with type 1 diabetes are currently able to access the technology.

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

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## **Thunderstorm asthma season conditions similar to 2016**

Canberra Times, Other, 15/09/2023, Callum Godde

Allergy sufferers have been put on alert for thunderstorm asthma, with an ambulance leader warning conditions are akin to those before Melbourne's deadly event in 2016. The peak thunderstorm asthma season is expected to begin on October 1 and run until the end of December.

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

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## **We need to embrace these tests if we want to stop overtreating prostate cancer**

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/09/2023, David Gillatt

Urology has evolved dramatically over the course of my 30-year career, with exciting advances in prostate cancer treatment. Most healthcare professionals will be familiar with the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test.

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## **Women should be aware of the 'Jolie effect' leading to too many mastectomies, scientists warn**

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/09/2023, Victoria Allen

Women should be aware of unnecessary mastectomies due to the 'Jolie effect', according to experts. Females with mutations in the BRCA1 gene, such as Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, and the related BRCA2 gene, are at greater risk of breast cancer.

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## **Reassuring findings on effects of anxiety and depression on cancer development**

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023, Rebecca Jenkins

A meta-analysis challenging the theory that depression and anxiety increase the risk of developing cancer should reassure patients who feared their mental health played a part in their cancer diagnosis, experts say. Both depression and anxiety have been hypothesised to be linked to an increased risk of cancer, but the findings of previous meta-analyses had varied greatly, researchers wrote in Cancer.

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## **Does rheumatoid arthritis increase risk of aortic stenosis?**

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023, Melanie Hinze

New research finds patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are at increased risk of developing aortic stenosis (AS) and its complications, when compared with people without RA. Published in JAMA Internal Medicine, the retrospective, matched cohort study used linked data from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the US, from 2000 to 2019.

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## **Need for improved blood pressure control in patients with atrial fibrillation**

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023, Melanie Hinze

Blood pressure (BP) control in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF), particularly if those patients are women or aged over 75 years, should be a focus for GPs, an Australian expert has told Medicine Today. Professor Alta Schutte, Professor and Principal Theme Lead of Cardiac, Vascular and Metabolic Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine and Health at UNSW Sydney, and Professorial Fellow at the

George Institute for Global Health, Sydney, said raised BP is very common among Australian adults, with one in three having hypertension and half of those people not being aware of it.

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## **Channel 7, Seven News, 15/09/2023, Peter Mitchell**

Ambulance Victoria is warning Victorians to prepare for a potentially deadly thunderstorm asthma season. It says conditions are similar to 2016 when ten people died and thousands landed in hospital.

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## **PRIMARY CARE**

### **GP plans \$15 'Premier's Payroll Tax' patient fee**

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 1

Sarah Simpkins payroll tax is driving Dr Mukesh Haikerwal to charge patients \$15 extra on standard consultations, which he plans to itemise on invoices as the "Premier's Premium Payroll Tax on Health". The former AMA president and Melbourne GP is talking to his software company, lawyers and accountants about ways to get his message across on why the fee hike is necessary.

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### **'Obstetric violence' outcry**

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Paul Smith, Page 2

"This is the Me Too of childbirth." Asked by the chair why she had used the term 'obstetric violence', she said: "I can actually understand the sensitivity because, at face value, it can sound like it's a bad obstetrician, when in fact it's not.

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### **'I did what they said but they still reported me to AHPRA'**

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 6

"I would almost forget about the investigation. And then another email would come through, my blood pressure would drop to the floor and I would freeze, with the horrible gut-sinking realisation that, yes, this is still going on." Dr Nick Carr is talking about the emails he received from AHPRA updating him on its investigation into his paperwork bungle.

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### **Why discharge summaries are failing to connect**

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 12

A couple of weeks ago, I had the honour of being invited to a patient's funeral. I don't usually attend the funerals of my patients, but in this case, her husband had got in touch and asked me to come. He said it would be a small private event for the family and friends who had been a big part of their lives.

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### **'I promised': Annaliese Holland's walk for best friend Lily Thai, who ended her life through voluntary assisted dying**

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/09/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas

Lily Thai's brave decision to voluntarily end her life became one of the most emotional stories of the year. Now a friend who was at her side to the end has one last promise to keep.

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### **Australia-first program to let pharmacists prescribe medications instead of a GP in rural areas**

ABC Online, Other, 15/09/2023, Laura Beavis

An Australian-first program will allow Tasmanian pharmacists to prescribe medications to people in remote areas and aged care homes. [...] The AMA Tasmanian president, GP John Saul, says local GPs and pharmacists already worked closely together.

