



TODAY'S NEWS

Sunday, 17th September 2023

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Sun Herald \(page 1\)](#)** reports that the NSW government has allocated \$3.6 billion over the next four years for the Essential Services Fund, which will help to recruit more staff and provide long-term pay rises for nurses, paramedics, teachers, prison officers, police and childcare workers.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 1\)](#)** reports that industry chiefs are warning that critical upgrades to ease congestion on South East Queensland roads are required before the city hosts the 2032 Olympics.
- **[The Sunday Tasmanian \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a delegation from the Tasmanian Department of Health is in the UK this week in an effort to recruit healthcare workers to the state to address the workforce shortage.
- **[The Sunday Mail Brisbane \(page 4\)](#)** reports that only two of the 11 urgent care clinics promised to Queensland are currently in operation, with just one of those open for the 14 hours a day committed to during the election campaign. Health Minister Mark Butler said "They [the clinics] are taking pressure off their local hospitals and ensuring patients get the urgent care they need when and where they need it."

MINISTER BUTLER

Anxiety meds turn people into addicts

Sun Herald, General News, 17/09/2023, Amber Schultz, Page 18

Common anti-anxiety drugs such as Valium and Xanax are being prescribed for dangerous lengths of time, experts have warned, resulting in people developing addictions. [...] A spokesperson for Health Minister Mark Butler referred questions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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

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Patients to get results sooner

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 17/09/2023, James Campbell, Page 19

The time patients wait to get results of bloods and scans will be slashed, with the government to force pathology labs and imaging services to upload data to My Health Record. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said the change was part of the response to the government's Strengthening Medicare Taskforce Report, which has seen \$429m budgeted to upgrade the system.

Also reported by: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Sunday Tasmanian \(Hobart\)](#).

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Health clinics time out

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 17/09/2023, Matthew Killoran, Page 4

Queensland has just two of the 11 urgent care clinics promised by the federal government and just one is open for the 14 hours a day committed to during the election campaign. [...] Opposition health spokeswoman Anne Ruston said the government had failed to deliver its promise, but Health Minister Mark Butler said the clinics were making a big difference in Queensland.

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

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Qld children as young as 10 are vape addicts

Adelaide Now, Other, 16/09/2023, Matty Holdsworth

With revelations children as young as 10 are becoming addicts and students brazenly vaping in the middle of classes, schools are being urged to identify and support those dependent on nicotine. cigarettes and vapes. Health Minister Mark Butler says the government is trying to tackle the issue as the tobacco industry continues to evolve and find ways around Australian law, including the plain packaging legislation.

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Families fight for further research on incurable kids' brain cancer

9Now Nine, Other, 16/09/2023

Imagine taking a sick child to hospital and being told the best thing you can do is go home and make memories. [...] Families have joined forces with cancer research Professor Matt Dun to take their case to the top - Health Minister Mark Butler.

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

Merimbula News, Other, 16/09/2023, Justine Landis-Hanley

When mother-of-two Lynda Bain found a lump in her right breast last year she went straight to her GP, who referred her for an ultrasound and a mammogram. [...] But current federal Health Minister Mark

Butler has slammed the Coalition government health and hospitals program, adding just half of the promised \$2 billion has actually been spent on delivering these projects. [...] Only two proposals were assessed by the Health Department to be "highly suitable", even though the plan stated only "highly suitable" proposals should be shortlisted.

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MINISTER WELLS

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DEPARTMENT

End to Covid-19 rules and confusion

Sunday Telegraph, Escape, 17/09/2023, Page 12

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: [Sunday Mail Adelaide \(Adelaide\)](#), [Sunday Mail Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#), [Sunday Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#).

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Comedy meets camaraderie in military satire

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 17/09/2023, Georgia Clelland, Page 50

Australia gears up for the release of Stan's new comedy C*A*U*G*H*T this Amonth, Brisbane's Ben O'Toole has offered an exclusive look into the making of this satirical rollercoaster. [...] While influencers are no strangers to backlashes and controversies, the crux of the issue surfaced when juxtaposed against the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care's recommendation.

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

When mother-of-two Lynda Bain found a lump in her right breast last year she went straight to her GP, who referred her for an ultrasound and a mammogram. [...] But current federal Health Minister Mark Butler has slammed the Coalition government health and hospitals program, adding just half of the promised \$2 billion has actually been spent on delivering these projects. [...] Only two proposals were assessed by the Health Department to be "highly suitable", even though the plan stated only "highly suitable" proposals should be shortlisted.

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CORONAVIRUS

Data reveals drop in Covid

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 17/09/2023, Sue Bailey, Page 13

The COVID and respiratory infection risk level in Tasmania has been changed from moderate to low, but Public Health warns people should still take measures to protect themselves. The change comes after continuing low numbers of Covid cases and declining numbers of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases across the community.

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

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Insulted, ignored, invisible: the rampant "ism" affecting our senior generation

The Senior, Other, 16/09/2023, Eileen Wood

Imagine if someone described you as "mutton dressed as lamb" because you were wearing a stylish dress from a clothing label popular with a younger set. This frequently happens to 70-year-old Gwenda Darling who likes to wear the bright and colourful Mister Zimi clothing range.

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POPULATION HEALTH

Child vape addicts targeted

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 17/09/2023, Matty Holdsworth, Page 13

Queensland children as young as 10 are vaping and even becoming addicted, prompting the state government to implement new guidelines to help schools identify and support students who are dependent on nicotine. Students predominantly in high schools are suffering from anxiety, agitation, mood swings and having difficulty concentrating. It's understood there are isolated issues among primary school students.

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

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Drew collapsed on the street and woke to nurses yelling. Help would still be years away

7news.com.au, Other, 16/09/2023, Hayley Taylor

Drew was walking to the gallery after a glass of wine at lunch when she collapsed on a bustling city

footpath. When she woke up in hospital hours later, nurses were yelling: "What did you take? What did you take?"

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

More than just a shake, and you can get it young

Sun Herald, General News, 17/09/2023, Angus Thomson, Page 28

Bill Soong had started to shuffle. At the gym the agile 71-year-old was holding on to the handlebars instead of running with ease. On a trip to New York he couldn't move his legs fast enough to board a train, leaving him stranded on the subway platform while his family waved to him from the departing train. His niece nicknamed him Uncle Slow Motion.

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

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Leukaemia cure test

Sunday Telegraph, General News, 17/09/2023, Page 27

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

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

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Finger on relapses

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 17/09/2023, Robyn Riley, Page 28

Thousands of Victorians are helping with the development of a simple finger-prick blood test set to revolutionise cancer monitoring worldwide. [...] The VCB is a partnership between Cancer Council Victoria and five major health precincts in Melbourne.

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Deadly cancer link grips family

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 17/09/2023, George Yankovich, Page 19

Bianca "Bee" Russell scattered the ashes of her mum, nan and aunt at Port Willunga jetty after losing all three to cancer over the past 15 years. [...] Having raised more than \$10,000 for the Cancer Council SA herself, she started a GoFundMe to cover the cost of driving two hours each way weekly to Flinders Medical Centre and then daily for radiotherapy.

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A 'rare opportunity'

Burnie Advocate, General News, 16/09/2023, Sandy Powell, Page 85

The playground at Anzac Park, Ulverstone has changed a bit since Alison Lai was a kid. [...] Ms Lai's tenure at the ATDC will end on September 30 and stepping up to become the chief executive of the Cancer Council Tasmania, which she said is an opportunity that does not present itself very often.

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Wagga's Jennifer Nixon urges residents to donate this World Marrow Donor Day

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 16/09/2023, Taylor Dodge

A 64-year-old Wagga woman battling a rare form of blood cancer has made it her mission to draw awareness around the importance of bone marrow donors. Jennifer Nixon was diagnosed with

Myelodysplasia, a rare form of blood cancer affecting only one in 500,000 people, on Christmas Eve in 2016.

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Australian women urged to be 'vigilant' of heart disease symptoms

NEWS.com.au, Other, 16/09/2023

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Professor Jason Kovacic urges women to be aware of the heart disease symptoms they experience differently from men. His comments come as cardiovascular disease remains the biggest killer of Australians.

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

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Ange is only 19, yet she's struggling to survive an 'older person's disease'

SBS, Other, 16/09/2023, Sandra Fulloon

In Australia, around 1.5 million people care for someone living with dementia – and there is no cure. Dementia also affects thousands of young people, creating a heavy burden for parents.

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PRIMARY CARE

Hospitals put drinks back on surgery menu

Sun Herald, General News, 17/09/2023, Mary Ward, Page 13

Two Sydney hospitals have become the first in Australia to relax rules for fasting before surgery, as growing evidence shows patients can safely drink water, juice and even black coffee while waiting for a procedure. Since July, patients having elective surgery at Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick and Sydney Eye Hospital have been allowed to drink "clear" liquids those without milk or pulp right up to going into the operating theatre.

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Man with autism faces years long wait for doctor

Sunday Mail Adelaide, General News, 17/09/2023, Evangeline Polymeneas, Page 24

Kydan Anderson, who has autism spectrum disorder, must wait years to see a specialist doctor, leaving him suffering with multiple ear infections a month and possible hearing loss. Not only that but Mr Anderson's mum, Natalie Anderson, said her son had been rejected from the Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital's psychiatric unit despite desperate referrals from his GP, leaving him without a stable and consistent psychiatrist.