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## **Plan for pharmacists to prescribe under GP direction 'could be very positive': state AMA**

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/09/2023, Antony Scholefield

Autonomous pharmacist prescribing for UTIs is still too risky, says GP Dr John Saul. The Tasmanian Government will let GPs delegate aged care prescribing to pharmacists as part of a trial that has cautious support from the state AMA.

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## **The pinky promise to Lily Thai behind Annaliese Holland's City to Bay walk**

7news.com.au, Other, 15/09/2023, Hayley Taylor

The two women, who were the same age, had the same illness and had undergone similar surgeries, formed a beautiful bond'. A young South Australian woman with a terminal illness is set to honour the legacy of her friend, who ended her life through voluntary assisted dying earlier this year.

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## **The search for security**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023, Bart Pharm

The continuing digitisation of most aspects of pharmacy is leading to exponential growth in the risk of cyber attacks and data breaches. What can pharmacies do?

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## **Overcoming the language barrier**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023, Chris Brooker

Community pharmacies need to do more to break down barriers for linguistically and culturally diverse patients, say academics Communication remains the greatest challenge for patients from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in community pharmacies, a greater challenge than pharmacy staff perhaps realize, say Australian academics.

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## **Limited uptake of 60-day scripts**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023

Data from more than 4000 community pharmacies across Australia shows that over the first 13 days of the controversial 60-day dispensing policy, just 9.77% of scripts for eligible medications were for two packs of the products.

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## **Prescribing trial to boost healthcare access**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023

Pharmacists are set to be authorised to prescribe medications for aged care residents and patients in rural and remote parts of Tasmania, as part of a pilot. Announcing the new trial, Guy Barnett, the Tasmanian minister for health, said the move

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## **Mortality rates high despite hepatitis C cure**

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023, Melanie Hinze

The results of a new study highlight the need for continued support and follow up of patients after successful treatment for hepatitis C to maximise the impact of direct-acting antivirals. The population-based cohort study, published in the BMJ, involved 21,790 participants from Canada, Scotland and

England, who were successfully treated for hepatitis C in the era of interferon-free antivirals (2014 to 2019).

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## Should older patients take aspirin for primary prevention?

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023

Low-dose aspirin shows no benefit for stroke prevention, even ischaemic events, in healthy patients over age 70 years. There was a time when enthusiasm existed for aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke, with the 1989 Physicians' Health Study showing a benefit, even at the cost of some haemorrhagic strokes.

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## Updated asthma charts

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023

The National Asthma Council Australia has updated its Asthma & COPD Medications' and Selecting & Adjusting Medication for Adults & Adolescents' charts. The Asthma & COPD Medications' chart now includes the latest inhalers available in Australia and specifies the PBS reimbursement status of each medication.

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## Tas scope is set to grow

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/09/2023

Tasmanian Health Minister Guy Barnett announced yesterday that pharmacists in the state will soon be able to prescribe medicines for aged care patients, under a new pilot program, following the release of recommendations from the Review of Tasmanian Pharmacists' Scope of Practice, which have been accepted by the state gov't in full.

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## Many migrants wait hours after a heart attack to seek help. Here's what needs to change

SBS, Other, 15/09/2023, Philip Dalinjong and Hannah Wechkunanukul

Your chest tightens, like an elephant is sitting on it. Pain streaks down your arm and you break out in a cold sweat. You feel light-headed and you're pretty sure you're having a heart attack. So when do you call an ambulance?

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Brisbane, Breakfast, 15/09/2023, Craig Zonca and Loretta Ryan

Interview with Dr Bruce Willett, Royal Australian College of GPs. Willett discusses payroll tax for GPs. Zonca notes Queensland's Treasurer says payroll tax for GPs will be cleared up. Willett says it is a great change for GPs, but more importantly, for patients.

[Play Now](#)

## ABC Radio Canberra, Breakfast, 15/09/2023, Adam Shirley

Interview with Dr Kerrie Aust, President-Elect, Australian Medical Association ACT. Aust discusses the ACT GP Policy Forum last night. She notes last night, she was grateful because they had the Health Minister, senior health staff, as well as the Deputy Undersecretary for Treasury and the Revenue Commissioner in the room. She notes the Health Minister has said yes, they're open to having a collaborative data collection so that they can understand the impact of payroll tax on what kind of data.

[Play Now](#)

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## Does the nation need a dedicated minister for men?

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/09/2023, Jenna Clarke, Page 18

Rates of domestic and family violence are not dissipating, suicide rates among men are increasing and misogynist influencer Andrew Tate happened. Whichever way you want to carve it, blokes are not having a good time of it. Men, young men especially, appear to be moving through life with social, moral and emotional Google Maps powered by patchy 3G to help navigate this ever-changing society we're all trying live in.