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Australians could save money by shopping around for health insurance

The Courier Mail, Other, 16/09/2023, Madura McCormack and Shaye Windsor

Most Australians don't shop around for a better private health insurance deal despite being able to save hundreds of dollars by doing so, a new survey has found. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is among a number of medical bodies calling for the government to investigate health insurance companies over accumulated unspent cash.

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New video shows extent of The Alfred hospital's rodent problem

Cairns Post, Other, 16/09/2023, Shannon Deery

The Alfred's chief executive has blamed a shocking rodent plague on the ageing hospital's facilities and

nearly construction works. Alfred Health chief Andrew May told staff this week patients and staff should expect better.

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Iconic drug rehab centre makes 50 years but pressure mounts on the 'crumbling' building

ABC Online, Other, 16/09/2023, Eloise Farrow-Smith

Immortalised in Paul Kelly's iconic song To Her Door, this drug rehabilitation centre near Byron Bay has a rich and recognisable alumni. "He went to the Buttery He stayed about a year Then he wrote a letter He said, 'I wanna see ya'

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King Island life is paradise but it comes with trade-offs, particularly when it comes to healthcare

ABC Online, Other, 16/09/2023

Longtime King Island resident Robert Jordan recently returned from Melbourne, though it was not much fun. Trips to the dentist rarely are.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Rinsing out the workplace wellness myths

Sunday Times, Business News, 17/09/2023, Gary Martin, Page 37

If your employer offers free shoulder massages, yoga, meditation or fresh fruit baskets, it might seem like they are bending over backwards to show they care for your health. While these well-intentioned gestures are welcome additions and give the impression an organisation cares for its employees, they should represent only one part of a comprehensive employee health and wellbeing solution.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

\$3.6b fund for public sector pay increases

Sun Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 17/09/2023, Michael Koziol, Page 1

The NSW government will place \$3.6 billion over the next four years into a new fund to increase public sector wages, in the first clear assessment of what its decision to ditch the Coalition's wage cap is likely to cost the state's bottom line. Treasurer Daniel Mookhey said the Essential Services Fund would provide long-term pay rises for nurses, paramedics, teachers, prison officers, police and childcare workers and help recruit more staff in those vital frontline roles.

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Health hunts UK recruits

Sunday Tasmanian, General News, 17/09/2023, Page 1

A Department of Health delegation is in London this week trying to recruit health workers to Tasmania.

The delegation is attending the Healthcare Job Fair to promote Tasmania as an attractive place to live and work.

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

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Milestone for palliative pioneers

Newcastle Herald, Weekender, 16/09/2023, Mike Scanlon, Page 8

There are many community heroes in the Hunter Valley. Yet these regional heroes often go unrecognised, while their work is vital. For most of the time the public presumes, say, certain medical services have always existed, that they appeared out of nowhere when most needed.

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A cop meets his life-saving heroes

Sunraysia Daily, Other, 16/09/2023, Jack Evans

Having faced a 12 per cent chance of survival, police officer Ross Huxtable feels lucky to be alive after a suffering a "widowmaker" heart attack earlier this year. The Murrayville station commander was on shift in May when he started experiencing an intense pain in his chest and down his right arm which he described as "feeling like an elephant was sitting on my chest".

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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SPORT

Parents sign up kids in kindergarten to beat years-long basketball waiting lists

Sun Herald, General News, 17/09/2023, Mary Ward, Page 12

Over the past decade, the Hills Basketball Association has done everything it can to increase the

number of junior players it can include in its competitions in Sydney's growing north-west. In 2017, it built an extra two courts in its original Castle Hill stadium.

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Our Cup hosting hopes set for major sheikh-up

Sunday Telegraph, Sport, 17/09/2023, Page 42

Australia's dream of hosting its first FIFA Men's World Cup may get an unexpected boost if, as reported last week by The Sunday Telegraph, Saudi Arabian football becomes embroiled in a messy legal row. Australia, along with New Zealand, hosted the record-breaking historic FIFA Women's World Cup in July and August, and FIFA's top executives left with an overwhelmingly positive impression of the facilities and sports-loving fans.

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Locked in a battle of the bottleneck

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 17/09/2023, Taylah Fellows, Page 1

The congestion chokehold on South East Queensland roads is causing more crashes and delays than ever as industry chiefs warn upgrades are critical before the 2032 Olympics. Afternoon peak hour has expanded to six hours, from 2-8pm, with predictions that congestion will rise at least another 20 per cent and truck movements by 40 per cent in the lead-up to 2032.

Similar coverage reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Please don't ban kids from sport

Sunday Territorian, General News, 17/09/2023, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 14

No, you didn't hit your noggin in your bleary eyed attempt to pour your bowl of cornflakes; we really have been told that we're looking down the barrel of a "generation of brain-damaged kids". And it's not through allowing them to incessantly scroll on their devices we're putting them in harm's way by having them run out on to a sports grounds with their mates.

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Battered clubs eye higher ground

Central Western Daily, General News, 16/09/2023, Emily Gobourg, Page 2

Molong's flood-torn hockey fields, tennis courts and lawn bowls sites are all seeking new homes, potentially at a golf course on higher ground. Two-kilometres east of the Mitchell Highway is the Molong Showground and golf course, a short drive across the railway and creek, which is located on Euchareena Road.

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When Gillon called Jeff: The icy phone call that lays bare tensions in Tasmania

Sydney Morning Herald, Other, 16/09/2023, Melissa Fyfe

It's a Friday in mid-June and a fascinating scene is unfolding in the Tasmanian parliament. It seems like a run-of-the-mill committee hearing: no voices raised, no impolite questions. But what's happening is a slow-motion collision of two forms of power.

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Football Australia CEO James Johnson discusses the future of the A-Leagues and national teams

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 16/09/2023, Erin Smith

Football Australia CEO James Johnson has ruled out taking back control of the struggling A-Leagues competition dubbing that possibility as a step "backwards". It comes as speculation grows that Australian Professional Leagues boss Danny Townsend is on the cusp of signing a lucrative new contract in the Middle East.

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

Racism class action launched against AFL by former footballers

The Guardian, Other, 16/09/2023, Caitlin Cassidy

A landmark class action case has been launched against the AFL, alleging that it failed to protect players from racist abuse during their time playing the game. The class action, in which former North Melbourne great Phil Krakouer is the lead applicant, includes at least six others footballers who played between 1975 and 2022.

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

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Vet drug an acne cure

Sunday Herald Sun, General News, 17/09/2023, Rebecca Whitfield-Baker, Page 37

Australian researchers believe they have unlocked the key to ending acne in teenagers, finding the secret ingredient in the most unlikely of places. In breakthrough research, a team of pharmaceutical scientists has repurposed a drug used to rid livestock of parasites to fight the condition.

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

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Disease help for women

Sunday Mail Brisbane, General News, 17/09/2023, Isabella Holland, Page 13

The Queensland government will fund a \$250,000 research project to develop a world first non-invasive endometriosis detection tool. Brisbane-based gynaecologist Akwasi Amoako has been elected to head up the new research project.

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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

First Nations health professionals 'deeply saddened' following Jacinta Nampijinpa Price's colonisation claims

ABC Online, Other, 16/09/2023, Carly Williams

First Nations health professionals and those living with chronic health issues say they are "disappointed" and "deeply saddened" following Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price's claims First Nations Australians are not living with ongoing negative impacts of colonisation. Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price has told the National Press Club the Voice to Parliament proposal is "flawed in its foundations".

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OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hospitals battling listeria hysteria

Cases of potentially deadly listeria have been detected in three of the state's hospitals, sparking a major investigation by a team of infectious disease experts to locate the food source. The revelation of the outbreak comes as chief health officer John Gerrard reports that Queensland Health is the lead agency in one of three multijurisdictional probes into spates of listeria cases across the country.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#). Similar coverage reported by: [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au](#)

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A GP guide to the Japanese encephalitis vaccination update

Australian Doctor, Other, 16/09/2023

Vaccination is now recommended for travellers spending one month or more in endemic areas in Asia and Papua New Guinea during the transmission season. Need to know: Vaccination recommendations for Japanese encephalitis have been updated, in line with changes in disease epidemiology resulting from climate and environmental changes.

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

No-prescription weed out as trials fail

Sun Herald, Edition Changes - 2nd Edition, 17/09/2023, Liam Mannix, Page 18

Insomniacs dreaming of obtaining marijuana in a pharmacy without a prescription to help them sleep will have to keep waiting, as several clinical trials have failed to prove its effectiveness. [...] In 2020 drug regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration announced offered the medical marijuana industry a deal: if they can prove a low-dose cannabis drug works in a clinical trial, they can sell it over the counter at the nation's 5000-plus pharmacies, opening a potentially enormous market.

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

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OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

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FOOD STANDARDS

Study says E numbers in food increase risk of heart attack and strokes

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 17/09/2023, John Ely

A high intake of certain agents used in ultra-processed food (UPF) has been linked to an increased risk of heart attacks, angina and strokes, according to a new study. French researchers said their findings, published in The BMJ, could be used to help re-evaluate regulations in the food industry 'to protect consumers'.

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