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

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

## Alarm at military facility's disrepair

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/09/2023, Matthew Knott, Page 14

Facilities at one of the nation's most secretive and important military stations are in a disturbing state of disrepair and need urgent upgrades, a bipartisan parliamentary committee has warned. Concerns about Western Australia's Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt are central to a report that also warns that Defence veterans are at greater risk of suicide as a result of the focus on alleged war crimes in Afghanistan.

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

## Danger street

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/09/2023, Bianca Hall, Page 27

Days after a car crashed into pedestrians and killed a driver on Bourke Street, half-a-dozen limp bouquets lay at the base of a tree. Above, a street poet had taped a piece of lined paper, entitled A Poem for the People. "How can we feel safe/when this has happened again?" it asked. "How can we feel safe/if a snap is all it takes ...?"

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

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

## New mental health services coming to Gladstone in 2024

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/09/2023, Dacia Stewart

Free mental health care and support is coming to Gladstone. Head to Health' is a Queensland Government initiative to connect people with mental healthcare services without the need for a GP referral or prior appointment.

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

[Read More](#)

## Care to QPR: How suicidal distress can show in men

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 15/09/2023, Natalie Croxon

For Mark Ellis, talking about suicide is a regular part of life. Mr Ellis, 56, first experienced suicidal thoughts at about the age of eight and now works in suicide prevention for Roses in the Ocean, the national organisation for lived experience of suicide.

[Read More](#)

## Talk2MeBro's mental health mission to find the happy place

Illawarra Mercury, Other, 15/09/2023, Nadine Morton

It doesn't matter if it's singing out loud as you drive, plunging into an ice bath, a good book or catching up with mates, but finding your happy place is vital. If you've ever looked around and thought you were the only one struggling, you'd be wrong.

[Read More](#)

## This Canadian man could be connected to more than 100 deaths — and his alleged poison business has links to Australia

ABC Online, Other, 15/09/2023, Barbara Miller and Emilie Gramenz

A Canadian man charged over the suicides of 14 people is now being linked to dozens more deaths, with authorities in Australia and New Zealand drawn into investigations spanning multiple countries. Interpol has alerted Australian police that packages sold by Kenneth Law containing a lethal substance have been sent to Australia, prompting them to check on the welfare of recipients.

[Read More](#)

## Doctors alarmed by 'rushed' state laws to end restraints in mental health

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/09/2023, Antony Scholefield

Preferably, an 'authorised psychiatrist' must approve the use of restraints under the legislation. The Victorian Government has enshrined a plan to eliminate physical and chemical restraints in mental health care within 10 years, but doctors warn the legislation has been rushed.

[Read More](#)

## Wave goodbye to winter. Say hello to above average warmth with a side of climate anxiety

SBS, Other, 15/09/2023, Ewa Staszewska

Australians are getting out their shorts and preparing for a sunny weekend, but for many the warmer weather boosts feelings of "powerlessness" and climate anxiety. Unusually warm temperatures are expected this weekend nationwide but for Australians "very worried" about climate change another feeling surfaces; climate anxiety.

[Read More](#)

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### ABC Radio Hobart, Drive, 15/09/2023, Lucy Breaden

Interview with Emily Shepherd, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. Shepherd discusses the stop work meeting this afternoon at Calvary Hospital, in relation to negotiations over an enterprise agreement. She says Calvary Healthcare walked away from the table, saying they cannot move any further in terms of putting a mandated minimum staffing level or a workload model on the table.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Making a world of difference

Hobart Mercury, Weekend, 16/09/2023, Linda Smith, Page 1

Working in health care in Tasmania can be demanding enough, but two Hobart medical professionals Craig and Sue Quarmby have taken their skills overseas to make even more of a difference. And it's not just those in the developing countries who are getting something out of this experience.

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

### Miracles amid the tragedies

Kalgoorlie Miner, General News, 16/09/2023, Tegan Guthrie, Page 12

Working in a field that sees miracles, tragedies and everything in between is both emotionally difficult and rewarding, the head of Kalgoorlie Health Campus says. Alicia Michalanney began working at the campus in 2005 and has slowly worked her way up to the role of director a position she says she never pursued, but loves.

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

## Registrars to miss out on \$30k?

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 9

GP registrars who joined the training program in Victoria have been left fuming after learning they may miss out on an election promise of \$30,000 top-up payments. Ahead of the state election last year, Premier Dan Andrews unveiled his \$32 million program "to incentivise doctors to become GPs" through cash payments to enrol in the specialty's training program.

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

## Dr Gaby Bolton versus hospital bosses

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 34

Australian Doctor: Generations of junior doctors have felt exploited by the public hospital system in terms of the excessive work demands made on them. How did you feel when the judgement was handed down?

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

## 'You called an ambulance for a blocked nose?': Inside the life of a paramedic

The Australian, Other, 15/09/2023, Tim Booth

A blocked nose? You called an ambulance for a blocked nose!" It's my first night as a paramedic trainee and, as I am soon to learn, around 90 per cent of our "emergency call-outs" will in fact be deemed non-emergencies.

[Read More](#)

## Stood-down child psychiatrist Dr Jillian Spencer still employed by Children's Health Queensland

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/09/2023, Stephanie Bennett

A senior child psychiatrist who was stood down from clinical duties following complaints about her treatment of children with gender dysphoria remains employed by Children's Health Queensland, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has confirmed. Dr Jillian Spencer, a specialist at the Queensland Children's Hospital, was stood down from clinical duties in April.

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

[Read More](#)

## 'A teacher said I'd be a streetsweeper if I was lucky — now I'm an RACGP fellow'

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

Dr Justin Hunter says the Indigenous GP Registrar Network gave him vital support on his road to fellowship. Everybody wants a piece of Dr Justin Hunter.

[Read More](#)

## Should RANZCOG drop 'Royal' from its name?

Australian Doctor, Other, 15/09/2023, Antony Scholefield

The prefix was 'emblematic' of Australia's and New Zealand's colonial history, argue Professor James Nicklin and Dr Greg Robertson. Obstetricians and gynaecologists are the latest specialties to confront a debate on whether being a fellow of a royal' college is outdated and offensive.

[Read More](#)

## Pharmacy Guild awards three Indigenous scholarships

National Indigenous Times, Other, 15/09/2023

In a bid to help increase the number of Indigenous pharmacy students, three students have been granted scholarships as part of the Symbion and Pharmacy Guild Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Student Scholarship Initiative. The scholarship is a part of the broader Reconciliation Action Plans endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, led by both Symbion, a national wholesaler of healthcare services and products and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

## Epic's pay deal backed by PPA in Qld

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/09/2023

Union members have been successful in negotiating an average 13.8% pay rise over three years for pharmacy staff employed by Epic Pharmacy Services in Qld, with some staff set to receive a pay increase of over 20% in the first year alone. The union representing pharmacists and technicians, Professional Pharmacists Australia's (PPA) National Board Vice President, Bianca Piljic, who works at Epic Pharmacy Services, took part in the fight to improve pay and conditions for pharmacists and technicians for the group since 2017.

[Read More](#)

## Regions benefit with budget boosts to health, education

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 15/09/2023

Multiple regional schools will be built and existing campuses upgraded under a billion-dollar investment to be allocated in the upcoming NSW budget. The Minns Labor government will deliver its first budget on Tuesday, promising to rebuild essential services while battling growing state debt.

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

[Read More](#)

## ABC News, News Breakfast, 15/09/2023, Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar

Interview with Dr Steve Robson, President, AMA. Rowland says the Australian Medical Association is holding a rural medical training summit in Canberra today, in response to crippling rural workforce shortages and a lack of specialist training opportunities throughout regional Australia.

[Play Now](#)

## 2CC, Breakfast, 15/09/2023, Stephen Cenatiempo

Interview with Kylie Ward, CEO, Australian College of Nursing. Cenatiempo notes the Australian College of Nursing is calling for action to address all incidences of nurses and violence. Ward says nurses are the largest clinical profession, and they experience violence in their workplaces, at home, and the people they care for.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### GP repays \$360k in rebates

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Rachel Carter, Page 8

A GP has repaid \$360,000 in Medicare claims for acupuncture after a review found he had treated up to nine patients at the same time. The Professional Services Review (PSR) said the doctor was in the top 1% of doctor claimants for items 193, 197 and 199.

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## Chiro took off patient briefs

Daily Telegraph, General News, 16/09/2023, Annie Lewis, Page 25

A chiropractor has been found guilty of breaching professional standards after a patient complained he had removed her underwear and made inappropriate comments. The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal found Anit Singh guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct following a hearing earlier this year.

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

## Impasse on gender

Courier Mail, General News, 16/09/2023, Stephanie Bennett, Page 25

A senior child psychiatrist who was stood down from clinical duties following a complaint about her treatment of children with gender dysphoria remains employed by Children's Health Queensland, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has confirmed. Dr Jillian Spencer, a specialist at the Queensland Children's Hospital, was stood down from clinical duties in April.

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

## Laughter followed GP abuse

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 16/09/2023, Jessica Paul, Page 4

A successful doctor and father of three who sexually abused a 15-year-old patient on the Gold Coast laughed as his victim left the room, a court has been told. Dr Matthew Thomas Kelly, 48, pleaded guilty in Southport Magistrates Court to one count of indecent treatment of a child under 16. [...] Kelly must notify the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency of the outcome of his case.

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

## Uninsured GP blames wife

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Heather Saxena, Page 2

A GP who practised without indemnity insurance for two decades has been reprimanded after a tribunal rejected his claim that his wife had misinformed him about premium payments. However, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal said a suspension was unnecessary as the 68-year-old was unlikely to repeat the mistake.

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

## 'I did what they said but they still reported me to AHPRA'

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Sarah Simpkins, Page 6

"I would almost forget about the investigation. And then another email would come through, my blood pressure would drop to the floor and I would freeze, with the horrible gut-sinking realisation that, yes, this is still going on." Dr Nick Carr is talking about the emails he received from AHPRA updating him on its investigation into his paperwork bungle.

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## Doctor Brian Lewis Neale's registration cancelled for professional misconduct at Taree

Gold Coast Bulletin, Other, 15/09/2023, Janine Watson

A Mid-North Coast doctor called his young patient and offered to pay her for sex - saying some younger girls find older men attractive' - and claimed it was role play therapy. Janine Watson The Mid-North Coast News A doctor who called his young female patient and offered her money for sex - saying words to the effect of some younger girls find older men attractive' - has had his registration cancelled for professional misconduct.

[Read More](#)

## Man sues hospital for \$1bn claiming trauma over watching wife give birth

A man in Australia has sued a hospital for \$1 billion for letting him watch his wife's caesarean section. Anil Koppula says that seeing his wife's C-section in January 2018 triggered a "psychotic illness" that was responsible for the "breakdown of his marriage".

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### World Marrow Donor Day

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023

World Marrow Donor Day is September 16, at any one time there are around 1,000 Australians urgently waiting to receive the perfect living donor match as part of their life saving treatment. With Australia's donor pool not meeting local patient needs, the Leukaemia Foundation and Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) are joining forces to urge Aussies to do one simple action sign up to become a bone marrow donor today.

[Read More](#)

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## SPORT

### Indigenous stars launch racism class action

AFR Weekend, General News, 16/09/2023, Patrick Durkin, Page 3

A group of Indigenous Australian Rules football players, led by 1980s legend Phil Krakouer, launched a landmark class action against the AFL on Friday, claiming the game failed to protect players from vile racial abuse on the field that...

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

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

### AFL faces class action for 'failing to stop vile racial abuse'

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/09/2023, Jessica Halloran, Page 6

A group of Indigenous footballers, led by former North Melbourne star Phil Krakouer, has launched a landmark class action against the AFL, which they say failed to stop "vile racial abuse" that resulted in "life-altering damage". Seven former players say they suffered racial abuse that included "repugnant physical acts such as spitting and violence" during their playing career.

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### AFL handpasses a grenade

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/09/2023, Matthew Denholm, Page 23

Tasmania's snaffling of an AFL team was meant to be a glorious moment of statewide unity, a joyous affirmation of the island's place in national sporting life after a decades-long struggle. Instead, the deal finally granting the state the Australian Football League's 19th licence is pitting Tasmanian against Tasmanian, and threatens to topple the nation's last Liberal government.

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

### Upheaval of Paralympic proportions

Weekend Australian, Business News, 16/09/2023, Yoni Bashan, Page 25

Hard to overstate the upheaval that's engulfed Paralympics Australia this week after Jock O'Callaghan was summarily dumped as president. His successor is Alison Creagh, a former Australian Army brigadier who duly served as a loyal deputy to O'Callaghan until the final moments of this bloodless coup.

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## Freeman takes a stand as state's first lady

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/09/2023, Sarah Keoghan, Page 16

Australian sporting legend Cathy Freeman will be honoured by having the eastern grandstand of Accor Stadium named after her, in what the government says will be the state's first to be named after a woman. The move comes after a nomination process from the NSW government which invited the public to choose a female athlete they believed deserved the honour.

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

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

## Matildas have changed TV landscape for World Cups

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 16/09/2023, Thomas Mitchell, Page 22

The success of the Matildas at the Women's World Cup has prompted the federal government to update the antisiphoning list, meaning future women's world cup matches could be available on free-to-air. After the Matildas historic run to a fourth-place finish, during which their matches shattered free-to-air viewing records, federal Communications Minister Michelle Rowland has announced the government has tweaked a list of protected major broadcast events to include all Australian matches of football world cups.

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

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

## Krakouer in racism class action against AFL

The Saturday Age, General News, 16/09/2023, Jon Pierik, Page 3

North Melbourne great Phil Krakouer is among a group of six Indigenous former footballers who have launched a class action against the AFL for alleged racist abuse during their playing days. In documents lodged in the Supreme Court yesterday, the players, all now retired but employed between 1975 and 2022, accuse the AFL of failing to stop, and protect them from, racial taunts, which they claim led to life-altering damage.

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

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## Footy racism claim

Herald Sun, General News, 16/09/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 1

Former North Melbourne and Footscray player Phil Krakouer will be the lead plaintiff in a landmark class action that will allege endemic historic racial mistreatment of former AFL and VFL players. Documents filed in the Victorian Supreme Court on Friday allege the AFL failed to protect former players from vile racial abuse.

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

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## Games inquiry's 'factual errors'

Courier Mail, General News, 16/09/2023, James Hall, Page 18

The Palaszczuk government will forge ahead with plans to splash \$2.7bn to redevelop the Gabba despite a Senate inquiry recommending the decision be "urgently reviewed". An interim report examining preparations for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games suggested the organising authority consider other sites and venues.

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

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## Krakouer bombshell AFL racism lawsuit

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 16/09/2023, Jackson Barrett, Page 3

West Australian football legend Phil Krakouer is at the head of a landmark class action against the

AFL, claiming the sport did not do enough to prevent racial abuse that caused significant damage. Margalit Injury Lawyers have launched the suit on behalf of a group of Indigenous and players from multicultural backgrounds, with documents lodged in Victoria's Supreme Court on Friday.

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

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## Launch of girls-only futsal competition

Ballarat Courier, General News, 16/09/2023, Melanie Whelan, Page 7

The Matildas' unprecedented FIFA Women's World Cup run continues to prove a winner with girls' participation in the game booming. Futsal Ballarat is launching its highly-anticipated girls' only competition for the fast-paced indoor variant of soccer.

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## New comp to make local history

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/09/2023, Riley Krause, Page 3

Ashlee Moon knows what it's like to be surrounded by cricketers. Her husband Tristan skippered Centrals' second grade team during the 2022/23 season, her eldest son plays and she grew up alongside five brothers.

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

## All the scientific evidence screams: helmets do not stop brain trauma Alan Pearce

The Australian, Other, 15/09/2023, Alan Pearce

As a concussion researcher I get lots of messages on how I can do my science job better. The majority of those messages are why I don't understand that concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) would be solved if players, especially kids, all wore helmets.

[Read More](#)

## A grandstand at Sydney's Olympic stadium will be named the Cathy Freeman stand

The Australian, Other, 15/09/2023

Nearly a quarter of a century after Cathy Freeman produced one of the most iconic moments in Australian sport the Olympic champion has been recognised with a major grandstand to be named in her honour at the stadium where she won gold. The NSW government on Friday announced the eastern grandstand at Accor Stadium in Sydney Olympic Park would be officially called the Cathy Freeman Stand.

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

[Read More](#)

## Wear neck guards or cop a fine, top Australian players told

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/09/2023, Daniel Brettig

Australian cricketers may face fines of \$5000 or more during the World Cup and the home international season if they fail to comply with a new Cricket Australia mandate enforcing the use of neck guards on their helmets. Nearly a decade after the traumatic death of Phillip Hughes at the SCG, recommendations for the use of stem guards to protect the neck at the back and sides of the helmet have been upgraded to a formal instruction, with penalties for non-compliance.

[Read More](#)

## Qld rejects plans to review Gabba as Olympic host site

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 15/09/2023, Robyn Wuth

Queensland has rejected calls to review plans to stage the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games at the Gabba, insisting the revamped stadium will host the event after a \$2.7 billion makeover. A Senate committee urged the Palaszczuk government to reconsider making the Gabba the home venue before work gets under way on the stadium rebuild.

[Read More](#)

## Tasmanian government doubles Junior sport travel scheme's budget to \$100,000

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 15/09/2023, Blair Richards

The state government is again offering \$250 grants to young athletes travelling interstate to represent Tasmania in sport. Under the latest round of the Junior Travel Assistance Program, the grants will be provided to athletes aged 12 to 18 to assist with their travel costs to interstate events.

[Read More](#)

## Cathy Freeman's iconic Olympics win recognised in Sydney

SBS, Other, 15/09/2023

The stadium at Sydney Olympic Park got a Cathy Freeman Stand in honour of the Indigenous athlete, whose gold medal race there stopped the nation. Cathy Freeman's name will be emblazoned on the stadium where she completed one of Australia's greatest sporting moments.

[Read More](#)

## Australia announces talented Track & Field squad for 2023 Pacific Games

SBS, Other, 15/09/2023

Athletics Australia have announced a squad of 28 athletes who will compete in Track and Field and Judo events at the 2023 Pacific Games, in a statement issued on Thursday (AEST). The 28 athletes named across a range of disciplines include a breadth of experience, with some having competed at the Olympics and others who will make their multisport event debut at the Pacific Games in November.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### It's just another tool, and we need to decide

Weekend Australian, General News, 16/09/2023, Helen Trinca, Page 37

Mary Mesaglio, managing vice president at Gartner, was in Australia this week for the Mfirm's IT symposium/Xpo. She leads Gartner's executive leadership dynamics team and is focused on helping enterprises to transform, innovate and change their culture.

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### You have to move it, move it: sedentary lifestyle linked to dementia

HelloCare, Other, 15/09/2023, Bianca Iovino

How many hours a day do you sit? Well, new research has suggested there is a strong link between prolonged periods of inactivity and dementia.

[Read More](#)

### Memphasys brings Indian baby dreams alive with Felix

West Australian, Other, 15/09/2023, Doug Bright

Just when all looked lost for a group of parent hopefuls in India, a groundbreaking piece of Australian medical technology developed by Memphasys has turned their dreams of the pitter-patter of tiny feet into reality. It has been revealed today in a heartwarming development, that after the Sydney-based company's reproductive biotechnology Felix system led to a baby boy being born in a hospital in India in April, another 10 families have now welcomed healthy little ones into the world.

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### This birthing program is First Nations led. It's helping mums and bubs thrive

SBS, Other, 15/09/2023

The Birthing in Our Community program promotes self-determination and provides culturally safe maternal health and infant health services. When Natalie Page went into labour suddenly with her first baby she was frightened.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Festivals back testing after MDMA deaths

Canberra Times, General News, 16/09/2023, Millie Costigan, Page 25

Major festivals have expressed support for pill testing over the summer. Meredith music festival, which takes place every December in Victoria with more than 12,000 festival-goers, said if drug checks were made legal in Victoria they would work to introduce safe and accessible services for guests.

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

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### Bat virus SOS

Courier Mail, General News, 16/09/2023, Madura McCormack , Page 1

Queensland is urgently sending vials of a homegrown experimental Hendra virus treatment to India to aid its battle against a deadly outbreak of a bat-borne illness that has forced authorities to restrict public movement. Authorities in the southern Indian state of Kerala have been forced to shut some schools, offices, and public transport amid an outbreak of the rare and deadly Nipah virus.

Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

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### Qld records big flu cases spike

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 16/09/2023, Amaani Siddeek, Page 21

Doctors are urging Gold Coasters to get vaccinated amid an unprecedented spike of Influenza B cases with thousands across the state stricken with the virus. Queensland Health recorded 4912 confirmed cases of Influenza B last month compared to just 27 cases in August last year.

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### Japanese encephalitis

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Page 32

Japanese encephalitis has been in the news since early 2021 when cases of the disease, previously only seen in returned travellers or in people living in the Torres Strait, started appearing in other parts of Australia including the southern states.<sup>1</sup> Since January 2021 there have been 45 human cases notified of which 36 were confirmed with definitive laboratory evidence. These cases resulted in seven deaths, two in NSW, two in SA, and one each in Victoria, Queensland and the NT.

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### China to manage mpox as disease on par with COVID-19 after recording 501 cases in August

ABC Online, Other, 15/09/2023

China plans to manage mpox formerly known as monkeypox in the same way it handles infectious diseases such as COVID-19 after detecting around 500 cases of the viral infection in August.

[Read More](#)

## Explained: How to avoid the deadly legionnaires disease

NEWS.com.au, Other, 15/09/2023, Duncan Evans and Eli Green

Health authorities are issuing a health warning to Sydney residents following an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the CBD. Five people have been admitted to hospital with the bacterial infection.

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

[Read More](#)

## France orders Apple to pull iPhone 12s from market - but Australian regulators not concerned

SBS, Other, 15/09/2023, Ciara Hain

French regulators say their testing shows the iPhone 12 emits levels of electromagnetic radiation which are too high. Australia's regulator says it's looking into France's decision, but sees no evidence the phone is non-compliant with Australia's standards.

[Read More](#)

## Deadly dangers hidden in your garden

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 15/09/2023

As green thumb Aussies get back to the garden for the warm Spring weather, health experts are raising red flags that some simple garden products can be deadly if handled without care. NSW Health warned this week legionnaires disease, in which legionella bacteria enters the lungs with potentially fatal consequences, remains a threat to gardeners.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### TGA secures alternatives for children on liquid morphine

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse, Page 3

The TGA has secured three alternative oral liquid morphine products to compensate for the dwindling supply of Ordine, which is expected to run dry early next year. Ordine the only registered brand of liquid morphine in Australia will be withdrawn from sale starting in November because the sponsor, Mundipharma, says its local manufacturer will stop production and finding another is "not commercially viable". [...] Distribution of the analgesic will stop from the end of January, and all remaining supplies are expected to be depleted by March, the TGA say.

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### PBAC crackdown criticised

Australian Doctor, General News, 15/09/2023, Kemal Atlay, Page 9

A looming PBS crackdown on GLP-1 receptor agonists is inconsistent with type 2 diabetes management guidelines and will force doctors to prescribe less efficacious drugs, says a leading endocrinologist. [...] but to link [prescribing of] the two is not consistent with TGA approvals and not consistent with any guidelines," said the head of diabetes clinical research at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne.

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### Support for new S3 listing

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023, Chris Brooker

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and other peak health stakeholder groups have supported a decision to create a new Schedule 3 category for the NSAID celecoxib. The March 2023 meeting of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling

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## PBS funding for vigabatrin substitution

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023

An amendment to the National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) (Pharmacist Substitution of Medicines without Prescription during Shortages) Determination 2021 to enable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidies for the supply of different forms of vigabatrin under an SSSI. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced This content is restricted to registered users only.

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## Phenylephrine not effective

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 15/09/2023, Megan Haggan

The US FDA has met over the issue of phenylephrine, concluding it's not effective but what's happening in Australia? The US Food and Drug Administration has met to discuss the effectiveness of oral phenylephrine as an active ingredient in over-the-counter cough and cold products.

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## Correction

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023

The article Preventing diabetic kidney disease progression: an update' by Jean C. Lu, Elif Ekinci, David O'Neal and Richard J. MacIsaac, which was published in the August 2023 Focus on Cardiometabolic Matters supplement in Medicine Today (pages 15 to 21), contains errors. [...] Empagliflozin is stated as not yet being TGA approved.

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## Warning on turmeric- or curcumin-containing products

Medicine Today, Other, 15/09/2023

The TGA has advised that medications and herbal supplements containing Curcuma longa (turmeric), Curcuma aromatica, Curcuma zanthorrhiza, Curcuma zedoaria and/or curcumin may cause liver injury in some individuals. [...] The TGA is urging GPs to consider if a complementary medicine could be involved when treating patients who present with symptoms of liver injury, and to advise patients with existing or previous liver pathologies to avoid these products.

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## Shortage of ADHD drug 'distressing' for parents, kids

Newcastle Herald, General News, 16/09/2023, Sage Swinton, Page 22

A Newcastle mum has described the shortage of a low-dose ADHD drug which helps kids focus in school as a "distressing" situation. A shortage of the medication Vyvanse is listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website in the 30mg dosage, which is a common medication for school-aged children with ADHD.

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

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## Gardasil's new indication approved

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 15/09/2023

CSL Seqirus' Gardasil 9 (human papillomavirus 9-valent vaccine, Recombinant) has now been approved by the TGA for use in males aged nine to 45 years, for the prevention of anal cancer, pre-cancerous or dysplastic lesions, external genital lesions and infections caused by nine HPV types.

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## Medicinal cannabis lands Caitlin Mackellar in Toowoomba court for drug driving

The Courier Mail, Other, 15/09/2023, Peta McEachern

A former cancer patient who was prescribed medicinal cannabis for pain management has lost her licence for half a year for driving with the drug in her system. In Queensland, it is illegal for road users to drive with any trace of THC, despite the Queensland government passing the Medicinal Cannabis Act in 2013, allowing the drug to be prescribed by medical professionals.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### ABC Radio Melbourne, Breakfast, 15/09/2023, Charlie Pickering

Interview with Julian Cox, Scientific director, Food Safety Information Council. Cox discusses the risk of consuming raw meat. He notes as a member of the Food Safety Information Council, they appreciate just how risky raw meat dishes can be or even undercooked dishes can be.

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## AICIS

### Chunk of funds from PFAS settlement for lawyers, backers

Border Mail, General News, 16/09/2023, Miklos Bolza, Page 19

Wodonga and Bandiana landowners seeking compensation over toxic firefighting foam contaminating their properties will have to forfeit more than \$50 million from a multimillion-dollar class action settlement. [...] The foam contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS.

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